

Minutes of
Makanda Township Board of Trustees
July 13, 2021
Makanda Township Fire Station #2
Giant City Road

CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Sara Lipe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Supervisor Lipe and Trustees Michael Holub, Clay Kolar, Debbie Stanley and Fred York. Also present were the following (non-voting) Township Officials: Assessor John Dickson, Clerk Gina Einig, Road Commissioner Ed Hoke and Fire Chief Jimmy Bilderback. Deputy Clerk Dennis Leitner was present via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: There were none.

MINUTES: Gina read the minutes of the June 8, 2021, Board of Trustees. Sara corrected a statement about Julie Peterson [see item (6) new business]. Also, under item (5) in New Business, Sara will report the number of “applications” for General Assistance each month, rather than the number of “applicants.” Under the Fire Chief’s report, four people (not two) have completed First Responder Certification. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

FUND BALANCES: Fund balances as of 7/12/21: Fire Protection - \$33,244.63. Fire Protection Capital Fund - \$168,169.69. General Assistance: \$95,937.30. New Bridge - \$0.91. Road & Bridge - \$891.46. Town: \$71,476.02.

APPROVAL OF BILLS BY FUNDS: (See attachment for Bills by Fund.) A motion to pay the Fire Protection bills was made by Fred, seconded by Clay, and was approved unanimously. Yes-5, No-0. A motion to pay the Road and Bridge bill was made by Fred, seconded by Clay, and was approved unanimously. Sara added a bill for \$150 for new board members to attend a virtual course called Newly Elected Officials Training offered by TOI. Debbie, Ed and Gina agreed to attend. A motion to pay the Town Fund bills was made by Debbie, seconded by Clay and was approved unanimously. There were no New Bridge or General Assistance bills.

REPORTS:

1. (1) Sara reports that she attended the Greater Egypt Long-Range Transportation Planning Commission meeting. She suggested we visit <http://greateregypt.org/transportation-planning/> to see what they are doing. (2) She also attended the TOI Supervisor workshop last month. (3) She also reminded all the elected officials and employees to complete the required Open Meetings ACT (OMA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and Sexual Harassment training. Sara will provide the link to everyone required to complete the training. (4) She asked about giving General Assistance

- money to charitable organizations and was told that is not possible without an intergovernmental agreement with that agency. Also, the money would have to come from Town Funds, not General Assistance (GA). (5) Sara stated that if we have committees, that all committee members would have to complete OMA and FOIA training, take and submit minutes to the board. (6) As to having a committee to help complete the applications for GA, Sara was instructed is not possible because of privacy laws. (7) Sara had one applicant this month for General Assistance. (8) The Department of Human Services has raised the Flat Grant to \$317/month. (9) MediaCom does not sell hot-spots.
2. (1) Jimmy reported the following activity for the month of June: Fire Alarms-4, EMS Calls-6, Cancelled in Route-2, Vehicle Fire-1. Total of 13 calls. We have 20 volunteer firemen. (2) There has been no update on the fire truck recently purchased, which is expected to be received in April 2022 and in service by June. (3) Giant City School is on fire watch until about the middle of September since the doors are off for remodeling.
 3. Ed reported that he (1) removed three trees from roads; (2) is seeking quotes for road-side mowing; (3) signed a permit for South Highway Water District to drill under east Boskeydell Rd; and (4) notified Webb Smith (the attorney handling the case for the Township) to drop all proceedings in the Shepard Lane suit. (5) Ed plans to have the roadsides mowed by the end of July.
 4. There was no CWPP report.
 5. Assessor John Dickson reported that he is finishing the quadrennial assessment and that tax bills went in the mail today.

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) There is no need for new equipment for Zoom meetings since the Board will be meeting in the Fire House #2 training room, rather than in the bay. (2) Sara brought up the question of whether a second MediaCom account would be advisable for non-fire protection personnel to avoid degrading the Fire Station's bandwidth.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Clay moved and Debbie seconded that loans of \$15,000 be made from the Town Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund and \$5,000 be made from the Town Fund to the New Bridge Fund. These loans are to be repaid to the Town Fund when the road accounts are replenished in Nov. 2021 after receipt of property tax allocations. This motion was approved unanimously.
- (2) Mike moved and Fred seconded that an ad-hoc committee of Makanda Township citizens (chaired by Mike) be created to represent the Township to the Jackson County Board. The intent is to express the Township's need to have the Jackson County Board pursue financial opportunities and incentive programs for enhancing high-speed internet

connectivity within the County and specifically Makanda Township. This motion passed unanimously.

- (3) Sara reported that it is not possible for MediaCom to provide high-speed internet availability via a "hot-spot" at the Fire Stations through the present MediaCom internet connection.
- (4) Clay moved and Mike seconded that the official address for all Township business be assigned to Fire Station #2. This motion was tabled until the August Township meeting, pending information from TOI and where the official office is located.
- (5) Clay moved and Debbie seconded that an official office for Township Clerk, Highway Commissioner, Township Supervisor and Township Assessor (along with appropriate equipment and supplies) be created as soon as possible. This motion was passed unanimously.
- (6) Fred moved and Clay seconded that the Township Clerk be designated as a second signature required on all Township bank accounts. The motion passed with 4 yes, 1 no vote (Sara). Fred and Mike agreed to donate their salaries to pay the \$2698 (premium for four years) to the RLI (bond company).
- (7) The item on the agenda (i.e., creation of a General Assistance ad hoc committee to be headed by Debbie to assist Sara in disseminating information and in receiving and evaluating applications for GA) was not acted on. Sara mentioned that no one beside herself can be involved with receiving and evaluating information for General Assistance, but information can be disseminated. Sara has recently received one application and is evaluating it now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Clay moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael. The motion passed unanimously at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Einig, Clerk