

Banks Township Regular Board Meeting

Banks Township Hall

Monday March 23, 2026

DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm By Supervisor Busman.

Members present: Supervisor Alex Busman, Clerk Julie Chellis, Treasurer Katy Postmus, Trustee Marv Rubingh, Trustee Richard Friske. **Also present:** Carl Veenstra, Patti Wiltse, Ann and Jesse Anderson, Brad and Julie Waterman, Fred and Candy Hoeksema, David Rasmussen.

Supervisor Busman led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

1. **Amend and approve the agenda: Motion** by Marv Rubingh to amend and approve the agenda to add Recreation Plan updates, Information about the Michigan Land Division Act and ACNA, support Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
2. **Public Comment 6:05:** None
3. **Minutes:**
 - a. **Approval of 02-16-2026 regular meeting:** Minutes presented. **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to approve the minutes as presented, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
 - b. **Approval of 02-16-2026 closed session:** Minutes presented. **Motion** by Richard Friske to approve the minutes as presented, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
 - c. **Approval of 03-5-2026 special meeting:** Minutes presented. The following correction was offered:
 - i. **Section 7:** Remove "motion carried"
 - ii. **Section 8:** Remove "and other possibles"
 - iii. **Section 10:** Remove "hopeful and encouraged; add frustrated and disappointed but moving forward positively"
4. **Standing Reports:** Board discussion on monthly reports. Will now receive written reports Monday prior to the meeting.
5. **County Commissioner Report:** Presented by Alex Busman. Cost of Safety Center is currently well above budget, County working on lowering the amount. Still working on Hemlock trees at the ACNA.
6. **Village President Report:** Presented by Jerry Rasmussen. Need to replace Tex in the Department of Public Works and hire a zoning administrator. Village is starting the year \$100,000 in the red in its road fund. Would like to find a grant to repair Bridge St. Hopeful that a new business is coming to town.
7. **Sheriff's Report:** Copy given to each board member.
8. **Treasurer's Report – Financial Reports & Approve/Pay Bills:** Katy Postmus presented the monthly fund report for credit, debits, and balances.
 - a. Income: **\$301,508.94**
 - b. Bills: **\$57,888.71**
 - c. Payroll: **\$12,358.33**Account Balances before bill payment:
 - d. General Fund Balance: **\$453,963.46**
 - e. Fire Fund Balance: **\$301,981.13**
 - f. Liquor Fund: **\$1,398.07**
 - g. Roads Fund: **\$232,974.07**
 - h. Vehicle Fund: **\$2,962.19**
 - i. Grand Total of all funds: **\$993,278.92**Breakdown of accounts where funds are held:
 - j. Charlevoix State Bank Checking Account: **\$528,033.09**
 - k. Charlevoix State Bank Certificate of Deposit: **\$253,218.85**
 - l. Michigan CLASS Account: **\$212,026.98****Motion** by Katy Postmus to pay the bills, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes**

9. **Zoning Administrator Report:** No Update
10. **Planning Commission Report:** Presented by Richard Friske. Held public hearing to allow duplexes in Ag and CR. Passed 2-1 vote. PC removed propane tanks as a structure in zoning. No action taken on the RV Ordinance. PC has Ruben from Beckett and Raeder researching ADU and special uses. Still working on Masterplan.
11. **Fire Department Report:** Dave Rasmussen spoke about the need for one or two gas detection meters. **Motion** by Alex Busman to purchase two meters not to exceed \$8,000.00, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
12. **DDA Report:** No Update
13. **Ambulance Authority Report:** Presented by Supervisor Busman. Budget was presented to board. **Motion** by Julie Chellis to move the debit payment due date to August 1, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
14. **ACNA:** Carl Veenstra spoke about the ACNA and possible changes being made by Antrim County.
15. **Correspondence/Updates/Invitations:** None
16. **Recreation plan with Village:** New committee formed with the Village and Township to develop a 5-year recreation plan. Alex Busman appointed Julie Chellis, Ann Anderson and Patti Howes for the Township representatives. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to approve the appointments, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
17. **Land Division Ordinance:** New law from the state regarding land division, need to consult with attorney on our Land Division Ordinance to make it comply with the new law.

OLD BUSINESS

18. **Property Review:**
 - a. **Soil Sampling at Ellsworth Fire Hall:** Katy Postmus is getting a quote from Otwell Mawby regarding soil testing. Quote may be available for the April board meeting.
 - b. **Town Hall Front Door:** Jerry Rasmussen repaired front door along with the weather strip.
 - c. **Cemetery Headstone Restoration: Discussion** held. Waiting on snow to clear to review how many headstones would need professional maintenance.
 - d. **Cemetery Foliage Plan:** No updates.
 - e. **Unmarked Grave Markers:** No updates.
19. **2026/2027 Budget:**
 - a. **General Fund:** Increase Election Salaries, Line Item 101-19100-701 to \$12,000. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to approve the General Budget as amended, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes**
 - b. **Fire Fund: Motion** by Katy Postmus to approve the Fire Fund at 1 mil, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
 - c. **Road Fund:** Increase the road improvement spend line to \$286,476.29. **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to approve the Road Fund as amended, support by Richard Friske. **Motion carried. All yes.**
 - d. **Liquor Fund: Motion** by Marv Rubingh to increase admin fees from \$310 to \$500, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
 - e. **Vehicle Fund:** Discussion held on saving money for future FD vehicle replacements. **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to approve the Vehicle fund, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
20. **2026 Road Projects:** Marv Rubingh is going to talk to State Representatives about funding for Essex Rd. Discussed Essex Rd and C48 into Village limits. No Vote at this time.
21. **Streaming/uploading of Meetings:** Appreciated by members of the public.
22. **Hall Rental Policy:** No updates.
23. **RFP Mowing Services:** One quote from Brian Darrah for \$28,762.00 and \$50.00/hourly for extra cleanup and mowing at the Township Hall, and FD. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to approve Brian Darrah's contract for yard maintenance at the cemeteries, park, fire halls and township hall, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

24. RFP hall maintenance and cleaning: Discussion held, Clerk will put out a text blast and post job description on the website, www.bankstownshipmi.gov, with a two-week window. Both are 1099 positions.

NEW BUSINESS

25. Budget Amendments: Budget amendments are attached. **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to approve budget amendments, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

26. Deputy pay/budget: **Motion** by Julie Chellis to raise the deputy clerk/treasurer pay to \$20/hour, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion carried. All yes.**

27. PC/ZBA Member Training: Discussion held on having Attorney Kaufman at planning commission meetings to guide and train the members. Instead of the representative from Beckett and Raeder. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to have Attorney Kaufman at 2 planning commission meetings for training, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

28. Kitchen Licensing: Discussion on hall licensing. No vote at this time.

29. Setback Ordinance Amendment: **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to send the set back ordinance back to the planning commission for reevaluation, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

30. Board Comment:

a. **Marv Rubingh:** Thoughts on zoning and gravel extraction.

31. Public Comment 9:04-9:24:

a. **Patty Wiltse:** Comment on Ruben from Beckett and Raeder not doing his job.

b. **Julie Waterman:** Comments on Ruben from Beckett and Raeder doing his job.

c. **Jesse Anderson:** Can planners attend via zoom, sending out master plan survey again.

d. **Ann Anderson:** Recommended Newsletter, Township Facebook page, emails, as additional ways to reach more residents.

e. **Fred Hoeksema:** Why wasn't the homeowner of the duplex fined.

f. **Dave Rasmussen:** Hall Cleaner and Maintenance worker positions.

Motion by Alex Busman to adjourn the meeting, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Julie Chellis, Banks Township Clerk