

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – Jan. 12, 2022 – 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, Trustee Deana Powell

Absent: None

Visitors: 12 (Twelve)

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

Public Comments (3 minutes per person):

- Barbara Earl reminded the board of the meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning at the Road Commission

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

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Tax Collection has been busy.
- CD Interest rates are still very low.

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

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock

ARPA Funds: Really great news! As of Jan. 6, 2022, the Final Rule, which will take effect on April 1, 2022, offers a "standard allowance" for revenue loss of \$10 million. Essentially, all but one township in the State can elect to use up to the maximum without having to make the revenue loss calculation. I am providing the board with the final ruling and a list of eligible expenditures, which are now many for our consideration. In new business we will cover setting up preliminary budget planning meetings and we can establish meeting times to discuss ARPA funds at that time.

Drain Assessment: Township At-large special assessment for Fine Lake Dam is included in this month's bill payments.

Retirement Contributions have been made for 2021/2022

Budget Modifications:

The Fire Departments increase in calls is making a number of budget modifications needed. We are moving money from two expenses accounts at this time and will not make a change to bottom line budget figures at this time. These modifications are expected to cover the remainder of this fiscal year:

Expenditure Modifications:

206.336.702.000	Salary	Increase	\$5,000
206.336.715.000	Payroll Tax	Increase	\$ 900
206.336.722.000	Retirement	Increase	\$ 710
206.336.755.000	Fuel & Gas	Increase	<u>\$ 750</u>
			\$7,360
206.336.950.000	Educ & Training	Decrease	(\$2,000)
206.336.970.000	Capital Outlay	Decrease	<u>(\$5,360)</u>
			(\$7,360)

Revenue Modifications:

206.000.412.000	Charges for services	Increase	\$1,275
206.000.676.000	Fire Comm Donations	Decrease	(\$ 675)

Assessor: With additional cost for legal and contractual expenses for Tax Tribunal the following modification is needed:

101.209.801.000	Contractual Services	Increase	\$ 158
101.209.802.000	Reappraisal Service	Decrease	(\$ 158)

Township – Budget modification for payment of Fine Lake Dam Special Assessment:

101.801.802.000	Special Assessment	Increase	\$500
101.265.930.000	Maint. & Repairs	Decrease	(\$500)

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

Assessor Report – Joyce Foondle

- Building Permit Listing covering the last two months. Our permits are fairly consistent in numbers while other townships in the area are experiencing a big decline.
- General: The State Tax Commission has released the 2022 Inflation Rate Multiplier. The multiplier is 1.033 or a 3.3% increase in taxable value. Barry County Equalization Dept. beginning ratios for 2022 are: Agricultural 46.61 Commercial 48.14 Industrial 46.11 Residential 46.15
- Land Divisions: one split 10 acre split on Banfield Road, south of Groat Road
- Michigan Tax Tribunal: Telephonic hearing was held on Monday, Jan 3rd. Went well and are now waiting on outcome.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 47 incidents in December for a total of 490 year to date
- 30 MFR calls in November for a total of 377 year to date
- Training: Fun Drill: Dodgeball with SCBA
- Personnel changes: Jennifer Hammond new Lieutenant C4
- Current Membership: 19 active members, 2 cadets
- Department Activity: Clay and Isaac are now halfway through the Fire Academy

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is April 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- Board of Commissioners held Organizational meeting on Jan 3, 2022 approving board chairperson, vice board chairperson, Board rules, committee members and meeting schedules.
- January 4th Commissioners meeting – included Grant approval for Animal Shelter, continuing discussions on use of ARPA funds and committee making recommendations. Change in meeting times are still being considered.

New Business:

- Preliminary Budget Planning Meetings – 1st meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Old Business:

- Long Lake Ordinance Sign: I emailed Fort Custer in follow up to status of change in signage. No response at this time.
- Sleepy Hollow: We were contacted by Sharon Norton-White and she was provided with a petition form. She was going to mail out information to all residents. The wrong petition was included in the mailing that contained an error in the body of the petition. The heading listed the correct road name but the body of the letter was in error. This was noted here but should be ok to accept petitions as presented.
- Clear Lake Weed Assessment: Contact was made to our lawyer regarding the petitions and she will be able to provide a petition to be used by both townships. During a phone conversation today with PLM he indicated that there is not an estimate in place as we were told. He will not be able to accurately estimate the weed control until June when the exotic weed creating the biggest problem is growing. He is willing to come in July to present to the residents. We will go ahead and ask both assessor in Johnstown and Baltimore to begin gathering parcels included and maps.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$55,876.97 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments:

Jan. 24, 2022 the Barry County Planning Commission will be kicking off the Master Plan development process at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested on serving on the Steering Committee is encouraged to attend the meeting.

The Blue Zones Committee will be hosting a training seminar from 5:30 to 6:30 also on Jan. 24, 2022. Anyone interested in serving on the Steering Committee is also welcome to attend this seminar. RSVP by Jan. 21, 2022 as food will be provided.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor



Sheri Babcock, Clerk