

Banks Township Board Meeting

Monday, July 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: Erin Heeres, Candace Hoeksema, Julie Waterman, Cathy Russell, David Heeres, Don Miles, Andrea Hoeksema, Brandi Sowash and Tina Sundelius. Supervisor Mann led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

2. **Public Comment:** Dave Rasmussen thanked and praised the Fire Department for quickly responding to a distress call even though they were out on another call.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the June 15, 2020, regular Board Meeting were presented.

MOTION by Mann, seconded by Cooper, to approve the minutes with corrections to the date and item #26. The entire tank and valve on the water tank at the cemetery were replaced with a larger, non-leaking one. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented Report of incomes and balances. General Fund Balance: \$406,265.56; Fire Fund Balance: \$142,288.64; Liquor Fund: \$1004.34; Roads Fund: \$115,570.82; Vehicle Fund: \$107,142.20. Grand Total: \$772,271.56. She reported that the bimonthly revenue sharing from the state is down \$2,369 from May. This money comes from a portion of sales tax. Interest rates have dropped so when the township CD matured, she rolled it into the checking account. The CD was invested at an interest rate of 1.56% but would be reinvested at .10 Huntington is predicting low interest rates well into 2021. She has been very busy with tax calls on sales and refinances from title companies. Normally receiving 3-5 title company calls or emails a week, now getting that many every day. Bills represented by the attached list were reviewed for approval for payment. **MOTION** by Postmus, seconded by Cooper, to pay the bills as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **Planning Commission:** Trustee Cooper reported on the PC meeting held July 14 via Zoom. The Public Hearing on a text amendment concerning Tourism and Agriculture Assembly was held. The PC unanimously voted to recommend adoption of this amendment and forwarded it to the Antrim County Planning Commission for review. A summary document with Public Hearing comments and Planning Commission findings related to the text amendment application submitted by Robert (Matt) Heeres has been sent to the Antrim County Planning Commission for review on August 4. Both proposed amendments will be on the Township Board agenda on August 17. Discussion was held on need to update the Blight Ordinance, including descriptions, at the request of the Zoning Administrator.

6. **Zoning Administrator Report:** David Muladore's report was given by Clerk Heeres. Three permits were issued: Two for new homes and one for a garage addition. Progress has been made on blight issues after three certified letters were sent in response to complaints. All property owners are making progress to remedy the situations. A complaint on placement of an LP tank on a lot line was received. ZO is not clear on these tanks as not described in zoning ordinance. Planning Consultant and Legal Counsel will be asked for clarification.

7. **Correspondence:** Clerk reported receipt of: four permits from EGLE concerning shoreline protection on Lake Michigan; sheriff's report of 911 calls (60) for June was received; and a Thank You letter from the Fireworks committee.

8. **Township Hall Lockout:** Governor's Executive Order 2020-115 allows indoor gatherings up to 50 people in our region and executive order 2020-147 requires masks in all public buildings. Discussion followed. There are Six reservations scheduled between August 2 and September 6. In keeping with the 6' rule the hall would only be able to allow 32 people in the downstairs area at a time and they would be required to wear masks. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Postmus, for the township hall to remain closed through the August 17 board meeting to allow time to discuss the possibility of providing a waiver to renters with the township attorney. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. **Roads: Lore Road:** An email was received from a Lore Rd resident who has offered to pay the \$5,000 to pave the remaining 100 feet of the road. Correspondence from Burt Thompson, ACRC manager, indicates the pavement was ended where it is due to the need for plows to turn around at the end and the pavement would not hold up to the pressure of the snowplows/heavy trucks. **MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Cooper, to support the decision of the ACRC to not pave the last 100' of Lore Road and to advise the homeowners to contact the ACRC with any concerns or plans for the road. **MOTION CARRIED.** **North Church Road:** Trustee Rasmussen reported ACRC graded North Church Road to Brown Road but did not grade Valley Road. He questioned why they did not finish the job while the equipment was in the area. He suggested asking them to finish their job of grading Valley Drive, Hilltop Road and Church Road north of Brown Road to the County Line. **Antrim Dells Road Speeding Complaint:** After numerous inquiries, it has been learned that a speed study for the road can be conducted but must be requested by the township on the resident's behalf.

10. **Antrim City Cemetery Driveway & Atwood Fire Hall Driveway:** Swanson's K&D has started prep work on the drive and will notify the township of next steps so there will be no conflict with funeral activity.

11. **Cemetery Marker Repairs:** Consensus of the Board was to postpone any repairs until 2021.

12. **Norwood Fire Agreement:** There has been only one fire run into Norwood Township in the June 1, 2019-20 year. The invoice for the service has been sent.

13. **Election Inspector Appointments:** Clerk shared the list of inspectors for the August 4, 2020, General Primary Election. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Postmus to approve list as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

14. **Township Hall: Watermain Break:** A brass fitting on water intake plumbing gave way. A dry-out company has been here both last night and today. The insurance representative has been here and taken pictures. The adjustor has been in touch and is scheduled to come out. Some drywall will need to be replaced and possibly the flooring. Village desk & paperwork was affected by the water leak. Fortunately, the leak was discovered soon after it occurred, and damage was limited as the water main was shut off quickly. The Village will be asked to cover half of the deductible.

15. **Cemetery Maintenance:** A complaint was received that one cemetery did not have proper weed whipping between headstones. Trustee Cooper visited the cemetery to see and noted that with the recent rain it is likely that the weeds in question popped up overnight. While he was there the maintenance contractor was there working. He stated that the recent rainfall brought on a pop-up of weeds. Supervisor reported that ACRC gave permission to have the ditch cleared of brush along Old Dixie Highway at the Antrim City Cemetery. Clerk reported the house to the south of the Antrim City Cemetery is scheduled to be demolished soon.

16. **Park:** Maintenance contractor reported excavator tracks on old launch ramp at the township park. At one time, a neighbor to the park had permission after putting up a \$10,000

bond to use the ramp to have work done on his sea wall. Questions as to who is using the ramp were raised and the possibility of placing another large rock to block access discussed.

17. **Public Comment:** Don Miles applauded the board for their diligence on protecting resident's safety and the work they did on concluding to not allow hall rentals at this time. He voiced agreement with the decision made to uphold the ACRC decision on paving the turnaround at end of Lore Road. He then commended the ACRC for mowing the corner of Brandt and Rex Beach, an area he has complained about in the past for its poor visibility.

17. **Board Comment:** Trustee Tom Cooper would like to commend Todd Essenberg, Barney, Mary & Corbin Drenth for cleaning up the apple tree that blew over by the Welcome to Ellsworth sign on the Atwood Road. It was a lot of work and they should be noticed for that. They are considering replacing the tree.

18. The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Supervisor at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres
Banks Township Clerk