

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

February 8, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Sheets, Priest and Heller

Absent: 0

Staff: Nye, Adams, Haase, Wilkinson

Absent: Hahn

Guests: 6

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Sheets to approve agenda as amended, Burns seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from regular meeting of January 11th, 2023 and special budget meetings on January 24th and 31st 2023. Supported by Sheets, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Priest. She stated that taxes are still coming in steady, with many paying by CC. Priest made motion to accept the Treasurers report, Burns second. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried

CLERKS'S REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds for the month of January 2023 along with payables. Motion by Sheets to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Priest. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Supervisor presented the proposed poverty guidelines for 2023. **Sheets made motion to accept as presented. Burns seconded, roll call vote, all ayes motion passed.**

The Planning commission recommended the joint master plan update for board approval.

Sheets made motion to approve, Burns seconded. Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Jim Gribble with the Betsie Valley Trail gave a grant status update and asked for our fiduciary support for a new Spark grant opportunity. **Sheets made motion to adopt the Resolution of Authorization for the Raise Grant, with Priest supporting. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams reports for the month of January there was a total of 34 calls for service, 8 were Fire, 26 for Medical. The jaws and extraction equipment had maintenance completed. Five Fire volunteers will participate in Winterfest parade. Fireworks will be behind Family Fare due to thin ice on the lake.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report, Bob Wilkinson was present.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye stated Joan Howerda Frankfort City Manager. Wade Trim is working on a workforce overlay district. Building trades will be restarting in fall 2023 for Frankfort and Benzie students. Jail is currently under capacity at 15 and will be taking overflow from GT County. County Veteran's Affairs worker is now full time. County commissioners' meetings will be put on YouTube.
5. Zoning Administrator: 7 permits issued YTD with a handful pending. Public hearing for Sunkissed Hills is still ongoing, no approval granted at this time, more information requested and expect to meet in March. No current ZBA items but 1 potential variance request.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS: Ken Schwerdt & Brian Sousa from Wade Trim gave estimates for sewer feasibility study options in order to produce project estimates in order to apply for grants/funding. They plan to have a public meeting the end of February or beginning of March.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Barry Hahn is assisting Jason with researching security systems
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Will be sending support to Benzie County Parks & Rec for the ice rink.
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Narrow Gauge – Sheets stated that there have been a few loads of items removed from premises.

NEW BUSINESS: Jane Perrino with Benzie Conservation District gave the annual report and discussed the uses for the annual support and mentioned the seedling sale is currently running.

Ed Hoogterp discussed the Beulah Beach revitalization and storm water runoff project and the approval for consideration that was given. Due to covid the project had been slow to take shape until now and the team at Gosling Czubak are making progress. Board tabled for further discussion.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, supported by Burns.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:35 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Motion passed to adopt the proposed poverty guidelines for 2023**
- **Motion passed to approve the joint master plan update**
- **Motion Passed to adopt the Resolution of Authorization for the Raise Grant**
- Wade Trim gave sewer feasibility study update
- Benzie Conservation District annual report was given
- Discussed Beulah Beach/Storm Runoff remediation