

## **Banks Township Board Meeting Monday, July 15, 2024**

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 Julie Waterman. Trustee Dave Rasmussen arrived at 6:08 P.M. Also present: Tina Sundelius, Jarris Rubingh, Juliet Rubingh, Ryan Deery, Hugh Campbell, George Lasater, Dave Heeres, Tom Richards, Steve Elliott, and Daryl Richards. Kevin Clayton arrived at 7 pm. Supervisor Alex Busman lead the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

2. **Public Comment:** Richard Friske introduced himself as candidate for Banks Township Trustee.

3. **Public Comment:** Jon Smalley, new permanent resident of Lakeshore Drive, asked to hear the solution for repairs to LSD that will “crown & compact the road” and “make it passable year around” and plans to “crown it and properly maintain it”.

4. **Public Comment:** Steve Elliott, resident “at the far end” of Lakeshore Drive for 3-4 years and a Geotech engineer (a subset of civil engineer) and president of a materials testing consultant firm with 150 employees in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor & Lansing addressed the Board. He stated “roughness/ride quality is the problem with the road” and it has “risen to an intolerable level.” He outlined 4 things that are needed for a gravel road: good subgrade, good gravel surface, good shape and regular maintenance. He stated the problem is easily fixed and don’t need an expensive study to fix it as two of the four things are already present and the other two are relatively inexpensive to fix.

5. **Minutes:** The minutes of the June 17, 2024, regular meeting were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Waterman, seconded by Busman, to approve the minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **Commissioner’s Report:** Jarris Rubingh reported that the county has a new invasive species (Hemlock Woolly Adelgid) that kills hemlock trees but is not spreading quickly; it is best seen in the fall. DNR & EGLE have programs to treat it when reported. The Antrim County Master Plan is on the website and will be voted on at the next Commissioners meeting. Two openings on committees, the COA & Area Agency on Aging and the ACNA. The appointments will be made in August. Interested persons should complete an application and submit to the County Administrator’s office for consideration. He attended the NM Association of Counties this am and learned that most jails in the area are underoccupied. He stated that he feels Antrim County should construct a jail that is half the size of what is proposed. Diversion to mental health facilities and work release keeps jails at lower occupancy levels. The November ballot will contain a request for approval for a \$32m jail facility, using \$7m out of fund balance.

7. **Village Report:** Hugh Campbell, Village President, reported the DDA sponsored Concerts on the Square have been well attended and comments abound that the Township Hall “looks magnificent” and we should “be proud of the work done to maintain its beauty over the years”. The orange pipes in the ground are part of a Spectrum project to extend internet service to Grand Traverse Pallet Company. The Farmers Exchange is working with Consumers Power Company to upgrade their service to the Village. It was noted that the joint Parks & Rec Plan has expired and will need to be updated.

8. **Sheriff’s Report:** Undersheriff George Lasater reported 81 calls to 911 from Banks Township in June. Sixteen were medical, nine car/deer accidents and 12 traffic stops. Tours of the jail are available to interested individuals. Information on the county website is available.

9. **Charlevoix Public Library:** Ryan Deery, director of the Library, addressed the Board with the report for 2023-24: 398 members of the Library live in Banks Township. In 2004, a bond for the library renovations was obtained and it recently has been paid off. The Library is debt free in 2024. This allows a .75 mil reduction in assessment for the tax roll. The operating millage expires this year and a renewal for this will be on the August ballot for .8 mils for 4 years. The Library had a booth at the Pig Roast to promote its services and plans to return annually. They send out a newsletter three times a year to all Banks Township residents.

10. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report of incomes (\$60,529.38) and balances was presented. General Fund Balance: \$365,373.20; Fire Fund Balance: \$314,059.74; Liquor Fund: \$1634.13; Roads Fund: \$22,596.75; Vehicle Fund: \$65,462.19. Grand Total: \$769,126.01. **Bills** represented by the attached list were reviewed for approval for payment (\$26,045.11). **MOTION** by Postmus, seconded by Rasmussen to pay the bills as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. **Zoning Administrator:** Alex Busman presented the ZA's report in Kurtis' absence. The blight violation on Church Road is expected to be cleaned up by July 22. The complaint of a "campground" on Timberlane Terrace is being investigated.

12. **Planning Commission:** Julie Waterman reported that the proposed Transitory Extraction Planned Unit Development and Soil Removal Ordinance is complete and has been sent to the county and this board for review and approval at our August meeting. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance was held on July 2. No public commented. It appears that an extension of the moratorium on sand & gravel extraction applications will not be necessary as the ordinance revisions have been developed and will be ready for township board approval at the August meeting. A letter from Richard Diebold, PC Chair, with summary of actions taken by an ad-hoc committee and the PC to study & consider appropriate amendments to the ZO regulating and addressing sand and gravel and aggregate extraction and activities allowed under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.

13. **Fire/Rescue Department:** Captain Daryl Richards reported in Fire Chief Mark Groenink's absence. Patrick McGuire, the owner of Royal Farms is providing a paved area on his property to serve as a Heli-pad on the southside of Rex Beach Road. Alex thanked the Fire Department for their help during a recent family emergency.

14. **DDA:** Tina Sundelius reported that the DDA's State of the Community Meeting was a success with more people attending than expected. The Concerts on the Square have been well attended. There are three more concerts this summer.

15. **Ambulance Authority:** Julie Waterman reported that the Authority Board has not met since her last report. However, a special meeting was called because one of their vendors was hacked and information was potentially stolen. The situation was successfully resolved.

16. **Correspondence:** The Planning Commission Annual Report was received. Thank you cards from the Pig Roast and Ell-Clair Fireworks Committees. The Antrim County "Bulletin." A letter from the County announcing an opening on the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan Board of Directors. The Ground Ladder Testing Summary for the Fire Department was shared. A letter from candidate for County Clerk, Cathy Odom with campaign cards attached. Report from Central Lake District Library with 104 Banks Township users in 2023.

17. **Public Comment:** County Commission Candidate Kevin Clayton introduced himself and outline his background and wishes to serve as District 2 Commissioner.

18. **Lakeshore Drive:** Supervisor Busman contacted Elmers and received a bid to have them crown the road. The ACRC will not allow Elmer's to crown the road and will not do it

themselves. The ACRC offered that the township can take full responsibility for the road. Tom Richards read a letter citing State Law requirements of the road commission to keep roads “safe & reliable”. He called for the dissolution of the ACRC and have the county board provide oversight. Supervisor Busman will plan to meet with the ACRC on this issue July 16 at 9 am in Mancelona.

19. **Township Hall Kitchen Renovations:** No updates.

20. **Parcel Division Ordinance Revision:** Postmus reported that our lawyers have provided the new generic Parcel Division Ordinance that complies with current laws and zoning and names the township assessor as the point person for all divisions. The board will take time to review the document. Postmus stated the cost of processing the application is not covered by the fees charged.

21. **Essex Road Millage:** Alex Busman reported that the county funds the township would borrow to complete the work and pay back with the millage are frozen. The county is hoping to use \$7 million from the account to complete the new jail if that proposal passes. It was agreed to drop the idea of a millage to repair Essex Road for now.

22. **Clean Up Day Policy:** tabled until next month.

23. **Assessor Contract:** A contract from Robert Englebrecht was reviewed. Alex will clean up some language on the contract, talk to Englebrecht about it and bring it back next month for approval.

24. **Election Inspector appointments:** The Election Committee appoints Election Inspectors for the August 6, 2024, Primary Election and 9 days of early voting per the attached rosters.

**MOTION** by Postmus, seconded by Rasmussen to approve these appointments. **MOTION CARRIED.**

25. **Board Comment:** Trustee Rasmussen reported the Harris Street property that the Township recently purchased has been maintained by the Village & the previous property owner. The Village agreed to continue mowing it if the Township could get it cleaned up. Rasmussen will ask BD Services for a proposal to remove brush and trees and get ready for mowing.

26. **Board Comment:** Clerk Heeres commented on a letter to the editor in the Antrim Review from County Clerk Sheryl Guy.

27. **Public Comment:** Jarris Rubingh reported a seat on the ACRC will be open in December. Applicants should apply for this position by September. Also, a NCCMH board member recently resigned, and that seat will be open for applicants.

23. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm by the call of the Supervisor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Heeres, Banks Township Clerk