

## Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – May 12, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.

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

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

**Visitors:** Twelve (12)

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Powell to approve the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Warren.  
All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comments (3 minutes per person):** None

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Warren to approve the minutes Regular Board Meeting of  
April 14, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of May. 5,  
2021 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's report – Karmen Nickerson**

- Moving some CD's around
- Summer taxes will be going out by July 1<sup>st</sup>

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**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Election** May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 Special Election for K.R.E.S.A. proposal passed. Johnstown township had  
14 AV ballots and 9 walk-in voters for a total of 23 votes. They voted 4 yes, and 19 no.

Ready to submit request for reimbursement. The board of canvasser report has been  
released and the Post-election audit list is completed. We will not be subject to audit for  
the May 2021 election by either the state of county.

**August 4<sup>th</sup> Election** The August 4<sup>th</sup> election will be held in Johnstown for a proposal from Hastings Schools.  
The question is: Shall Hastings Area School System, Barry and Calhoun Counties,  
Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-One Million Nine Hundred Thousand  
Dollars (21,900,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one  
or more series, for the purpose of:

Remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurnishing school  
buildings; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for  
instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and developing, improving and  
equipping playgrounds and sites?

It is proposed at this time that Bedford would like to consolidate their 79 voters with  
Johnstown. This would give us a total of 944 voters. We will prepare a resolution for  
board approval as soon as the decision is finalized.

## **Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)**

### **Long Lake Ordinance**

Mailed out petitions to resident requesting them for either change of time on Long Lake or abolishment of this Ordinance. I explained to him that he should try to determine what the people want first and then use only one of these petitions to get signatures.

### **Sexton Contract**

This contract was approved at the final Budget Meeting. Needs to be signed by all board members.

## **Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle**

- Building Permits as received from PCI
- Letters will be mailed out shortly for improved industrial and agricultural properties. Inspection should begin before the end of May.
- Land Divisions: We received two complete divisions.
- Tax Tribunal: None

## **Fire Report – Fire Chief Pete Dunn**

- 40 incidents in April for a total of 161 incidents year to date.
- 32 MFR in April, 123 MFR year to date.
- Training: Pump Training
- Personnel changes: New cadet introduced, Isaac Miller. Questioned by Trustee Warren.
- Current Membership: 22 Active, 6 probationary, 2 cadets.
- Department Activity: New Truck update

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is July 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

## **Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell**

- Bruce thanked Barb Earl for township tour and open complaints in the township.
- Updates on Hazard Waste collection held at the Expo Center;
- Ground breaking for new 50 bed assisted living called "Harvest Point" to be held on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m.; and
- American Rescue Plan – The County will be receiving 12.4 million dollars. Established a planning board. One area of help may include helping local restaurants by reimbursing food license for all at a cost of nearly \$90,000.

## **Planning & Zoning Code Enforcement Officer – Jack Ward**

The listing is now being process on a new software and is easier to use. Our township currently has 22 open cases and one unconfirmed case. The recent activity includes 4 new cases and 10 closed cases.

The Township has concerns over the number of open cases and the seemingly inability to enforce many of these long-term situations. We reviewed cases with concerns and discussed the possibility of reporting some cases to the Health Dept.

## **Old Business:**

- The Special Assessment Policy has been updated following our special meeting of May 5, 2021. A motion was made by Powell to accept the policy as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Old Business: (continued)**

- Sleepy Hollow: Several Residents attended this meeting to seek more information on setting up the special assessment for paving on Sleepy Hollow. The board visited the area during the May 5<sup>th</sup> special meeting to help us understand the residents involved and what terms the township can offer to help this case proceed. The board members are concerned over the total cost and some resident's ability to make payments this high. It was suggested that they should seek more options from the Road Commission and return that information to the board.
- Walnut Ridge Paving Assessment: All information has been received and with approval of policy guidelines, it is ready to be submitted to legal to start the process. It was decided to run this assessment for 3 years at a 2% interest rate.
- Advertisement for Fire Chief. Draft reviewed and updated to include new cadet and the addition of the requirement of high school diploma or equivalent GED preferred. This ad will be run in the Reminder on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>. Resumes accepted through June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

- White Line painting on Hutchinson Road. Resident asking about the possibility of getting this done. The cost is \$2,146.00. A motion was made by Nickerson to approve the white line painting on Hutchinson road at a cost to the township of \$2,146.00. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried. A budget amendment will also be made to reflect this additional expense.
- A motion was made by Warren to approve the transfer of \$50,000 to the Special Assessment Revolving Fund and approve a budget modification to move \$50,000.00 from the General Fund, transferring from previous fund balance to the Revolving Fund. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.
- Board of Review – Alternate. Roy Thunder has agreed to fill this position. A motion was made by Powell to accept the appointment of Roy Thunder to the BOR as an alternate member. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Pay Invoices and Payroll:**


A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 50,201.04 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Additional Citizen's Comments:**

Barbara Earl commented on a couple flags in our township that contain inappropriate language.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Attested to by:**  
**Barbara Earl**  
**Supervisor**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**