

## Banks Township Board Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2020

This meeting was conducted via Zoom per emergency orders during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Supervisor Thomas Mann. Present were Supervisor Mann, Clerk Donna Heeres, Treasurer Katy Postmus, and Trustee David Rasmussen. Absent: Trustee Tom Cooper. Also present: Alex Busman, Julie Waterman, Marvin Rubingh, Jarris Rubingh. Supervisor Mann led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.
2. **Public Comment:** Marvin Rubingh addressed the Board regarding Elections and Road Bid for Rubingh Road. He asked that a hand recount be done in Banks Township for President and US Senator. He inquired about the road bid for requested work on Rubingh Road and asked for the Township to contribute 75% of the cost for the upgrades and paving. The bid is \$103,000.
3. **Public Comment:** Jarris Rubingh reported he has begun his training for his new position as commissioner for District 1 of Antrim County.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the October 19, 2020, regular Board Meeting were presented. MOTION was made by Postmus, seconded by Mann, to approve the minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented Report of incomes and balances. Interest rates are very low. Revenue Sharing is considerably higher than anticipated at \$22,151. General Fund Balance: \$379,005.20; Fire Fund Balance: \$143,523.85; Liquor Fund: \$2022.42; Roads Fund: \$79,847.76; Vehicle Fund: \$107,183.00. Grand Total: \$711,582.24. **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. **Deputies for Officials:** Supervisor Mann thanked Alex Busman for serving as his deputy these past few months. Treasurer Postmus appoints James Postmus as her deputy treasurer. MOTION by Heeres, seconded by Mann, to approve this appointment. MOTION CARRIED. Clerk Heeres appoints Tina Sundelius as her deputy clerk. MOTION by Mann, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve this appointment. MOTION CARRIED.
7. **Planning Commission:** No meeting in November for lack of agenda.
8. **Zoning Administrator:** Clerk reported one permit has been issued for replacement of a roof that was damaged last winter with snow load on a barn at Iron Horse Farms. ZA has been investigating several complaints.
9. **Fire Department:** Supervisor Mann and Supervisor Elect Busman attended the recent Fire Meeting to meet the members and see the fire hall and equipment at the Ellsworth Station. The ambulance vehicle hit a deer while on a run October 27, damaging the grill and front end. Chief is investigating adding a brush guard with the repairs to prevent this amount of damage with any future deer hits.
10. **Correspondence:** Health Dept inspection of the Township Hall kitchen showed no deficiencies; Sheriff's newsletter headlines two deputies who were honored for saving the arm of a man injured in an ATV accident; 911 report showed 87 calls from Banks Township in October, 16 were medical calls; Notice from EGLE of permits for shoreline protection for Koziol and Richards properties on Lakeshore Drive; Village of Ellsworth minutes with note of cancelation of Woodenshoe Festival, consideration of retirement community on White Street and complaints of use of jake brakes in the Village limits.
11. **Fire Dept Grass Rig Proposal:** Contract offer from CSI for new 2021 F-350 gas 4x4 Regular Cab with 8' box, 142" WB SRW XL (F3B) with State of Michigan Concession Pricing and CSI

Wildland Upfit for total of \$74,362.00 was reviewed. This is about \$1100 under last month's estimated cost. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Heeres, to approve the contract and terms and authorize the supervisor to sign the contract. **MOTION CARRIED.** (Terms: 25% of body price down with invoice after signing; chassis cost due at delivery of chassis to CSI, Balance due at delivery without change orders.)

12. **Township Hall Update:** Indoor gatherings have been curtailed again due to the pandemic. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Heeres, to keep the hall closed for business and social gatherings per Health Dept guidelines. **MOTION CARRIED.** The insurance claim is not closed yet due to problems with the hanging file cabinet that is no longer functional. Working with Village officers to find a resolution so can close the case.

13. **Cemetery Tree Project:** Trees are planted and staked. Water bags to be installed in the spring. Clerk is working on the final report to receive the grant award (\$4000).

14. **Bergsma Road:** Supervisor reports the property owner has found the easement paperwork for her driveway and the road improvements (for alternate driveway) will not be necessary.

15. **Zoning Administrator Contract Renewal:** Contract expires December 31. Discussion regarding new terms for the contract as the workload has drastically increased along with risks associated with the job. Supervisor and Clerk will negotiate with ZA to develop contract terms and bring to the Board for consideration next month. He needs a scanner to be able to send documents to assessor, board members and building dept. Treasurer agreed to order a scanner that is capable of scanning legal sized documents for the ZA to use.

16. **Election Report:** 580 Absentee Ballots were issued and 548 were returned. Some people came in to vote even though they were issued an absentee ballot. Only 7 AV ballots were not accounted for. 581 people voted in person. 1129 total ballots were cast. A great deal of preparation went into preparing the polling place in consideration of all the COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. The flow of voters through the precinct went well. Supervisor Mann expressed compliments to all the election inspectors, Clerk & Deputy Clerk for organization, professionalism and integrity in conducting the elections this year.

17. **Hotspot at Hall:** Clerk reports communication with Charlevoix Public Library on status of our hotspot specifications. The consultant has been hired for a limited number of hours each month and the project has been moving along rather slowly. We should hear something in next month.

18. **Banks Township Historical Society Building:** Was winterized last week. Noted leak in the valve before the meter. Will be replaced in the spring when the building is opened for the summer season. Also, the fuel oil supply is at 10%. Agreed to not fill at this time.

19. **Cemetery Ordinance:** Supervisor and Clerk will review jointly and send to Cemetery Sexton for comments and then to attorney.

20. **Nuisance Ordinance:** Proposed amendments to Section 10 c were reviewed. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Postmus, to incorporate both fine and legal action into this section. **MOTION CARRIED.** Will send amended draft to the attorney for review. Will set a Public Hearing on this ordinance for January 18 during our regular meeting.

21. **Snowplowing Bids:** Bids were received from Drost Landscaping, Sommer Solutions, Boss Lawn & Landscaping. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Postmus, to award the bid to Sommer Solutions, the lowest bidder of the three. **MOTION CARRIED.**

22. **Planning Commission:** Supervisor reports notification from Joni Wieland that she has sold her property in the township and has resigned her planning commission seat effective November 30. Supervisor Mann expressed our appreciation for her years of service on the planning commission as

well as in other areas of service to the community. Interested applicants may contact Supervisor Elect Alex Busman for information.

23. **School Summer Tax Collection Contract:** Agreement for the collection of 2021 Summer School Property Taxes was negotiated with the Ellsworth Community School by Treasurer Postmus. **MOTION** by Postmus, seconded by Heeres, to approve the contract and authorize Supervisor Elect Alex Busman to sign it. **MOTION CARRIED.**

24. **Road Estimates:** Received from Antrim County Road Commission: Rubingh Road: build up and pave: \$103,000; Scott Road: gravel 450 ft \$57,000; Scott Road: pave 3523 ft \$310,000; gravel Bennett Hill Road from Church to Farrell Road – proposal not yet received. Learned that Atwood Road improvement is scheduled for 2022. East Jordan Road near Slough Road has pavement crumbling at the edges as does Essex Road. Marvin Rubingh offers \$25,000 towards the Rubingh Road improvements.

25. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jarris Rubingh expressed concern for the inefficiencies of the ACRC with maintenance of the roads. This is a priority for him as he begins his term of office at the Antrim County Commission.

26. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Marvin Rubingh stated that Rubingh Road had been upgraded a few years ago but that work is no longer effective: the culverts are plugged, large rocks are emerging from the road beds, etc. He stated with the large number of semis, trucks and farm equipment traversing the road on a daily basis, the need for upgrade is now.

27. **BOARD COMMENT:** Clerk Heeres expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board and the constituents of Banks Township for Supervisor Mann's dedication and leadership for the past 17+ years. He was presented with a small plaque as a token of our appreciation for his service.

28. The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Supervisor at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres