

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP  
1020 Michigan Ave. Benzonia, MI 49616

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2025

**Approved**

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 3pm, May 22, 2025, at Benzonia Township Hall.

Clerk read the special meeting notice.

Roll Call was read, with all present: Barnard, Burns, Orr, Rose and Heller. Approximately 11 guests were present.

The supervisor stated that some of the business included in the meeting is the letter of engagement from Mika Meyers and Foster Swift, Spence Brothers pay app and Trustee Orr's list of items she wants discussed at this meeting.

First order of business was to address the pay app for Spence Brothers and for the legal bills presented at our last board meeting with a three day hold on them, so Trustee Orr could look them over to her satisfaction. It was determined that the Spence Brothers could be paid, so **Burns made a motion to pay the invoice and Rose supported.** A roll call vote was taken with all voting aye. After a three day hold the legal bills have been sent out.

A discussion was opened on the Letters of Engagement by our legal teams. There needs to be more clarification on both letters and Supervisor Barnard was tasked with the job. In the Mika Meyers letter, he will check on the language of conflict of interest. **Jason made the motion and Rose supported to accept their letter, with changes.** A roll call vote was taken with Orr voting Nay, Burns voting Aye, Barnard voting Aye, Rose voting Aye and Heller voting Aye. Motion passed. For the Foster Swift letter, a breakdown of the paralegal costs and the dates need to be addressed. **Motion made by Barnard, seconded by Burns to do so.** Orr voted Nay, Burns voted Aye, Barnard voted: Aye, Rose voted: Aye, and Heller voted Aye. Motion passed. Barnard will get corrected copies to all board members as soon as they are ready.

Supervisor Barnard said that we will need the ten-day extension for the Vandussen FOIA request because of the sheer volume of information requested. That would put the due date to June 12, 2025 and since it will be a board decision, **Burns made a motion to have a June 12<sup>th</sup> deadline with board review before that date. Heller supported.** Roll call vote, Orr Aye, Burns Aye, Barnard Aye, Rose Aye, and Heller Aye. Motion passed.

Next order of business was the "Attorney Use Policy" drafted by Barnard. Discussion followed and it was decided to discuss the at our next meeting. **Orr made a motion to discuss it at our next meeting, Burns supported with all voting Aye.**

Benzonia Township Fire Chief, Steve Adams said our old air packs need to be replaced because the old ones have expired and need to be disposed of properly. They need to be declared "Surplus" before that happens. **Burns made a motion to declare the old air packs Surplus. Heller supported.** Roll call vote: Orr aye, Burns aye, Barnard aye, Rose abstained and Heller aye. Motion passed.

Trustee Orr presented a list of items she wanted discussed at this meeting. As many of the items have already been discusses/answered, she started down the list, including scanning/coping of invoices, holding legal bills for three days, settlement offer Sunkissed Hills, sign for new building as well as branding of the new web site. The Planning Committee was also discussed.

Public Comment – there were 7 comments from various county residents. Supervisor Barnard adjourned the meeting at 4:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana L. Heller, Clerk, Benzonia Township. Date: \_\_\_\_\_