

# Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – Oct. 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 Deana Powell, Trustee Jeff Warren

**Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Seventeen (17)

**Agenda:** An addition is need to the agenda to #3 Rental Agreement under new business.

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

## Public Comments (3 minutes per person):

- A resident wanted to know if the township had moved forward with consideration of a Blight Ordinance.
- Discussion on court hearing over Winans Drive.
- A resident attended the Commissioners Meeting and stated that they are not interested in pursuing a county-wide Blight ordinance.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of Sept. 14, 2022, the special meeting of September 14, 2022, the special meeting of September 28, 2022, the special meetings of the Election Commission of October 5, 2022 and October 10, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- CD's interest rates are very slowly going up a little.

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

**Nov. Election:** Preliminary Testing completed on 10-05-22  
Public Testing completed on 10-10-22  
To date we have sent out 550 ballots.

## Budget Modifications:

### Elections

101.191.861.000	Mileage	+200.00
101.191.956.000	Misc. Expense	- 200.00

### Fire Dept.

206.000.750.000	Transfer in from ARPA for Rescue Tool	+12,592.00	Income
206.336.970.000	Capital Outlay – Rescue Tool	+12,592.00	Expense

## **Clerk’s Report – Sheri Babcock (continued) – Budget Modifications:**

### **Mill Lake SAD**

536.536.801.000 Increase Expenditures + 1,000.00

### **Clear Lake SAD**

543.543.802.000 Legal Expenditures + 4,000.00

543.543.702.000 Admin expenses + 4,000.00

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

## **Assessor’s Report – Joyce Foondle – Excused absence**

- Permit listing
- Property letters sent to Goodrich Rd., North Ave. & Holden Rd. Culver Rd. and Jones Rd. to follow.
- Next focus will be inspection of outstanding building permits. Letters have been sent to taxpayers with outstanding permits.
- L-4017 Sales Study received from Barry County. 12-month study shows a final ratio of 38.55%. Assessed value should be at 50%. Beginning ratio for 2023 will be 43.01% which equates to a 14% increase overall.
- No land divisions
- Tax Tribunal – nothing to report.

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

- 43 incidents in September for a total of 332 incidents year to date.
- 33 MFR in September, 216 MFR year to date.
- Training: School Bus Extrication, MFR Blood borne pathogens
- Personnel changes: One leave of absence. One resignation. New Cadet: Amos Hicks Questions to Amos by Trustee Jeff Warren
- Current Membership: 18 Active, 1 On leave, 2 cadets.
- Department Activity: 911 Memorial with Boy Scouts. October is Fire Prevention Month. Fire Dept. does install smoke detectors free of charge. This is possible because of the United Way and the Pennock Foundation.

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is January 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

## **Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell – Absent**

### **Township Auditor – Jeff Rood**

The audit was conducted at the Township Hall on June 20<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Auditor’s Report dated July 18, 2022 gave the Township an Unmodified Opinion (clean). The Township is in an overall healthy position. Handouts were presented to the Board. The chart of accounts update will be need to be completed this year.

Supervisor Barb Earl expressed compliments to the Clerk and Treasurer for doing a great job.

## **New Business:**

**Banfield Cemetery:** The Township is proposing the purchase of an additional 6.25 acres surrounding Banfield Cemetery. We have an estimate from Brian Reynolds, from Wightman in the amount of \$2,990.00 to survey the cemetery and the additional proposed land purchase. A motion was made by Powell to approve the survey of Banfield Cemetery as proposed. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**New Business (continued):**

**Clear Lake Special Assessment:** The next meeting for Clear Lake Special Assessment for Aquatic Plant Control is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Baltimore Township.

**Hall Rental Agreement:** Revisions made to agreement including time limitation for prior day set up and public smoking rules revised. Revision date is 10-12-22. A motion was made by Powell to approve the Hall Rental Agreement revisions as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- Sleepy Hollow: Nothing new. Final notices of assessment have been mailed out.
- Resident, Tom Allen, of Lacey Road, concerns over truck traffic. He has attended a commissioner's meeting and was told that the township needed to contact the Road Commission. Barbara Earl stated that she would do that. Tom stated that Assyria Township would be in agreement with the Road Commission putting signs up to limit truck traffic on Lacey Road in their township. The Board will need to do more research on this subject.

**Pay Invoices and Payroll:**

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$59,353.53 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.


**Additional Citizen's Comments:**

Resident John Howe reminded everyone that the Dowling Library Celebration event is October 22, 2022 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

A resident reminded everyone to read up on the proposals and vote in the upcoming election.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

  
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**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**