

Banks Township Regular Board Meeting

Banks Township Hall

Monday April 20, 2026

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:** Jesse Anderson, Julie and Brad Waterman, David Rasmussen, Jerry Rasmussen, Bill Austin, Don King, Joel Yonkman, George Lasater.

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

1. **Amend and approve the agenda: Motion** by Marv Rubingh to add Master plan to the agenda, support Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. Motion** by Katy Postmus to add voter post cards to agenda, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. Motion** by Marv Rubingh to amend and approve the agenda, support Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
2. **Public Comment 6:04- 6:05pm**
 - a. **Julie Waterman:** Concerns about voter roll and post cards.
3. **Approval of 03-23-2026 regular meeting:** Minutes presented. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to approve the minutes as corrected, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
 - a) **Section 13:** Remove “debit payment” add “loan repayment installment”
 - b) **Section 27:** Remove “instead of the representative from Beckett and Raeder”
 - c) **Section 10:** Add "Attorney Kaufman is working on this instead of the representative from Beckett and Raeder”
4. **Standing Reports:** Copies given to each board member.
5. **County Commissioner Report:** Presented by Jarris Rubingh. 7,000 hemlocks will be treated with first dose of insecticide next week. The bug can't fly, but are carried by people, animals and insects. Private citizens can call the county and get their trees treated at no cost if the bug is discovered. The county may want pictures of infected trees and needles.
6. **Sheriff's Report:** Presented by Undersheriff Lasater. Copy given to each board member. Sign up for the RAVE App QR code to get updates and alerts from sheriff's department.
7. **Treasurer's Report – Financial Reports & Approve/Pay Bills:** Katy Postmus presented the monthly fund report for credit, debits, and balances.
 - a) Income: **\$61,175.41**
 - b) Bills: **\$46,602.19**
 - c) Payroll: **\$13,491.70**

Account Balances before bill payment:

General Fund Balance: **\$434,010.60**

- a) Fire Fund Balance: **\$292,926.99**
- b) Liquor Fund: **\$1,400.88**
- c) Roads Fund: **\$257,838.19**
- d) Vehicle Fund:

\$2,962.19 Grand Total of all

funds:

\$989,138.85

Breakdown of accounts where funds are held:

- a) Charlevoix State Bank Checking Account: **\$523,217.99**
- b) Charlevoix State Bank Certificate of Deposit: **\$253,218.85**
- c) Michigan CLASS Account: **\$212,702.07**

Motion by Katy Postmus to pay the bills, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes**

*Minutes corrected at the regular board meeting on 5/18/2026

8. **Ambulance Authority Report:** Joel Yonkman presented. At the May 5, 2026, election the East Jordan Ambulance Authority is asking for .75 mils.

OLD BUSINESS

9. Property Review:

- a) **Soil Sampling at Ellsworth Fire Hall:** Katy Postmus received a quote for Otwell Mawby for \$6,468.00 to test the soil for ten metals. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to accept Otwell Mawby's proposal, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion *Failed Carried. Roll call vote: Marv: no, Richard: no, Katy: yes, Julie: yes, Alex: no. * Motion Failed. Motion** by Alex Busman to get an itemized quote from Otwell Mawby for the three metals that the railroad requires for soil testing, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. Roll call vote: Marv: no, Richard: yes, Katy: no, Julie: yes, Alex: yes. Motion Passed**
- b) **Ellsworth Cemetery:** Gravel from snow plowing needs to be removed in the grass along the road. **Motion** by Alex Busman to approve the quote from Sommer Solutions for \$750, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- c) **Cemetery Foliage Plan:** Discussed plans to remove dead trees and overgrowth. Board would like Clerk to contact Sommer Solutions about removing shrubs after Memorial Day. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to have Sommer Solutions wait until after Memorial Day to remove shrubs at Ellsworth Cemetery, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- d) **Cemetery Headstone Restoration:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to have Carter Restoration repair and clean marked headstones in the Ellsworth Cemetery, not to exceed \$7,000, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes**
- e) **Cemetery/Park Maintenance:** Clerk will research cost of light to be attached to the flagpole at Banks Township Park. Discussed storage buildings at the Ellsworth Cemetery and Atwood Cemetery. Discussed options for unmarked graves, clerk to research options.
10. **2026 Road Projects:** Discussion on roads, will wait and decide at the next meeting, after attending the Antrim County Road Commission meeting on May 7th at 7pm at the Kearney Township Hall. Clerk will post the meeting.
11. **Hall Rental Policy:** Reviewed the Hall Rental Policy from the attorney. **Motion** by Julie Chellis to approve the Hall Rental Policy, with changes and prices, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- a) **Hall Rental Rates:** 7 days a week
- b) **Public Events:** Entire Building: \$25 per day, lower level: \$25 per day
- c) **Private Events:** Entire Building: \$500 per day, lower level: \$125 per day
- d) **Security Deposit ALL events:** Entire Building \$500, lower level: \$100
12. **Hall RFP**
- a) **Maintenance: Motion** by Alex Busman to approve the Maintenance Agreement at the rate of \$30 an hour, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes. Motion** by Richard Friske to hire Jesse Anderson as the custodian at \$30 an hour, support by Julie. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- b) **Cleaning: Motion** by Richard Friske to approve the Cleaning Services agreement at the rate of \$30 an hour, 1099 position, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes. Motion** by Katy Postmus to hire Stacey Michanowicz for \$30 an hour, support by Marv Rubingh. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
13. **Setback Ordinance Amendment:** Discussed setbacks. PC would like more guidance towards end results. Eliminate or reduce. Front and rear setbacks to 20ft, everywhere that is less than 20, stays the same. Side setbacks to 15 ft, anywhere it is less than 15, stay the same.

NEW BUSINESS

14. **Joint meeting with planning commission on May 12: Motion** by Alex Busman to hold a joint meeting on May 12 with Planning Commission, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote: Marv: no, Richard: yes, Katy: no, Julie: yes, Alex: yes. Motion** by Marv Rubingh to hold a joint monthly meeting with planning commission. **Motion failed due to lack of support.**
15. **Lake shore zone: Motion** by Alex Busman to have Planning Commission look at ~~*creating a Lake Shore Zone, Little Torch, St Clair, Willison and Lake Michigan,~~ **creating a lake shore zone for the waterfront residential communities along our lakefronts, including, but not limited to, Ellsworth Lake, St Clair Lake, Wilson Lake, Lake Michigan, and Little Torch Lake,** creating a Lake Shore Zone, Little Torch, St Clair, Willison and Lake Michigan, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote: Marv: no, Richard: no, Katy: yes, Julie: yes, Alex: yes**
16. **Natural Gas to Atwood:** More information to come, DTE in charge of study.
17. **Township Cleanup Scrap plan: Motion** by Alex Busman to approve Padnos for scrap clean up, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes**
18. **Township Cleanup Volunteer Stipend: Motion** by Alex Busman to pay Larry Essenberg \$200 for use of tractor, support Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes. Motion** by Julie Chellis to raise volunteer stipend to \$150.00/day, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
19. **Ellsworth Firehall Driveway:** Obtain a quote from Sommer Solutions on Fire Hall Drive.
20. **Terminating fax number: No Updates**
21. **Master Plan: Motion** by Marv Rubingh to open the Master Plan back up to include comments received before the 63-day time ended, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried.**
22. **Election Notifications:** Update on postcards that were sent out by County Clerk. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to instruct the County Clerk to not interfere with the Banks Township Clerk to do her job maintaining QVF, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote: Marv: yes, Richard: yes, Katy: yes, Julie: yes, Alex: yes. Motion** by Alex Busman to bill the county for Election work related to county clerks' election post card mailing, at \$36 an hour, support Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
23. **Public Comment 10:51-10:57pm**
 - a) **Dave Rasmussen:** Thanked the board for voter integrity.
 - b) **Jesse Anderson:** Comments on railroad grade and questions whether making a Lake Shore Zone will make other areas less restrictive, clarification on board members attending other meetings.
 - c) **Julie Waterman:** PC members attending board meetings, thank you to board for addressing County Clerk and Clerk Chellis for efforts to protect our voters.
 - d) **Tina Sundelius:** Planning commission and board of trustee meeting attendance.

Motion by Julie Chellis to adjourn the meeting, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:57pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Julie Chellis, Banks Township Clerk