

Johnstown Township Minutes

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

Regular Board Meeting – April 12, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: none.

Visitors: Twenty-Nine (29)

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):

- Introduction & welcome to Annie Link, representing Swiss Lane Farm. Thanks for providing refreshments and attending our meeting. Swiss Lane's main farm is located in Alto, Michigan.
- A resident voiced concern about the impact the solar fields will have on residents living nearby.
- A resident voiced concern regarding loss of farm land to solar fields. Another attendee commented that the less productive farm land is targeted for solar field placement.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Powell to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2023.
- Special Board Meeting & Public Hearing & ARPA Funds Meetings of March 22, 2023
- Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting of April 3, 2023.

Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Rate of return on the Township CD's is higher than it's been in a long time.
- Summer tax bills will be mailed by July 1, 2023.

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

Chart of Account Changes:

- BSA continues work to finalize updates. Charge of \$500 for additional work pending.

Elections:

- As previously reported, Gull Lake Community Schools/KRESA residents ONLY consolidated to Barry Township for the May election only.
- Hastings Schools will be on the ballot in August.

MTA Conference:

- Four (4) board members are attending the Michigan Township Association conference next week, therefore the Township offices will be closed. Offices reopen Monday, April 24.

Road Commission Resolution:

Resolution 2023-04-01:

Barry County Road Commission and Johnstown Township Five-Year Plan (Years 2023 to 2027). Resolution offered by Board Member Warren to replace previously adopted Resolution 2023-03-06. Support by Board member Powell.
Roll Call vote: Ayes: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl. Nays: none.
Supervisor declared resolution adopted.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle--Absent

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- March calls for service: 36 calls, including 26 MFR calls. Year-to-Date: 93 calls.
- Trainings completed include Fire School Refresher & CPR.
- Personnel changes: none.
- Current Membership: 17 Active members; 1 cadet;
- Department Activity: Two members successfully passed Fire Academy exams. Congratulations!
- Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting: July 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM
- Pancake Breakfast: April 29, 2023, from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell- Absent

Barry County Recycling:

- The Recycling Coordinator shared that Household Hazard Waste (HHW) recycling days (HHW, tires, and electronics) are planned for June 3 and September 23 from 9AM to 1PM at the Barry County Fairgrounds. Additionally, electronic items can be recycled at the Nashville Transfer Station on July 15.

Old Business:

1. Mill Lake Sewer: Petitions are available.
2. Township Blight Problems: The Board reiterated its commitment to continue the lengthy process to draft an ordinance that will address the health and safety concerns represented in our Township. As with any ordinance, the process will include publicized public hearings prior to adoption allowing residents' concerns to be made known.

New Business:

- Dowling Library: The Dowling Library Librarian, Andy, invited residents to visit "Best Cellars," the ongoing book sale in the Library basement, in addition to the many other exciting things happening at the Library including free coffee and once monthly live music.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Warren to pay the bills in the amount of \$17,892.30, as modified. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Powell to adjourn. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Next Special Board Meeting: April 26, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting: May 10, 2023, at 6:30 PM

**Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor**



Sheri Babcock, Clerk