

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – Feb. 8, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Supervisor Barb Earl, Clerk Sheri Babcock, Treasurer Karmen Nickerson, Trustee Deana Powell, Trustee Jeff Warren

Absent: None

Visitors: Nineteen (19)

Agenda: An amendment to the agenda is needed to add Hall Rental under New Business.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comments (3 minutes per person):

Minutes: A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2023, and the Special Board Budget & ARPA planning meeting of January 24, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Next Tuesday, February 14th, is the last day to pay property taxes without a penalty.

A motion was made by Warren to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock

Security Monitors: Approved under ARPA funds, have now been installed.

Chart of Account Changes: Still waiting on scheduling with BSA

May School Election: KRESA (Gull Lake School District) will have a proposal on the May election. As we only have 156 registered voters, it is tentatively proposed that we will be consolidating with Barry Township. We will still need to mail out postcards for notice of change in polling place, issue AV ballots and staff both the required Saturday, Monday prior to election day, and all day on election day.

Election Changes: The County Clerk will be attending a training tomorrow and will follow up with a Clerk's meeting next Thursday to provide updated information on election changes.

Board of Review: Three members attended the required training in Kalamazoo. The training was from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Need approval to authorize payroll for full-day rate (3) plus mileage for two.

A motion was made by Warren to authorize payroll payment for 3 BOR members, Full day rate, plus mileage for two. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Budget Modifications:

General Fund

101.265.726.000	Township – Office Supplies To cover laptop software expense	150.00	Increase expense
101.265.900.000	Printing & Publications	-150.00	Decrease Expense

A motion was made by Powell to approve the budget modifications as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle

- Again, this month, no permits from the County. This is the second month with no permits for our township.
- Board of Review. The organizational meeting will be held on March 7, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. followed by meetings by appointment on March 13th from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., March 15th from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and March 16th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Expect to have a higher turnout this year with the 5% multiplier increasing taxes.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 26 calls for the month of January for a total of 26 calls year to date;
- 14 MFR calls in January. MFR calls year to date 14;
- Trainings: Annual Meeting; Winter Drafting;
- Personnel changes: None;
- Current Membership: 17 Active members, one on leave, 1 cadet;
- Department Activity: Jennifer Hammond completed Fire Instructor Course;
- The next Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for April 29, 2023.

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is April 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- Approved contracts for Indigent Defense Services, approved transfer of \$25,000 from the Animal Shelter donation fund to spay/neuter feral and barn cats, Jim James to serve on the Barry County Board of Road Commissioners for a six (6) year term and reappointment of Kristen Cove on the Central Dispatch Board in a citizen at large position for a four (4) year term.
- Keeping eyes on level of Pine Lake
- Tammy Hayes is retiring from the Drain Commissioner office and Kathleen Shay is also retiring from Barry County.

Old Business:

1. Lacey Road Truck Traffic: The board had our annual meeting with the Road Commission and discussed the Truck Traffic recent results. Trustee Warren explained that board is not in favor of posting "No Thru Truck Traffic" signs on Dowling Road for a variety of reasons. Enforcement is a key factor which would not happen even if these were in place. There are limited options for travel between M-66 to M-37 and then M-43. After discussion it was determined that we will look into having the signs taken down on Dowling Road.

2. Clear Lake Weed Control: The public hearing was held today, Feb. 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in which the resolution was signed to approve the Special Assessment District and cost. The next public hearing will be held on March 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Johnstown Township Hall to hear and consider any objections to the proposed assessment roll and to all other matters relating to the improvement.
3. Mill Lake Sewer: Nothing to report. A sample petition has been obtained and will be presented next month.
4. Township Blight Problems: Continuing to work on possible Blight Ordinance. Next month an enforcement Officer from Bedford Township will be here to explain how this is working in their township.

New Business:

1. Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines: A resolution was presented for the board.

The resolution was offered by Board Member Warren and supported by Board Member Powell as presented.

Roll call vote: Yays: Warren, Powell, Babcock, Nickerson, Earl Nays: None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

2. Hall Rental: A request to use the Hall for meeting of the Barry County Democratic party has been received. After discussion, it was determined we will decline. The hall rental is for resident's use and we have not entered into renting it out to non-residents for business use up to this time.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$49,371.79 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments:

- Resident ask about the High-tension power lines used for solar power. What is going on with the Master Plan in Barry County. The township will see about having Greg Moore from Consumers Energy in to hold a Questions and Answers session for our residents.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor



Sheri Babcock, Clerk