

# Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – August 10, 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:** Fifteen (15)

**Agenda:** An amendment is needed to add “Septic System” to old business.

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 on Winans Drive wanted to know why there has been no progress on clean up or addressing the issue of another resident bringing in stuff and then reselling it as a business.
- Our Township attorney was present and advised on working with current administration by entering a Compliance order on these cases. The issue of Blight in our township was discussed and how we may be able to move forward with legal help to improve these types of situations.
- Mill Lake Weed Treatment – a resident expressed his disapproval of the way the current weed treatment is happening on Mill Lake and wants to stop the treatment. The township attorney addressed inability to stop current special assessment and advised follow up with PLM. Resident has stated that he has contacted Andy from PLM. The township will also follow up on this complaint.
- A resident commented on the Open House for Marianne Swift, great attendance.

## **Welcome to new Township Attorney – Catherine Kaufman:**

- Catherine presented a brief introduction to the board and history of working with other townships in Barry County.

**Minutes:** Three (3) sets of minutes were presented:

- July 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting  
A motion was made by Powell to approve the July 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.
- July 12, 2022 Special Election Commission Meeting  
A motion was made by Warren to approve the July 12, 2022 Special Election Commission meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.
- July 13, 2022 Informational Meeting for Clear Lake Weed Control  
A motion was made by Warren to approve the July 13, 2022 Informational Meeting for Clear Lake Weed Control as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson**

- Property Tax collection is currently slow with over \$1 million left to collect. September 14<sup>th</sup> is the last day to pay taxes without a penalty.
- Treasurer is scheduled to attend an upcoming BSA user class.

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**

**AUG. ELECTION:** The primary election was completed without complications. Out of the total 2513 registered voters, we had 443 in person voters plus 423 AV voters for a total of 866, for a 34.5% overall turnout. Of the 443 in person voters, 25% of the in-person voters used our Voter Assisted terminals (VATS). This is the highest use in Barry County.

Local results in our township:

County Commissioner – Bruce Campbell REP – 538, 7 write-ins, DEM 25 write-in's

Precinct Delegates: Kathy Ward – 367, Daniel Allen 359, Kaylin Rhodes 336, Shawn Rhodes 334, George Hubka 328, Kathleen Allen 321. We have two Valid write-in's – Inez Hubka 3, Brenda Shinabarger-Howe 2

Road Millage Proposal – passed 537 yes, 283 No

Fire Operations Proposal – passed 570 yes, 246 No

**FOIA Requests:** Still responding to requests, very time consuming and need to have legal advice on a majority of these cases.

**Little Long Lake Public Access:** The new sign has finally been installed! Now indicates 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Daylight Saving time.

**Banfield Cemetery:** A letter was received from an out-of-state retired genealogist and historical researcher commending on the splendid condition of Banfield cemetery.

### **Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle**

- Building Permit report;
- Property visits include near completion of Bird Road, and all of Hutchinson Road has been completed. Currently working on Schreiner Road, Cooper Road. Letters will go out to Goodrich Road, North Avenue, Culver Road, Jones Road, and Holden Road to be completed next. This will take until the end of September and then will start inspections for building permits issued in 2022 and those unfinished in prior years;
- Sales Information Report;
- Land Divisions: None;
- Tax Tribunal: Nothing to report.

### **Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik**

- 35 calls in July, with a total of 254 incidents year to date;
- 25 MFR calls in July, for a total of 161 MFR calls year to date;
- Training: Water rescue, MFR Stroke protocols;
- Personnel Changes: None
- Current Membership: 20 Active, 1 Cadet
- Community Activity: Participated in National Night Out

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

**Commissioner Report – Bruce Campbell**

- Updates on retirements from COA, Animal Shelter, and new appointments to positions;
- Updates on Blue Zones food distributions, Jail conditions, vacant properties;
- Delton’s Founders Day held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 14<sup>th</sup>.;
- Thornapple Assisted Living Center.

**Old Business:**

**Sleepy Hollow Dr. Paving:** Ready to start legal process with Resolution #1 at the next special meeting to be held August 31, 2022. Then we will proceed with the first public hearing to be held on Sept. 14, 2022. Information and review was provided by our Township Attorney, Catherine Kaufman. The necessary notices and publications will be done after Resolution #1 is signed at August 31, 2022 meeting.

**Clear Lake Weed Control:** Petitions have been turned in and are in the hands of both assessors for Johnstown Township and Baltimore Township. It appears they have worked hard in getting signatures but not sure if they were able to get Battle Creek Public Schools to sign. Waiting for percentages to be returned from assessors.

**Mill Lake Sewer:** Petitions were provided at previous meeting. Nothing has been received up to this point.

**Septic System Pumping:** No response to date. Need to make follow-up call.

**New Business:** Budget Modifications and Fund Transfers

**Fund Transfers:**

711.000.001.000	CEM Pooled Cash account to Capital Outlay	-7,566.55
711.000.999.000	Transfer Out	+7,566.55
970.000.001.000	To Capital Outlay Cash Account	+7,566.55
970.000.699.000	Transfer In to use for Road Repair	-7,566.55
970.000.001.000	From Capital Outlay Cash Account	-13,845.00
970.000.999.000	Transfer Out to GF CEM Capital Outlay	+13,845.00

**Budget Modification:**

CEM Fund

711.000.999.000	Add transfer out to use for Union Road Repair	+7,566.55
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Mill Lake Weed

536.536.801.000	Fine Lake Expenditures – increase budget	+1,000.00
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Elections

101.191.702.000	Election Workers-Salaries	+3,000.00
101.191.715.000	Payroll Taxes	+ 210.00
101.215.703.000	Clerk - Other salaries	- 3,000.00
101.215.715.000	Payroll Taxes	- 210.00

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

**Pay Invoices and Payroll:**

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$47,838.26 as presented. Seconded by Warren. ayes. Motion carried.

**Additional Citizen's Comments:**

- A resident had a question about the clearing going on Little Long Lake and whether DNR was involved.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Attested to by:  
Barbara Earl  
Supervisor**



**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**

APPROVED