

# Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Special Board Meeting . May 5, 2022 . 3:00 p.m.  
Preliminary discussion of ARPA funds budgeting projects

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jeff Warren

**Visitors:** 3 (three)

**Purpose:** To gather ideas for possible projects to be considered and funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The ARPA funds can be spent upon receipt and must be obligated by December 31, 2024, but funds are not required to be used or obligated before then. Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

The township has received the first tranche payment of \$164,730.49. The second tranche payment will be about the same for a total expected sum of \$329,348.04.

A resident proposed a couple items for consideration:

- Dirt roads in the township that need to be widened. Some areas are very narrow with curves presenting unsafe conditions.
- Expansion of natural gas availability to the township

The Fire Department proposed covering the cost of several items:

- Purchase of a combined rescue tool to be transported in the MRF truck. Approximate cost of \$15,000
- EMS supplies, batteries for the auto-pulse. The four batteries need to be replaced every 2-3 years at a cost of \$800 each.
- Personal Protection gear. Four sets at a cost of \$3,500 each.

The township board proposed projects including:

- Township Water well replacement due to high nitrates and problems with water pressure in the Fire Dept. Need to produce a specification sheet and get estimates or put out bid.
- Security system for the township. Also needed for use of drop box for elections. Needs specs and estimates or bids.
- Fire Dept. boiler replacement . estimates and considerations are in process.
- Township Pavilion/park area to be used for food distributions, farmers markets, craft shows or resident picnic uses. A draft map was presented to give a basic look to include circle drive, gates entry, etc.
- Look into floor problems in the township hall/offices.

Some preliminary discuss was presented on why some of these items may not be best suited for use of ARPA funds but could be look into further or more to consider other funding options. Items of highest need include the security system, replacement of the water well and the Fire Dept. boiler. The purchase of the rescue tool which is a one-time cost item, should be considered. The pavilion/park area has a lot of interest from some of the board members. Additional information and cost would need to be explored.

**Next Step:** To be discussed at the board meeting on May 11, 2022

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

  
**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**