

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE OF BENZONIA
Monday, July 3, 2023 @ 6:07 p.m.

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT:	Flynn
COUNCIL:	Hafer, French, Herryman, Moss, Myers, Giatti
CLERK:	Cutler
TREASURER:	Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT:	Pritchard
ASST SUPERINTENDENT:	
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	Kirk
PUBLIC:	Rhonda Nye, County Commissioner; Kathleen Hibbard, Shane Iverson, Kathy French, Kelly Long
ABSENT:	None

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of the Benzonia Village Council was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Flynn.

ATTENDANCE TAKEN BY CLERK

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

French adds Roadway Speed Signs, and Myers adds the Knotweed discussion to Unfinished Business. Myers moves, supported by Herryman, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- June 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - **French moves, supported by Moss, to approve the June 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hibbard – Reports that the SUV on Bailey Street is removed. Council member Heyn is still listed on the website, and a bear has been reported in the neighborhood.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Equipment Lease – Superintendent Pritchard indicates that the Street Sweeper is no longer needed, he had most of the curbsides cleaned up, and that maybe we could try and reserve for next year.
- Verizon Proposal Letter – Discussion took place regarding the proposal presented by Verizon to reduce the annual rental on the tower. Council

instructed Clerk to write a letter indicating that the Village declines the proposal, and to maintain the current annual extension provided within the contract .

- Personnel Policy – Clerk requests Councils approval on the updated Personnel Policy. Treasurer would like to suggest a change to the Fringe Benefits, 1) Uniform Policy to say: The Village will provide up to \$500 annual to purchase uniforms needed to include (three pair of pants, three shirts, and one pair of boots (replaced as needed). **Hafer moves, supported by French to approve the Updated Personnel Policy as amended. Roll Call: Herryman, Giatti, French, Moss, Hafer, Myers, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion carried.**
- Bills List – **Herryman moves, supported by Giatti to approve payment of the bills for the month of July 2023 in the amount of \$45,405.34. Roll Call: Moss, Hafer, Herryman, Myers, French, Giatti, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer presented Treasurers report. **French moves, supported by Moss to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

UNFINISHED MATTERS:

- Roadway Speed Signs – Pritchard presented information on signs from Traffic Logix. Other companies rent signs for \$810/mo. Cost to purchase a sign range from \$2,785 to \$3,685. Traffic on Traverse Ave. is very dangerous. Cost of sign can be split between Major and Local Streets. Signs from Traffic Logix are portable. **French moves, supported by Myers, to purchase a roadway speed sign not to exceed \$4,000. Roll Call: French, Myers, Herryman, Moss, Hafer, Giatti, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- Knotweed Discussion – Myers would like to see information posted on the website about the presence of Knotweed in the Village, with contact information on how to the Conservation District, what it looks like and how to treat.
- Giatti inquired about gentleman with large water bill. What did the Village do? Treasurer reported that this was added to his tax bill and Treasurer wrote a letter to him.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Written report submitted.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

- Expansion of the lower level at the Sheriffs Department will begin. GT Construction won the bid, 911 will utilize this area.

- Broadband Robin Grant was awarded to the County for 5 million, 1.5 million in ARPA Funds will be used, and 3 million from Cherry Capital. BEE's grant will be the next application applied for towards the Broadband initiative.
- 2.2 million was awarded from the State of Michigan for the tower in Frankfort to help with the gap in Emergency Services.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

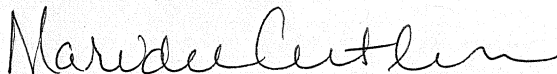
- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular July 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes.
- Annual Fee Schedule Update and Approval – Kirk recommends that the fee schedule be updated to include an addition in residential to include special land use site plan and application review in the amount of \$200, and to also add the fee for Short Term Rentals. **French moves, supported by Hafer to approve the Fee Schedule as amended. Roll Call: Herryman, French, Moss, Hafer, Giatti, Myers, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

- French – Reports resident Wolowiec appreciates the updated posts and Council improvements.
- Hibbard – Reports that Knotweed is near the old house
- Iverson – Indicated that he is in favor of a road speed sign on Traverse Ave., and agrees that this is a dangerous area. He also suggested that the Council could add information about Knotweed on the social media sites.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Maridee Cutler,
Village Clerk

DRAFTED: July 8, 2023

APPROVED: August 7, 2023