**Banks Township Board Meeting**

**Monday, February 22, 2021**

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

1.The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Supervisor Alex Busman. Present via zoom were Supervisor Busman, Clerk Donna Heeres, Treasurer Katy Postmus, Trustee Tom Cooper, and Trustee David Rasmussen. Also present via Zoom: Sheriff Dan Bean, Greg Burroughs, Mark Groenink, Julie Waterman, Tina Sundelius, Don King, Candy Hoeksema, Marvin Rubingh. Supervisor Busman led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

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

3. **Fireworks Ordinance**: Sheriff Dan Bean presented the latest draft for the fireworks ordinance and highlighted Section 4 covers the hours that are allowed for fireworks discharge. He asked that we consider adopting this as a part of the county wide initiative to have a standard ordinance. There are several amendments since the ordinance that was adopted in October 2020.

4. **Insurance**: Greg Burroughs of Peterson McGregor Agency reviewed the coverages and projections for 2021-22. He stressed that Cyber Crime has massively increased in the past two years and cautioned us to be careful with emails that are unrecognized and attachments that were unexpected. The 1988 pickup is no longer in use for a grass rig and the equipment has been removed. Will lower the coverage to $5,000. The tankers were felt to be under insured and that coverage was increased to $200,000 each. The liability limit was discussed and will provide a cost estimate in next few days. The AD&D Policy for the fire/rescue personnel is currently at $45,000 limit. Values for the buildings were reviewed and felt to be low, even with the built in 3% increase. Trustee Rasmussen will evaluate each building and we can adjust the coverage at a future time. **MOTION** by Busman, seconded by Postmus, to include Terrorism Coverage at a cost of $133. **MOTION CARRIED. MOTION** by Busman, seconded by Heeres, to set the buildings and contents values at the level set by the Underwriters with the 3% built in increase. **MOTION CARRIED. MOTION** by Busman, seconded by Postmus, to purchase an AD&D Policy for the fire/rescue personnel with a $100,000 policy limit on a 3-year policy at a cost of $2619 per year. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**5.** The meeting was recessed at 7:08 PM. The Public Hearing on the Fire Budget was called to order at 7:09 PM.

**6.** Supervisor Busmanpresented the proposed budget for 20-21 and explained the rationale for changes. An increase of 1.4% in taxable value is anticipated; a steady tax rate of .9 mil; an increase in per run/per hour compensation is proposed. Board comments were heard. Public Comments were none. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

7. The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:24 PM.

8. **Fire/Rescue Run Pay/Hourly Pay**: **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Busman, to increase the per run/per hour compensation for the fire/rescue personnel to $16 effective April 1, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. **Minutes**: The minutes of the January 18, 2021, regular Board Meeting were presented. **MOTION** was made by Busman, seconded by Postmus, to approve the minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

10. **Treasurer’s Report**: The Treasurer presented Report of incomes and balances. General Fund Balance: $321,987.33; Fire Fund Balance: $125,437.57; Liquor Fund: $1122.58; Roads Fund: $79,856.99; Vehicle Fund: $113,720.18. Grand Total: $642,124.65. There was a slight increase in revenue from American Tower, interest rates are extremely low, final check was received for the water damage insurance claim. **Bills** represented by the attached list were reviewed for approval for payment. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Rasmussen, to pay the bills as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**.

11. **Zoning Administrator**: ZA reports 29 contacts in past month with lots of activity in Antrim Dells subdivision and interest in a commercial solar “farm”.

12. **Planning Commission**: Trustee Cooper reported the Planning Commission welcomed Anita Hoeksema to the commission for her first meeting. Julie Waterman has agreed to serve as secretary to the Planning Commission. Irene Shooks will continue as Recording Secretary. A public hearing on the greenbelt revisions will be held March 9. Allowance of second dwellings on a parcel under special circumstances is being discussed. An amendment to the ordinance is required to allow commercial solar “farms”. The PC will develop language to include commercial and personal solar energy collection units.

13. **Correspondence**: Sheriff’s newsletter was shared; Sheriff’s report of 911 calls was reviewed: 52 calls in January. Letter from Ell Clair Committee regarding fireworks scheduled for July 3 with request for financial support. Thank you card from Joni Wieland for her appreciation gift following her retirement from the PC. Invoice was sent to South Arm Township for services Nov 1, 2019, through Oct 31, 2020. (2 runs). Info letter on change of Fire/EMS unit numbering system was shared. JV EMS Authority letter with proposed budget for 21-22 and request for comments was shared. Report on School District Election Coordinating Committee meetings that were held (Ellsworth, Central Lake, CharEm ISD, Charlevoix) and agreements were reached. Article from MTA that in-person public meetings are prohibited through March 29, 2021.

14. **Internet Hotspot**: Revised cost estimate for the Township and Village portion of the installation is $2469 ($1234.50 each). Equipment will be ordered with receipt of payment for same and the installation will be billed. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Busman, to approve this revision and send payment for the equipment. **MOTION CARRIED**.

15. **CSX Railroad Property**: Supervisor reported when the railroad abandoned the ROW, the property was to revert to adjacent property owners. Apparently, some of the paperwork did not get processed properly. He will follow-up with our Assessor on the status of these parcels.

16. **Cemetery Ordinance**: Clerk has worked with attorney to finalize the draft ordinance. A Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held during our March 29 meeting at approximately 6:30 PM.

17. **Nuisance Ordinance**: Supervisor is working on an amendment to the proposal that we had public comments on last month and will present at the March meeting.

18. **Fireworks Ordinance**: Final draft was received from Sheriff Bean after 5 pm tonight. The Board will review and discuss in March.

19. **Rubingh Road**: Supervisor reports a new estimate was received from ACRC to improve 850 ft of Rubingh Road to a Class A road is $140,000. Property Owner Marvin Rubingh was present and expressed wish to have the width of the road be lessened from the proposed 28 ft.

20. **Housing Survey**: Supervisor reports the Village DDA is about to launch a housing survey to determine available homes for rent or sale. The Village is interested in locating a senior living facility on property it owns. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey when it becomes available online.

21. **Internet & Phone Stipend**: Discussion was held on need for addition of a phone stipend for officials as in addition to internet, our positions require a telephone. **MOTION** by Postmus, seconded by Heeres, to add a phone stipend of $25/month to the internet stipend of $25/month, payable annually in March, for elected officials of Banks Township. Officials may opt out of the reimbursement if they so choose. **MOTION CARRIED**.

22. **Salary Resolution**: Treasurer collected info from most of the townships in Antrim County regarding salaries and benefits for elected officials and more. She also learned of multiple benefit packages that are not reflected in the salary numbers. Some pension benefits amount to 20 % of the base wage and also have health care benefits. Discussion on projected inflation rates, increased workload, increased exposure risk, etc. **MOTION** by Busman, seconded by Cooper, to set the clerk and treasurer’s salaries at $30,000 per year beginning April 1, 2021. Discussion was held. **YEAS**: Postmus, Busman, Cooper, Rasmussen, Heeres. **NAYS**: None. **MOTION CARRIED**. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Postmus, to set the supervisor salary at $17,866 and the trustee salaries at $2785 per year beginning April 1, 2021. Discussion was held. **YEAS**: Busman, Heeres, Postmus, Cooper. **NAYS**: Rasmussen. **MOTION CARRIED**.

23. **Board Comment**: Treasurer reported the grant cycle is open for scrap tires. She noted she learned with the survey that Forest Home Township has budgeted $42,000 for cleanup day (possibly curbside pickup.) Supervisor will get cost estimate for that service for Banks Township. She suggested an article in the newsletter on how to communicate with Township Officials and how to identify potential SPAM or dangerous emails.

24. **Public Comment**: Candy Hoeksema asked where are the minutes published? She was advised that our minutes are posted on the website.

25. The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Supervisor at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres