

# Banks Township Board Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2020

This meeting was conducted via Zoom per Governor Whitmer's executive orders during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Supervisor Thomas Mann. Present were Supervisor Mann, Clerk Donna Heeres, Treasurer Katy Postmus, Trustee Tom Cooper and Trustee David Rasmussen. Also present: Kate C, Candace Hoeksema, Julie Waterman, Joni Wieland, Erin Heeres, Andrea Hoeksema, Laura & Phil Edwards, Brandie Heeres Sowash, Julie Chellis, Cathy Heeres Russell, David Heeres and Tina Sundelius. Supervisor Mann led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the March 2, 2020 Public Hearing and March 16, 2020, regular Board Meeting & Budget Hearings were presented. **MOTION** was made by Heeres, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve the Public Hearing minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.** **MOTION** was made by Postmus, seconded by Heeres, to approve the Regular meeting and Budget Hearing minutes amending item #14 with Mann seconding the motion to pay the bills. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Report of incomes and balances was presented by the Treasurer. General Fund Balance: \$411,960.43; Fire Fund Balance: \$157,065.49; Liquor Fund: \$1002.51; Roads Fund: \$195,978.99; Vehicle Fund: \$107,021.40. Grand Total: \$873,028.82. **Bills** represented by the attached list were reviewed for approval for payment. **MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Postmus, to pay the bills as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Public Comment:** Laura Edwards commended the Board on the good new website and suggested the agenda be put on the website prior to the meetings so the public could be aware of topics for discussion and approval.
5. **Zoning Administrator Report:** Clerk reported 4 permits have been issued by the ZA so far this year. Approvals were given for a kitchen addition, conversion of a garage for living space, a deck, and a storage barn.
6. **Correspondence:** City of East Jordan working on new Master Plan with Beckett&Raeder; Traverse to Charlevoix Trailway is renamed to Nakwema Trailway; Permit issued by EGLE for shoreline erosion control at 11015 Lakeshore Drive; Permit issued by EGLE for excavation of a pond at 11760 Old Dixie Highway; Permit issued by EGLE for installation of a culvert on an unnamed road in section 17; Sheriff's dept newsletter announcing retirement of three correction deputies and report of 59 calls to 911 during February and 57 during March; notice of MDOT preconstruction meetings regarding resurfacing of US 31 in Banks Township; reports from JVEMSA rep Julie Waterman regarding use of lights & sirens by ambulance & emergency vehicles; the Ambulance Authority has closed on property for future location of the authority; Julie's report on Ellsworth DDA activities; JVEMSA budget for coming year was received; Letter from Dept of Ag regarding a Manure management issue; Letter from Laura & Phil Edwards regarding amending the ZO to permit operation of Motocross track; Letter from Tom Bronson regarding amending the ZO to permit operation of a Motocross track; Letter from Suzanne Jeffrey regarding Motocross track; Letter from Wayne Heeres regarding advertisement by the Motocross Track owners; Letter from Harry Drinkwine regarding amending the ZO to permit operation of a Motocross track; Letter from Phil & Laura Edwards urging Board members to continue to serve the Township; Copy of Letter from Phil & Laura Edwards to Conservation District Officer regarding proposed

improvements to an unnamed two track road crossing Church Road in Section 17; Letter to property owners in vicinity of above mentioned two track road regarding tree brush and logs that are available to them; Letter from ACRC Burt Thompson, manager, regarding permit issued by EGLE for culvert replacement on above mentioned two track road; Letter from Phil & Laura Edwards to Supervisor & County Commissioner regarding wetlands being impacted by proposed road improvement adjacent to their property; Central Lake Transfer Station is no longer available to Banks Township Residents.

7. **Clean Up Day:** Supervisor Mann reported contact from American Waste regarding our scheduled May 9 Clean Up Day. American Waste notified him they are not able to provide this service this year due to the COVID-19 Virus precautions. We are rescheduled for May 8, 2021.
8. **Road Millage: MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Cooper, to place a millage proposal on the August 4 Primary Ballot for 1 mill levy for 4 years and approve ballot language as drafted by township's legal counsel. **Roll Call Vote:** Postmus: Yes; Mann: Yes; Cooper: Yes; Rasmussen: Yes; Heeres: Yes; **MOTION APPROVED.**
9. **Banks Township Historical Society Project:** Heeres reports the ceiling is installed and the light fixtures arrived today. A grant for \$234 was received from Consumers Energy for the upgraded electrical fixtures.
10. **WebPage Updated:** Supervisor recognized the efforts of the Clerk & Deputy Clerk Tina Sundelius along with ProWeb for the development of the new website.
11. **Election:** The election commission appointments for the May 5 election were presented. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve the appointments. **MOTION CARRIED.** **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Postmus, to increase compensation for inspectors for this election by \$5 per hour due to hazardous working conditions. **MOTION CARRIED.**
12. **Newsletter:** Draft of newsletter was shared. Contract with KCI for printing and mailing of the newsletter was shared. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Cooper to approve the contract. **MOTION CARRIED.**
13. **September Meeting:** Clerk reported the MTA Conference that was to be held end of April this year is canceled, and an alternate "summit" is scheduled at four locations around the state. The one closest is scheduled for Sept 21 & 22 and that is our meeting date. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Mann, to change the regular township board meeting from September 21 to September 28. **MOTION CARRIED.**
14. **Remote Meetings:** Township Legal Counsel suggests action to uphold decisions made during remote meetings by a motion: **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Rasmussen, that the Board hereby ratifies and affirms all decisions made by the Board at any remote public meeting held under the authority of Executive Order 2020-15 and any other Executive Orders extending the temporary authorization for remote participation in public meetings and hearings. **MOTION CARRIED.**
15. **Short Term Rentals: MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Cooper, to support the Governor's Executive Order 2020-42, item 12 and remind property owners that STRs are prohibited except as necessary to assist in housing health care professionals or volunteers aiding in the response to the COVID-19 crisis. **MOTION CARRIED (4-1).**
16. **Township Hall Rentals:** Discussion was held on extending the township hall lockout. **MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Rasmussen, to extend the policy and cancel all reservations and hall use, other than the May 5 election, through May 18 Board meeting when can be addressed again. **MOTION CARRIED.**

17. **Clerk Comment:** Voters are urged to return their AV applications for ballots for the May 5 election as soon as possible to allow processing and mailing time. Nominating Petitions deadline for partisan offices for the township is April 21 at 4 PM.
18. **Public Comment:** Laura & Phil Edwards thanked the Board for pressing on in difficult times. They also commented that the Zoom meeting format works nicely for many people.
19. Next meeting Monday, May 18 at 6 PM, via remote meeting format.
20. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres, Banks Township Clerk