

Johnstown Township Minutes

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

Regular Board Meeting – October 11, 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: Fifteen (15)

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):

- A resident stated that she was pleased that the township decided to use ARPA funds to build the pavilion. She thought the 1st Farmers Market & Craft Show was a huge success and the community support was incredible.

Minutes: A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 13, 2023, and the Special Board Meeting of September 13, 2023, for SAD for Bristol Lake Channel. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

- September 14th was the last day to pay summer property taxes without a penalty. Taxes can still be paid at the township until after the winter taxes are completed but will incur a penalty.
- 93% of all property taxes have been paid.
- The winter tax bills will be mailed out in the first week of December.

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

218 AGREEMENT: The clerk just received additional information on the process of the holding the employee referendum this afternoon. The referendum requires a 90-day notice to hold the vote. Due to the timeframe of year-end preparation of W-2's, a notice was prepared immediately and included with each paycheck prepared for today. This would put the vote on the January board meeting day. More information will be provided in the coming months.

ELECTIONS: Next training date for early voting is October 18, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING – The Sept. 12th BOC meeting was attended by the Supervisor and the Clerk. We stated that we wanted to be involved with the Ordinance process concerning Solar Energy. Our Township Letter that was previously presented to the Planning Commission was provided for the Commissioners.

An additional statement was made regarding the replacement of the County Clerk being made as we are entering into unprecedented changes in the election process. Also expressed our Township's concern over having no Enforcement Officer in place at the County and the detrimental effect this has on our township.

We did not attend today's BOC meeting as it was the Annual Meeting on the Budget. The next Board of Commissioners Meeting is October 24, 2023.

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)

ACCOUNTING: The Change of Chart of Accounts, year-end audit adjusting entries, and year end closing are completed for last fiscal year.

Barry Community Foundation Grant: We are submitting a Healthy Community Grant for raised garden beds, and a utility shed.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS	ACCOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
TWP. 101.000.665.000	INTEREST INCOME		+1000.00
TRUSTEES			
101.101.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-1 st Qtr.	255.44	
101.101.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-2 ND Qtr.	263.14	
101.101.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-3 rd Qtr.	300.63	
101.101.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-4 th Qtr.	162.36	
CLERK			
101.215.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-1 st Qtr.	994.30	
101.215.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-2 ND Qtr.	1,024.12	
101.215.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-3 rd Qtr.	1,024.12	
101.215.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-4 th Qtr.	631.83	
TREASURER			
101.253.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-1 st Qtr.	255.44	
101.253.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-2 ND Qtr.	263.14	
101.253.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-3 rd Qtr.	300.63	
101.253.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-4 th Qtr.	569.10	
SUPERVISOR			
101.171.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-1 st Qtr.	255.44	
101.171.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-2 ND Qtr.	263.14	
101.171.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-3 rd Qtr.	300.63	
101.171.715.000	PAYROLL TAX-4 th Qtr.	422.01	
ADDITIONAL PAYROLL LIABILITY			
101.000.229.000	1 st Qtr.	2,804.74	
101.000.299.000	2 nd Qtr.	2,888.93	
101.000.299.000	3 rd Qtr.	2,926.42	
101.000.299.000	4 th Qtr.	1,785.30	
1 ST , 2 ND , 3 RD , QUARTER 941 TAX ADJUST PER 218 AGREEMENT and 4 th Qtr. Employer contribution			
FIRE 206.000.501.000	FED GRANT ARPA		6,027.14
206.336.496.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	6,027.14	

ADJUST FOR FEDERAL GRANT – ARPA

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle – Kara Dougherty

- Kara Dougherty, Deputy Assessor is in the interim process of taking over for Joyce Foondle as Assessor beginning October 1, 2023.
- Kara read her first letter of report with remarks on Joyce being a great role model and mentor along with mention of her many accomplishments in her career.
- Kara was recently elected as the Michigan Assessor's Association Board of Directors District II representative for southwest Michigan.
- Building Permits: 4 new permits
- General: Building permit inspection season is upon us, so letters will be going into the mail soon.
- Land Divisions: 1 request on Culver Rd.
- Kara now has remote access and is happy to help. Phone: 616-299-6553. The township phone will soon be set up to transfer you directly to her number.
- Michigan Tax Tribunal: Nothing to report.

Fire Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik

- 25 total calls for the month of September. Total calls for 2023: 322
- 19 of the 25 calls for the month of September were MFR calls. Total MFR calls for 2023: 205
- Training completed: Combined Drill with Bedford, MFR
- Personnel changes: One on military leave, One new candidate for employment: Jalen Simmons has been interviewed, passed physical, pending results of drug screening. Questioned by Trustee Warren on why he wants to work on the Fire Dept. here in Johnstown Twp.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the hiring of Jalen Simmons contingent on favorable drug screen. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

- Current Membership: 15 Active members; 2 on leave, 1 cadet;
- Department Activity: 1st annual Golf Outing/Fundraiser held at Cedar Creek Golf Course went very well. Thank you to everyone that participated and made donations. October is Fire Prevention Month. Michigan Equipment Grant was awarded at \$10,000 for purchase of Fire gear.
- The Fire Dept. offers installation of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as a free service. The process takes about a week to complete. Call for details.

Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting: January 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Report – Bruce Campbell

- Commission on Aging (COA) relocation process
- Review of many appointments to various committees. Resolution to honor Pam Palmer, County Clerk, after 28 years of dedication and hard work at the county.
- Dar Leaf presented Barry County Sheriff's Office Annual report
- Resolution Pledging the Full Faith and Credit of the County for payment of Pine Lake SAD.
- Delton Oktoberfest to be held on October 14, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Bands. Hay rides. Proceeds to help with cost of new roof for Post 422 and Senior Mystery trip.

Questions and Comments:

- A resident wanted to know if the County has a replacement for the Planning & Zoning Enforcement officer. A: Not yet.
- Trustee Warren stated that he attended the Waste and Recycle offered at the Fair grounds. The process went very well, he was highly impressed.

Old Business:

- Blight Ordinance: We would like to schedule another special meeting for further discussion. Thursday, September 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

New Business:

- Parks & Rec Grant: Additional grant funds of \$7,500.00 could be awarded for our playground grant if we are able to provide something additional. We propose adding back in the two pieces of equipment included in the initial proposal to include the Spinner and Maypole. The cost estimate is \$13,888.00 with the grant paying \$7,500 for a commitment of \$6,388.00 from the township.

A motion was made by Warren to accept this proposal contingent on the grant. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

- Rental of the porta toilet – initially we proposed a part-year rental but we are seeing it used frequently and may want to consider a year-round rental. The cost if \$130.00 per month, serviced weekly. Trustee ask why it wasn't ADA compliant. The company would not rent an ADA-compliant unit on an extended rental agreement. We could look for another company for options. Trustee Powell stated she would look into more options.
- Pavilion use – Do we want to consider rental or retain the first come, first served option? At this time, it was decided to continue on first come, first served option.
- Farmers Market and Craft Show dates for 2024. We would like to have a combined Farmer's Market/Craft show and park dedication/Ice Cream Social. We would like to keep dates consistent with the second Saturday of the month in July, August and September. July would be changed to July 20th, August 10th and Sept. 14th, 2024. We would like the Fire Dept. to display trucks. Consumers Energy might be able to help with some of the cost of this event.

Additional Public Comments (3 minutes per person):


- Consumers Energy is aware of the House and Senate bills to preempt local authority on location and permitting of utility-scale wind and solar facilities that was discussed earlier. Either way this goes, Consumers Energy still wants to partner and work with the local townships.

Pay Invoices: A motion was made by Warren to pay the invoices in the amount of \$50,154.87 as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Warren to adjourn. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting: November 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

**Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor**



Sheri Babcock, Clerk