

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – Nov. 14, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Supervisor Barbara Earl, Clerk Sheri Babcock, Treasurer Karmen Nickerson
Trustee Deana Powell

Absent: Jeff Warren, Trustee. A motion was made Powell to excuse Jeff Warren from the November 14, 2018 Board meeting. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors: Seven (7)

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):

- A resident remarked that he appreciates the improvements being made to the Township's website.
- A Delton Kellogg honor student was in to observe a township meeting and inquired about plastic recycling in our township. The Board replied that this has been explored in the past, but did not move forward due staffing needs and problems that other townships have experienced. It was stated that maybe we could consider a scheduled event, i.e., once or twice a year as opposed to a full time recycle center.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Oct 12, 2018 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Seconded by Earl. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Karmen Nickerson

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

Winter Tax Bills:

- West Shore Paving: one more year to collect.
- Fine Lake Weed – 2019 is the last year for treatment under the current Special Assessment agreement.
- To continue treatments, the hearings will have to be done to renew the Special Assessment for a three-year time period as the Special Assessment District expires in 2023. After review of estimated costs and account balance, the current year installment was adjusted to a lower amount.
- Point & Pay is available to make tax payments through BS&A web site. Many additional features including a mobile app, individual account set up with customized options including text messages, Auto pay options, installments payments, etc.

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock

November 6, 2018 General Election

- Great turnout – 1418 of 2231 voters. 64% 405 Absentee voter ballots sent out, 399 returned. 18% of voters used absentee ballots.
- VAT was used by 178 voters or 17% of total walk in voters.
- Election went very smoothly. On our way to the County by 10:30 p.m.

Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)
November 6, 2018 General Election

- Election inspectors are doing a great job being team members.
- Every election the State audits 12 precincts and the County audits three. We were selected for a county audit.
- Election supplies were hit very hard. These supplies will need to be replenished before the end of this fiscal year because it is probably that we will have a May election which places the need for supplies in March. We will need to replace printed AV envelopes, mailing envelopes and secrecy sleeves for use in the polling place.
- One budget modification is needed at this time to cover expenses. This will only move money from Clerk office supplies to Election office supply. We may need additional money moved into election Account if we receive a billing for the test desk. This cost is usually between \$700 to \$900 range.

Proposed Budget Amendment:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 101.265.970.000 | Clerk – office supply | -1,000 |
| 101.191.970.000 | Election – office supply | +1,000 |
| No change to budget totals | | |

Motion was made by Powell to approve the proposed budget amendments as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

FOIA Request

- no response to date.

Township Audit

- Final audit report is completed and copies are included for board members.

Building and Equipment:

- Furnace in the hall. Thermostat was shorted out by mice chewing wires. Required replacement of all wiring under the unit. This unit needs to be in a frame off the ground or we will continue to have this type of problem. Franklin Holwerda is preparing an estimate on this repair. Expected to see this next week or two.
- Furnace in the office area was also not working. Birds inside the vent. Cleaned out and is working. A vent cover will be put in place with other additional work on the other unit.
- The humidifiers will be installed as soon as they are available, expected timeframe to be completed by the middle of December.
- Projector – not working. Need to get down and have checked. Most likely this too is damaged from the shorting out of the furnace.
- Equipment upgrade completed – clerk, treasurer and fire chief have new desktop computers and the router in the fire department was upgraded. Sign – repeated email and phone contact.
- Garbage service – current situation is not working for rentals. No easy way for renters to take out but we are concerned with leaving stuff in the hall until Monday morning. We would like to either increase the number of cans and locate some on hall side (may need to partition off with half wall due to high wind) or consider a dumpster (but location would be difficult). Ideas? Additional cans be added for \$4.50 per month. Currently paying \$18.00 per month or \$54.00 quarterly. Agreed to look into getting a dumpster.
- Roof leak in township hall is scheduled to be fixed next week.

Assessors Report – Joyce Foondle

- Building Permits – 10 issued;
- Fine Lake south side site visits completed. Final area of Fine Lake to be suspended until spring;
- 24-month ratio for residential study to be used for 2019 is 49.81%;
- 2 land division;
- Nothing new to report on Michigan Tax Tribunal;
- Bristol Lake Weed Assessment – land percentage is good, still need more signatures. No new updates.

Fire Report – Pete Dunn

- 34 incidents in October for a total of 272 for 2018;
- 27 MFR, 2 natural gas line incidents;
- October training SCBA
- Personnel Changes:
Natalie Warren six-month leave of absence granted;
New member: Jasce Brown from Assyria Township

A motion was made by Powell to add Jasce Brown as a new member of the Fire Dept. effective immediately. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

- Current membership 19 active members, 5 probationary, 1 cadet, 2 on leave of absence.
- Fire Department Activity:

Narcan supply – Current supplies only allows 1 dose of Narcan. Discussed at recent 911 Administrative Board meeting. SW Behavioral Health completed process to provide 10 doses in 5 separate bags. The new method is much easier to administer with no complicated assembly. Replacements will be provided as needed.

Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor of Baltimore Township has made contact with the Pete regarding contracting Johnstown to provide Fire and medical coverage in Baltimore Township. Many factors to consider. It was decided that we would need to form a committee to evaluate further.

Commissioner Report – Commissioner Heather Wing - Absent

Old Business:

Bristol Lake Weed – tabled until additional signatures are acquired.

New Business:

Road Commission Budgeting Meeting – set up for January 15, 2019 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

Resolution on Senate Bill 396 – Resolution #2018-11-1:

Resolution opposing SB396 allowing exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions (also known as “frost laws”) to forest product industry was recited. A motion was made by Powell and supported by Nickerson to adopt this resolution. Upon roll call vote, the following voted “Aye” or “Nay”

“Aye” (4): Nickerson, Babcock, Earl, Powell
Absent: Warren

“Nay”: (0) None

Resolution #2018-11-1 is hereby adopted.

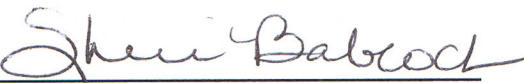
Pay Bills: A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$40,555.34 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen’s Comments:

Baltimore Township is happy with Orkin pest control in control of mice and bugs. We may want to consider using this type of pest control.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Seconded by Earl. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl, Supervisor


Sheri Babcock, Clerk

Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting is January 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting: December 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.