

Long Answer Survey Responses – Banks Township Community Survey

2018

1. "Ellsworth could be a nicer community than it is. There is very limited commercial services. I try to NEVER go there. It's too bad more services aren't available in atwood. It's good to see new businesses opening in the area and people fixing up their homes. Farmland is a valuable resource and essential. More should be done to support small farms. The 10c meal plan is a good example. The breezeway is a good idea but the road is terrible. The shoulders are poor and dangerous for bicyclists. My neighbor burns household trash which I think is really terrible. Poor internet is a considerable negative. Supporting Great Lake Energy in their plan to offer internet to rural customers is important. It is difficult to conduct business, pay bills, etc. without good internet. "
2. Ellsworth, Central Lake, Banks Twp should be focusing on tourism as new retail and industry is less likely to happen. This is a natural gem and I believe not marketed to its full potential.
3. Motorized trails for snowmobiles. Have a millage for roads.
4. Banks Township is perfect. My family has lived here since 1905. We don't need fancy to cater to city money. Look around. Boyne, Bellaire, Alden, and Torch. Banks is laid back and there is plenty of wild. It is old school and pretty. We like it that way. No city thinking or democrats. Mark Veldkamp.
5. "short term rentals should be subject to the same zoning restrictions as other housing - no more and no less."
6. Short term rentals should be subject to the same zoning restrictions as other housing - no more and no less; Reliance on East Jordan EMS does not meet the needs of the western township, particularly those that could be served by Torch Lake Township EMS; Zoning is not enforced in a consistent and timely manner and there is inadequate process and accountable for administration in the Zoning regulations
7. Reduce the deer herd as there are too many car deer accidents. Reduce taxes so people can keep their buildings fixed up.
8. We have too many homes in the township that need fixing or need to be torn down! Many are a disgrace to our community.
9. There should be less government involvement in Banks Township to ensure free trade and growth opportunities. The less government there is the easier it is for businesses to flourish. There should be less zoning laws and lower taxes.
10. We don't need any additional zoning. Not everyone manicures or pedicures their lawns and surrounding property.
11. I feel that we need less zoning and regulations, and that neighbors should work harder to address issues among themselves before they seek added ordinances or fines.
12. Taxes are high enough fix the roads with the tax money you get. Maybe instead of giving yourself a per mtg pay increase and special mtg pay increase you could do a minimal 10 to 14 dollar per mtg wage to cover gas expenses and show the people of the township your doing this not because of making money at mtgs . Volunteer try it
13. Zoning should be geared towards allowing more uses of property. Fewer rules generate more business naturally without government choosing winners and losers. A special thank you to our volunteer fire department. Just saying I am satisfied with the level of service they provide is not adequate. They are very devoted and well-trained.
14. Allow people to repair or add to their own dwelling without zoning or building permits.

15. The present old railroad trail is being destroyed by snowmobiles and four wheelers. The puddles are so big they cover the whole road and are quite deep.
16. It may help more commercial development if there were a commercial zoning classification rather than only a "industrial zoning" option.
17. I did not know, per Question 1, that trash collection or high speed internet were township-supplied services.
18. Doesn't do any good to have parks trails and other recreational places if you don't have good roads to get there. Spend money on roads before anything else.
19. Township should encourage planned growth and aggressively encourage recreational use of facilities like the ACNA, Banks Township Park, and recreational facilities in the Ellsworth area. Establishment of a premium RV park (possibly along US31 or overlooking Lake Michigan) could be an economic benefit as there are none from TC to Petoskey.
20. Again, need zoning enforcement of side set back violation by a rental property "Ellsworth Lake House" on Rushton Road. Road culvert in need of repair at 6753 Rushton Road lake side of road.
21. More mowing along secondary narrow roads for safety. Currently Old Dixie Hwy. is mowed only in the fall. Lots of deer jump out of the tall grass and mowing would help better visibility for bicyclists. Huge dead trees along the southern part should be addressed before they create accidents when falling on the roadway.
22. We need to have boat launch access restored to Banks Township Park on Lake Michigan and need to pave Lakeshore drive.
23. Public vote to have zoning and its ordinances removed from the community.
24. Enforce property maintenance to remove unsightly property like lawns not mowed, houses that should be condemned or too cluttered. This will improve overall property values.
25. The winter snow is not removed quickly where we live - Old Dixie Highway area.
26. After living in Banks Township for 20 years, we recently moved downstate, for better employment opportunities and air travel. We loved our time there and think it is underrated as a great place to live. We are having a hard time selling our home due to no enforcement of zoning, and trashed or run down properties nearby. It has really turned prospective buyers off. The Township would benefit by promoting itself as a good place to live for people working in Charlevoix, Boyne and EJ. You get a lot more house and land for your money. However, it needs to take zoning seriously first.
27. would like the results of this survey. would like sewers.would like DTE energy to continue gas line down six mile lake road.
28. There are several residents with blight issues that never get addressed.
29. Lack of High Speed Internet is one of the things keeping me from being a full time resident.
30. I'm all for fixing the roads but we do not need to increase the taxes to do so.... someone dose not need a pay raise the money just needs to go for what it is payed in for
31. Need to allow short term rentals without HOA involvement
32. "Allowing waterways to connect all upper chain of lakes for at least all small to medium boats.
33. Also, maintain all water levels in the spring and fall to stop soil erosion from filling in the lakes and waterways."
34. Banks Twp roads should be better! Antrim County Commissioners and our Road Commissioners should be giving the Twps a better split on the Highway/Gas Tax monies. The County is not passing on to the Townships their proper share of the road money.

35. Banks Township has allowed far too many short term rentals take over our lakeshore. Our community has turned into one loud party from people who do not pay taxes. The out of state owners who do not live here make money at our neighborhood expense.
36. Unhappy with enforcement of zoning laws, specifically use of agricultural land to create motor cross race track which has created noise and environmental pollution for adjacent area.
37. ENFORCE THE BLIGHT LAWS MAKE THE EMPLOYEE YOUR PAYING TO DO THE JOB, DO HIS JOB. STOP PUTTING MONEY INTO SPORT PARKS AND FIND WAYS TO ATTRACT BUSINESS TO HELP EMPLOY MORE LOCAL PEOPLE AND MAKE ELLSWORTH ATTRACTIVE FOR OUTSIDERS TO MOVE IN OR VISIT! GET HUGH CAMBELL OUT OF HIS POSITION AND FIND A WORTHY PERSON THAT LIVES HERE YEAR ROUND! CARES LESS ABOUT SPORTS PARKS AND MORE ABOUT JOBS AND THE LOOKS OF THE COMMUNITY.
38. Antrim Creek Natural Area - one lane access road/hill is a very dangerous road and should be expanded.
39. Recreation is key. Trails for hiking, biking etc need to be accessible and marked well. We drive well outside the township for access but prefer to stay within.
40. Please work on a short term rental policy that reduces a cheap, party atmosphere in residential neighborhoods, protecting the environment which makes Banks Township special, and enhancing everyone's ability to experience and be part of the natural beauty here.
41. The whole town (Ellsworth) needs a facelift. Perhaps more for profit businesses would help and less downtown co-op.
42. My wife and I split our time between our home downstate and our home in Banks Township. We live on Eaton Road that is designated as a seasonal road with a great amount of traffic during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The road is maintained periodically throughout this period, however, due to the fact that it is mainly sand, the rains tend to wash the road out on the west side where the water runs down to the north and erodes the roadway leaving deep ruts (this spring the road was so washed out that our township fire trucks or ambulance would not have been able to respond to our property in an emergency situation. I am not opposed to paying for road repairs but only if the township increases the inspection and maintenance on Eaton Road.
43. Antrim Dells has an association that does not allow for houses to be built less than 1200 sq. ft. which is hurting the potential building of new homes in that area. It was changed from 800 square feet a few years ago.
44. Please develop a noise ordinance. I moved to this area because of the single family environment. Rentals have taken over with individuals who have no investment in our communities. These individuals come for a few days or a week and trash our beaches, race up and down our roads, and create so much noise we no longer live in a family friendly community.
45. Un-happy with zoning
46. We need access to affordable high speed internet