

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – May 11, 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: Eight (8)

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 Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 11, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting for ARPA funds of May 5, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Treasurer's report

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

Elections: May 3, 2022 Special School election was held with no issues. We have 115 walk-in voters and 350 AV voters for a total of 465. This is about a 18.7% turnout of registered voters.

Delton-Kellogg school operating millage renewal passed, Gull Lake Schools sinking fund millage renewal passed and the Hastings School Bond proposal did not pass.

The cost of this election is billed out to the three school districts. This billing is being prepared.

Ballot containers recertification will be completed on May 18, 2022. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk will attend required training through the Bureau of Elections on June 3rd. Required election inspector mid term training is also scheduled in June.

PA116

Copies of the Farmland Agreement under PA116 has been received from Norman Hammond. This application will be reviewed by Planning & Zoning at the next meeting of July 25, 2022 in the Community Room (former Hastings Library), 121 Church St., Hastings MI. The Committee of a Whole will review the application on August 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle

- Building Permits – 4 new permits
- Letters will be going out for property site visits starting with Mud Lake Road and Fruin Road.
- Nothing yet from the Dept. of Treasury regarding AMAR audit for this year.
- No land divisions
- Tax Tribunal – nothing to report.
- Briefly covered solar farm impact on our community. No revenue from panels as they most likely are exempt equipment. Land is taken out of production and could cause a decline in land values.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 31 calls in April for a total of 138 incidents year to date.
- 31 MFR in April, 100 MFR year to date.
- Training: Pump Training with Hickory Corners, no drill on Easter
- Personnel changes: None
- Current Membership: 18 Active, 4 cadets.
- Class on prescribed burns and wildland safety for Battle Creek Steam 6th graders when very well. Showed them a prescribed burn.
- Barry County if currently under a burn restriction. Use automated phone number to check status.
- Calls have been slower but the month of May has been busy again.

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

Commissioner Report – Bruce Campbell

- Appointments for boards and committees continue. Always a need for more volunteers to fill vacancy on different boards. See details on the Barry County web site.
- There will be one additional Commissioner for the City of Hastings due to redistricting.
- Contracted with Eaton County for tire disposal to be included with the May 21st disposal event held at the Barry County fairgrounds.
- Discussion on building needs for both the Jail and the Commission on Aging continue.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- **Sleepy Hollow Paving:** The remaining petitions have been received and certification by the assessor is now completed with 71.53% of record owners signing petitions in favor. The next step is to proceed to the legal process, or hold an informational meeting first. After a brief discussion, the board made the decision to hold an information meeting on June 8th at 6:30 for Q&A. A mailing will be sent out by the clerk. Once this informational meeting is held, it can be voted on to move forward at the Regular meeting later that evening.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$27,932.88 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments:

Trustee Powell reported on the Master Plan Steering committee meeting in Barry County. Working on surveys and will be attending 6 events to assist in the collection of data to be used in planning. The events include Charlton Park, Barry County Fair, Delton Founders Day, Gun Lake Parade, Orangeville Days and Hastings Summerfest.

Trustee Powell also reported on meeting with Jim McManus on current status of open complaints and will be keeping in contact with them on a regular basis. Jack Ward is off work from shoulder surgery so Jim McManus is working in the field until he returns. The township option of developing a Blight Ordinance was brought up again and may need more consideration.

Clerk Babcock also added that she received an email from the Blue Zones about holding monthly food distributions again this year in our township. They will provide staffing to facilitate and send out mailers. The board is in favor of this event.

ARPA meeting: We need to schedule the next meeting to continue the planning process. Scheduled for May 25th at 6:00 p.m. To be posted on web site and at the township.

Treasurer Nickerson added that she talked with PLM in setting up the informational meeting for Clear Lake Weed Control and tentatively scheduled it for July 13th at 6:30 p.m. just prior to our regular board meeting. It was discussed that probably 6:00 p.m. would be better as we are unsure of the number of people that may be attending and extra time may be needed.

PLM is planning to attend to provide information and answer questions. Petitions will be available at that time for signatures. Both Johnstown Township and Baltimore Township should begin gather parcel owner listing for mailings. Contact today was made with Chad VanSyckle, Baltimore Township Supervisor on this date and steps to move forward. Board approved date, confirmation will be made with PLM and Baltimore township.

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

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor



Sheri Babcock, Clerk