

Minutes of
Makanda Township Board
February 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Unity Point School

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: Supervisor Sara Lipe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present in person were Supervisor Lipe, Trustees Michael Holub, Debbie Stanley, and Fred York. Fire Chief Jimmy Bilderback, Highway Commissioner Ed Hoke and Deputy Clerk Dennis Leitner were also present. Trustee Clay Kolar was present via Zoom. Assessor John Dickson joined via Zoom at about 8:20 pm during the Public Comments Section of the Agenda. See his comments below.

Approval of Agenda. Sara questioned this item. She was told Dan Chester said we needed it, but Dan was not present at the time, so we moved on.

PUBLIC COMMENTS on AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Laura Lipe asked about the proposed Building and Planning Committee; how much it intended to spend, who would make up the committee, etc.
2. Erick Wagner asked to be put on the Building and Planning Committee.
3. Marissa McKee asked whether the item in Old Business about the proposed hotspots was to gather information or to vote on the purchase of the hotspots. Michael Holub answered that the purpose was only to look more closely at the financial information presented to the Makanda Township board last month and no vote would be taken.
4. Gary Heern questioned the legality of posting the minutes for the January 6th special meeting on the website when they had not been approved. Regina read the minutes of the January 6th special Zoom meeting on Robert's Rules of Order. Sara suggested that they should be posted on the website as Draft minutes and then can be voted on at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The regular January 11, 2022 Board minutes were approved as posted.

APPROVAL OF BILLS BY FUND: See Attachment One. Michael moved and Sara seconded that the bills for all the funds be paid, after removing the Diederich Insurance bill (concerning the Clerk's bond) from the Town Fund bills. **The motion passed unanimously.** Fred asked if any of the bills submitted by the fire department were for the new truck and if such bills were being credited to the \$100,000 allocated for equipment for the new truck. Sara said only the bill for the new nozzle went toward the new truck. All other bills were for routine maintenance.

REPORTS:

1. Fire Chief Jimmy Bilderback reported that in January the Fire Department had nine EMS calls, one fire alarm, one mutual aid, one service call, and four brush fires for a total of sixteen runs. The department has seventeen volunteers.

Chief Bilderback then brought up a bid to be posted in the newspaper for eight new pieces of breathing apparatus. He explained that the department is heavily invested in MSA equipment and that it would be very expensive to change vendors. Consequently, Chief Bilderback expects only one

vendor applying for the bid. Fred asked how many units we had now. The chief answered that he has fourteen on the truck now. A conversation followed between Fred and the chief regarding the existing air packs, the distribution of the new ones, and the retirement of some existing ones. Fred also asked about the results of the structure fires reported in the recent MTFD report. He asked whether there was anything that the Makanda Township board could do to improve those results. The need for a live-in firefighter was mentioned, but there is no current solution to that situation. Fred moved and Mike seconded a motion to let the bid for SCBA (Self-contained Breathing Apparatus) be posted. **Motion passed unanimously.** There are no “live-ins” in either fire department.

2. Highway Commissioner Ed Hoke. See attachments two and three. Ed added the following comments on his report. He is seeking for help from the public for information on how to dispose of deer carcasses. He has no place to put them and has had to deal with several already this year. Secondly, he thanked Sara for getting a credit card for him. This will eliminate the need for reimbursements to Ed and will be a check on the use of fuel for department vehicles. Thirdly, the culvert pipes for Wagon Wheel Road have come in. He will be closing the road for their placement when conditions allow. Fourthly, Ed noted that Sara is working with David Allen of the Forestry department to obtain a grant that will address several issues, including getting rid of dead trees which may pose a danger in the Township. He has an inventory of thirty-two trees now but knows he has probably missed others. All of them are on the public right of way. In the future he may contact individuals about trees on their property that could prove to be a public safety issue.

Natalia Montaña commented on Zoom that she wanted to thank Ed for his hard work in keeping the roads passable in bad weather and for his transparency in keeping the public informed about his efforts and plans.

3. CWPP – given by Supervisor Lipe. The Forest Service has applied for a Cohesive Strategies grant. They were supposed to be decided in February, but the federal government has not passed a budget yet, so things are on hold. CWPP may also liase with the Union Hill subdivision on some of their efforts.

4. Supervisor Sara Lipe gave the following report: She (1) has completed all 1099s; (2) Gave thanks to Jackson County Treasurer Liz Hunter because the direct deposit is working well and will make things easier for everyone; (3) Requested a credit card for Ed; (4) Worked with Diederich Insurance to obtain a general liability insurance quote that would include bonding Regina; (5) Submitted the Liberty Mutual workers comp audit; (6) Contacted American Tower to repair the Station #2 parking lot but have not have not received a reply; (7) Confirmed with TOI that all committee meetings must be announced 48 hours in advance, be available for the public to attend, post agenda, provide minutes, etc.; (8) Received an announcement from the Attorney General’s Office that its website is back up and information on the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training is available. Deadline to complete training is March 31, 2022. TOI advised all committee members to complete OMA and FOIA training.

5. Assessor John Dickson was not present and did not submit a report.

6. General Assistance Committee. Chair Debbie Stanley. (See Attachment 4.)

7. Broadband Committee, Chair Mike Holub. About Chris Snyder's presentation about ClearWave's proposal to provide hotspots at the fire stations, a vote will be taken under old business. Jimmy commented that the fire department is concerned about security issues with hotspots at the fire stations. Robert Henderson is now on the Jackson County Accelerated Broadband Committee and will be sharing information with our Makanda Township Broadband Committee. See the summary of the proposal attached to the January 11, 2022 minutes. Mike also applied for a Connect Humanity grant. He could not seek approval from the board since the deadline was so quick. Minutes from a broadband planning committee meeting for that grant are attached. (See Attachment 5.)

OLD BUSINESS:

9 A. Discussion on Township audit and cover letter. Clay suggested an official response to the audit cover later. He suggests the Makanda Township board to read the letter, make suggestions, and next month submit a formal response to the cover letter as a Board.

9 B. Mike made a motion for the township to open the Mediacom contract just to evaluate it and look at the figures that Chris Snyder from Clearwave gave us, look at the financials to decide as to whether to go ahead with Clearwave for hotspots. He explained that the only reason for doing this is that he asked Josh for the information, and he said that he did not approve of the idea so would not give me the information. So, the motion is to require Sara, Josh, or whoever has the Mediacom information contract and all that, to give the Makanda Township board that information so we can evaluate the Clearwave numbers versus the Mediacom numbers and decide as a board if we want to go forward. Debbie seconded the motion. Trustees Holub, Kolar, Stanley, and York voted Yes. Supervisor Lipe voted No. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:

10 A. Mike Holub moved to ratify the Connect Humanity grant application already submitted by him. Fred seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10 B. Mike Holub moved to adopt a resolution empowering the broadband committee to apply for grants without approval in advance. There will be no financial commitments made in these grant applications without board approval. Debbie seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10 C. Fred York moved to create a standing Building Usage and Planning Committee with Jim Renshaw as chairman with complete authority to determine its members. Debbie seconded it. Sara suggested that the committee include the Highway Commissioner, Assessor and Fire Chief. Mike suggested the Erick Wagner be included on the committee also. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10 D. Approval of meeting dates. Sara proposed the second Tuesday of every month in 2022 except for April, when Illinois law requires the Annual Township Meeting to be held on the second Tuesday. The April Makanda Township board meeting will move to the Monday before the Annual Township Meeting. Dennis Leitner said that after meeting with Superintendent Dr. Lori James-Gross, Unity Point will be available for those dates. It was noted that Nov. 8 is election day and may cause some conflicts to be worked out later. **Consensus was reached on meeting on the proposed dates, location to be determined.+**

11. Announcements

A. The revised Road and Bridge budget will be voted on at the March 8, 2022 meeting.

B. Reminder – Agenda items for the Township Annual Meeting on April 12 must be submitted by March 1 for inclusion at this meeting. Agenda items can be submitted by Board members and by the public. However, items submitted by the public must have at least fifteen signatures of Makanda Township registered voters. Sara said the powers of the people at the annual meeting are on the TOI website. Fred asked about the process of selling the Township lot on Halliday Drive. Ed has requested and is in the process of assessment of the property before putting it up for sale. Items for the agenda need to be sent to Clerk Regina via email. Board members do not need to obtain 15 signatures.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Marissa McKee had four comments: (1) the use of the word “Board” when it should be “Makanda Township Board”; (2) that there should be a needs assessment to determine whether the Township needs high speed internet before committing time and resources to obtaining it; and (3) concern about the adequacy of email for contacting some officials; and (4) the Township should clearly identify the Township FOIA Officer. Sara said she would place it on the Township TOI website.

Ed suggested that Township officials should acknowledge receipt of emails.

Dr. Lori James-Gross clarified her position as to the availability of Unity Point for meetings this year. She said the facility would be available, but that she and Chris Rogers could not guarantee their presence at meetings during the summer. Also, that there could be some problems at the beginning of the school year.

John Dickson joined on Zoom and reported that he had fifteen new 911 addresses and that if anyone knew of any new construction, let him know.

Kate Renshaw commented that the Township needs consistent internet for students and others.

Dan Chester would like to serve on the Mike’s Broadband Committee. Mike said he would keep Dan in the loop.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:27 p.m. Fred moved, and Michael seconded that we adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Attachment One

DRAFT

Makanda Township Fund Balances

	Fund Balances as of 2/8/22	Received since 1/11/22	Remaining Budget
Fire Protection	112,311.18	39,003.66	83,659.71
Fire Protection Capital Fund	3,442.06	68.28	141,297.24
General Assistance	95,974.90	4.08	94,569.00
New Bridge	49,183.76	19,644.59	35,679.69
Road and Bridge	51,003.73	45,411.13	22,830.63
Town	151,969.15	50,740.75	48,689.06
Brian J. Pierce Jr. 517 Memorial Fund	680.04		
	<u>624,565.02</u>	<u>154,872.49</u>	

Fire Protection Bills

South Highway Water	Station one	22.25
South Highway Water	Station two	22.25
Ameren Illinois	Station one	173.56
Ameren Illinois	Station two	51.49
Egyptian Electric	Station two	129.43
Mediacom	Station one internet & phone	195.35
Mediacom	Station two internet	65.99
Frontier	Station two	46.32
City of Carbondale	Fuel	170.82
	Repairs on 561	605.70
Anderson Door	Door repair station two	80.00
Dinges Fire	Repairs part for Amkus Tool	110.70
EMP	2/Battlers fr AEDS	878.96
Total		2,552.82

New Truck Bills for March 8, 2022

Heiman Fire	1/SaberJet nozzle	988.95
Total		988.95

Total Fire Protection Bills	3,541.77
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Attachment Two

Makanda Township Highway Commissioner Report

Worked/ing with Josh Cox, Assistant Engineer with Jackson County Highway Department on plans for Wagon Wheel. Construction should start as soon as weather breaks, in the next week or so. Two culverts will be installed and 6, 5'x100' road widenings. The plan is to get this work done ASAP, so the new construction has time to settle before we oil & chip it.

New "T" road sign for Wagon Wheel installed on Boskydell East

2 replacements of "No Outlet" signs installed on Potters Road and Rifle Range Road, both east of Rt. 51
"Cashen Road" street signs replaced (both gone)

2022 Oil & Chip List

Applecrest Dr.	350 ft.
Arizona Rd.	350 ft.
Bay Rd.	1,110 ft.
Highlander Dr.	1,261 ft.
Peach Valley Dr.	800 ft.
Wagon Wheel Rd.	4,646 ft.
<u>Zion Rd</u>	<u>3,683 ft (back half of road)</u>
Total for 2022	12,200 ft or 2.31 mi.

Ordered several street signs that are missing or unreadable of a night

Plowed and spread salt mix on two events

Worked with Sara and David Allen of Forestry Department on a possible grant to make roads more accessible for fire trucks. I have inventoried most dead trees on roads that threaten to fall across roads and block access. The reason I did this is that David thought that would most likely have money available for it. They certainly cannot remove all of them, but I have prioritized this list and we may at least get some of them removed at no expense to the Township. This might also cover hydro-axing trees along Taboring Road that would brush the fire truck passing down the road. All of it is tentative as there is not a final plan.

Twice this month I've been asked to remove dead deer from along a road. (Third time in 4 months) This is not something the Township Highway Department is equipped to do. There is no place to put them. I have worked with each situation to find a solution. I will not dump them on my own property. The carcass will attract coyotes. If someone has a suggestion, I would appreciate it. The county has property where they have a sawdust pile they bury them in. Most of the time the county lets them lie and lets nature take its course.

Attachment Three

Road and Bridge Bills

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Budget Item</u>
Warning Lights	637.50	Safety Signs	Signs
Gilbert, Huffman, Prosser Hewson and Burke	218.50	Conference on Driveway Permit	Legal Fees
Reimburse Ed Hoke	390.02		
BP Fuel	87.00	Fuel	Fuel
Jack Flash	94.25	Fuel	Fuel
Reilly Auto	2.99	Sign Fasteners	Signs
Rural King	8.22	Bolts for Salt Spreader	Repairs & Maint.
Rural King	1.56	Sign Fasteners	Signs
Circle K	3.99	Fuel Additive	Fuel
Circle K	65.00	Fuel	Fuel
Today's Technology	<u>97.75</u>	Oil Change and Truck Inspection	Repairs & Maint.
		Sub Total	390.02

Attachment Four

General Assistance Report

The General Assistance Committee has not met, but has a new committee member, Kate Renshaw. Debbie contacted Cape Girardeau, our local chapter of the Red Cross, to see if they had any free smoke alarms. The Director of Disaster Services, Dave Meyer, called and said he could give us 12 free smoke alarms for people in need. He will be coming to the Makanda Fire Station #1 at 9 a.m. Thursday morning to deliver them. Debbie told him about our family with deaf children and asked if he had anything for them. He said he had "bed shakers" that shake the bed when smoke is detected. These smoke alarms must be installed by a board member or a volunteer fire fighter. Two people should go on any visit to a person's home. Debbie asked Jimmy to ask volunteer fire fighters if they would like to help install the smoke detectors. Debbie also asked for people to identify persons who may qualify for one of the smoke alarms and let her know.

Attachment Five

Broadband Report

PREPARATION DISCUSSION FOR CONNECT HUMANITY GRANT INTERVIEW SET FOR 2/22/22 AT 2 PM

Attendance: Committee Members: Jill Adams, Dan Chester, Mike Holub, Dennis Leitner (via zoom). Guest: Robert Henderson (Makanda Township resident)

Our committee and guest met in preparation for the grant interview. Those in attendance will also be attending the interview on 2/22/22 at 2 pm via zoom.

In our discussion and preparation, we attempted to anticipate what might be asked of our group. The grant itself is through Connect Humanity. If awarded, the grant would research, recommend, and design a broadband infrastructure plan that could be put into action. A focus of the grant will be to design a plan for underserved areas that demonstrate a lack of digital equity.

We are aware of our lack of digital equity...true broadband (if any) is unavailable in a good portion of our township (% ?). The topography, terrain and line of sight issues leave many of us without access. This lack of broadband access affects lives, finances, real estate values, attracting new residents, etc.

As we narrowed our focus we decided to home in on the following:

*Socio economic (Jim).... Population...4183, 12.9% below poverty line, 1720 households, 2046 housing units, 109 people/1 sq mile, 43% make under 50k, 58k per capita, 35k per household, % on Medicaid (?)

*Schools (Jill/Kate ?)...GC and UP...100% free lunch qualification, internet access (those without?? Dr. Gross)

*Current Internet (Robert/Dan)...speeds, Clearwave and others, mapping, SIU,

The committee feels the above issues will most likely be addressed because they all circle back to demonstration of lack of digital equity. A custom designed plan from this grant could be very useful to our township to help guide us to serving our township broadband needs.