

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

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT:	Flynn
COUNCIL:	Hafer, Heyn, French, Herryman, Moss, Myers
CLERK:	Cutler
TREASURER:	Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT:	Pritchard
ASST SUPERINTENDENT:	
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	Kirk
PUBLIC:	Rhonda Nye, County Commissioner; Al Brown; Kathleen Hibbard; Steve Stevenson.
ABSENT:	Heyn, Myers

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:

**Clerk Adds 5) Roof Estimate 6) Planning Commission Discussion 7) Sewer Authority Resolution. French moves, supported by Hafer, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- February 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - **French moves, supported by Moss, to approve the February 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried.**
- February 8, 2023 Employee Review Committee Minutes – **Hafer moves, supported by Herryman to approve the February 8, 2023 Employee Review Committee Minutes.**
- February 21, 2023 Special Budget Meeting Minutes – **Hafer moves, supported by Moss to approve the February 21, 2023 Special Budget Meeting Minutes.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Al Brown presented a questionnaire that he created when he was involved with a sewer study, wondered if the Council would like to use it to see how the public felt about the new sewer system proposal.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Village Water System Consumer Confidence Report** - Ken Mlcek with Fleis & Vandenbrink presented a work plan and proposal for the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report that needs to be prepared and filed with EGLE. **French moves support by Hafer to approve the payment of \$650 and to have Fleis & Vandenbrink prepare and file the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report. Roll Call: French, Herryman, Moss, Hafer, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Heyn, Meyers.**
- **Revisit Gabridge & Co. three-year proposal** – Clerk reviews the requirements needed for the audit. Also, reviewed costs with former auditor who indicated that the costs are in line with a typical audit considering the filing of a single audit as well. **Hafer moves, supported by French to approve the three year proposal with Gabridge & Co. 2023 \$7,875; 2024 \$8,250; 2025 \$8,650. Roll Call: Herryman, French, Moss, Hafer, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Heyn, Meyers.**
- **Bills List** – French moves, supported by Hafer to approve payment of the bills for the month of February 2023 in the amount of \$38,889.25. **Roll Call: Moss, Hafer, French, Herryman, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Heyn, Meyers.**
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer presented Treasurers report and reported that the purchase of CD's had been completed. **Hafer moves, supported by French to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

Treasurer inquiries about Water Department CD – It is up for renewal, should we renew the CD? After discussion French approves to renew the CD again for the better interest rate.

- **Roof Estimate** – A Roof Estimate was presented for the back pole barn in the amount of \$15,320. This was an updated estimate from two years ago when the roof was previously approved. **Hafer moved supported by Moss to approve the estimate as presented. Roll Call: French, Herryman, Moss, Hafer, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Absent: Heyn, Meyers.**
- **Planning Commission** – Discussion took place regarding the open seats on the Planning Commission. Will table until next meeting.
- **Sewer Authority Resolution** – Zoning Administrator presented the Sewer Authority Resolution for signature by the President. This resolution is needed to create the authority to move forward with funding. **French moves, supported by Herryman to approve the Sewer Authority Resolution as presented and allow the President to sign. Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

**UNFINISHED MATTERS:**

- **On Line Water Fees** – Waiting to make contact with banking manager. Table till next meeting.

- Plow Truck Update – Discussion took place regarding the timing of the new plow truck and payment disbursement plan. Tabled until next meeting.
- Employee Policy – Looking for input on the Employee Policy. Tabled until next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Clerk reviewed correspondence from Village of Elberta, CPS Application approval, Senator Jon Bumstead letter.

SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT REPORT:

- Written report submitted.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

County Commissioner Nye – Reports on County business,

- Member on MAC Committee for Health & Human Services
- Venture North Loan \$177,000 given out to Eclipse Communication
- Benzie Senior Resources is bringing back programs, meals on wheels and ride along
- Cory Ellis new 911 Director reports on New Ambulance purchase
- SRO Officer has new black lab puppy for the Comfort Dog Program
- 24 hr. Road Patrol is moving forward
- ARPA Funds are being disbursed; 30% to County Campus needs, broadband, digitization of county records, housing
- Reminder about the Sewer Feasibility Study Presentation at Mills Community House 3/7/23 at 6:00 p.m.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular March 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes.
- New Distillery interested in old High School by Crystal Lake Elementary.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Steve Stevenson presented costs for the flower boxes around the Village. Cost for nine flower boxes \$450.00. **Moss moves, supported by French to approve the cost of \$450.00 for the flower boxes. Roll Call: French, Herryman, Moss, Hafer, Flynn. Nays: None. Motion Carried. Absent: Heyn, Meyers.**
- Nye mentions that Sough Street is crumbling w/semi's turning into Case & Watsons. Council agrees to write a letter to them seeking monetary compensation with weigh load restrictions. Can beef up area where trucks come in so that the road doesn't deteriorate.
- Brown commented that tower rent money could be a source of funds for the New Plow Truck.

- Hibbard commented that governmental accounts is different from commercial or private companies. Questions who owns the street lights.

Hafer moves, supported by French to adjourn meeting at 7:24 p.m. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maridee Cutler,  
Village Clerk

DRAFTED: March 11, 2023

APPROVED: April 3, 2023