

Johnstown Township Minutes

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

Regular Board Meeting – August 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: None

Visitors:

Agenda: Two additions to the agenda is needed under Minutes – add Special Meeting dated August 14, 2023 and add Estimates for Bollards 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): None

Minutes: A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023, the Special Board Meeting of the Election Commission of July 17, 2023 and the Special Board Meeting of August 14, 2023. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- Property Tax payments are due by Sept. 14, 2023 to avoid 1% penalty.

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

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock

August Special Election: The August Special Election held in the township fairly slow but went well. There were 88 walk-in voters and 214 Absentee voters for a total of 302 votes.

Hastings Schools proposal received 91 "yes" votes and 178 "no" votes. Failing in our township, over-all the proposal passed.

Gull Lake School proposal received 12 "yes" votes and 21 "no" votes. Also failing in our township, over-all the proposal passed.

The billing for this election is being prepared and will be submitted to the County.

A number of FOIA requests and a notice of retention were received on Election day.

Presidential Primary Election:

This election be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. We will have 9 days of early voting beginning on Saturday, February 17th through Sunday, February 25th. The time of day is yet to be determined.

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)

Presidential Primary Election (cont.):

Because the Presidential Primary poses the unique requirement for selection of ballot type, 60 days prior to the election, the clerk must send out the presidential primary ballot selection form to all permanent mail ballot voters. If the voter does not return the form at least 40 days before the election, the clerk must notify the voter via phone, email or text message.

Ballot Box (Kiosk):

As required by BOE, we now have a new ballot box (Kiosk) as required. We will be getting this installed soon.

November Election:

Yesterday was the last day to submit proposals for the November election so it appears that we will not be required to hold a November election.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle (excused absence)

- Supervisor Earl announced that Joyce received a perfect audit assessment report with no “corrective action plan” required. Joyce was also awarded the “Legacy Award” for her outstanding service to the township.
- Joyce is absence tonight due to attendance at a training conference. The August Assessor's report has been provided for the board.
- Building Permits: 4 permits
- General: Have not received the Commercial & Agricultural appraisal study yet. Assessor, Joyce and Deputy Assessor are now receiving the study information from the Equalization Department.
- Land Divisions: None
- Michigan Tax Tribunal: Nothing to report.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 38 total calls for the month of July. Total calls for 2023: 259
- 24 of the 38 calls for the month of July were MFR calls. Total MFR calls for 2023: 156
- Training completed: Hazmat Trailer, MFR peds
- Personnel changes: 1 resignation, Kevin Todd
- Current Membership: 15 Active members; 1 on leave, 1 cadet;
- Department Activity: None;
- 1st annual Golf Outing/Fundraiser is schedule for Sept. 16th at Cedar Creek Golf Course;
- Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting: October 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- Review of recent BOC business included but not limited to: Adopt New Master Plan, Approve resolutions expenditures for maintenance and repair of the Lake Level Project for Crystal Lake, 2023-24 Child Care Plan, Airport purchase of mowing equipment, Approval for Register of Deeds to convert historical paper records to permanent record and the Property Sale and easement agreements related to the property located next to FOC building.
- Commission Campbell wanted to thank Greg Moore of Consumer Energy for being here tonight.
- A resident wanted to know where things stand in hiring a new Enforcement Officer. They are holding interviews but no hire as of now.

Old Business:

Blight Ordinance: A special meeting was held today for review of the ordinance, review of procedures and policies. The next meeting is scheduled for

Bristol Lake Channel: The first public hearing was done today, August 16th at 5:30 p.m. The next hearing will be published in the newspapers and notices will be mailed to all parcel owners. Expected date is: September 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

New Business:

Farmer's Market: The Farmer's Market & Craft Show guidelines and application are ready for Board review and approval. These applications and guidelines will be mailed to vendors this week. Over 20 vendors have contacted us for tables. A Food truck is also scheduled to be here. Vendors are still encouraged to sign up.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the Farmer's Market & Craft Show guidelines and application as presented. Seconded by Warren.

Land Clearing: We have an estimate for land clearing and seeding from Gilbert Land Management in the amount of \$2,148.40 for around the playground and pavilion area.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the estimate as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried. Trustee Warren is declined to vote due to possible conflict of interest.

Bollards: We have two estimates for Bollards for blocking walkways at each end.

Shouldice Industrial Manufactures & Contractors: \$6,000.00

Gilbert Land Management: \$4,603.40

A motion was made by Powell to accept the estimate from Gilbert Land Management for \$4,603.40. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried. Trustee Warren is declined to vote due to possible conflict of interest.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$56,074.56, as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Five-minute recess

Consumer Energy:

A special presentation was scheduled for Consumers Energy to present information on the Swiss Lane Farm bio-digester and the planned solar energy in our area.

The public was encouraged to write the questions and submit them in the box in the back. We will go through these questions and allow Consumers Energy to respond.

Consumers Power presented a slide presentation and verbal information to the public.

Consumer Energy (continued):

Questions submitted by the public were read and responded to by Consumers Energy.

Information materials were made available to the Township Board.

Public comments were allowed

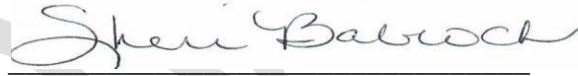
Additional Public Comments (3 minutes per person): None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Warren to adjourn. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

**Next Special Board Meeting for review of Section 218 Agreement & Windfall Elimination Provision
August 28, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.**

Next Regular Board Meeting: September 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

**Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor**



Sheri Babcock, Clerk