

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP

1020 Michigan Ave.

Benzonia, MI 49616

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

August 23, 2024

APPROVED

Meeting Called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 4pm, August 23, 2024.

Clerk read the special meeting notice: To discuss issues with leadership in the Fire Department, water line for new building, change orders, park issues, street speed sign and recreational retail permit #4.

Roll Call was read, with all present: Barnard, Burns, Gardner, Rose and Heller. Chief Steve Adams present. There were 14 members of the public also present.

Supervisor Barnard opened the floor to discussion limited to 3 minutes each on agenda items only. Seven members of the fire department commented on their issues and one commented on general items.

Supervisor Barnard stated that Chief Adams requested we go into closed session to discuss the issues currently facing the fire department. Treasurer Burns made a motion to go into closed session with Clerk Heller supporting. All voted aye. The supervisor cleared the room of the public.

(Meeting in closed session.)

Burns made a motion to go back into Open Meeting at 4:52pm, supported by Gardner. All members voted: Aye.

#1. Agenda item: Burns made a motion to extend the Fire Chief's contract for one year with 3-, 6-, and 9-months reviews with appropriate adjustments within those times. A discussion followed with support to motion by Heller. A roll call vote was taken with Gardner voting aye, Burns voting aye, Barnard voting aye, Heller voting aye and Rose abstaining. Motion passed. A new contract will be written for the Fire Chief.

#2. Agenda item: 4-inch water line for new building, change order: A discussion between David Gardner, Brent Somsel from Spence Bros., and the Supervisor concerning a change order with a decision to hold off on making a decision on the water line until we get more information.

#3. Project document/change order signing power: A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Burns to have the full board sign any documents concerning the change orders or contingencies. After a discussion, Gardner rescinded his motion and no action was taken.

#4. Park Issues: Burns brought up our park needing a sign stating the open and close times. She will research signs and what they should say. She also told us of a problem with the porta potties at the park and told the board she would ask the company that empties them to do it twice a week.

#5. Street speed limit sign – our County Commissioner brought to our attention the township’s need for street speed limit signs. After a discussion, Burns made a motion to approve spending of up to \$7,000.00 for two signs and to be paid for out of the excise tax money, with Gardner supporting. The entire board voted aye on the motion. Motion passed.

#5. Recreational retail permit #4: One of our marijuana licenses has expired and a previous owner, Matt Rothernal asked that we renew the license for his property, known as Lake and Leaf. Gardner made a motion to grant the license and Burns supported. Gardner, Burns, Heller and Rose all voted Aye with Barnard abstaining from the vote. Motion passed.

Supervisor Barnard adjourned the meeting at 5:37pm.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Benzonia Township Clerk, dated: _____