

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

## REGULAR MEETING

February 14th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Gardner, and Heller

Absent: Priest

Supervisor Barnard stated that trustee Priest had passed away last weekend.

Staff: Haase, Nye, Adams, Pitcher

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 4

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion** by Burns to approve the agenda as amended, Gardner seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

**Motion** by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 10<sup>th</sup> and special budget meetings January 25<sup>th</sup> & February 7<sup>th</sup> 2024. Supported by Gardner, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report for Jan 2024 was submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is now paying 5.5% interest. **Heller made motion to accept the treasurers' report. Gardner supported, 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 Jan 2024 along with payables. **Motion by Burns to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Gardner.** Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. Supervisor presented the proposed poverty income guidelines for tax year 2023. **Motion made by Gardner to accept the updated guidelines, Burns supported, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.** Fire station building moving along AJ

to start ground work next week. Jason is working on timeline for a ground breaking ceremony. Reminder the 2024 BOR sessions are as follows. The 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm is organizational meeting. 11<sup>th</sup> 3-9pm and 12<sup>th</sup> 9-3pm.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: January run numbers are 11 fire, 23 med, for YTD total 34 calls. Fire Academy is in progress until June, 1 Homestead Twp person attending. Chief mentioned that preventative maintenance is being completed on the apparatus. CPR renewal is being completed. There will be an electric vehicle course in March and 33 area firefighters to attend. Chief has presented info for the new first responder med truck. Asking for permission to purchase. **Burns made motion to purchase new truck, Gardner supported, Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.** Chief states there is a new person interested in joining the department and comes to us with FF/EMT experience. **Burns made motion to hire Taylor Makowski as new FF/EMT. Gardner supported. Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report. Board discussion regarding timeliness of updates and payments.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye gave update from Board of Commissioners meeting, stating that 12 hr shifts has been approved which is one step closer to 24hr road patrol. There was a presentation from Tim Maylone of Cherry Capital Connection LLC stating that the broadband project is now in its second wave of installation and that notices are going out to property owners. BOC received 3 requests for opioid dollars. All three were approved. Dawn Olney was appointed for 6yr term to county jury board. County has 2 job openings in dispatch and jail. The Headley reset discussion will be moving forward as 7 of 12 townships are on board.
5. Zoning Administrator: 6 permits to date. 1 in process. Planning commission meets in March, they have agreed to meet bi-monthly. Legal opinion received on the Crystal Lake Watershed overlay district. An ad-hoc is being formed to discuss option of the overlay district.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: Benzie Bus annual report and update.

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: In talks with Blaine regarding call coverage contract.
- Township Roads: No report

- Community Activities: Clean-up day May 11<sup>th</sup> 7am – 11 am.
- Finance: The treasurer asked the auditors to do a pre audit review and answer questions regarding BS&A operations and assist with difference between QuickBooks and BS&A.
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Mary Pitcher reported Eden Hill/Bluewater property owner was issued a civil infraction. Working on Narrow Gauge options.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: A guest asked for clarification on how the trustee vacancy will be handled. Will be an appointment, but do have the remaining candidates from the previous vacancy.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Gardner.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:44 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ❖ **Motion passed to accept the 2023 poverty income guidelines.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to purchase new first responder truck from Watson Chrysler.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to hire Taylor Makowski to the fire department.**