

# Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – Nov. 16, 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

A motion was made by Powell to excuse the absence of Trustee Warren as requested. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Absent:** Trustee Jeff Warren--excused

**Visitors:** Nineteen (19)

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Powell to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **Public Comments (3 minutes per person):**

- Resident John Howe from Winans Drive, wanted to know if the Township had made any progress toward consideration of an anti-blight ordinance and when that might be on the agenda. Supervisor Earl stated that it would be on the agenda next month. The Township does have a couple sample ordinances for review.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2022, the Special Meeting for Clear Lake Aquatic Weed Control of October 12, 2022, the Special Meeting for Sleepy Hollow Drive Road Improvement of October 12, 2022, the Special Meeting of the Election Commission of October 24, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- Winter Property Tax bills will be mailed out the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December.
- Review of Township millage and the revenue provided by these taxes.
- Three Drain Assessments: Butler Lake, Fineview, Clear Lake. Weed assessments on Fine Lake and Mill Lake. Road Assessment on Sleepy Hollow.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Babcock. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock**

**Mack Electric:** We have a prior approved estimate for electrical work in the amount of \$4,500.00. We had Added an additional outlet in the Hall and repaired the non-working parking lot lights. This Increased this cost by \$450.00. All emergency lighting signs have been replaced, front entry lights converted to LED and repaired, Flag pole lighting added, Fire side parking lot lights replacement of photo eye and re-lamping lights, three additional circuits added to hall and three additional outlets added above table height for rentals. Adjustment to timers for outside parking lot lights.

A motion to approve increase in expense to Mack Electric by \$450.00 for a total of \$4,950.00 was made by Powell and seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)**

**Nov. Election:** Great turn out – We had 623 AV voters and 915 in-person voters for a total of 1,538. With 2,538 registered voters, this is a 61% turnout. We had one small glitch of a paper VAT ballot jam inside the Tabulator but was able to clear this and had no other issues. It started out a busy day with the parking lot full first thing in the morning and continued to be busy until end of night.

**Bank Transfers:**

101.000.003.017	ARPA Account	-357.00	For Pavilion Permit
101.000.001.000	GL Account	+357.00	For Pavilion Permit
101.000.003.017	ARPA Account	-12,592.00	For Rescue Tool
101.000.001.000	GL Account	+12,592.00	For Rescue Tool
101.000.001.000	GF Cash Account	1,987.50	From GL to Fire
101.900.999.000	Transfer Out	1,987.50	Transfer Out – security system
206.000.001.000	Fire – Cash Account	1,987.50	ARPA funds – security system
206.000.999.000	Transfer In	1,987.50	ARPA funds – security system

**Budget Modifications:**

101.000.501.000	Federal Grant (income)	357.00	Book income to Fed Grant
101.299.970.000	Twp Other – Capital Outlay	357.00	Pavilion Permit
101.000.550.000	State Grant – Elec Security	693.67	Election Security Grant submitted
101.191.726.000	Elections – Office Supplies	693.67	Election Security expenses
101.000.574.000	State Shared Rev. Sharing	30,000.00	Increase Budget
101.191.702.000	Elections – Salaries	1,335.00	Increase expense – to cover the year
101.191.726.000	Elections – Office supply	74.00	Increase expense
101.215.703.000	Clerk – Other Salaries	2,000.00	Increase expense
101.801.802.000	Drains – Butler Lake	444.00	Increase expense

**Fire Dept.**

206.336.801.000	Contractual Service	2,262.50	Move to Equipment Repair/Maint.
206.336.930.000	Equipment Repair/Maint.	2,262.50	Move to correct account
206.000.501.000	Federal Grant – book income	1,987.50	ARPA funds – security system
206.336.970.000	Capital Outlay-Security Syst.	1,987.50	ARPA funds – security system

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

## Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle

- Permit listing attached for review
- Tentative ratio for Agricultural class for 2023 has been received but not fully reviewed. The beginning ratio for 2023 in residential will be 43.01%
- Fine Lake Association – did not file for property tax exemption. Explained that they did not file because it was explained that they did not receive this paperwork from a previous association official. They were assessed this year and did receive a tax bill. The paperwork that was missing was provided and has been reviewed. Original determination was that they did not qualify for the exemption. Information provided for clarification of exempt status. To be fair to the association, the Assessor would like to have Jason ter Avest, attorney with Mumford Schubel Law Office review the information supplied by the Association.
- The Assessor would also like to clarify by board approval, that her desire is to continue to use Mumford Schubel Law Office for her tax matters. A motion was made by Powell to approve the continued use of Mumford Schubel Law Office for the Assessor's tax matters that may arise. Seconded by Earl. All ayes. Motion carried.
- Land divisions: A land division has been received for 2 parcels located in Section 5 on Banfield Rd, north of Pifer Road. Parcel A is 3.79 acres with home located at 10245 Banfield Rd., Parcel B 3.44 acres located south of the home with outbuildings and the remainder 111 acres of vacant farmland.
- Tax Tribunal – Nothing to report

## Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 21 calls for the month of October for a total of 353 calls year to date.
- 10 MFR calls in October. MFR calls year to date 226.
- Training: FIT testing, Drafting. Fire Academy Refresher by Jim Stevens, Critical Stress, debriefing.
- Personnel changes: One leave of absence, two resignations, one retired.
- Current Membership: 15 Active members, one on leave, 2 cadets.
- Department Activity: None

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

## Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell - Absent

### New Business:

1. Electrical Bid Estimates – request to move these estimates to ARPA meeting to consider use of ARPA funds. Next ARPA meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
2. Sound System – Move this to ARPA meeting.
3. Multi-Media System – Move this to ARPA meeting.

### Old Business:

1. Clear Lake Weed Control: After the last public hearing, it was brought to our attention some concerns over the SAD for Baltimore Township. After reviewing this information with our lawyer, it was decided that we need to step back and redo Resolution #2. We will need to do two publications and send out notices to residents. At this point, it looks like we will be setting up a meeting in January 2023. The decision to move the placement on property taxes will be deferred until Winter 2023 due to time constraints.
2. Tom Allen – Lacey Road. Supervisor Barb Earl stated that Jake from the Road Commission will be here at the December board meeting to discuss options for truck traffic on Lacey Road.
3. Mill Lake Sewer – We have a draft ready of the petition for the proposed sewer on Mill Lake. We need to submit this to the lawyer for her review.

**Old Business: (continued):**

4. Sleepy Hollow: All public hearings and meetings for the SAD for Sleepy Hollow Paving are now completed and the "Notice of Assessment" have been mailed to residents. The paving work for this project will be completed by Barry County Road Commission.

A motion was made by Powell to authorize the Paving Project for Sleepy Hollow be completed by the Barry County Road Commission at an approximate cost of \$58,804.00. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Pay Invoices and Payroll:**

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$70,134.80 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Additional Citizen's Comments:**

- Resident Amy Case presented additional questions on the Fine Lake Association and the time frame in hearing back from the lawyer. Assessor Foondle explained the process and explained that she would probably hear back from the lawyer in approximately a week.
- Resident John Crumb questioned where the paperwork was mailed and that anyone can change the mailing address. The information was provided that the address change can only be done through the Assessor, not just the Township office. The paperwork was sent to the address on record and it was at least eventually received by the Association.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Seconded by Babcock. All ayes. Motion carried.

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



**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**