**Banks Township Board Meeting**

**Monday, July 18, 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: Jarris Rubingh, Julie Waterman, Kurtis Busman, Tom Richards, Don Binns, Bob Dutcher, Don Miles, Tina Sundelius and Jon Smalley. Supervisor Busman led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

2. **Public Comment**: Tom Richards, representing the residents of Lakeshore Drive, requested that a letter that he gave to the board at the last meeting be recognized and filed in last month’s minutes. Clerk Heeres explained that the absence of the letter was an oversight, and it would be corrected.

3. **Public Comment**: A letter from Thomas Mann, resident of the Village, supporting Jarris Rubingh for County Commissioner was addressed to and read to the board by Supervisor Busman.

4. **Public Comment**: Jon Smalley, 8-year resident of Lakeshore Drive, commented on the condition of Lakeshore Drive. “Reflective signs just don’t do it.” **Supervisor response**: the Township has a signed contract with Gourdie Fraser to evaluate Lakeshore Drive.

5. **Public Comment**: Don Miles, resident of Lakeshore Drive, asked about the progress of Brant Road. He is wondering if the job is complete because no gravel has been added. **Supervisor response:** Supervisor Busman will drive by the road on his way home tonight and talk to the County Road Commission before the next meeting.

6. **Public Comment**: Bob Dutcher, resident of Lakeshore Drive stated: “the sheriff says it is unsafe, the road commission manager says it is safe. We get no patrols from the sheriff. There is a 23 ft drop, 12” from the roadway.”

7. **Public Comment**: Tom Richards stated “the grading is the reason we asked for an evaluation.”

8. **Supervisor Response**: We have allocated funds to have it evaluated. If the County installs guardrails or moves the road, that is their job.

9. **Public Comment**: Jon Smalley asked that a resolution be sent to the ACRC in support of repairs and paving the road.

10. **Minutes**: The minutes of the June 20, 2022, regular meeting was presented for approval. Corrections were added: The letter from Tom Richards was attached and an explanation of its acceptance added to line 12 under correspondence. **MOTION** by Postmus, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve the minutes with the corrections. **MOTION CARRIED**.

11. **Commissioner Report**: Jarris Rubingh, Commissioner for District One, reported that the Chain of Lakes hydrology study has been completed. A new culvert on Bridge Street is recommended. A 24’ box culvert is recommended to replace the old 13.1’ deteriorating culvert. It is estimated St. Clair Lake would be 12” lower and Six Mile Lake would be 10” lower after the work is completed. Ellsworth Lake would be 2” higher and the other lakes 1-2” higher. He stated that rocks in the driveway circle for the porta-jons at the Antrim Creek Natural Area have been causing problems for cleanout services. A security camera was recommended. Rubingh also reported that the Central Lake Village Council has given the first approval for Mortensen’s Funeral Homes to build a cremation site in the building next door to their funeral home in Central Lake.

12. **Treasurer’s Report**: The Treasurer presented the monthly report of incomes and balances. General Fund Balance: $529,845.18 with $130,835.45 in ARPA Funds; Fire Fund Balance: $261,756.94; Liquor Fund: $580.46; Roads Fund: $171,268.63; Vehicle Fund: $123,540.68. Grand Total: $1,086,991.89. **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**.

13. **Zoning Administrator**: Kurtis Busman, ZA, submitted his report. Two new permits have been issued this month. Two more land divisions are in process, no special use permits pending. He is following up on how our nuisance ordinance is written concerning vehicles. He expressed concerns that vehicles must be registered & licensed or out of sight or they are in violation of our nuisance ordinance.

14. **Planning Commission**: Trustee Cooper reported for the Planning Commission. Stated that consultant John I, from Beckett and Raeder, has been keeping an eye on Short Term Rental legislation brought back up at the state level. There will be a public hearing on the proposed Utility Solar Ordinance on August 9. Antrim Dells Association is consulting with the ZA & PC to develop language related to use of RV’s. Regulations regarding the keeping of noncommercial animals, mainly chickens and rabbits, is being reviewed. New Officers were elected for the PC; Anita Hoeksema is the new chairperson.

15. **Fire Dept**: The Rescue Truck requires $11,000 in repairs on the turbo. Air Compressor and parking brake are also in need of repairs. The Fire Board will evaluate options. Steve Middleton, FFII, has joined the department and Elizabeth DeKorne has moved out of the area.

16. **Ambulance Authority**: Julie Waterman reported the AA will meet on July 20. No meeting has been held since her last report.

17**. DDA:** Julie Waterman reported the Music on the Square series has been a success. So far 2 concerts have been held with 2 more scheduled. There is a banner at the Clare Rest Area advertising Ellsworth. It will remain up for a year. Nathan Swailes has agreed to replace Jan Rasmussen on the board.

18. **Correspondence**: A letter from Patty Dawson from the Central Lake Library reporting that 106 Banks Township residents have utilized the library and checked out 76 materials. Story Hour, Lego Club and Art & Craft Club are several programs that are established. The Sheriff’s report reported Kevin Hock is the new Under-Sheriff and Dean Pratt has retired.

19. **Township Hall: Flooring**: Trustee Dave Rasmussen reported that two flooring bids have been received. They will be shared with the Board for review and action at the next meeting.

**Flag Poles**: Will seek bids for a total of five flag poles and lighting; two additional at the Township Hall, one at each fire hall and one at the Catholic Cemetery. Will price with lights, electric and solar, depending on location. **Township Hall Exterior repairs & painting**: John Nachazel will be bringing a lift to see what needs to be replaced on the upper exterior of the building and submit an estimate. The short wall beneath the stage needs repairs. He will suggest a solution and plan for a winter/spring project.

20. **Lakeshore Drive Proposal**: Amended contract with Gourdie/Fraser to include soil borings for an additional $900 was presented by the Supervisor. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Cooper, to approve this amendment and authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract. **MOTION CARRIED**.

21. **Zoning Ordinance Amendment**: Proposed Ordinance #2 of 2022, Firearms Training Facility Amendment, was developed by the Planning Commission, public hearing was held, reviewed by the Antrim County Planning Commission, and is presented to the Township Board for final approval. **MOTION** by Rasmussen, seconded by Cooper, to adopt the zoning ordinance amendment to establish regulations for Firearms Training Facilities in Banks Township, inserting 9mm and appropriate range in the chart and correcting a typo “or” instead of “of” where it refers to parking spaces. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Cooper: Yes; Rasmussen: Yes; Postmus: Yes; Heeres: Yes; Busman: Yes. **Ordinance Amendment #2 of 2022 was declared** **ADOPTED**.

22. **Election Inspectors &** **Public Accuracy Test**: Election Inspectors were appointed by the Elections Commission. **MOTION** by Heeres, seconded by Postmus, to approve the inspectors for the August 2, 2022, Primary Election. **MOTION CARRIED**. Clerk announced the public test of voting equipment is scheduled for July 25 at 2pm at the township hall.

23. **Rescue Department**: Cost of repairs and availability of a replacement vehicle was discussed. Fire Board will investigate options. Number of rescue personnel is declining; more volunteers are needed. A question of the possibility of a rescue sub-station was raised. The board would like to have a discussion with the EMS Director and the Fire chief at the next meeting. Recruitment activities needs to be priority.

24. **Nuisance** **Ordinance**: Zoning Administrator suggests review of Section J for next meeting: to consider amendment to this ordinance.

25. **Metro Act Application:** A Metro Act Application was submitted by Great Lakes Energy Cooperative for permanent easement of Right Of Way for fiberoptic expansion. They are asking for 15-year contract renewable every 5 years up to a total of thirty years. **Tabled for review**.

26. **Meeting Date Changed**: The August regular meeting date was changed to August 22, 2022.

27. **Public Comment**: A draft resolution, written by Jon Smalley, was presented to the Board with a request to adopt it, declaring that the Board would like the county to take the Lakeshore Drive road conditions more seriously.

28. **Public Comment**: Commissioner Rubingh stated the lack of EMS personnel is a county wide problem. Antrim has the second highest population in the 10-county area of over 60’s with over half being over 70. The shortage of firefighters and EMS personnel is real. The Metro Act does help to promote Broadband services.

29. **Board Comment**: Trustee Rasmussen stated the DDA used chairs from the township hall for events and they weren’t returned promptly. The Village needs to be responsible for their own chairs.

30. The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Supervisor at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres, Banks Township Clerk