

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF BENZONIA
1276 MICHIGAN AVENUE
BENZONIA, MI 49616
MONDAY, February 3, 2020

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT: Flynn
COUNCIL: Heyn, Misner, French, Bair, Cook
CLERK: Nye
TREASURER: Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT: Boman
ASST SUPERINTENDENT: Cline
ZONING ADMIN: Kirk
VISITORS: Michelle Leines, Ken Mlcek, Steve Ayers, Scott
Knowlton, Tom Albent
ABSENT: Rankin - Excused

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Benzonia Village Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Flynn.

ATTENDANCE TAKEN BY CLERK

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting Minutes January 2020

French moves, supported by Heyn, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes January 2020, as presented. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

Meeting Notes 01/16/2020

Heyn moves, supported by Misner, to approve the 01/16/2020 Meeting Notes, as presented. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

Special Meeting Minutes 01/24/2020

Misner moves, supported by French, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes 01/24/2020, as presented. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

Meeting Notes 01/30/2020

French moves, supported by Heyn, to approve the 01/30/2020 Meeting Minutes, as presented. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

USDA WATER PROJECT UPDATE: Ken Mlcek, Fleis & VandenBrink:

- Project has been advertised for bids
- Bid opening will be February 27th
- Goal is to have US 31 water main replacement done prior to MDOT Project start; coordination with MDOT has occurred
- Village of Beulah franchise agreement is being drafted

DOLLAR GENERAL MORATORIUM EXEMPTION REQUEST:

- Knowlton, Midwest V, LLC, states he would like the moratorium exemption request granted. At a minimum, requests assurance the granted variance will stand for duration of the moratorium; states he doesn't want to be confrontational but 'dollar stores' are being discriminated against and this could result in a lawsuit.
- President Flynn states that the Council can amend or rescind the moratorium at any time; gives detailed history of the Master Plan creation process to date emphasizing the Village is making changes that are needed.
- ZA Kirk adds that this is a timing issue; the final draft was completed in October and certain things need to be updated.
- Knowlton asks if the revisions will discriminate against Dollar General, ZA Kirk responds that no changes have been made since October. Knowlton asks if the changes to be made will preclude a Dollar General, ZA Kirk responds that she has no idea and can't say if that will happen.
- Knowlton states that using a governmental body to dictate where people shop is not okay.
- President Flynn asks if there is an option for a nice facade and something other than a metal building; Knowlton responds that the Ordinances will be complied with as written, the financial deal and budgeted project was created based on existing Ordinances but could add some 'lipstick'.

Heyn moves, supported by French, to Table the exemption decision to the Regular March Meeting. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

Knowlton states that Dollar General is looking to tie in with the MDOT road project; after this meeting much control will leave his hands and Dollar General will tell him whether to 'go crazy or not go crazy'; further states that his job is to keep his client happy and get stores in, asks that future absence from meetings not be taken as a sign of disrespect.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter received from Chrissy Iverson regarding her son accomplishing Eagle Scout; Trustee Misner will respond with congratulatory letter.

- Letter received from Jeanne Strathman regarding ADA requirements to provide amplification for hearing impaired at meetings. Steps will be taken to comply with legal requirements.
- Village of Clinton requesting financial support to challenge new lead copper water line replacement rules mandated by the State of Michigan. Consensus to take no action at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

BILLS LIST:

Discussion regarding invoice submitted by Fleis & VandenBrink in the amount of \$93,504.38, F&V will accept partial payment prior to closing on USDA loan. Payment of \$35,000.00 suggested.

French moves, supported by Misner, to make a \$35,000.00 payment on the \$93,504.38 invoice submitted by Fleis & VandenBrink with their approval. Ayes – Heyn, Misner, French, Bair, Cook, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

French moves, supported by Misner, to approve payment of bills for the month of December in the amount of \$57,296.37. Ayes – Misner, French, Bair, Cook, Heyn, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Misner moves, supported by French, to accept the Treasurer’s Report through February 3, 2020, as presented. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Plowed snow
- Blew sidewalks
- Had big truck underbody fixed at Road Commission
- Met with Tom Mack on cross connection program – CCRA Professional Services is taking over for Mead & Hunt for services. Contract terms are unchanged.
French moves, supported by Heyn, to approve water cross connection contract change from Mead & Hunt to CCRA Professional Services with no term changes. Ayes – French, Heyn, Bair, Cook, Misner, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Rankin – Excused.
- Put new tires on finish mower

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Will be taking class on basic water math skills with Mike Engalls
- Employee review meeting scheduled as probationary period is over

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Memorandum – Monthly Zoning Summary submitted – to be included with meeting minutes.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT:

- Organizational Meeting – Bob Roelofs new BOC Chair
- Eclipse reported that tower acquisition has expanded their broadband range
- County hiring freeze lifted
- Attending the Winter Conference for Behavioral Health in Kalamazoo

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Schedule Budget Workshop/Meeting – Friday, February 28th 11:00 a.m.
Discussion regarding volunteer needs

OTHER BUSINESS: Trustee French shares that the Village of Beulah will be requiring payment of \$7,420.00 to oversee work done on the North Street Line which will permanently separate the two respective water system lines and re-create the loop that existed prior to the changes made by the Village of Beulah.

Discussion regarding necessity of committee reports and structure of agenda.

**Cook moves, supported by Bair, to adjourn meeting at 7:23. Ayes – All.
Nays – None. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Nye
Village Clerk

Minutes Drafted: February 10, 2020

Approved: March 2, 2020