

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved

REGULAR MEETING

March 12th, 2025

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

Present: Barnard, Rose, Burns and Heller

Absent: Orr (attended virtually - no voting ability)

Staff: Pitcher, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson, Haase

Guests: 11

Public Hearing moved to March 25th @ 9am, due to publishing error.

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 February 12th, 2025 as well as special budget meetings February 11th and 26th 2025 as presented. Rose supports. All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns submitted the Treasurers report. Taxes are coming in good.

CLERKS'S REPORT: The supervisor stated that the Spence Bros. pay app will be approved at the March 25th meeting. The Clerk presented the Profit and Loss statement for the General, Fire and New Building Funds along with a list of the payables for February 2025. The 2 new computers approved in Jan were installed. Burns made a motion to accept the report and pay the bills minus the Spence Brothers until the 25th of March. Rose supports, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Barnard stated that Board of Review just wrapped up, there were 11 petitions. Veterans' exemptions are no longer done by BOR. The 11 consisted of 5 values, 3 uncapping and 3 poverty exemptions. Barnard received some preliminary road work estimates from the BCRC. Shields Dr repaving is \$110,000, Hanmer Rd is \$100,000 without potential undercut, Lincoln Rd grade and

paving from Eden Hill to US 31 is \$80,000, proposed Lincoln Rd relocation from Nichols Rd to the curve is \$115,000. Burns asked if includes matching funds. Barnard stated the estimates did not but matching funds can be applied if we choose to move forward. Barnard asked Troy from BCRC if they were still able to be done this year. BCRC says Its possible.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams stated there were 25 fire and 37 medical calls for a total of 62 for February. YTD calls is 120. 2024 was 73. Chief attended the Joyfield Twp meeting for an update and Q&A. Rose and Chief attended the active assailant training. On Feb 16th 2025 they did an ice rescue training. 5 BTFD volunteers attended along with Frankfort Fire, EMS, NPS and the Coast Guard. Upcoming lithium-ion battery storage course March 22nd 2025 at the government center.
2. Commissioners Report: Nye stated the most recent meeting was not held due to no quorum. Updates from Feb 25th meeting are as follows. Presentation from the BCRC, the Frankfort Airport is working on their infrastructure in order to become self-sufficient. The new director of BACN, Diane Mahoney, introduced herself. The magistrate is retiring, BOC will be posting the vacancy. Discussions between the Chamber of Commerce and the EDC to create a hybrid model EDC.
3. Zoning Administrator: 5 permits issued to date, planning commission meeting was postponed from the 13th of March to the 27th @ 6pm, due to no quorum. That meeting will also include a public hearing to discuss proposed recreational marijuana ordinance amendments. Also, the WBJPC will be reviewing the proposals from prospective firms for the zoning ordinance rewrites.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident spoke about the litigation between Forerunner and Benzonina Township and regarding Figuera filing appearances without approval. The BCRC gave update on the millage request for the new facility. Q&A was had.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Spring clean-up day 2nd Saturday of May, will be confirmed soon.
- Finance: **Burns made a motion to accept the budget amendment for the general fund as presented.** Rose supported, roll call vote taken, motion carried. **Burns made a**

motion to accept the budget amendment for the WBJPC as presented. Rose supported, roll call vote taken, motion carried.

- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: Possible hearing upcoming
- Blight: Narrow Gauge property has a seller foreclosure hearing March 13th. Owner claims if successful he will clean up property.

NEW BUSINESS: Rob Scott with Benzie Bus gave annual report, Q&A was had.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: The supervisor answered previous public comment regarding current litigation and the township attorney situation. A resident raised a concern of a business trying to be put in a residential area. A resident brought up his concerns with the use of Mika Myers law firm for the marijuana and the watershed litigations. A resident asked about the attorney use policy that was introduced a couple months prior.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ BCRC spoke regarding milage request for the new facility.
- ❖ Motion passed approve general fund budget amendment. (attached)
- ❖ Motion passed approve WBJPC budget amendment. (attached)
- ❖ Benzie Bus gave annual report.