

Minutes of
Makanda Township Board of Trustees
Aug. 10, 2021
Makanda Township Fire Station #2
Giant City Road

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Sara Lipe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She presented a meaningful and heartfelt statement about the life of Officer Brian R. Pierce, Jr. who was killed on Aug. 4 while on duty as a police officer for the Brooklyn, IL police department. She asked that we keep his family and his extended police and fire families in our thoughts and prayers.

ATTENDANCE: Present were Supervisor Lipe and Trustees Clay Kolar, Debbie Stanley and Fred York. Trustee Michael Holub and Clerk Regina Einig were present via Zoom. Also present were the following (non-voting) Township Officials: Assessor John Dickson (via Zoom), Road Commissioner Ed Hoke and Fire Chief Jimmy Bilderback. Deputy Clerk Dennis Leitner was present via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- (1) Dennis asked permission to display a picture of Officer Pierce with his name on Zoom. He rarely missed a Makanda Township meeting, attending virtually via Zoom. In this way, he was still with us at this meeting tonight.
- (2) To avoid unusually long Township meetings, Sara suggested "patrolling ourselves in terms of what we bring up, being succinct in our comments, staying focused on the topic."

MINUTES: Dennis read the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Sara suggested three changes: (1) Under MINUTES, change "First Respondent Certification" to First Responder Certification. (2) Under REPORTS, Sara's report item #8 should read "raised THE Flat Grant to \$317/month" rather than "raised OUR Flat Grant to \$317/mo. (3) Under NEW BUSINESS, #1, Clay moved and Debbie seconded that "loans", rather than "a loan" be made.... (4) Also under NEW BUSINESS, item #6, Fred and Mike agreed "to donate \$2698" rather than "to pay \$2698" premium to the RLI (bond company). The minutes were accepted as corrected.

FUND BALANCES: Fund balances as of 8/10/21: Fire Protection - \$31,109.83. Fire Protection Capital Fund - \$168,346.72. General Assistance: \$95,953.07. New Bridge - \$5,000.91. Road & Bridge - \$16,283.36. Town: \$47,784.47.

APPROVAL OF BILLS BY FUND: (See attachment for Bills by Fund.) A motion to pay the Town Fund bills was made by Fred, seconded by Debbie, and was approved unanimously. Yes-5, No-0. A motion to pay the Fire Departments bills was made by Fred, seconded by Clay, and was approved unanimously. A motion to pay the Road and Bridge bills was made

by Clay, seconded by Debbie and was approved unanimously. There were no New Bridge or General Assistance bills.

REPORTS:

1. Jimmy reported the following activity for the month of July: Fire Call -1, False Alarm – 1, EMS Calls-8. Total of 10 calls. We have 18 volunteer firemen. Josh Lipe described how the Makanda Township Fire Department has pulled together for Brian Pierce. Larra Lipe described the plans for a dinner after the burial and other things being done to honor Brian Pierce, Jr.
2. Ed reported that he (1) removed a tree from a road; (2) bought a Stihl 11' pole saw, sharpening tool, safety helmet and toolbox, (3) opened up Makanda Township accounts with Southern FS for fuel and mowing needs and with Rural King for supplies to avoiding paying and being reimbursed. (4) The process for mowing quotes didn't work, so Ed has started mowing and hopes to be done by Aug. 21. He will lease a tracker, costing about \$5000/year.
3. There was no CWPP report.
4. Sara reported that (1) last month's General Assistance application was denied because income was too high. (2) She learned from TOI that the state no longer funds a program to help bail out townships from requests for more money than the township has in its account. (3) The bonds for Regina as a second signer have arrived and they will go to back to update the signature cards. (4) In response to questions from Clay, Sara learned that state no longer requires the Township to have 0.1% of its assessed value in reserve for General Assistance and that she would ask TOI for more information.
5. Assessor John Dickson (via Zoom) had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. John's proposal for office space for the Assessor was shared with only Sara. This item was tabled since no one else on the board had had a chance to review the options.
2. The item relating to office space for Clerk, Highway Commissioner and Supervisor was also tabled. See Old Business item #1.
3. Reporting for the Ad Hoc committee for General Assistance, Debbie reported that she had not decided yet who would be on the committee. Sara suggested that Debbie think about whether this committee should be a Standing Committee (permanent) or Ad Hoc Committee (temporary for a specific purpose and period of time).
4. In terms of the Ad Hoc Committee for Broadband, Mike has researched through TOI and reached out to several folks (e.g., Debbie and Brian Pierce the day before his passing). Mike is going to reform the committee for next month. Regina mentioned that apparently SIU got a large grant to work on Internet connectivity in the region. Mike will look into that information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sara reported that FDIC's limit of insuring up to \$250,000 has caused her to look into moving the General Assistance Account from First Southern to Banterra or First Mid.
2. Ed reported that in order to require a resident to sign a Driveway Permit, we need a Driveway Permit Ordinance. He will get a draft ordinance out to the Trustee before the next meeting. Sara and Dan recalled having such an ordinance for the past 30 years, but Ed has no record of it. Sara says that ordinance should be with the Clerk.
3. Sara reported that she received an email that there needs to be an in-person quorum for Township meetings according to the Open Meetings Act. Sara asked Regina to find the ordinance about virtual participation passed by Makanda Township board in 2014 (or 2015) and have the board look into it. The resolution stipulated that you only get paid if you attend in person. The only reasons that you can participate virtually are (a) your illness, (b) a family member's illness, or (c) a business obligation with 24-hour notice to the Clerk. Clay suggested that Makanda Township ordinances (such as this one) be placed on the Township website.
4. In terms of a Memorial for Brian Pierce, Clay moved that the Township board establish a fund to construct a memorial (TBD) in honor of Brian using donated money, collected in the next 6-8 months. Debbie seconded this motion. The board and fire department will have input in determining the nature of this memorial (e.g., bench or scholarship fund for training). The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Danny Williams asked what Ed was going to do with his fire truck which is parked unused at Dan's place. Sara has the title to the fire truck. Dan wants the person receiving the truck to be properly insured. Sara said it has been declared surplus and she tried unsuccessfully to sell it on craigslist. Ed will see if he can salvage it. Dan offered \$250 for it where it is setting.
2. Donna Throgmorton asked if Bank of Carbondale was being considered for GA account. Sara said that BoC charges a fee so it is not being considered.
3. Larra Lipe said she would make a Brian Pierce memorial t-shirt for anyone contributing at least \$100 to the Brian Pierce Memorial Fund (See #4 under New Business).
4. A question was asked about why the Sheppard Lane lawsuit was dropped. Ed understands that Clay needs to drop it. Kara Dunkel suggested that a public statement be presented about what has happened in this case. Regina volunteered to talk with Ed and Clay and summarize what happened. This summary would be presented as an agenda item for the next meeting.

ADJOURN: Fred moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Clay. The motion passed unanimously at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Einig, Clerk

