

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting . Oct. 13, 2021 . 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 Jeff Warren

Absent: Trustee Deana Powell

A motion was made by Warren to excuse the absence of Trustee Deana Powell as requested. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors: Nine (9)

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

Public Comments (3 minutes per person):

- A resident inquired how we will be using the American Rescue Money. We explained the complex process of determining acceptable uses and that this would be a lengthy process.

Minutes: A motion was made by Warren to approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of Sept. 8, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Last month was busy collection nearly 50% of the total property taxes.
- Beginning the preparation of Winter tax bills to go after December 1st.

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

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock

- One last Mobil Market distribution on to be held on October 19th. They have had an average of about 50 household participating each distribution.
- The final Audit report is available for the board. The State report has been filed and verified on the State ELITE system.
- ARPA funds update: Still pending after resubmission due to required Supervisor signature.
- Banfield Cemetery: The cement pad has been done. I have attached a picture with possible benches for your review. With the benches, hooks for solar lights the estimated total cost is about \$2,500.00.
- Consumers Power is in the process of purchasing property from Springbrook Farms that is adjacent to Iden Cemetery. Looking for survey or map in township files. We may be in need of updating records. Board member suggested to check with Ron Holley at Patten Monument to see if they have a map. We have not be able to locate a survey or map in the township records.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle

- Building permit report
- Tentative ratio for residential class from Equalization. Ratio is 44.69% for a 24-month study and 44.14% for 12-month study. The 24-month study will be used. Residential should be around 50%. Currently at around 44.69 so some hefty increases may occur.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle (continued)

- The Register of Deeds is now using a program call Fidlar Laredo. No longer receiving monthly record of transactions.
- No Land divisions
- Michigan Tax Tribunal . Nothing new.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Pete Dunn

- 37 incidents in September for a total of 365 incidents year to date.
- 29 MFR in Sept.
- Training: SCBA - MFR
- Personnel changes: Issac Miller moved from cadet to Fire Fighter effective Oct. 1, 2021 at Oct. 4, 2021 Quarterly Fire Meeting.
- Current Membership: 20 Active, 1 cadet.
- Department Activity: Issac Miller and Bernice Holcomb have passed the National Registry.
- The RAM truck is now in service.

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is January 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- Commissioner's Meetings
- Multiple County boards need people to serve on them;
- Recycling co-operative effort in Nashville area
- Bruce attended a conference for municipals in Grand Rapids recently.

New Business:

- Audit is complete. Good audit, all tax filings are completed.
- SW Sewer board making a decision on how to handle the added cost of the drain assessment. The Johnstown township board is in agreement that if they decide to raise the cost by either \$2.00 or \$4.00, and that this should remain in effect and not just be set for a specific time period.

Old Business:

- Long Lake Ordinance Update: We received an additional petition with about 8 signatures. No Circulator signature was included. With the added signatures we would have enough to satisfy the 51% legal requirement but are still short of the 70%. We will get the needed signature and revisit next month.
- Sleepy Hollow - Nothing new.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:


A motion was made by Warren to pay the bills in the amount of \$103,055.48 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments:

Reminder: We are holding a community wide ice cream social on Sunday, October 17th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in honor of the retirement of our Fire Chief, Pete Dunn.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor



Sheri Babcock, Clerk