

## Banks Township Board Meeting

Monday October 19, 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. Trustee David Rasmussen arrived at 6:10 P.M. Also present: Alex Busman, Steve & Kate Parafin, Laura Edwards, Candace Hoeksema, Ashley Potter, Julie Waterman, Andrea Hoeksema, 231-330-3803 (not identified by name). Mark Groenink via phone at approximately 6:30 P.M. Supervisor Mann led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

2. **Public Comment:** There was none.

3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the September 21, 2020, regular Board Meeting were presented. **MOTION** was made by Cooper, seconded by Postmus, to approve the minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented Report of incomes and balances. General Fund Balance: \$364,746.89; Fire Fund Balance: \$143,751.98; Liquor Fund: \$1884.88; Roads Fund: \$79,844.85; Vehicle Fund: \$107,177.05. Grand Total: \$697,405.65. 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.**

6. **Planning Commission:** No meeting in October, next meeting scheduled for November 10.

7. **Zoning Administrator:** Two new permits have been issued. This totals 26 permits for 9 months compared to 20 total per year in the previous two years.

8. **Fire Department:** Chief Mark Groenink joined the meeting via telephone. The Fire Board met tonight. The proposal for a replacement for the 1988 Grass Rig was brought forward after review by the Fire Board. The recommendation is to purchase from CSI a 2021 Ford F-350 with replacement rims and tires and the package upgrade for the grass rig for \$75,866.02. Discussion followed. Delivery is expected to take 100-150 days for delivery after it is ordered. **MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Heeres, to purchase the above described vehicle at a price not to exceed \$76,000. Roll Call Vote: Mann: Yes; Cooper: Yes; Postmus: Yes; Heeres: Yes; Rasmussen: Yes. **MOTION CARRIED** and purchase approved.

9. **Correspondence:** Announcement of receipt of a donation by Russell & Deborah Ulrey of a framed, pre-1900 plat map of Banks Township with insert of Village of Ellsworth plat map. It will need a little cleaning and repair of the backing material but will be displayed with pride at the Township Hall. Antrim County has committee vacancies on a variety of committees. Info will be posted on our website. Letter from Hall custodian explaining rationale for moving the downstairs heat pump unit on the north side of the building. Annual Summer Tax Resolution for Ellsworth Community School was received. Notice of tree clearing & trimming by Consumers Energy was received. Schedule of upcoming training presented by MSU-E was shared. Newsletter & run report for September (66) from Antrim County Sheriff's Dept was shared. Notice from Village of Ellsworth regarding non-sanctioned Halloween activities in the Village was shared. MTA newsletter regarding Open Meetings Act amendment to allow limited electronic meetings was shared.

10. **Township Hall:** Discussion of current Governor's Executive Orders and the increasing incidence of cases in our immediate area. Also, use of the building for business vs social

gatherings. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Cooper, to keep the hall closed for rentals for another month due to the Governor's Executive Orders and the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation. **MOTION CARRIED.** It was noted that meetings of Township & Village committees could take place inside the hall provided the group has 10 or fewer people, masks are worn, and social distancing is observed.

11. **PA 116 application:** Application submitted by Marvin & Jane Rubingh for 140 acres in Sections 13 & 24 of Banks Township was reviewed by the Antrim County Planning Commission. They had no objection to the approval but did note there were a few items that were not answered. No reply from the Antrim Conservation District as they have not met yet. Clerk will contact the applicant to complete the items mentioned above prior to final submission to the State. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Mann, to approve the application for PA 116 by Marvin & Jane Rubingh. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. **Tree Grant:** Clerk reported the trees have all been planted and currently being staked and mulched. Project is nearing completion.

13. **Bergsma Road:** Supervisor explained situation that has created a need for improvements to Bergsma Road beyond the turnaround. Estimate is \$9500 to improve that section of roadway. Discussion was held. Supervisor and Deputy will be meeting with Road Commission Manager on Wednesday to discuss various road issues. **MOTION** by Cooper, seconded by Mann, to pay up to 50% of the estimated cost of \$9500 to improve the portion of Bergsma Road as described in the documents as long as the existing easement from Best Road is found to be not valid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

14. **Designated Assessor:** Interlocal agreement with Antrim County and the 15 townships in Antrim County was reviewed. Supervisor had a chance to review with County's Equalization Director Jamie Houserman. This agreement is effective if the local assessor should not pass inspection by AMAR and the County Personnel must step in and provide the services. **MOTION** was made by Mann, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve Resolution #4 of 2020 to approve the interlocal agreement and authorize the Supervisor to sign the pertinent documents. **MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call Vote:** Mann: Yes; Postmus: Yes; Cooper: Yes; Rasmussen: Yes; Heeres: Yes.

15. **Fireworks Ordinance:** Alex Busman reported on the meeting he attended on the proposed fireworks ordinance. The Sheriff wishes to have conformity throughout the county with fireworks enforcement. Discussion was held. **MOTION** was made by Rasmussen, seconded by Cooper, to adopt the fireworks ordinance. **MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call Vote:** Mann: Yes; Postmus: Yes; Cooper: Yes; Rasmussen: Yes; Heeres: Yes.

16. **Nuisance Ordinance:** Discussion on amendments to this draft ordinance was held and action tabled until November 16. A clean copy with amendments will be provided for the Board to review.

17. **Snow Removal Bids:** No bids have been received yet.

18. **Roads Committee:** The committee met last week. Recommendations for road improvements for 2021 were reviewed. 1) Apply gravel to Bennett Hill Road between Farrell Road and Church Road, partnering with Central Lake Township. (Estimate \$54,000.) 2) Pave Scott Road from Old Dixie Highway east to top of the hill. (Prior estimate of \$40,000.) Discussion was held. Supervisor will obtain estimates for this work plus paving of entire length of Scott Road.

19. **Zoning Administrator Contract:** Contract is up for renewal December 31, 2020. Workload has increased greatly in past 2 years. Will begin negotiations with ZA to develop new contract terms.

20. **Election Inspectors:** Slate of inspectors for the November 3, 2020, General Election was read. **MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Rasmussen, **CARRIED**, to approve the slate of inspectors as appointed by the Elections Commission.

21. **Township Hall Christmas Wreath** for front of the building: Clerk has check with last year's provider and learned the cost will be the same this year. **MOTION** by Mann, seconded by Cooper, to purchase a lighted wreath from Philip McPherson for \$150, installation included. **MOTION CARRIED.**

22. **ZBA:** The ZBA met September 22 on a request for a setback variance for a parcel on Lakeshore Drive owned by Gary Miller. A potential buyer was requesting approval for a 25 ft setback from lakeshore drive rather than the 50 ft setback that is required. Extenuating circumstances exist with wetlands and limit the potential building site on the property. After careful review, the ZBA voted to approve the variance request.

23. **Board Comment:** Katy Postmus, treasurer, commented that the clearing of brush and wild trees between the Antrim City Cemetery and Old Dixie Highway has been completed and the property is looking good. Thanks to Brian Darrah, our contractual employee.

24. **Public Comment:** There was none.

25. The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Supervisor at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres