

# Johnstown Township Minutes

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

Regular Board Meeting – June 12, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

**Absent:** none

**Visitors:** 22

**Agenda:** Motion by Powell to approve the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comments (3 minutes per person):** A Baltimore resident shared various campaign events for a local candidate.

A Commission on Aging (COA) representative shared COA's mission and the services available for Johnstown Township residents. Also highlighted the upcoming millage request that is strictly for services, not any facilities.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Warren to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- Summer Tax bills are being prepared and will arrive first week of July. Summer tax bills include County Operating, and SET (State Education Tax) line items.
- Currently one property in the Township up for sale as a result of tax foreclosure. Historically, the Township has not exercised its right to purchase a tax sale property.
- Motion by Powell to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock**

- **August Election:** Election inspector training will be held June 17 and 19 in Hastings. Clerk and Deputy Clerk recertification training June 13.
  - Ballots: After candidate proofing of ballots, the August ballots are now at the printer. Delivery expected to Clerk by June 22 for distribution to those who have requested an Absent Voter Ballot.
  - Absent Voters (AV): Applications for AV ballots are being sent this week to those on the Permanent AV list. The AV List will be phased out after the November 2024 Election. In future elections, only those who have requested to be placed on the "Permanent Ballot" list will automatically receive an AV ballot.
  - Voters in possession of the AV ballot have several options for returning their ballots by mail, in person, during early voting, or the ballot drop box.
  - Early Voting will run every day July 27 through August 4 from 8:30am-4:30pm for those who want to vote in person, or insert their AV ballot into the tabulator.
- **Audit:** Auditors completed their work in just two days, although scheduled for three.

### **Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock, cont.**

- **Website:** Awaiting mockup and draft logo design from vendor. Domain name change to “JohnstownTwp.gov” still in process due to backlog with granting authority.
- **Mobile Markets:** from 2:30-3:30pm the following Wednesdays: July 3, August 7, September 4, and October 2.
- **Farmers Market:** Several donations have been received for our July 20 Community Celebration/Farmers Market/Craft Show/Ice Cream Social.
- **Community Garden:** Progress being made to get this started.
- **Winans Drive Special Assessment:** Petitions have been received and will be reviewed by the Assessor. List of included parcels to be reviewed.

### **Assessor's Report – Michele Story**

- Organizing Summer field work and mailing notices to residents soon who will be visited.
- Scheduling July Board of Review (BOR) dates soon.

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

- 19 total calls for the month of May. Total calls for 2024: 150
- 11 MFR calls for the month of May. Total MFR calls for 2024: 106.
- Training: MFR training; patient assessment.
- Personnel changes: one retirement. Cadet Candidate Frank Hicks was interviewed by Trustee Warren. Motion by Warren to approve Frank Hicks as a Cadet effective June 12. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.
- Current Membership: 17 Active members; 1 on personal leave, 2 cadets.
- Department Activity:
  - Hickory Corners Memorial Day Parade.
  - Hickory Corners Bible Church Mud Run.
  - Golf Outing fundraiser is set for July 27, 2024, at Marywood Golf Club. Seeking sponsors and teams. Sign up sheets available at tonight's meeting or by contacting Chief Jozwik.
- Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting: July 1, 2024 at 6:00pm.

### **County Commissioner Report –Bruce Campbell**

Commissioner Campbell presented recent actions by the County Commissioners, resolutions adopted, agreements entered, committee appointments, insurance decisions, and expected staffing changes.

He also asked for input on the Local Solar Ordinance, specifically on set backs, reiterating that if set backs are increased, the project will require additional acres.

### **Old Business:**

- Sylvan Court Special Assessment: Paving is complete.
- Valpine Drive Special Assessment: residents working on getting signatures.
- Roof: need estimates.
- Pavilion Use: Sample use agreements have been gathered from other Townships. Trustee Warren asked Board to review agreements prior to next meeting. Clerk Babcock shared that signs with hours have been posted.
- Community Gathering/Farmers Market/Craft Show will take place July 20, 2024, from 10am-3pm.

### **New Business:**

- none.

**Pay Invoices & Payroll:** Motion by Powell to pay invoices in the amount of \$122,552.23 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- A resident announced their candidacy for Johnstown Township Supervisor and reminded those in attendance to get out and vote.
- Another resident announced their candidacy for Johnstown Township Supervisor.
- Invitation to the Gas & Steam Engine Show at Charlton Park on July 12-13 extended by a resident.
- Our County Commissioner complimented the Township on the park and mentioned it is receiving high praise from many in the county.
- A resident expressed the need to edge-fill the walking path in order to mow more effectively. Also requested spraying for ticks.
- Guest in attendance inquired about how to reserve the pavilion. Board responded that we are considering whether to allow reservations or keep it first come first serve.
- Resident extended an invitation to attend the monthly meetings of the Barry County Republicans, held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7pm at The Jefferson.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting: July 1, 2024.**

**Next Regular Board Meeting: July 8, 2024.**

**Attested to by:  
Barbara Earl  
Supervisor**



**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**