

Minutes
Of the Makanda Township Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

1. Supervisor Lipe called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. Present were Supervisor Lipe; Trustees Holub, Stanley, and York; and Clerk Einig.
3. Clerk comments: none.
4. Trustee comments: none.
5. The agenda was approved.
6. Public comments on Agenda items: none.
7. No minutes were submitted.
8. Fund Balances and Revenue. **See Attachments.**
9. Approval of bills by fund: Clay moved and Mike seconded a motion to pay all the bills. **Motion passed unanimously.**
10. Reports:
 - A. Fire Department Report: Chief Lipe reported that they had three fire calls, ten medical, and sixteen service for a total of 29 calls. There are currently 16 firefighters.
 - B. Road Commissioner's Report: **See Attachments.** Ed spoke at the beginning of the meeting about the problem of tree limbs on the roads because of the storm and about the costs incurred because of equipment breaking down.
 - C. CWPP: Jackson County did receive a grant to prepare an updated CWPP report for all of Jackson County. If you remember, the initial report was prepared in 2009, and it only included Murphysboro, Makanda, Somerset, and Pomona. Makanda has moved forward in implementing its CWPP plan but the other townships haven't done anything, so hopefully this will get the other townships (going). They have expressed interest in this, in making their communities more firewise and reducing the risk of fire) so hopefully this will go forward.
 - D. Supervisor's report: Sara reported that there were no General Assistance or Emergency Assistance inquiries.
 - E. General Assistance Committee Report: No report.
 - F. Broadband committee report: Mike reported that the Friday after the last Township meeting he and Sara went to Giant City school and Unity Point school to distribute the remainder of the bond grant money. We were very well received. They were very grateful and we are sure it will be put to good use. It was \$12,000 and some to Unity Point and \$6,000 and some to Giant City. Sara asked Mike if the Broadband Committee is going to dissolve. Mike said he would address that at the next meeting.
 - G. Building, Usage & Planning Committee report (Jim Renshaw): No report.
 - H. Grant Committee (Clay Kolar): No report.
 - I. Financial Planning Advisory Committee: Rollie said that the minutes of the October meeting were approved and are on the website. Dawn and Josh and Devin are working on the draft of the new fire department budget. Our next meeting will be on the eighteenth. After that meeting we will review and refine that draft budget. We would like to be put on the agenda for the March 11 meeting for Dawn to present that. I would also like, once we have refined and reviewed the draft budget, to have it posted with the agenda for the Board and the public to have a chance to look at it before the meeting.
11. Old Business:
 - A. Update on transfer of official Township files to Station 1 for review by and transfer to IRAD. Regina said that all the records we have submitted to IRAD have been processed for microfilming. We are also next in line to be microfilmed. I don't know how long that will take. I am waiting for a call from our IRAD contact. She will call me when she is ready

to bring our old records back. When she does that she will pick up the rest of the records. Jill Adams asked how the public can see our records when they are finished. Regina told her that they will be at the McLafferty IRAD facility. Personnel will be assigned to assist the public in accessing the records.

12. New Business:

13. Public comments. Laura Lipe mentioned a recent article in the Southern with Devin highlighting the struggles encountered by volunteer fire departments. She said it was really a good article and urged people to look it up. She commended Devin for being so articulate and well-spoken. She believed the article was published in a Thursday paper. Robert Henderson said he had spoken today with Brian Chapman. WK&T is continuing to work on their lines, but they are having a problem. People are not allowing easements on their property. So the County is working on that now. Frontier is laying fiber throughout the County, on their own dime. The plan is for them to basically cover their entire copper footprint. The thing they have going for them is that they already have easements. We should know more in a month or two on what they will charge and all that. Lastly, on the 24th I believe it is, the funding round closes for the first round of feed money and the County has put in several projects to further the expansion of broadband into the unserved areas.

14. Mike moved and Debbie seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**