

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved

REGULAR MEETING

February 12th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 3:00 PM.

Present: Barnard, Rose, Burns and Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Haase, Pitcher, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 7

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Burns to approve the agenda as presented, Rose seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Trustee Orr joined the meeting at 3:07pm.

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting January 8th, 2025 and special budget meeting January 14th 2025 as presented. Rose supports. Orr requested a verbiage change for the Jan 28th meeting. Burns made motion to approve special budget meeting January 28th 2025 as amended. Supported by Rose. All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns submitted the Treasurers report. Taxes are coming in good.

CLERKS'S REPORT: The Clerk presented the Profit and Loss statement for the General, Fire and New Building Funds along with a list of the payables for January 2025. Motion made by Burns to pay the bills except to hold Spence brother until special meeting on the 20th of February. Rose supports, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed. Heller submitted a quote for 2 new computers from Accucomp in amount of \$2794. **Burns made a motion to accept the estimate from Accucomp. Orr supports, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.**

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Barnard stated that Cedar St project engineering may start soon. Residents were to agree on runoff location before we moved forward. They have come up with a plan. Barnard is still waiting on numbers for our projects from the road commission.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams stated there were 20 fire and 38 medical calls for a total of 58 for January. 2024 Total ended at 531. The GTB 2% grant was received and the Lucas machine has arrived. Chief attended the Blaine Twp meeting to provide update. He attended a live fire training in Wexford County as instructor, went well.
2. Commissioners Report: Nye stated that all BOC meetings are on YouTube and can be livestreamed or as a replay. At the last meeting Cory Ellis 911 administrator gave annual report, EMS has 3 fulltime openings, Friend of Point Betsie stated that a plan they feel EGLE may approve and brought to BOC for their blessing before submitting EGLE permit. The road commission is considering a lone ballot proposal for the failed millage request from November. Village of Benzonia received the RRC thru MEDC, opens up grant opportunities. Village of Beulah, has voted to reduce their trustee count from 7 to 5. Also looking in to hiring a Village Manager. Nye connected CCC (Tim Malone) with the Village board to hopefully improve internet in Beulah.
3. Zoning Administrator: 1 permit issued to date, planning commission meeting was held on January 16th for a major special land use for storage buildings on corner of MacDonald and M115, nothing determined, there will be another meeting Feb 20th at 6pm. Lots of public input.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: Possible budget amendments in March
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: March board of Review is March 10th 3pm -6pm and 11th 9am – 3pm.
- Blight: Mike Homier with Foster Swift is new attorney for 2 existing blight cases. Narrow Guage is in foreclosure process so may wait to move forward until that case is complete. Dan Thorell at BLDHD may be able to lend assistance with environmental health inspection.

NEW BUSINESS: No report

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: A resident asked if we were meeting with our attorney regarding the Watershed and Lake n Leaf suits. The supervisor responded there was not. They also asked if any discussion regarding moving that litigation to a new attorney. Barnard stated most likely. An email was received from a resident and made available for all in attendance.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Motion passed to replace 2 computers.
- ❖ Benzonia Township Fire Dept received the GTB 2% Grant