

# Johnstown Township Minutes

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

Regular Board Meeting – July 12, 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:** Twenty-one (21)

**Agenda:** One addition to the agenda is needed under Minutes – add Special Meeting of Election Commission dated July 10, 2023

A motion was made by Warren to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- A resident questioned when the fence will be installed in Iden Cemetery? The township had received an estimate but ask for additional information. No return call from the fence company. Still following up on this estimate.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2023, the Special Board Meeting June 12, 2023 and the Special Board Meeting of the Election Commission of July 10, 2023. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- Summer property tax bills will be mailed out;
- Some residents can pay on-line by accessing the link on our web site, pay in-person on Monday from 9:00 to 12:00, Wednesday from 9:00 to 5:00, send by mail or use the drop box;
- Two (2) CD's have been renewed at a higher interest rate;

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**

**August Special Election:** Approximately 210 AV ballots have been issued with more coming in daily. Preliminary testing of the tabulator has been completed and the Public Test will be completed on Monday, July 10, 2023.

The publication for the election was in the July 8, 2023 edition of the Reminder.

**BSA Chart of Account:** Chart of Account changes are completed. Working through a few problems with posting to general ledger.

**FOIA Request:** Still receiving additional FOIA requests with threats of lawsuits against the clerks and Bureau of Elections (BOE). Making contact with the lawyer and BOE but trying to fulfil requests if possible.

## **Clerk's Report – Sheri Babcock (continued)**

### **1st Mobile Food Distribution:**

The first fresh food distribution was held yesterday, July 11th and we distributed all 75 boxes. The Blue Zone administrator mailed out postcards to residents just prior to the distribution. We will not have a distribution in August due to the date conflicting with the election. We will have a distribution on September 12<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>. Flyers are available in the foyer.

### **Parks & Rec Playground Grant:**

We were awarded \$7,500.00 on the playground grant we submitted to Parks & Rec.

## **Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle**

- No written report as nothing was available from the county;
- Building permit - none
- BOR will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 for Veteran's Exemptions, Clerical and mutual mistake errors;
- No land divisions to report;
- Tax Tribunal: No activity

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

- 38 total calls for the month of June. Total calls for 2023: 221
- 23 of the 38 calls for the month of June were MFR calls. Total MFR calls for 2023: 132
- Training completed: Water rescue, communications
- Personnel changes: 1 member on leave;
- Current Membership: 16 Active members; 1 cadet;
- Department Activity: Fine Lake Bike Parade, Medical First Responders received Honorable Mention from Barry County Medical Control for our patient care;
- 1<sup>st</sup> annual Golf Outing/Fundraiser is schedule for Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Creek Golf Course;
- Next Quarterly Board/Fire Meeting: October 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

## **Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell**

- Various appointments to boards and committees;
- Pam Palmer gave an extensive report on Election changes due to Prop. 2;
- Various contracts and professional service agreements;
- The Animal Shelter approved a Reimbursement Grant Agreement to pay for spay/neuter of feral and barn cats in Barry County;
- A resident asked what constitutes a closed session in a commissioner's meeting. Board Trustee indicated that it could be several possible reasons – sale or purchase of property, employee or employment issues, etc.

## **Old Business:**

1. **Blight Ordinance:** A preliminary draft has been prepared and is ready for board review. We need to set up a meeting to discuss any changes and prepare a copy to submit to our attorney for legal review. A special meeting is schedule for August 16, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.

## **New Business:**

1. **Farmer's Market:** To be held on September 16, 2023 from 10:00 to 2:00 Seeking vendors – from discussion with board and residents, it was decided that we would charge \$10.00 per table. Working on application. A resident offered to provide administrative assistance.

**New Business (continued):**

2. Johnstown Fire Department is holding their 1<sup>st</sup> annual golf outing fundraiser on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to noon at Cedar Creek golf course. Flyers are available. Still seeking sponsors.

**Pay Invoices and Payroll:**

A motion was made by Warren to pay the bills in the amount of \$249,451.86, as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- A resident wanted to know if the County has hired a new enforcement officer for Planning & Zoning? Not as of yet.
- Master Plan – ready to be finalized. Township officials will be working with the county on the ordinance in hopes of having some input on solar energy.
- Hickory Road – status of trailer that burnt.
- Winans Drive – not cleaned up. Next court hearing July 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Warren to adjourn. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

**Next Special Board Meeting for review of Blight Ordinance is August 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Next Special Board Meeting & Public Hearing for Bristol Lake Channel Weed Assessment: August 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Next Regular Board Meeting: August 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Attested to by:  
Barbara Earl  
Supervisor**



**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**