

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE OF BENZONIA
Monday, February 6, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT:	Flynn
COUNCIL:	Heyn, Hafer, French, Herryman, Moss, Myers
CLERK:	Cutler
TREASURER:	Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT:	Pritchard
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	Kirk
PUBLIC:	Ken Schwerdt & Brian Sousa (Wade Trim), Jeri VanDePerre, Chris Twigg, Maristela Zell, Kathleen Hibbard, Toby Dunne (Benzie Bus)
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:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

President Flynn adds action item #2a Benzie Bus Annual Review, #2b Performance Resolution. French moves, supported by Heyn, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. January 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – **Hafer moves, supported by French, to approve the January 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kathleen Hibbard thanks Chris for doing a good job at the Village.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Sewer Feasibility Study Update – Brian Sousa from Wade Trim presented the status of the study. A Sewer Authority Board is being created to include a representative from Benzonia Township, Village of Benzonia and Village of Beulah. The option presented included a portion from Wesco to the Northeast end of Crystal Lake at about \$25 million. Initially the study included a wider area at \$42 – 45 million. Project going forward will focus on funding

opportunities to obtain a USDA loan or SRF/EGLE Funds, applications are due by May 1st.

Options include:

Treatment (maybe use Beulah's)

Collection (gravity low pressure or vacuum, not recommended as they freeze)

Separate plant (or use BLUA/Frankfort)

Using a Collection/Low-Pressure Option:

\$4 mill to BLUA

\$3-4 mill for a new plant

\$4-million to Beulah

Decisions need to be made by the last week of February to first week in March 2023. Takes four weeks for environmental studies to be conducted.

Should this go forward, existing septic's are abandoned, requires easement to the public.

- **Benzie Bus Update** – Toby Dunne gave a Quarterly update on Benzie Bus, trying to get a Fri and Saturday shuttle. Had over 400 people for the New Years Eve Free Bus ride.
- **Performance Resolution for Municipalities** – A performance resolution was presented to be signed by the Village President to boar a 2" line under US-31 for a service line to McDonalds. **Hafer moves, supported by French to allow the President to sign the Performance Resolution for Municipalities. Roll Call: Hey, French, Moss, Hafer, Myers, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- **Bills List** – **Hafer moves, supported by Heyn to approve payment of the bills for the month of January 2023 in the amount of \$52,568.20. Roll Call: Heyn, Myers, Moss, Hafer, French, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer presented the January Treasurers Report. **French moves, supported by Hafer to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

Treasurer reports that a new CD could be purchased at 4.25% for a 13-month term. Suggests purchasing two CD's at \$10,000/each. **French moves, supported by Hafer to purchase the CD. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

UNFINISHED MATTERS:

- **General Law Village Rules** - Council reviews the General Law Village Rules, where Manager is at in Rules change to Village President. **French moves, supported by Hafer to adopt the General Law Village Rules as amended. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**
- **On-Line Fees** - Treasurer reviews the costs of the on-line payments and indicates that the water department has been absorbing the cost of the fees

associated with taking on-line payments. Total Fees for the year = \$355.65 with 136 transactions, average fee per transaction = \$2.62. Would like the council to think about adding a convenience charge for this service. Will add as a discussion topic at the annual budget meeting on Tuesday the 21st.

- **Plow Truck Update** – Truck should be to Grand Traverse Diesel in March.
- **Employee Policy Update** – Included in the packet is the Employee Policy that was effective on 3/1/2016. Please review and make any necessary changes to bring back at the next council meeting on March 6, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Networks Northwest Study – Mathew Cooke, Community Planner for Networks Northwest is working on a project for Benzie County for a County Recreation Director. Has a survey that he would like folks to fill out and return. Clerk will forward the email on the Council.

SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular February 2023 meeting minutes.
- Superintendent Pritchard asks for the Council to approve the purchase of a pressure relief valve to have in stock in case it is needed. Cost is about \$1,600.00. **French moves, supported by Hafer to approve the purchase of a pressure relief valve. Roll Call: Heyn, Moss, Hafer, Myers, French, Flynn. Nays: None. Motion Carried**
- Superintendent Pritchard asks for the Council to approve a quarter - split in cost with the Village of Beulah for a street sweeper to be used in May. **Hafer moves, supported by Myers to a quarter purchase with the Village of Beulah. Roll Call: French, Myers, Moss, Hafer, Heyn, Flynn. Nays: None. Motion Carried**

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

- Frankfort Mayor reports that they are working with Wade Trim on a work force overlay, and they are bringing back the Building Trades program for both Benzie and Frankfort Schools.
- BWAC is working with Benzie Schools to purchase Crystal Lake School to recondition the school into a new Pool/Walkway/Gym.
- Benzie Probate Court received grant funds for a full-time probate counselor.
- Jail is in need of Staff as they are taking inmates from Traverse City.
- Veterans Affairs Personnel is now full time.
- County Meetings are on YouTube, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular February 2023 Minutes.
- Review of report was given.
- Next Planning Commission Meeting February 16, 2023

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT


- Hibbard inquires if Superintendent Pritchard is the only DPW employee.
- Hibbard indicates that roosters are still at the house with no siding
- Hibbard indicates that the car on Bailey is still there.
- Zell inquires about the process to propose an ordinance or amendments to ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None.

French moves, supported by Hafer to adjourn meeting at 7:42 p.m. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Maridee Cutler,
Village Clerk

DRAFTED: February 11, 2023

APPROVED: 3/6/23