

Minutes of
Makanda Township Board Meeting
April 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Unity Point School

1. CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Sara Lipe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Present in person were Supervisor Lipe, Trustees Michael Holub, Clay Kolar, Debbie Stanley, and Fred York. Fire Chief Jimmy Bilderback, Highway Commissioner Ed Hoke, Clerk Regina Einig, and Deputy Clerk Dennis Leitner were also present. Assessor John Dickson was present on Zoom.

3. Clerk Comments: Clerk Einig announced that she had not yet received Statement of Economic Interest from all of the Board members. They are due May 1. Try to get them to Regina before April 19th and she will get them to the Jackson County Clerk in Murphysboro.

4. Trustee Comments: Debbie Stanley announced that there would be an Easter Egg Hunter sponsored by the Village of Makanda at 11 o'clock on Saturday, April 16th on the boardwalk in Makanda.

5. Approval of Agenda: The agenda item 12.C. (Bonding Trustee Debbie Stanley) up on the agenda. Fred moved to bond Debbie instead of Regina so that Debbie will have access to the bank accounts. Michael seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS on AGENDA ITEMS: Sara reminded everyone of the three-minute limit on these comments on the agenda items.

Marissa McGee didn't understand the need for bonding someone. Also, the Board has received a grant to determine if there is a need for improved internet. So we don't need to spend money on ClearWave when we don't know that we have a need. Fred replied that he is paying for the bonding so that there is no charge to the taxpayers. Fred agreed that we should pause the ClearWave proposal.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 8, 2022 Board minutes and the March 22 Special Meeting minutes were approved as modified with some minor typos corrected.

8. FUND BALANCES AND REVENUE. See Attachment One.

9. APPROVAL OF BILLS BY FUND: See Attachment One. Clay moved and Fred seconded that we pay all bills except the Worker's compensation bill. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Clay asked why the Township Board is asked to pay for workman's compensation for J. Cochran Services and Caskey Tree Services. Sara responded that self-employed workers are supposed to carry Worker's Compensation Insurance, but if they don't, it is the responsibility of their employers to pay the Worker's Compensation Insurance. Ed commented that he mistakenly thought Mike Caskey had Workman's Comp, but he did not. Ed will not be hiring Mike Caskey again. Sara said she would

contact Webb Smith about this matter and talk to the underwriters at Liberty Mutual. This was determined by the Audit of the Insurance Year (Dec. 4, 2020 – Dec. 4, 2021). Michael moved to pay the Workman’s Comp claim in full as presented with the intention of turning over the information to Webb Smith to find out if the charges are justified. If they are not justified, we can “chase down a refund.” Clay seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. REPORTS:

- A. Chief Bilderback report that for the month of March there were the following calls: 1 Fire, 2 Fire Alarms, 3 Brush Fires, 9 EMS, 1 Cancelled-in-route, 1 car crash. Total: 17 Calls. We have 17 fire fighters.
- B. Road Commission Ed Hoke (See Attachment 2). Ed reported that the catalytic converter was stolen from a truck. Also, a culvert and barriers have been stolen. Ed has started to fix a wooden plank bridge on School House Rd.
- C. Supervisor Sara Lipe gave the following report: Fiscal 2022 books are closed. Also finished Supervisors Statement of Financial Affairs. She is preparing budgets for FY 23. Continued working with Dietrich Insurance. Attended Project Opioids webinar. She is looking into a new laptop. Road construction should be prohibited during election day. Contact Chris Henderson from American Tower RE: ClearWave’s damage to parking lot. She also reported that she had not received any General Assistance inquiries or applications.
- D. CWPP Report
- E. Assessor’s Report. John Dickson reported that there was really nothing new, but he is still measuring houses.
- F General Assistance Committee. Chair Debbie Stanley reported that she and Sara would be attending a General Assistance Training in Effingham on April 22, 2022. The General Assistance committee has not met in the last 30 days.
- G. Broadband Committee, Chair Mike Holub reported that the Broadband Committee begins its weekly meetings with the Connect Humanity Grant on Tuesday, April 26, 2022..
- H. Building Usage and Planning Committee, Fred reported for Jim Renshaw. Everything is on hold until we determine what kind of funding we might have.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion of lack of approval for land purchases for 2003 and 2005. (See Clay’s attachment). Sara commented that Danny Williams bought the land with the intention of putting a garage on the property to hold our equipment, but then he realized that he have hire people to operate it. Then Danny thought we wouldn’t be Highway Commissioner forever, and the next person might live in a apartment and not be able to store the equipment at his place. Sara could not answer why there is no record in the minutes of the approval of this purchase by the Electors at the annual meeting, as required by law.

B. Clay incorporated comments from Sara and Dan Chester on the Township response to the Township Audit and Cover Letter. See TOI/Website. Clay moved that the draft response of the cover letter of the audit becomes the official township response to the audit cover letter. Debbie seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Regina opened the only bid received for the extrication equipment from AEC Fire Safety and Security for \$33,174.

B. After Jimmy and Josh Lipe looked it over to see that it contained the details wanted, Clay moved that we accept the bid from AEC Fire Safety and Security for the extrication equipment for \$33,174. Seconded by Sara. This equipment is for the next fire track. **The motion passed unanimously.**

C. This item was moved to earlier in the meeting.

D. Ed provided the tentative Road and Bridge budgets. Clay commented to Ed on how clear, concise and easy to understand the budgets are. Clay moved that we accept Ed's tentative Road and Bridge Budgets and New Bridget. Fred seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

E. Clay moved that we accept the tentative budgets from Town Fund, Fire Protection Fund, Fire Protection Capital Fund, and General Assistance Fund. Michael seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

E. Mike moved that we accept the ClearWave Proposal for internet and hotspots at both fire stations. **The motion died for a second.**

F. Sara commented on a need for a person with technology expertise to keep track of equipment, to advise us on equipment and emerging technologies for the whole Township. Sara is working on job description.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Dan Chester mentioned that he would talk to the IT Dept. at SIUC to obtain some name of GAs who might be able to help with the tech needs (See 12.F.). He has programs to help with inventory of equipment. Perhaps Chris Rogers may help with job description, hourly rates, etc. Because of thefts, we need a place to store, security cameras, etc.

B. Josh Lipe expects delivery in August of the extrication equipment. He also asked why it took more than a week to get the ad in the paper.

14. ADJOURNMENT: Clay moved to adjourn, seconded by Fred. All voted yes. Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Attachment One

Makanda Township Fund Balances as of 4/11/22

Receipts since 3/8/22

Fire Protection	95,716.90	117.39
Fire Protection Capital Fund	161,084.88	15.85
General Assistance	95,735.37	4.07
New Bridge	46,552.57	2.02
Road & Bridge	49,106.39	746.62
Town	135,023.89	501.03
Brian R Pierce Jr 517 Memorial Fu	680.07	<u>0.03</u>
	<u>583,900.07</u>	<u>1,387.01</u>

Additional Expenses

Fire Protection		2,737.98
Egyptian Electric	Station #2	125.85
Ameren Illinois	Station #1	347.80
Ameren Illinois	Station #2	326.49
South Highway Water District	Station #1	22.25
South Highway Water District	Station #2	22.25
Mediacom	Station #1 internet & phone	195.35
Mediacom	Station #2 internet	65.99
Diederich Insurance	Ntl Union disability policy	1,632.00

Town		890.50
Payroll	see agenda	
Country Life Assurance	Jimmy's IRA	200.00
Verizon	Assessor monthly service	25.02
Jackson & Gray	Trustee bond for Debbie S	550.00
TOI	Supervisor workshop	40.00
IL Dept of Employment Security	2nd quarter 2020 penalty a	75.48

Road & Bridge

Liberty Mutual	workers comp from insurai	2,492.00
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 **Additional Fire Department Bills**

Frontier	Station two	46.32
City of Carbondale	Fuel	73.21
	Repairs	762.71
Murdale Ace Hardware	Rental	1591.93
Mac's Fire	Hose and couplings	474.82
Emergency Medical Products	Supplies	659.72
Dinges Fire Company	BIV-LP 5.0"STORZ X 6.0" NHFPRV And BLEEDER	
	Total	<u>7,790.54</u>

Attachment Two

Highway Commissioner Report

Repairs:

On February 16, there were heavy rains, approx. 3.5", that caused Springer Ridge Road north of Boskydell Road, to be temporarily closed. Thank you to the Makanda Township Fire Department for their assistance in closing the road until I could get on the scene to put up Road Closed signs. The reason I could not get there very quickly was there was a tree down across my own road, Zion Road, which had to be cleared first to open that road to traffic and for me to get to the scene. I fully intend to purchase Class 3 Barricades to use in the future to protect the public from flooding on Springer Ridge Road at this particular spot. These barricades will block the entire road and prevent the public from bypassing the smaller signs we used and putting themselves in danger by driving into flood waters.

36" culvert on Springer Ridge Road north of Boskydell. Damaged in heavy rain flooding that frequently happens. Improper installation of culvert was the cause. The culvert was 5' too long and had inadequate rip rap on top to hold it in place. This work was completed on 2/18/2022. Cost \$1,203.30

Repair on School House Road, ½ mi. east of Spring Ridge Road. Collapsed culvert on adjacent private property caused inadequate drainage and subsequently caused severe erosion on School House Road so as to cause a potential damage to a vehicle and possibly create an accident. A warning barrier was put in place to warn drivers the danger was there until it could be repaired. I received written permission from John McHale, the landowner, to remove the collapsed culvert, reshaped the drainage ditch and rip rapped the drainage ditch to prevent future erosion. The culvert was scrapped, and the proceeds were sent to Mr. McHale. This was completed on 3/15/2022.

Construction has begun on Wagon Wheel Road. An 18" and a 30" culvert were installed 3/15/2022. Residents were informed a week in advance with a door hanger that the road would be closed for a good portion of the day. It turned out that the work was completed before noon and the road was reopened. We were able to complete the above work on School House Road the same day.

Graded gravel roads, Jacobini, Bay Road, and Arizona Road. Patched on Raccoon Valley, Green Ridge, Boskydell, and School House.

Sometime between 2/11 & 2/20, someone stole the catalytic converters from the dump truck. The cost of repair will be between \$4-5000. In repair shop as we speak.

Also stolen in 2/22 is a safety barrier and a 30"x10' plastic culvert from Wagon Wheel Road.

Attachment Three

Road and Bridge Bills

04/11/2022

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Budget Item</u>
Road & Bridge Bills:			
Tri-State Appraisals	\$ 500.00	Halliday Lots Appraisal	Misc
Daniel Schall	\$ 250.00	Labor	Labor
City of Carbondale	\$ 265.71	Fuel	Fuel
Road Runner Safety Services	\$ 99.38	Signs	Signs
Murdale Ace Hardware	\$ 49.52	Road Paint	Misc
Credit Card:			
Auto Zone	\$ 4.99	License Bolt Kit	Repairs
Coleman Lawn & Equipment	\$ 313.95	Replacement Grader Blade	Repairs
Midas	\$3,490.03	Replacement Catalytic Conv.	Repairs/Insurance Claim
Staples	\$ 45.64	Appraisal Copies	Administrative
Hobby Lobby	\$ 19.98	Stencils	Misc
Credit Card Total:	\$3,874.59		
New Bridge Bills:			
Jackson County Highway	\$1,203.30	Springer Ridge Culvert Repair	Install Culverts

Attachment Four

Statement from Makanda Township Trustee Clay Kolar Regarding the Land Purchases in 2003 and 2005 and what I know about it (2022-04-11 Regular Monthly Board Meeting).

1. In 2003 the Makanda Township Road District purchased a 0.88 acre tract of land for use by the Highway Commissioner for Township road maintenance needs, presumably for storage of supplies and equipment. This land was purchased at a cost of \$14,000 from Harold and Margaret McGee.
2. In 2005 the Makanda Township Road District purchased an addition 0.37 acres adjacent to the 2003 tract of land for use by the Highway Commissioner for Township road maintenance needs, presumably for storage of supplies and equipment. This land was purchased at a cost of \$6,000 from Harold and Margaret McGee.
3. There could not be found in the minutes of the annual meetings for 2002-2005 any discussion regarding the advisability of these land purchases or that there was Township approval for these purchases. There is also no other record that could be found of any other discussions by the Board of the advisability for these purchases.
4. Although these land purchases by the Road District were presumably for storage of Township road maintenance supplies and equipment, there is no record or personal recollection that these tracts of land were ever used by the Road District. That land has sat idle since that time and the Township has occasionally paid for mowing of that land.
5. Up until the present time, the land has continued to sit idle and since it is titled to Makanda Township, it has been off the county property tax roll since that time, thereby reducing the tax income to the county and the Township.
6. Since these tracts of land were never put to use by the Township Road District, the question has to be asked, up until now why didn't the Board ever move forward with divesting itself of ownership of this land?
7. These tracts of land have recently been appraised at \$17,500. Based on this appraisal it certainly appears that the original price in 2003 and 2005 of a total of \$20,000 for these tracts was highly inflated.
8. By all appearances it looks as though the only entity to benefit from this transaction was Harold and Margaret McGee.

9. Additionally, a quick on-site look at this acreage which is prone to flooding and is in a very poor location logistically speaking, it is apparent that from the start this was a very poor decision to purchase these two tracts of land for the intended purpose of road maintenance supply and equipment storage.
- 10, It is clear that the actions taken to purchase this land, to then not use it, and then for no Board action until the present time the Board to take no action to divest itself of this land, that the citizens of Makanda Township were not served by this action of the previous Highway Commissioner and by the action of the previous boards.