

# Banks Township Regular Board Meeting

Banks Township Hall  
Monday February 16, 2026

Meeting was streamed on YouTube and was available as a recording on the township's Youtube Channel, @BanksTownshipMIgov. Also can be found on the township website, [www.BanksTownshipMI.gov](http://www.BanksTownshipMI.gov).

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm By Supervisor Busman.

**Members present:** Supervisor Alex Busman, Clerk Julie Chellis, Treasurer Katy Postmus, Trustee Marv Rubingh, Trustee Richard Friske. **Also present:** Jarris Rubingh, Undersheriff George Lasater, Fire Chief Mark Groenink, Ann Anderson, Paul Michanowicz, Tina Sundelius, Brad and Julie Waterman, Greg Burroughs, Joel Yonkman, David Daniels, David Rasmussen.

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

1. **Amend and approve the agenda: Motion** by Katy Postmus to amend the agenda to add Dog Licenses and Tags, Liquor Fund Transfer, FOIA, and Air Pack Tanks, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**  
**Motion** by Alex Busman to approve the amended agenda, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
2. **Public Comment: 6:10-6:14**
  - a. **Paul Michanowicz:** Thanked board for attention to road repair. Brought info on newest property fraud with quick claim deeds.
  - b. **David Daniels:** Rules and zoning are needed. Fix it, amend it, keep it.
3. **Approval of 01/19/2026 regular meeting:** Regular Meeting Minutes presented. **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to approve the minutes, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
4. **Gregg Burroughs, High Street Insurance:** Township Insurance presentation and overview.
5. **County Commissioner Report:** Presented by Jarris Rubingh. Allan Mussal is new ACRC Manager. Antrim Conservation contract for GFL Recycle is coming to an end.
6. **Village President Report:** No Update
7. **Sheriff's Report:** Copy given to each board member. Undersheriff George Lasater presented and answered questions.
8. **Treasurer's Report – Financial Reports & Approve/Pay Bills:** Katy Postmus presented the monthly fund report for credits, debits, and balances.
  - a. Income: **\$192,042.37**
  - b. Bills: **\$23,193.64**
  - c. Payroll: **\$21,535.47**Account Balances before bill payment:
  - d. General Fund Balance: **\$373,366.29**
  - e. Fire Fund Balance: **\$255,238.27**
  - f. Liquor Fund: **\$1,955.51**
  - g. Roads Fund: **\$109,955.34**
  - h. Vehicle Fund: **\$2,962.19**
  - i. Grand Total of all funds: **\$743,477.60**Breakdown of accounts where funds are held:
  - j. Charlevoix State Bank Checking Account: **\$278,846.73**
  - k. Charlevoix State Bank Certificate of Deposit: **\$253,218.85**
  - l. Michigan CLASS Account: **\$211,412.02****Motion** by Katy Postmus to pay the bills, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes**
9. **Zoning Administrator Report:** Presented by Kurtis Busman: No enforcement or permits.
10. **Planning Commission Report:** Presented by Richard Friske. Setbacks Ordinance sent to County. Reviewing comments for Masterplan. Annual report sent to the Township Board. Public Hearing concerning Duplex Ordinance is March 10 at 6pm.
11. **Fire Department Report:** No Update

- 12. DDA Report:** Presented by Tina Sundelius. Concerts on the square, social district and purchasing a Welcome to Ellsworth sign. Meetings now held at 5PM on the third Monday of the month in the Village office.
- 13. Ambulance Authority Report:** Presented by Supervisor Busman and Joel Yonkman. The JVEMS millage language has been approved for the May ballot. JVEMS is now staffing two ambulances 24/hours a day. The authority has offered a proposal wherein one ambulance would be in Banks Township 12 hours a day. Banks Township would need to provide a covered structure to park an ambulance and housing for EMT, in order to have one ambulance 24/hours per day. Joel provided ideas to recruit new EMS members and invited public to contact him with questions.
- 14. Correspondence/Updates/Invitations:** Correspondence from residents, P.C. Annual Report, MTA Principles of Governance and Citizen Planner through MSU shared with the board.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 15. Property Review:

- a. **Soil Sampling at Ellsworth Fire Hall:** Katy Postmus is going to contact another company from Gaylord.
- b. **Town Hall Front Door:** Dave Rasmussen is waiting for better weather.
- c. **Cemetery Headstone Restoration:** Richard Friske contacted Dave Carter, discussion at the March meeting.
- d. **Cemetery Foliage Plan:** Richard Friske offered to help Julie Chellis in the Spring, trimming and removing overgrown trees and shrubs in accordance with our cemetery ordinance.
- e. **Unmarked Grave Markers:** Julie Chellis presented two styles of markers for unmarked graves. Will consult with the attorney before making a decision.

**7:52pm Motion** by Alex Busman to recess the regular meeting and go into Public Hearing for General Budget, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried.**

## BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING 7:52-8:10

- A. **General Fund Public Hearings: 7:53pm-7:55pm Motion** by Alex Busman to open the Public Hearing for General Fund, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
  - f. **Public Comment: None**
- B. **Fire Fund Public Hearing: 7:55pm-7:59pm Motion** by Alex Busman to open the Public Hearing for Fire Fund, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes** Discussion on changes made to fund.
  - a. **Public Comment: Dave Rasmussen:** Continue to save for future trucks/equipment.
- C. **Road Fund Public Hearing: 8:00pm-8:01pm Motion** by Alex Busman to open the Public Hearing for Road Fund, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes**
  - a. **Public Comment: Paul Michanowicz:** Possibility of purchasing township equipment to maintain our own gravel roads.
- D. **Liquor Fund Public Hearing: 8:01pm-8:05pm Motion** by Alex Busman to open the Public Hearing for Liquor Fund, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes**
  - a. **Public Comment: none**
  - b. **Board Comment:** Board discussed liquor inspector, duties and use of money.
- E. **Vehicle Fund Public Hearing: 8:05pm-8:08pm Motion** by Alex Busman to open the Public Hearing for Vehicle Fund, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes**
  - a. **Public Comment: none**
  - b. **Board Comment: Katy Postmus:** Make sure that we are saving for future equipment.

**8:10 Close the Public Hearing, resume Regular Meeting**

## REGULAR MEETING

- 16. Resolution for Online Payments:** Resolution read by Alex Busman, discussion held. No vote.
- 17. Recording Policy:** Policy read by Alex Busman. **Motion** by Richard Friske to adopt the recording policy, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote: Richard Friske: Yes, Marv Rubingh: Yes, Katy Postmus: No, Julie Chellis: Yes, Alex Busman: Yes**
- 18. 2026 Road Projects:** Discussed Essex Rd. and C48 into the Village from the Charlevoix County line.
- 19. Email Policy:** Policy read by Alex Busman. **Motion** by Alex Busman to adopt the Email Policy, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- 20. RFP for Planning Firm:** Received one from Beckett and Raeder, our current firm. Distributed copies to the board to read.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 21. Township Clean-up:** Discussed GFL or a smaller company from Gaylord. **Motion** by Richard Friske to include all types of tires in clean up day, when truck is full, collection is done, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- 22. Additional Fire Department Air Pack Tanks:** Fire Chief, Mark Groenink asked for two additional Air Pack Tanks. **Motion** by Julie Chellis to purchase two air pack tanks at \$1,600.00 each, plus shipping, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- 23. Fire Department Wages:**
- Officer Pay:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to increase Fire and Rescue Officer pay by 3%, **Motion failed due lack of support. Motion** by Katy Postmus to increase Fire and Rescue Officer pay by 6%, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All Yes.**
  - Run/meeting pay:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to raise the pay of trained members to \$22 an hour, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- 24. Subsidiary Board Wages:**
- Planning Commission:**
    - Regular Meetings:** **Motion** by Katy Postmus to pay \$100 per meeting for regular members, \$150 for chair and \$150 recording secretary, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
    - Extra Meetings:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to pay \$100 meeting rate for PC Members for going to extra meetings, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
  - Board Of Review:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to raise full day pay to \$150 for Board of Review members, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
  - Zoning Board of Appeals:** **Motion** by Katy Postmus to raise the regular member rate to \$100 and chair to \$150, per meeting, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
  - Zoning Administrator:** **Motion** by Katy Postmus to raise the Zoning Administrator pay to \$24,500/year, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes. Alex Busman abstained**
  - Ambulance Authority Representative:** **Motion** by Julie Chellis to raise the rate to \$100 per meeting, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes. Alex Busman abstained**
  - DDA Representative:** **Motion** by Katy Postmus to pay Tina Sundelius for past work, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes**
  - Digital Media Specialist:** Discussion about recording meetings. **Motion** by Julie Chellis to pay Alex Busman to set up record meetings, motion amended by Katy Postmus to pay \$50 for regular meetings and \$100 for Planning Commission and ZBA meetings, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes. Alex Busman abstained**
  - FOIA Coordinator:** Discussion about FOIA Coordinator wages, for time spent on FOIA requests. **Motion** by Richard Friske to pay the FOIA Coordinator \$36 an hour, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes. Julie Chellis abstained.**

- i. **Per Diem for food:** Discussion about meeting, training per diems for the elected officials. **Motion** by Julie Chellis to pay \$75 for food allowance for the Supervisor, Trustee and clerk, when food is not provided, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

**25. Salary Resolution:**

- a. **Supervisor Pay Resolution:** Discussion about Supervisor wages. Salary Resolution read by Alex Busman. **Motion** by Julie Chellis to raise supervisor salary to \$30,000 a year, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes. Alex Busman abstained.**
- b. **Trustees Pay Resolution:** Salary Resolution read by Alex Busman. **Motion** by Alex Busman to set trustee salary at \$3,600 a year, special meetings are \$100, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes. Marv Rubingh and Richard Friske abstained.**
- c. **Clerk Pay Resolution:** Salary Resolution read by Alex Busman. **Motion** by Alex Busman to set the clerk salary at \$37,595 a year, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes. Julie Chellis abstained.**
- d. **Treasurer Pay Resolution:** Salary Resolution read by Alex Busman. **Motion** by Alex Busman to set the treasurer salary \$37,595 a year, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes. Katy Postmus abstained.**

**26. Clerk Training:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to pay for the clerk's hotel reservation for the municipal clerk training, for \$582, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

**27. Liquor Fund:** **Motion** by Katy Postmus to move \$310 from the liquor fund to the general fund, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

**28. Dog Tags:** Katy Postmus explained the Dog License on the budget. Discussion held. **Motion** by Alex Busman to remove dog licenses from budget, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

**29. FOIA:** Katy Postmus would like a copy of all FOIA requests.

**30. Closed Session regarding attorney email: 10pm- 10:16pm** **Motion** by Alex Busman for board to meet in closed session regarding a written legal opinion, support by Marv Rubingh **Motion Carried.**

**31. Board Meeting attendance:** **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to post a notice stating board members attending meetings of other boards and committees may result in a quorum being present at the meeting, but no discussion or decision making will occur by those committee or board members, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

**32. Public Comment: 10:19pm: none**

**Motion** by Alex Busman to adjourn the meeting, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:19pm**

**Minutes recorded and submitted by:**

**Julie Chellis, Banks Township Clerk**