

Makanda Township Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Approved at November 9, 2022 Board Meeting
Unity Point School Cafeteria
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

1. Supervisor Lipe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Present were Supervisor Lipe, Trustees Clay Kolar, Fred York, Mike Holub, Debbie Stanley (attended via Zoom). Absent was Clerk Regina Einig (medical emergency). Trustee Kolar agreed to also serve as Clerk for this meeting for the purpose of recording the minutes.
3. Clerk Comments: None.
4. Trustee Comments: None
5. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
6. Public Comments on Agenda:
 - A) Two comments from Citizen Gary Heern: 1) Mr. Heern raised an objection to the use of the Township gas purchased from the city of Carbondale into a private vehicle used by Highway Commissioner Hoke for Township highway business. He requested that the invoice for gas purchase from City of Carbondale not be approved. Gary Heern believes this would be an illegal action and a prohibited compensation based upon when the salary for the Highway Commissioner was set there was no provision made for mileage or gas reimbursement. 2) Objected to potential payment of attorney fees involving the Township obtaining legal counsel for possible purchase of property being offered to the Township by Trustee Clay Kolar.
 - B) Comment from Citizen Laura Lipe: Ms. Lipe commended the Makanda Township Volunteer Fire Department for their hard work in putting together the fund raising event. She also indicated extreme disappointment that no Board members other than Supervisor Lipe were present at the recent Makanda Township Volunteer Fire Department fund raising event and none appeared to support it. Ms. Lipe indicated while she had not been in attendance due to a working conflict, that she had contributed to the fund raising in numerous other ways. Trustee Holub responded that his generous contribution to the Brian Pierce memorial fund was a significant contribution to Fire Department fund raising.
7. Approval of Minutes. The draft minutes for the July 12, 2022 regular monthly Board meeting were approved. The draft minutes for the September 13, 2022 were approved with the five corrections submitted by Supervisor Lipe.
8. FY23 Connect Humanity Grant has been awarded to the Township. There was discussion concerning the actual amount of this grant and what it can be used for. A motion was made to approve a tentative budget for this grant (see Attachment One). Trustee Holub made a motion to approve a tentative budget for this grant. There was a second by Trustee York. Supervisor Lipe and Trustees Holub, Kolar and York approved and Trustee Stanley abstained.
9. Fund balances and revenues were submitted by Supervisor Lipe (see Attachment Two).
10. Approval of Bills by Fund: Supervisor Lipe suggested payment of all bills with the exception of the one for the generator for the Fire Department until it is in working order and the gasoline bill to the City of Carbondale. It was noted by Fire Chief Bilderback that the one generator has been installed at Station One is not yet working. It was recommended by Fire Chief Bilderback that the bill for the generator be paid after the company has it up and in working order. Trustee York asked why we are still doing business with the Sentinel Company when they attempted to overbill the Township on a prior purchase. Fire Chief Bilderback indicated the company had no leg to stand on for the overbilling on the prior purchase. The Highway Commissioner indicated he used his personal vehicle for Township highway

business and used gasoline in that vehicle purchased by the Township from the City of Carbondale. This is not allowable as the Township has no ordinance to reimburse the Highway Commissioner for mileage in personal vehicles used for Township highway business. Highway Commissioner Hoke acknowledged that error and stated he would reimburse the Township for the gasoline he put in his personal vehicle. It was expressed by Commissioner Hoke that the gas bill needs to be paid in a timely manner in order to maintain a favorable account with the City of Carbondale since the gas purchased from the City is less expensive. Trustee Kolar moved to pay the bills as presented with exception of the two bills indicated and Trustee Holub seconded it. The motion for the payment of the presented bills with the two exceptions passed unanimously.

- a. There was additional discussion concerning appropriate compensation for the Highway Commissioner for use of his personal vehicle for Township highway business and also possible compensation for volunteer fire fighters for attending training sessions and for responding to Fire Department calls. Suggestions for the Fire Department volunteers included mileage reimbursement or a possible monthly stipend. It was suggested that any compensation for volunteer fire fighters be dealt with as an agenda item at a future Board meeting. The following motion was made Supervisor Lipe to pay the Carbondale gasoline bill for the dump truck and tractor and that Highway Commissioner Hoke pay the Township for the gas that was used in his personal vehicle. Trustee Kolar made a second to this motion and it passed unanimously.

11. Reports:

- a. Fire Chief Bilderback: This past month there were 7 EMS calls and 2 traffic crashes for a total of 9 calls. We have 14 fire fighters with several more volunteers likely. The 582 is still being worked on. The manufacturer has indicated the arrival date for the new truck is still February, 2023. Supervisor Lipe read a summary of the 517 Memorial fund raising event held by the Fire Department.
- b. Highway Commissioner Ed Hoke's report (see Attachment Three). Commissioner Hoke provided an update to the situation on No Name Road and Castle Park vehicle parking problems. He indicated that he intended to place "No Parking Signs" on a portion of the road. However, after consultation with the Sheriff's office he learned the Township cannot authorize towing and it cannot create a no-parking zone.
- c. For the CWPP report Supervisor Lipe indicated that there was no application for an additional CWPP grant (see Attachment Four).
- d. Supervisor's report: Supervisor Lipe provide several items of information (see Attachment Four – also includes CWPP report and a summary by Assistant Chief Josh Lipe of the 517 MTFD Memorial fund raiser).
- e. Assessor John Dickson: No report.
- f. General Assistance Committee: No report.
- g. Broadband Committee: No report from Trustee Holub. Robert Henderson had a report from the County Broadband Committee panel (see Attachment Five).
- h. Building Planning and Usage Committee: No report.

12. Old Business:

- a. No old business.

13. New Business

- a. The following proposal was made by Trustee Holub: "Proposal to establish a grant committee for the purpose of locating and identifying all possible private and governmental grant opportunities for the Township as a whole, and further, to recommend to the Board application for those grants that are appropriate for and would benefit the Township. Chair of this

committee would be Trustee Clay Kolar with remaining committee members to be any Board and community members with knowledge of and experience in grant identification and application writing.” The motion was seconded by Trustee York and the motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Lipe expressed hope that prior to any potential grant applications to be applied for on behalf of the Fire Department be done in consultation with the Fire Department.

14. Executive Session. During the open meeting Supervisor Lipe requested information from Trustee Kolar on the topic of the ES. Trustee Kolar responded for the need of the Board to begin thinking about the process of filing a possible vacancy for the Fire Department Administrator position due to present FD Administrator Jimmy Bilderback indicating his possible retirement from that position once the Township receives the new fire truck. The manufacturer is presently projecting the new fire truck to be delivered to Makanda Township in February. It was determined by the Board that there was no need for an Executive Session meeting to discuss this topic at this point in time.

15. Public comments.

16. Adjournment. Trustee Holub moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee York. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted, Trustee Clay Kolar, Substitute Clerk for this meeting.

Attachment 1 – Tentative Budget for FY23 Connect Humanity Grant Award

FY23 Connect Humanity Grant Fund		
Beginning Balance	April 1, 2022	-
Revenues		
Interest Income	100.00	
Grant	30,000.00	
Total Revenue		30,100.00
Expenditures		
Administration	100.00	
Legal Fees	5,000.00	
Postage	1,600.00	
Total Expenditures		6,700.00
Contingency		335.00
Total Appropriations		7,035.00
Ending Balance	March 31, 2023	<u>23,065.00</u>

Attachment 2 – Fund Balances and Revenues

Makanda Township Fund Balances as of 10/11/22		Receipts since 9/13:	Remaining Budget
Building Capital Fund	100,021.64	12.60	
Brian R Pierce Jr 517 Memorial Fu	2742.00	2,061.89	1,155.00
Fire Protection	103,627.47	41,015.69	123,688.78
Fire Protection Capital Fund	94,689.93	1.08	38,475.30
General Assistance	15,198.26	1.87	15,189.00
New Bridge	49,162.60	20,808.56	29,364.93
Road & Bridge	83,534.91	51,638.18	104,060.04
Town	132,172.90	54,675.77	102,409.82
	<u>581,149.71</u>	<u>170,215.64</u>	
Additional Expenses			
Fire Protection			
Egyptian Electric	Station #2	923.18	
Ameren Illinois	Station #1	207.91	
Ameren Illinois	Station #2	356.83	
South Highway Water District	Station #1	51.30	
South Highway Water District	Station #1	22.25	
South Highway Water District	Station #2	22.25	
Mediacom	Station #1 internet & phone	196.65	
Mediacom	Station #2 internet	65.99	
Town			
Payroll		226.62	
Country Life Assurance	Jimmy's IRA	200.00	
Verizon	Assessor monthly service	25.02	
IL Dept of Employment Security	unemployment tax	1.60	
Road & Bridge			
IL Dept of Employment Security	unemployment tax	27.12	
Assessor Expenses 2022			
Verizon	Assessor monthly service	1,729.56	
John Dickson	workshop, mileage, meal,	225.18	
		1,504.38	

Attachment 3 – Highway Commissioner’s Report

Makanda Township Highway Commissioner Report

October 11, 2022 Meeting

Continued to Patch, probably done for the year except for potholes

Starting to clear culvert ends of built up dirt

Received a call for a continuing concern for the north end of Heather Lynn Lane. Will be consulting with Jackson County Highway Department personnel for a solution

Removed a tree at the intersection of Raccoon Valley and Old 51. Tree was bowed over very low and in danger of falling into road. Adjacent property owner was not satisfied with how we left the stump and I told him we’d take care of it as soon as we can.

We also removed a dangerous limb hanging over Church Camp Rd.

An old pickup truck bed converted to a trailer was given to the township. I have rewired the lights, bought a tool box (new), a 50 gal fuel tank & pump (used), fixed the tailgate so it will stay shut, installed a platform on the front for access to the tool box, and will be also installing steps on the front and back for easy access. We now have a functional maintenance trailer. I will be getting a “homemade trailer” title which will allow us to license it also.

Started installing road signs in places where the road sign is not readable of a night

Got the 25 MPH sign installed on Wagon Wheel

Installed rip rap on Poplar Camp Road (North) and on Zion Road. Still more places to put more.

As you know, the Halliday property sold at last meeting. We are awaiting title work and deed to finalize the sale. Earnest money has been given and is presently being held awaiting closing.

Attachment 4 – Supervisor’s Report, CWPP Report, MTFD 517 Fair Report

10-22 Supervisor’s Report

1. Debbie and I attempted to open bank account for Connect Humanity Grant. Continued to follow up with banks regarding interest rates.
2. Met with ISP, who at the request of Jackson County State’s Attorney, has reopened investigation into Dan Williams.
3. Received one inquiry regarding Technology Consultant position.
4. Completed Annual Financial Report for State of IL
5. FY22 audit completed. Only concern raised was to add more notes/direction for auditors.
6. No GA inquiries or returned applications.
7. Worked with Jackson County Treasurer Liz Hunter to correct direct deposit error.
8. Attended TOI Educational Workshop along w/John, Regina, Mike, Debbie

CWPP Report

1. Didn’t apply for Community Wildfire Defense Grant. Forest Service would like to create CWPP for all of Jackson County, not just Makanda Township. CWPP Steering Committee planning to meet.

MTFD 517 fair

Josh Lipe <lipejw@gmail.com>

Tue 10/11/2022 8:09 AM

To: Sara Lipe <supermakanda@hotmail.com>

Sara-

This letter is to wrap up the 517 fundraiser for the fall.

We had 9 vendors, a smoke house for the kids, a representative from the county police, a ground ambulance, and an air ambulance come by and set up for display and meeting the public. There was an area for learning how to use a live fire extinguisher and of course our apparatus were available to view and climb on.

The vendors were as varied as the residents of Makanda Township, from a small farm selling meat to a build a bear type booth to homemade jewelry and laser cut signs from metal.

The silent auction had well over 40 items for bid ranging from lottery tickets, a homemade blanket, to car care and a chainsaw.

A special thanks to Herrin Fire department for loaning us their smokehouse on short notice when ours had unforeseen issues and was unusable, and to Cintas Fire for the donation of 25 live extinguishers for our training for the public. We were able to use them for an additional training for the firefighters of the department a week later, to the benefit of all involved.

We cannot thank our donors enough for their support of our fundraising efforts. Thanks to them and the support of the community, we were able to raise over \$2000, which will go to offset the cost of hotels and travel associated with sending our people to training away from the township.

Lastly, many thanks to the members of the Makanda Township Fire Department and their families for their work in making this event happen. It was a success and we are currently examining what worked and what didn’t in a effort to make the next event even more successful.

Attachment 5 – Broadband committee report from Makanda Township’s representative on the “Connect Jackson County Committee” panel.

October 10, 2022

Connect Jackson County Broadband Update

Our quest to identify a broadband partner(s) is moving forward. On Sept 20th, we presented our work to the County Board with a request to launch a Request For Information (RFI) for interested providers to respond. The due date for the RFI’s was October 5th and we had five broadband providers respond.

The next goal for our Connect Jackson Group is to make a broadband provider partnership(s) recommendation to the County Board. The goal is to select a broadband provider(s) that will:

- 1- partner with Jackson County on our grant applications.
- 2- be the best provider to serve all the unserved & underserved areas of the entire County.

To do so, over the next few weeks, we will be meeting to review and analyze the RFI responses that we received, and seek additional information where necessary, in order to formulate a broadband provider recommendation for the Jackson County Board.

Robert Henderson
Connect Jackson County Committee