

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved

REGULAR MEETING

September 10th, 2025

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Rose, Orr and Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Haase, Adams, Pitcher

Absent: Nye, Hall

Guests: 6

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Rose to approve the minutes as amended, from the regular meeting August 13th, 2025, Burns second, discussion had, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: The treasurer presented the report for August 2025.

CLERKS'S REPORT: The Clerk presented the Profit and Loss statement for the General, Fire Department and new township hall funds along with a list of the payables for August 2025. After a discussion, Rose made a motion to pay the bills minus Sidock. Burns supported. Roll call vote taken. Orr-N, Burns-Y, Barnard-Y, Heller-Y, Rose-Y, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Barnard started with roads; he spoke with Troy at BCRC regarding Shields Drive, there was a landing at the curve that was not included in the original bid. The additional cost is \$4707.45. Barnard told Troy to go ahead with paving it as they were on site. **Burns made motion to add the additional payment of \$4707.45 for Shields Dr. Rose second.** Discussion had regarding budget. **Roll call vote taken. All ayes, motion passed.** Orr concerned over budget, there is enough as Lincoln Rd (west end) is not being completed this year. Hanmer and East side of Lincoln Rd, still awaiting prices. There is some prep work they will do on their own but full repairs may not get done til 2026. Barnard requested bids on Bixler and to chipseal a portion of Crystal Ave. Troy called Jason a week or so before while they were on Molleneaux Rd for Crystal Lake Twp. Troy wanted to know if we wanted our portion done. Cost was approx. \$25,000. Troy needed an answer but Jason said he couldn't get him one before the board meeting next week. Troy went ahead and had it paved. We received a bill for \$24,711.07. The BCRC is hoping we will pay all or portion. Discussion was held, it was decided to hold off payment for now. Jason presented info from Dan Hook regarding the Beulah storm water project. For the grant application they asked the townships surrounding the lake to write a "letter of consideration". The grant was awarded and now the village is asking what we will contribute. Lake and Crystal Lake

townships have pledged \$10,000. Discussion held. Our contribution will be determined at a later date. Jason will ask for an invoice or MOU before any contribution is made. Orr asked to find out when dredging of the pond is scheduled. New building is set for final inspections on Monday, Sept 15th. Trainings were held the past few days. The fire alarm system needs some maintenance. Summit will be out Monday to do the work. Jim Zimmerman, the building inspector at the county, states we cannot get our Certificate of Occupancy unless we have an alarm monitoring contract in place, since we do not have 24/7 occupancy. Discussion held. Barnard received a quote for \$840 from Summit for the annual contract. **Rose made motion to pay Summit the \$840 for the annual monitoring service. Burns second, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.** Chief Adams will be the emergency contact with Summit.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams stated there were 16 fire and 50 medical calls. 66 total for August. There are 451 YTD. Discussion as to why numbers are rising. Aging population is one reason states Chief Adams.
2. Commissioners Report: Nye was excused, no report.
3. Zoning Administrator: Barnard read report from Bob Hall, 5 permits issued and 1 ZBA application sent out. Bob has registered for a training retreat and asked the Twp to pay 1/3 portion of the fee.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: 2 county residents made public comments.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: A/V for new building- a second bid was received awaiting a third. The prices were similar but need to compare the details. Appraisal update – walk thru was completed, report is hopeful for a couple weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report.
- Parks: Big bathroom door sills are hard for wheelchairs to go over. Looking into options to make it easier. There was discussion of cement pads under the bleachers. Disk Golf users would like some updates. Would like an update from Rich Gottardo on the ball fields. The Osprey are back. The next parks meeting will be Sept 30 @ 5:30
- Building and Grounds: No report.
- Fire Department: No report.
- Township Roads: No report.
- Community Activities: Will be looking to schedule open house for new building once occupancy granted.
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Pitcher gave update on the 3 current cases; 1) Narrow Gauge is still in foreclosure. 2) Eldridge Rd has been issued a civil infraction. 3) Platte Rd will fall under the dangerous buildings ordinance recently adopted. However, we need a hearing officer. Pitcher talked with a few residents and Sean Duperron stated he had interest in serving. Barnard appointed Duperron to hearing officer.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: 1 public comment received.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:25 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Motion passed to pay the additional for Shields Dr landing paving.
- ❖ Motion passed to hire Summit for the alarm monitoring service.