

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE VILLAGE OF BENZONIA  
Monday, December 4, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT:	Flynn
COUNCIL:	Hafer, Moss, Myers, French, Giatti
CLERK:	Cutler
TREASURER:	Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT:	Pritchard
ASST SUPERINTENDENT:	Cole
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	Kirk
PUBLIC:	Rhonda Nye, County Commissioner
ABSENT:	Herryman

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**President Flynn adds 1a) Walker Street, 1b) Staff Christmas Bonuses 1c) Office Chairs. Moss moves, supported by Myers, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried. Absent: Herryman**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- **November 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - Myers moves, supported by Moss, to approve the November 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried. Absent: Herryman**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ACTION ITEMS:

- **MDOT ACT51 NonCompliance Action** – Clerk reviewed the MDOT Non-Compliance with ACT51 reporting requirements for the use of non-motorized transportation funds. ACT51 money that is collected by the Village requires that 1% of this money be spent on non-motorized projects. The Village last reported expenditures last year totaling \$7,269 but was required to spend \$10,859. The ACT looks back 10 years, this helps small Villages such as ours spend the required funds on larger projects. The last time the Village reported use of the ACT 51 money was in 2013 where a \$49k project was reported. In order to meet the requirement MDOT will allow the Village to use the funds up within the next three years as long as we can supply adequate qualified expenditures

with a plan on how those funds will be used along with a resolution by January 15, 2024.

The Council identified multiple projects that the funds could be used towards, ie: Sidewalk in front of the museum, Bumpout near parking area of Church, and painting of the crosswalks on Traverse Ave.

- Walker Street Reconstruction – President Flynn looks for approval from the Council to go move on the Walker Street Reconstruction with a 2”inch overlay for a Estimated total of \$163,000. **Hafer moved, supported by French to approve the Walker Street project to begin spring 24, in the amount of \$163,000. Roll Call: Giatti, French, Moss, Hafer, Myers, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Herryman.**
- Christmas Bonuses – Each year the Council approves Christmas Bonuses for the four office employees. President Flynn looks for Council approval for \$200/each to Superintendent, Treasurer, Clerk and \$100 for new hire Assistant Superintendent. **French moves, supported by Moss to approve the \$700 Christmas Bonus allocation. Roll Call: Moss, Hafer, Myers, French, Giatti, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent – Herryman.**
- Office Chairs – Councilman Myers seeks approval from the Council for the replacement of the office chairs. Excel Furniture has one that is equal to the existing chairs. Total for 12 chairs = \$4,260. **Giatti moves, supported by French to approve the purchase of 12 office chairs in the amount of \$4,260.00. Roll Call: Giatti, Moss, Hafer, Myers, French, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent – Herryman.**
- Bills List – Myers moves, supported by Hafer to approve payment of the bills for the month of December 2023 in the amount of \$43,943.90. **Roll Call: French, Myers, Moss, Hafer, Giatti, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Herryman**
- Treasurers Report – **French Moves, supported by Hafer to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None: Motion Carried. Absent: Herryman.**

UNFINISHED MATTERS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular December 4, 2023 meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

- Land Bank Mold House – Update on the “mold house”, Land Bank reported that the house could be remediated. Company they are working with indicates that they are able to remove the mold. Good News.
- New IT company coming to the County
- Kristie Dye reported updates at Frankfort Memorial Hospital

- PT Bailiffs have been hired; County can now focus on 24/hr Road Patrol.
- MERS retirement at 68% funding for County Employees
- Opioid lawsuit funds will be spend on 911 dispatcher training guide, and Central Wellness shortfall.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular December 4, 2023 meeting minutes

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Giatti moves, supported by Moss to adjourn meeting at 7:27 p.m. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maridee Cutler,  
Village Clerk

DRAFTED: December 9, 2023

APPROVED:

1/8/24