

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved

REGULAR MEETING

December 11th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Orr, Rose, Burns and Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Haase, Pitcher, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 14

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting November 13th, 2024 as presented. Supported by Rose. All ayes, motion carried.

John Petoskey with Grand Traverse Band gave presentation and answered questions regarding the Casino to be opening soon at their facility on Hoadley Rd.

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns submitted the Treasurers report. Tax payments are coming in steady and the deputy clerk is coming in 1-2 days a week. Michigan Class is paying 4.7% interest. Burns made a motion to accept the report with Rose supporting, all ayes, motion carried.

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 November. Motion made by Burns to pay the bills. Rose supports, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Barnard stated that the Crystal Lake Elementary will be sold to the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center. BOR held 12/10/24 had 1 clerical error. March 2025 BOR will be the 11th from 3-9pm and the 11th from 9am-3pm. Organizational meeting will be the 4th. The local roads meeting will be Monday Dec 16th at 9am. The new website contract has been signed and the upgrade will start after the new year. Anavon Tech will be discussing their proposals.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: In October we had 12 Fire and 28 Medical calls for a total of 40. YTD is 488. The GTB 2% grant has been submitted for the Lucas. The ladder testing is complete. And pump testing should be done before end of the year.
2. Commissioners Report: Nye stated there were 2 BOC meetings this month. She also mentioned that GTB presented to them regarding the casino as well as DTE regarding a possible expansion. Dick Taylor from the Friends of Point Betsie spoke regarding the shoreline expansion project. There are 3 entities needing to approve their plans. One being EGLE who is being difficult over 3' and may jeopardize the grant that was awarded. BOC met and National Park Service gave commendations to officer Dumond and K-9 officer Omar for help in getting a wanted person in custody. Treasurer Kelly Long reported that winter tax bills have been mailed and there is a glitch with the VA exemptions. Contact the county treasurer with concerns and questions. Cherry Capital Connection gave presentation on their internet for all program. BOC offered support for the Village of Honor Corridor Improvement Authority. Harp is a part of this group also and are trying to economically improve the Village of Honor. The BOC decided to reinstate the GED program for inmates at the jail. Funding will come from the marijuana money the county receives. The BOC also approved new imagery photos for equalization. These images are also used by 911 for first responders.
3. Zoning Administrator: 75 permits issued to date with 2 pending. Next planning commission meeting is Jan 9th 2025 6pm. New schedule is 2nd Thursday every other month.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Hackbarth with DTE talked about a possible extension along Homestead Rd out to Pioneer Rd. A resident asked if appropriate time to speak on the attorney use policy they submitted or the Crystal Lake Watershed suit or if they are on agenda, Barnard stated they were not on this agenda.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: Mike Madsen owner of Anavon Technology Group gave an explanation of the proposals being presented for consideration by the board for the phone and security systems for the new building.
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report

- Finance: Budget meetings to start in January.
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Pitcher is looking into a couple new properties submitted to her. Awaiting the other 2 properties to work thru the court system.

NEW BUSINESS: Barnard stated that the vote for the recreational retail permit for Baldwin Provisions needs a re-enactment. **Burns made motion to issue the retail permit to Baldwin Provisions. Rose seconded, roll call vote taken, Rose-Yes, Heller-Yes, Barnard-abstain, Burns-Yes, Orr-Yes, motion passed.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: John from Anavon stated the urgency to approve the proposals to keep the process moving forward at the build site. **Burns made a motion to approve both proposals as presented by Anavon Tech. Rose seconded. Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.**

Motion to adjourn made by Rose, Supported by Burns.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:58 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **GTB presentation for casino at their Hoadley Rd property.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the recreational retail permit for Baldwin Provisions.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the Anavon Technology proposals for new building.**