

Makanda Township Board Meeting
Unity Point School, Cafeteria – Entrance from Boskydell Road
May 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 835 1471 5347 Passcode: 358680

1. Sara Lipe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Present were Supervisor Lipe, Regina Einig, Clay Kolar, Fred York, Mike Holub, Debbie Stanley, Ed Hoke, Jimmy Bilderback and Dennis Leitner.
3. Clerk comments: none.
4. Trustees' comments:
5. Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved.
6. Public comments on Agenda items. Clay Kolar noted that the opening balance on the Fire Department budget was incorrect. Sara acknowledged using the wrong beginning balance.
7. The minutes of the April 11 regular board meeting were approved as presented.
8. Fund Balances and Revenue. (See attachment One.)
9. Approval of bills by fund: Sara asked to pull out the Fire Department Capital Fund bills. No objection was offered. Fred moved to pay all the other bills and Mike seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Regarding the Fire Protection Capital fund, Sara said Jimmy had just received a new bill for the SCBA equipment. The bill was for about \$65,000. The bid we accepted \$62,775.10. Jimmy called the company and they said they had increased costs. The bid was supposed to be good for 60 days. We approved it on March 22, well within the 60-day window. Sara suggested that the board approve the payment of the original \$62,775.10, along with a letter telling them why we are paying that amount. If they do not agree, give them the address of our lawyer. She asked for comments. Clay thought it was a very sensible response. Sara moved to pay the amount of the bid, \$62,775.10, and send a letter telling why are paying that amount and Mike seconded it but added that he thought it best not to mention a lawyer immediately. Just send the payment and the letter. If the seller objects, then involve Web Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Reports:
 - A. Chief Bilderback reported that they had two fire alarms, ten EMS calls, for a total of twelve calls. There may be a few less firefighters because of graduation. Asked about the new truck, Jimmy said the new proposed delivery date is February.
 - B. Road Commissioner Hoke commented on an item in his report. (See attachment two.) He drew attention to the amount of the increased prices he was having to pay. For example, the cost of oil and chip, etc. has risen by \$3,500 per mile. He has 2.8 miles scheduled for this year and he won't change that, and that the increased costs can be absorbed. Also, House Bill 4251 has been signed by the governor. It went into effect on May 6, 2022 and it increases the threshold for bidding, from \$20,000 to \$30,000. He added that this does not just apply to a single transaction, but all payments made to a single entity in excess of \$30,000 need to be bid out. Clay asked if a governmental agency could set their own standard. Ed said that they could set a lower standard, but could not go above \$30,000.
 - C. There was no CWPP report.
 - D. Supervisor Lipe reported that the bill from Liberty Mutual for Workman's Comp that we discussed has been adjusted. Larra Lipe suggested going to the underwriter. The bill was lowered to \$38. Sara and Debbie went to the bank and opened the Building Capital fund. They set it up as a savings account because we don't know how soon we will use it and we can earn

interest in the meantime. Sara attended the General Assistance advanced workshop in Effingham and developed an emergency assistance criterion which she will discuss with the General Assistance committee. She is working on a job description for a technical assistant. She has also found the computer equipment she wants and wants to make sure she doesn't pay tax on it. Debbie asked if there were any General Assistance applications and Sara replied that there were none.

- E. No assessor report at this time.
- F. General Assistance: Debbie Stanley reported that the committee will meet at 7 p.m. on May 19 at fire station 2 on Giant City Road. The topic will be emergency assistance, another form of General assistance that we can provide.
- G. Broadband: Mike had Dan Chester give a deeper explanation of what we can do with the planed grant. Also, Todd Freeman, who is a Makanda resident fluent with computers, has joined the committee. Dan explained that the Connect Humanity will do a feasibility study for us, plan the needed infrastructure, and do all of this for no cost to us. Without their grant, this would have cost us about \$200,000. After the studies have been done, they will present us with several proposals. We can then go to companies and find out if they can do the project. If so, we can look for federal and state money to complete the project. Ownership of the competed project is a subject still under consideration. Mike reported that it is thought that they can bring good internet to every home in Makanda Township for \$60 a month, maybe lower. Jill Adams added that she thinks of this as a set of facts that we present to a company to bring it to realization. Also, they want to collect internet bills as part of the study. Please send them to Mike either by email or by personal address.
- H. Building committee: Jim Renshaw reported that they did not meet as scheduled but will meet Thursday at fire station 1.

11. Old Business:

- A. We have already covered the Liberty Mutual bill.
- B. Review and discussion of tentative budgets and determining meeting date for approval of budgets.

Regina was confused about the dates for publication and posting of budgets. Also, she did not have a corrected copy of the Fire Department budget. Every effort will be made to get the budgets properly posted.

12. New Business:

- A. Motion to allow the ad hoc broadband committee the authority to consult with Webb Smith, the township legal representative, on legal questions that may arises during the fabrication of a strategic internet plan via the Connect Humanity Grant. Jill Adams explained that when a question arises, such as whether the township can set up a broadband district, the committee would first ask the state broadband committee. There would be no cost for that. If necessary, they could then go to the Attorney General, and then TOI, before we would go to Webb Smith. So, this is permission to pursue legal advice from him only as a last resort. Mike moved the motion in 12a. Clay seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Discuss the MOU from the Connect Humanity group. Mike has not received the memo of understanding yet so no discussion was possible.
- C. Motion to pass an ordinance authorizing execution of the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement (IPWMAN.) Ed explained that this would enable us to get help from other participating members of IPWMAN. There would be some cost associated with this, but if there is a declaration of a disaster we could get that money reimbursed. We could also be called on to assist in other disasters. The membership is revocable at any time. The cost is \$100 per year. Sara asked about whether the party we are assisting would pay wages. Ed said that we would be volunteering for three days. After that we would sit down and discuss compensation. All parties would carry their own workman's compensation. Mike moved to pass an ordinance authorizing execution of the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement (IPWMAN) and Debbie seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Public comments

Dan Chester asked several things. First, he wanted to make it clear that the SCBA bid could not be changed by the seller. Secondly, he wanted to know who would be involved in the mutual aid volunteering. Ed says that it only applied to him and employees of the township. Citizens could volunteer, but they would not be covered by workman's compensation. Thirdly, he and the broadband committee are waiting for communication from the state broadband committee and the attorney general.

Jerry Smith expressed concern that the money transferred to the building capital fund could be put to a better use.

Sharon Sims wanted clarification of whether the budgets posted online are a work in process. Sara told her the public has thirty days to see the budgets brought forth in April. The budget hearing is in June and the budgets will be finalized then. She also asked about the ISO rating for the fire department. A long discussion followed about the use of living quarters for a live-in firefighter. Sara said they are responsible for their own bedding, etc. Sharon was concerned that we would have our ISO number changed, resulting in an increase in our insurance premiums.

Gary Heern spoke about the fact that the water company says they don't have fire hydrants; they have flush hydrants. They own them – they let the fire department use them. A long discussion ensued about the fact that most of the water lines in the township are so small that the fire department can't use them without collapsing the lines.

Norris Hagler had issues with the board's desire for an office.

14. Mike moved to adjourn, seconded by Debbie. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Einig, Clerk

**Attachment One
Fund Balances and Revenue**

Makanda Township Fund Balances as of 5/10/22	Receipts since 4/11/22	Remaining Budget
Building Capital Fund	100,000.00	100000.00
Brian R Pierce Jr 517 Memorial Fund	680.07	1,155.00
Fire Protection	89,585.79	156,253.28
Fire Protection Capital Fund	159,242.80	103,092.79
General Assistance	15,738.84	15,739.00
New Bridge	45,351.11	46,796.70
Road & Bridge	44,896.22	125,991.18
Town	112,308.29	138,725.96
	<u>567,803.12</u>	<u>1,569.07</u>

Additional Expenses

Fire Protection		1,052.00
Egyptian Electric	Station #2	125.85
Ameren Illinois	Station #1	327.78
Ameren Illinois	Station #2	292.53
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

Town		1,729.40
Payroll		
Country Life Assurance	Jimmy's IRA	200.00
Verizon	Assessor monthly service	25.02
John Dickson	training, lodging, meal, milk	1,504.38

Assessor Expenses 2022		100.08
Verizon	Assessor monthly service	100.08

Attachment Two

Makanda Township Highway Commissioner Report

May 10, 2022 Meeting

The dump truck has been repaired. Total cost of repair was \$7500.26. The only cost to the township is the \$500 deductible

Patching and regular repairs have been made to several roads with extensive patching on Boskydell East, Bay Road, Lakota Way, Cedar Meadows, Robbin Rd, and Schoolhouse Rd. Not an all-inclusive list

No progress has been made on Wagon Wheel. We are waiting on Frontier to move their line out of the ditch and alongside the road so we can complete the necessary ditching and road widening to complete the project. It was reported to me that they are to start tomorrow, 5/11/22. We made some temporary repairs to make the road passable where it is in bad shape.

Made a trip to Murray, Ky to look at a used "hotbox trailer." I did not end up buying it. A hotbox trailer will give us the capability to fill potholes and repair the edges of the roads with hot asphalt which will make a more permanent repair. I'll keep looking.

Jackson County Engineer, Mitch Burdick, reported to me that oil & chip prices have increased by approximately \$3500/mile. I have less than 3 miles scheduled for this year. I have attached a copy of that letter to this report for your information concerning price increases. This is why I request a small increase this year in the tax levy, to keep ahead of inflation. These increases are way above that 5%, but I'll keep an eye on this and see if it averages out over several years. We can absorb this increase for now.

Road and Bridge Bills

05/12/2022

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Budget Item</u>
McBride Mack Sales & Serv.	\$4,010.23*	Replace catalytic converters On truck	Repairs
Road Runner Safety Serv.	\$ 658.25	Various signs	Signs
SSA Wildwood MHP	\$ 600.00	Storage building & lot	Storage
Anna Quarries	\$ 957.03	Cold Patch & 3" gravel	Road Maint: Gravel, etc
Scott Chapman			
March Labor: 4 hrs			
April Labor: 51 hrs			
Total Labor 55 hrs.	\$ 1,100.00+tax	Labor	Labor
Scott Chapman	\$ 143.00	Equipment Rental	Equipment & Tool Rental
Liberty Mutual	\$ 38.00	Workers Compensation	Insurance
City of Carbondale	\$ 82.93	Fuel	Fuel
Credit Card Bills:			
Kwik Stop	\$ 37.00	Fuel	Fuel
O'Reilly Auto Parts	\$ 8.77	License bolts	Repairs
Rural King	\$ 5.08	Bolts for signs	Signs
Staples	\$.19	Oversized copy	Administrative:Office
Murdale Ace Hardware	\$ 9.98	Keys	Repairs
Midas Credit Card Charges	\$ 139.60	Credit Card Charge	Repairs
 New Bridge Bills:			
Jackson County Dept of Hwy	\$ 1,485.46	Culverts on Wagon Wheel & Repairs on Schoolhouse Rd.	Road Expenditures: Install & Maintain Culverts

*This expense has been reimbursed by the insurance company as well as the Midas bill last month less the \$500 deductible. This was for repairs of vandalism of truck catalytic converters.

Information from Clay Kolar

Statement from Makanda Township Trustee Clay Kolar Regarding the Land Purchases in 2003 and 2005 and what I know about it (2022-05-10 Regular Monthly Board Meeting).

At the previous Board meeting on April 11 I submitted my written comment regarding the \$20,000 1.25 acre land purchase by the Makanda Township Road District in 2003 and 2005. I expressed that based on the evidence available to me the citizens of Makanda Township were not served in any manner by this land purchase and that it appeared the only beneficiary of this purchase were the landowners, Harold and Margaret McGee. Further, it is very disturbing that there appears to be nothing in Township written records concerning the rationale and authorization for this purchase. One explanation provided was that it could be used by future Highway Commissioner's for storage of Township road repair supplies and equipment. The fact the previous Highway Commissioner continued to be the Highway Commissioner for several terms following that land acquisition and never made any attempt to utilize it or prepare it for that intended purpose or to sell it certainly begs the question of what was the real rationale for that purchase? I am hopeful that this Board deciding to divest the Township of that acreage will at least recover some of the cost of the original land purchase.

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 to divest itself of this land holding, that the citizens of Makanda Township were not served by this action by the previous Highway Commissioner and by the lack of action by previous Boards.