**Banks Township Board Meeting**

**Monday, August 22, 2022**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Supervisor Alex Busman. Present were Supervisor Busman, Clerk Donna Heeres, Treasurer Katy Postmus, Trustee Tom Cooper, and Trustee David Rasmussen. Also present was Jarris Rubingh, Julie Waterman, Tom Richards, Tina Sundelius, Mark Groenink, Meghan Meyer, Matt Teste, Marc Lame and Kathy Lame. Supervisor Busman led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

2. **Public Comment**: There was no public comment.

3. **Minutes**: The minutes of the July 18, 2022, regular meeting were presented for approval. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Postmus to approve the minutes, correcting #27, deleting the last sentence: “The board will study the resolution and consider it at the next meeting.”

**MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Presentation**: JVEMSA Director Meghan Meyer presented the authority’s operations report and answered questions. Runs to Banks Township in July were fifteen, accounting for 11.9% of the total for the month; YTD is 74 for 10% of total runs. The Jordan Valley Ambulance Authority is asking for a .5 increase in the millage for their operations fund for two years, to bring the millage to be collected by the authority to one mil for operations and .25 mils for the vehicle replacement fund. The need for additional funding is related to a shift from mostly volunteers in 2015 to mostly paid personnel now.

5. **Commissioner Report**: Jarris Rubingh, Commissioner for District One reported that Atwood Road is complete except 1 or 2 pieces of guardrail. The county is planning to spend $3.9 million on new siding and other repairs/updates to the county building to improve ADA accessibility. The Road Commission is 85% done with all projects for the year.

6. **Treasurer’s Report**: The Treasurer presented the report of incomes and balances. General Fund Balance: $502,967.47 with $130,835.45 in ARPA Funds; Fire Fund Balance: $260,964.28; Liquor Fund: $581.31; Roads Fund: $171,268.63; Vehicle Fund: $123,658.71. Grand Total: $1,059,440.40. **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**.

7. **Zoning Administrator**: Five new permits have been issued this month.

8. **Planning Commission**: Trustee Cooper reported for the Planning Commission. Comments from the public hearing on Utility Solar Installations felt that they should be minimalized or restricted. Cooper stated that with the way the ordinance is being written, he felt that the Planning Commission was very close to achieving what the citizens expressed. There is a public hearing planned to hear comments regarding a petitioner’s request to reclassify an existing Class B nonconformity to a Class A nonconformity and extend into the required front setback at 8554 Ellsworth Rd at the September 14 Planning Commission meeting.

9. **Fire Dept**: Fire Chief Mark Groenink reported a quieter month with runs. The Rescue Truck was repaired for $3,000 instead of the $11,000 originally projected and is now back in operation. The vehicle is still waiting for parts to repair damage from the car/deer accident. The department has been cleaning out the Ellsworth fire hall and plan to paint the meeting room. He would like the board to continue consideration of recruitment and staffing issues.

10. **Ambulance Authority**: Julie Waterman reported an offer was accepted on the Rogers Road property for $155,000 plus costs. Profit from the sale will go into the operations fund. JVAA board members were given email addresses, so they no longer need to use their personal email.

11**. DDA:** Julie Waterman reported the Community Square Reception was a success. The next meeting is September 26.

12. **Village:** Hugh Campbell reported that the village is still working on the sewer system. It has been downsized to completing only Phase I for now. They are applying for grants to buffer the cost to residents. He stated residents would not be able to afford the system if it were financed by only a loan. He stated that the MEDC used the Ellsworth Community Square project as the poster Child for municipality cooperation. He thanked the Township for their part in its completion. He expressed being “flabbergasted” that the DDA had to find chairs elsewhere to seat the entertainment at the reception. He stated that the hall and adjoining square are a governmental campus and that the chairs being used would not have violated the Township policy of not loaning out the chairs. He stated his support for an email sent by Lynn Spearing addressing the chair issue and concluded with, “We do better together than separate.”

13. **Antrim City Cemetery**: Clerk reported on availability of additional grave space at the Antrim City Cemetery on the lower level. Up to sixty additional graves can be platted without difficulty by adding on both the north and south ends of some rows and adding lots on the northwest corner where the fence follows the road. She will investigate where to have corner markers made and return with a proposal.

14. **Correspondence**: Thank you card was received from the Pig Roast Committee in appreciation of our support of the festival. Letter from Dept of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs stating the payments for liquor law enforcement are being delayed. Sheriff’s report of 911 calls for July was received: eighty-five calls in the month, 16 of which were medical calls. Audit reports were distributed to the Board for review.

15. **Township Hall: Flooring**: Trustee Dave Rasmussen stated that due to cost of other projects being completed this year and the high bids coming in for the flooring project, the project should be tabled until next fiscal year. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Cooper, to postpone the flooring project until next fiscal year. **MOTION CARRIED**. **Flag Poles**: Rasmussen reported that a total of five flag poles and lighting (two at the Township Hall, one at each fire hall and one at the Catholic Cemetery) are needed. He has requested a bid from Up north Flag Poles of Carp Lake, MI, and will hopefully be submitted prior to next meeting. T**ownship Hall Exterior repairs & painting**: John Nachazel needs to make another walk through and plans to submit a report on what needs to be replaced on the upper exterior of the building and the short wall beneath the stage. **Stone/Mortar Work**: Scheduled for September.

16. **Lakeshore Drive:** The hand auger work has been completed by GourdieFraser and the engineer is preparing a report for us. A resolution written by a LSD resident was discussed. The board cannot support a resolution written by a resident, but Clerk Donna Heeres began putting one together and presented the rough draft to the board. The board will look it over and bring it back to the next meeting with suggestions for additions. **Public Comment**: Tom Richards reported that the road had been graded last week. The same troublesome locations have potholes recurring. More dust control is needed. Construction does not seem to affect the road’s condition, but the weather does.

17. **Metro Act Application**: A resolution to approve an application for access to and ongoing use of public ways by telecommunications providers under Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-Of-Way Oversight Act, 2002 PA 48 MCL Sections 484.3101 to 484.3120: **MOTION to** approve the application submitted by Great Lakes Energy Cooperative by Heeres, seconded by Busman. Roll call vote: Cooper: Yes, Rasmussen: Yes, Heeres: Yes, Postmus: Yes, Busman: Yes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

18. **Nuisance Ordinance:** A discussion was held on Section J of the draft ordinance concerning parked vehicles and the definition of inoperable. The items will be sent to our attorneys for review.

19. **Michigan Mutual Aid:** A blanket mutual aid agreement with the state that ensures all parties are covered in the event of accident or injury while responding to an emergency that is outside of our typical area like during the Kitchen Farm fire or the Gaylord tornado. This agreement supersedes all prior mutual aid agreements. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Cooper, to approve the Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association Agreement. **MOTION CARRIED**.

20. **Security Cameras**: A proposal from Habitech Security was received for replacement of our present security camera equipment with 4-pixel cameras and maintenance agreement. Heeres will ask the rep to attend the next meeting to better explain his proposal.

21. **Mausoleum:** A request was made to put a 13’X9’X6’ Mausoleum in the Ellsworth Cemetery. Discussion was held. The ordinance needs to be reviewed and further information from the interested party will be obtained.

22. **Parcel Division Application**: Postmus offered a revised application for the parcel division application. She also recommends a revision to the ordinance as the laws governing parcel division have changed. Additionally, the fees involved with the applications need to be adjusted.

23. **Board Comment**: Trustee Rasmussen questioned the need for an inspection of the elevator/lift. Clerk will check the records to see when last inspected and schedule accordingly.

24. **Public Comment:** Hugh Campbell said that a local business is interested in purchasing the old dump property, ten acres, for storage.

25. **Public Comment:** Meghan Meyer would like to continue conversations about Banks becoming a substation for JVAA. She offered services to help those wanting to become EMS certified assistants. She is willing to meet with Township Officials to “brainstorm” on needs and desires.

26. **Public Comment**: Commissioner Rubingh spoke on potential resolution to the ACRC. He stated Torch Lake Township is discussing amending their cemetery ordinance to include “crypts” and restricting burials to residents only. He reported the Central Lake Police Officer is doing a class in the CL Schools to teach students about opportunities for police, fire, and emergency personnel occupations.

27. The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Supervisor at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres,

Banks Township Clerk