

Minutes of the  
Makanda Township Board  
May 9, 2023

1. Call to Order. Supervisor Lipe called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. Roll Call. Present were Supervisor Lipe, Trustees Mike Holub, Clay Kolar, Debbie Stanley, Fred York, and Clerk Regina Einig
3. Clerk comments: None
4. Trustee comments. None
5. Approval of Agenda. Items 12 e through h will be deferred until next month.
6. Public comments on Agenda items. Some people couldn't find the agenda that was posted on the website.
7. Approval of Minutes. The March 14 and April 12, 2023 minutes were approved.
8. Fund Balances and Revenue. See Attachment 1.
9. Approval of bills by fund: Township Bills, Fire Department Bills, Fire Protection Capital Fund Bills, Road and Bridge Bills, New Bridge Bills, General Assistance Bills, Connect Humanity Bills. Sara asked to pull out the bills for Mack's Fire and Safety and Asaturion and Eaton to vote on separately. Fred moved and Clay seconded to pay all the other bills. Motion passed unanimously. Fred moved and Sara seconded to pay the Asaturion and Eaton bill from Road and Bridge. Motion passed unanimously but with Clay abstaining. Clay moved and Fred seconded a motion to pay the Mack's Fire and Safety bill out of Fire Protection. Motion passed unanimously but with Sara abstaining.
10. Reports:
  - A. Fire Department Report Jimmy Bilderback reported that they had three fire calls, one fire alarm, seven EMS calls, and two traffic crashes for a total of eighteen runs. We have eighteen firefighters. Also, truck 564 is dead in the water. It just won't start. Josh reported on the status with OSHA. Fitness testing is being held up by problems with the equipment needed to complete the testing. OSHA has been advised and we are in compliance and

waiting for the equipment to be available. Mike Holub encouraged everyone to come to a retirement party for Jimmy before the June meeting.

B. Road Commissioner's Report – See Attachment 2.

C. CWPP Report – Sara reported the Forest Service had the Deputy Regional Forester, Bob Luckel, come down and invited us to meet with him. She expressed our gratitude for all the grant money the Forest Service has put into Makanda Township to reduce the risk of wildfires and to discuss next steps, particularly that we need funding to update the CWPP. She then gave some history of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, how it was completed in 2011 by an SIU forestry professor. So, it has some age on it. The Forest Service has been helping us with implementing it. At the time the report was finished Makanda Township, Somerset, Pomona, and Murphysboro Townships had one of the highest wild and urban interfaces in all of Southern Illinois. So, they were particularly interested in reducing the risk of wildfires. That's why we've been so lucky in getting grant money and why she's so pleased to get it because a fire department of eighteen people isn't going to be able to do that job by themselves.

D. Supervisor's Report: Sara said she had increased the amount of income and assets allowed for General Assistance eligibility and explained the rationale for that change. She approved an application for emergency assistance for rent. As part of that she made sure the landlord had working smoke detectors within 15 feet of all living quarters. I received a request from the Illinois Attorney General regarding a meeting that the Board had on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two residents had filed a complaint that it had been an illegal meeting and so the Attorney General was asking me for details in response. I prepared and submitted the fiscal 2023 Annual Treasurer's Report, which was published in the Southern Illinoisan last Wednesday. Technology consultant Tony Barnes got started today. He was supposed to start after finals but one of Jimmy's computers crashed Monday. Tony is supposed to come back and work on it tomorrow. Lastly, I'm looking for a new auditor. (A discussion arose when Sara felt that Karen Renzaglia should not be both an auditor and a member of a committee. Several citizens dissented and argued for her ability to hold both jobs.)

E. Assessor's Report (John Dickson); No report.

F. General Assistance Committee Report (Debbie Stanley); No report.

G. Broadband committee Report: Mike reported on an email that he had received from Robert Henderson today. It said that the Jackson County committee had been evaluating prospective providers. They had narrowed it to three companies and last week had presentations from those companies. The next steps are for the Jackson County Broadband Committee to assemble the new information we requested from the ISPs, review the rankings, and consider feedback from our Jackson County Board members. Once our partner or partners are confirmed by the County Board we will proceed on grants.

H. Building, Usage & Planning Committee Report: Jim Renshaw reported that the committee had evaluated several properties and decided to order an appraisal for the Stone Creek property. When they receive the appraisal they will decide whether or not to move forward.

I. Grant Committee Report: Clay said that they are trying to get a meeting set with Greater Egypt to discuss grant possibilities.

#### 11. Old Business:

A. Formation of a Board/Citizen committee to meet requirements of the "Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act." Sara said the committee has to meet by June 10<sup>th</sup> and then meet twice more, with the third one being held within eighteen months after the first meeting. She asked the volunteers to stand: John Sims, Kim Titus-Herrin, Debbie McClallen, Jessica Rawlins, Julia Rendleman, Mike Rohling and Diane Thomas It was decided to accept all six volunteers and to have a joint committee for the Township and the Road Commissioner. Sara reminded the volunteers that they each have to complete the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meeting Act trainings located on the Attorney General's website.

B. Compensation options for training mileage reimbursement update. Sara sent out an update late today. Fred and Clay both remarked that it was very clear, straightforward, and easy to verify. They said that if this is what the fire department wants then we should do it. Josh clarified that this is

for transportation from the volunteer's residence to the training site, not to fires.

12. New Business:

- A. Adopt MTFD Manager Job description. Clay moved and Sara seconded a motion to accept the job description that Sara sent out. Motion was passed unanimously. Sara said we should get the opening posted and advertised as widely as possible. It was agreed that: salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience; retirement or health insurance will depend on what the applicant wants; two weeks of vacation for the first year, with a third week beginning in the second year of employment; between four and eight weeks of sick time is still to be decided; and added the day after Thanksgiving to the seven already granted. Regina will advertise the position in a newspaper as well as post on free employment websites.
- B. IT person possible task assignments. A list of fourteen tasks was presented to our consultant. No more were added at the meeting.
- C. Approval of the FY24 Fire Protection Tentative Budget. Sara moved and Clay seconded to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Approval of the FY24 Fire Protection Capital Fund Tentative Budget. Sara moved and Clay seconded to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Items E through H were tabled until next month.

13. Public comments. Unintelligible.

14. Clay moved and Mike seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Einig, clerk

**Attachment 1**

<b>Makanda Township Fund Balances as of 5/9/23</b>	<b>Receipts since 4/11/</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Brian R Pierce Jr 517 Memorial Fu	2,842.27	
Building Capital Fund	120,333.30	
Connect Humanity Grant Fund	18,962.92	78.11
Fire Protection	65,453.49	322.73
Fire Protection Capital Fund	82,453.72	435.86
General Assistance	14,665.69	2.33
New Bridge	76,879.01	184.15
Road & Bridge	139,952.96	334.79
Town	156,013.05	420.79
	<u>674,714.14</u>	<u>1,778.76</u>

**Additional Expenses**

<b>Fire Protection</b>		987.90
Egyptian Electric	Station #2	147.59
Ameren Illinois	Station #1	302.24
Ameren Illinois	Station #2	201.47
South Highway Water District	Station #1	22.25
South Highway Water District	Station #2	22.25
Mediacom	Station #1 internet & phone	216.11
Mediacom	Station #2 internet	75.99

<b>Town</b>		<b>2,404.56</b>
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Payroll		
Country Life Assurance	Jimmy's IRA	200.00
Verizon	Assessor monthly service	25.02
Southern Illinoisan	legal ad	44.14
Southern Illinoisan	legal ad	146.43
Postmaster General	stamps	63.00
John Dickson	mileage, training, lodging,	1,845.97
Township Officials of Illinois	6/16 Supervisor workshop	40.00
Township Supervisors of Illinois	dues	40.00

**General Assistance**

Kenny Clutts	emergency assistance	550.00
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R&B bills

**Assessor Expenses 2023**

Verizon

Assessor monthly service

100.08

100.08

Makanda Township Emergency Assistance Program  
Liquid Asset and Income Disregards and Payment Levels

Type of Un Disregard	Currently Available Income	Liquid Asset Disregard	Payment Level
Adult Case	1,500	1,500	322
Family Case (2 adults)	2,000	2,000	500
Adult & Ch	2,000	2,000	500
For each additional person in a family case containing a specified relative, add	250	250	50

## **Makanda Township Highway Commissioner Report May 9, 2023 Meeting**

The Jackson County Highway Department, at the request of Kevin Lister, a county board member, conducted a speed study on Boskydell Road East to investigate the possibility of setting a lower speed limit. The present speed limit is 55 MPH. The study discovered the average speed to be 45-50 MPH. The speed study indicated the speed limit was to be set at 50 MPH. To set the speed limit to 50 MPH has a better chance of increasing the average speed as opposed to reducing it. It is already in the plans to oil & chip Boskydell Road East early this summer and then in August to broom off the chips and paint center lines. Studies indicate that this has a better chance of reducing the average speed than setting a 50 MPH speed limit.

The new landowner at the east end of Club Road requested the road be made passable. We agreed that I would have Jackson County Highway Department cut the brush back on the sides of the road, I would take the tractor and blade and grade down the ruts and that he would pay to have the road graveled. I then agreed to keep the road graded as needed.

A plat map and legal description of the agreement reached between me, Clay Kolar, and Bill Hunter has been completed. This material is now in the hands of the Township attorney, Webb Smith, who will then proceed to close out the legal issues on Sheppard Lane with the courts. The plans are that once this is settled, I will complete the project by doing what is necessary to get proper drainage on the short stretch of road and then oil & chip it. This will most likely take place next year.

Patching continues.

Aaron's Tree Service removed a tree near the south end of Springer Ridge Road that was on a curve and was heavily leaning over the road endangering motorists. They also severely trimmed back a very large dead tree near the end of School House Road that had very large limbs that were beginning to rot to the point of falling on the roadway.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Budget Item</u>
<b>Road &amp; Bridge Bills:</b>			
Jim Crane 24.75hrs @\$20/hr	\$ 495.00	Labor	Labor
David Totzell 16hrs @ \$16/hr	\$ 256.00	Labor	Labor
Anna Quarries	\$ 530.10	Patch material	Gravel, rip rap, etc
Asaturian & Eaton	\$ 1,380.00	Plat & Desc. Sheppard Ln	Surveying
City of Carbondale	\$ 68.66	Fuel	Fuel
Aaron's Tree Service	\$ 1,275.00	Tree removal (2)	Tree Removal
<b>New Bridge Bills:</b>			
Energy Culverts	\$ 812.00	2 Culverts for Jacobini	Road Maint. & Repairs

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