

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE OF BENZONIA
Monday, February 5, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT:	Flynn
COUNCIL:	Moss, Myers, French, Giatti
CLERK:	Cutler
TREASURER:	Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT:	Pritchard
ASST SUPERINTENDENT:	Cole
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	Kirk
PUBLIC:	Rhonda Nye, County Commissioner, Ken Mlcek, Jessica Carland, Mindy Carter and Dennis Gardener
ABSENT:	Hafer, 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:

Kirk adds #8 Annual Joint Planning Commission item.

**French moves, supported by Myers, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: All
Nays: None. Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- January 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - **Myers moves, supported by Moss, to approve the January 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried. Hafer, Herryman.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jessica Carland Director of Benzie Bus shared the annual report. Carland has served as Director for 1 ½ yrs, and reported that they accepted two new busses last week. Some challenges with hiring employees, requirement of a CDL, and passing drug tests make it difficult. Benzie Bus has invested in some high-rate CD's, they plan to move forward with rider surveys. Medical rides are up 67%, and they continue to work on the Community Vision Plan.
- Mindy Carter – Looking for more support with the local Ice Rink, would like to get more community involvement. Maybe set up a fund for locals to contribute to that will help with expenses. Felt that the current process was

sub-par. Council indicated that the Village cannot support the expense, and that Cottage Pros volunteers time to create the rink. Weather has not been conducive to maintaining an ice rink.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **PASER Rating Report** – Ken Mlcek with Fleis & Vandenbrink presented the PASER rating report. This is a street condition rating system, that gives an in-depth report of the types of defects on the Village roads such as cracks and potholes. With 10 being the best and 1-2's being very poor condition. Report is meant to use a tool to plan for improvements. MDOT has a Category B funding application that will support communities with 50/50 split that doesn't include engineering fees.
- **Water System Consumer Confidence Report Proposal** – Mlcek presented the proposal for the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report Work Plan. Fleis and Vandenbrink have done this report for us the past few years. **French moves, supported by Myers to accept the proposal for in the amount of \$650 as presented. Ayes: Giatti, French, Moss, Myers, Flynn Nays: None: Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
- **Spicer Additional Fees** – Kirk reviewed additional invoice from Spicer regarding additional work for ordinance edits, and evaluation of edits specifically for the US-31 corridor overlay and steep slope overlay district. Council and Kirk agree that this was part of the scope of work Task 1, presented in the original letter of agreement for professional services signed September 12, 2022. Kirk will review this information with Spicer and bring back to Council. **Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
- **Annual Fee Schedule** – Kirk presented the Annual Fee Schedule, no changes needed. **French moves, supported by Giatti to accept the Annual Fee Schedule as presented. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
- **Consumers Power Electric Franchise Ordinance Resolution** – Clerk presented resolution, last one received may have been over 30 years ago, as this one has a 30-year term. Council advises to ask Consumers for old agreement to see how it has changed. Table for next meeting.
- **Bills List** – Myers moves, supported by Moss to approve payment of the bills for the month of February 2024 in the amount of \$45,279.28. **Roll Call: French, Myers, Moss, Giatti, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
- **Treasurers Report** – **French Moves, supported by Giatti to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None: Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
 - Treasurer asks for Council support to remove former Trustee Hazel Heyn as a check signer at Honor Bank, due to death. **Moss moves supported by French to allow the Treasurer to remove Hazel Heyn as a check signer at Honor Bank. Ayes: All Nays: None: Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
 - Treasurer presented information for Assistant Superintendent water class courses required by the State. Total cost for three courses \$1080.00.

French moves, supported by Myers to approve the cost of three Water Classes for Assistant Superintendent to attend. Ayes: Giatti, Myers, Moss, French, Flynn. Nays: None: Motion Carried. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.

- Treasurer asks for Council support to allow the Clerk to sign, Resolution No. 002-24 to Approve the Addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an Approved Investment Option. Currently the Michigan Class Investment Pool has a return rate of 5.65% **French moves, supported by Myers to adopt resolution 002-24 to Approve the Addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an Approved Investment Option. Ayes: Myers, French, Giatti, Moss, Flynn. Nays: None. Motion Carried: Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
- Treasurer asks Council for support to sign a new cell phone contract with Verizon for the Superintendents. This allows the Village to get out of the AT & T Contract, and provides for I-Phones, instead of Androids. French moves, supported by Moss to allow the Treasurer to sign the 2-year contract with Verizon Wireless. **Ayes: All, Nays: None. Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**

UNFINISHED MATTERS:

- West Shore Fireworks certificate. – No Action, nothing received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Clerk is scheduling the annual budget meeting. Looks to Council for date in February to meet. **Meeting scheduled for February 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**
- Insurance Valuation Report from CBIZ Valuation Group with MML is in and on the counter for the public to review.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular February 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

- Sheriff is seeking re-election, still working on 24-hr. road patrol, hope to have finished by May 2024
- Maples presented a 95% occupancy rate, would like to move towards a more long-term care facility, they were successful in reducing the number of contracted staff from 20 to 6.
- Benzie Senior Resources, Kelly Ottenger reported that they are in need of public input for Seniors needs.
- Headlee Reset – County conducted meetings with the townships and 7 townships were in favor of a reset, where 4 were not. County will move forward with creating an allocation committee, and an informal campaign

- County Treasurer announced retirement at the end of the month. Deputy Treasurer was appointed to seat.
- Beulah Sewer Project – ACO from State, no funds will be allocated to project. Beulah projects that this is a 12-million-dollar project, with 2 million being clean water project. The current rate for a family of four is \$178.00/quarter, going up to \$462/quarter just for sewer once the new system is installed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular February 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
- Kirk asks for a motion to add the Annual Joint Planning Meeting prior to the meeting scheduled for March 4, 2024. **Motioned by French, supported by Moss to hold the Annual Joint Planning Meeting prior to the Regular meeting on March 4, 2024. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried: Absent: Hafer, Herryman.**
- Kirk reminds Council that \$575.00 has been donated to a tree fund, we should be thinking of a place to plant a couple of trees.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Dennis Gardener introduced himself as the new Benzonia Township Trustee.

Myers moves, supported by French to adjourn meeting at 7:32 p.m. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maridee Cutler,
Village Clerk

DRAFTED: February 8, 2024

APPROVED: March 4th, 2024