

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting . April 13, 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 Deana Powell, Trustee Jeff Warren

Absent: None

Visitors: 15

Agenda: An addition is needed to the agenda to include the minutes of the Election Commission dated April 13, 2022 to the agenda. A motion was made by Warren to approve the Agenda as amended. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comments (3 minutes per person):

A resident has concerns about the condition of a few Hickory Road properties which will be addressed under New Business.

Minutes: A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 9, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Warren to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Planning Meeting & Public Hearing of March 28, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nickerson to approve the minutes of the Special Election Commission Meeting of April 13, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Earl. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Interest earned on CD investments for fiscal year 2021-2022 was \$1,051.29
- Delinquent Tax payments received from the County Treasurer this week.
- Increase in the use of the online payment option for paying property taxes this year. A total of approximately \$110,000 payments this collection period. This is up from last year's use of approximately \$85,000.

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

Budget Modifications: The following budget modifications were presented:

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|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Increase: | 101.265.850.000 Telephone | \$140.00 |
| Decrease: | 101.265.956.000 Misc. | \$140.00 |
| Increase: | 101.440.920.000 Street Lights | \$7.00 |
| Decrease: | 101.265.956.000 Misc. | \$7.00 |

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

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)

FOIA Request: Request received for information pertaining to November 3, 2020 General Election. Lawyer assisted in requesting a 10-day extension. The extension requested and approved. Response is due by April 25, 2022.

Elections: To date over 400 AV Ballots have been mailed out for the May 3, 2022 Special Election. The Preliminary and Public tests of the tabulators have been completed without any issues presenting. The May special election includes proposals for for Delton, Gull Lake and Hastings School districts.

Fire Dept: Estimate presented to repair/replace the current boiler situated in the Fire Department. The Fire Dept. would like an estimate to repair sink in bathroom.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle

- Building permits listing covering two months provided.
- Board of Review meeting second week of March
- 2022 Assessed and Taxable Values as approved by the Board of Review for 2022.
- 2022 is year for Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements.
- No land divisions
- No Michigan Tax Tribunal activity.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 31 calls in March for a total of 107 incidents year to date.
- 27 MFR in May, 81 MFR year to date.
- Training: Wildland Refresher, Severe Weather, and MFR Patient Assessment
- Personnel changes: None
- Current Membership: 18 Active, 4 cadets.
- Pancake Breakfast: Community donors acknowledged.
- Reminder: Pool Fills and Canopy Rentals no longer provided.

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is July 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- The plans to repurpose site of former Royal Coach building to housing project submitted to governor and denied due to the proximity to the factor next door.
- New appointment to Zoning Board, many boards still need volunteers willing to serve;
- Spring Solid Waste Clean-up planned for May 21 at Barry County Fairgrounds from 9:00AM-1:00PM
- Michigan Association of Counties meeting was informative.
- Possible use of ARPA funds to make much-needed Jail improvements presented.
- Outcomes of recent marijuana growers conference discussed.

Old Business:

- **Sleepy Hollow:** Petitions have been forwarded to the Assessor for review. Need to have all petitions in writing. Acceptance by phone was misunderstood, it was intended as receipt of picture of the petition. There are only a few that need to provide copies of petitions. Will be reviewed upon receipt of these petitions.

New Business:

- A township resident voiced concerns about blight-filled properties on Hickory Road where debris, wood, and trash were accumulating. Multiple residents were in attendance, providing pictures and voicing concerns over the on-going problem and lack of progress in getting better. This property along with several others are on-going violations and are being addressed by Jack Ward. The Board will look into this more with Planning & Zoning.
- Resolution #2022-04-01 Property Tax Poverty Exemptions was offered by member Powell and seconded by Warren. Roll call vote: Yeas: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl. Nays: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.
- Resolution #2022-04-02 Road Millage . ballot language for August 3, 2022 election was offered by member Warren and seconded by Powell. Roll call vote: Yeas: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl. Nays: none. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.
- Resolution #2022-04-03 Fire Millage . ballot language for the August 3, 2022 election was offered by member Powell and seconded by Warren. Roll call vote: Yeas: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl. Nays: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 27,412.38 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments: None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor



Sheri Babcock, Clerk