

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – April 14, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Visitors: Twelve (12)

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): None

Minutes: A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes Regular Board Meeting of
March 10, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Warren to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Planning Board
Meeting of Mar.17, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Planning Meeting
and Public Hearing of March 31, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion
carried.

A motion was made by Warren to approve the minutes of the Election Commission of March 12,
2021 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – Karmen Nickerson

- Interest earned on CD investments for fiscal year 2020-21 was \$3,453.26
- Current Interest rates for new CD's are very low, .05% to .15%. Currently moving some CD's around.
- Delinquent Tax payments received from the County Treasurer this week.

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

Elections

A sample Ballot is available for review for the proposal for K.R.E.S.A. (Gull Lake Schools
only) to be held on May 4, 2021.

The Preliminary testing of the tabulator has been completed with no issues.

The May 4th Election inspectors have been appointed consistent with our recent policy
change.

No AV counting board will be used for this election.

Hastings Schools is planning to have a proposal for the August election.

The Barry County clerk was issued a subpoena for ballots, machines, etc. from the
Nov 3 2020 Election. This went to court yesterday and was not upheld, so we are no
longer under this subpoena.

Budget:

The newly adopted budget has been entered into BSA program. One line item was omitted in the 206 – Fire Dept. budget. We will need to do a budget modification to make this correction. This number was recorded but was omitted from the column to adopt.

206.336.801.000 Contract Services \$7,200
This increases total expenses to \$179,300

A motion was made by Powell to approve the budget modification to the Fire Dept. Budget line item 206.336.801.000 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Building Issues:

Seeing signs of termites again. Pest control will be in soon.

Assessor's Report – Joyce Foondle

- No Building Permit report due to changes made in the way the PCI is getting them to the assessor.
- 2021 Assessed and taxable value as approved by the Board of Review.
- No land divisions
- No Michigan Tax Tribunal activity

Fire Report – Fire Chief Pete Dunn

- 43 incidents in March for a total of 121 incidents year to date.
- 32 MFR in March, 91 MFR year to date.
- Training: Wild Fire refresher, MFR peds
- Personnel changes: None
- Current Membership: 22 Active, 6 probationary, 1 cadet.
- Department Activity: Just waiting on the new truck getting in for modifications. Storing a fire Truck for Bedford Township for a week.
- Fire Chief, Pete Dunn announced that he is planning to retire on Oct. 31, 2021

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is July 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- Reported on happenings in Barry County including the start of a very large addition to Thornapple Manor, future move of Friend of the Court to the Courts & Law Building, and proposed Community Flower Garden to be open to the public.
- The commissioners are considering a time change in meetings. They are currently held on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. and are wondering if a different time might increase attendance.
- Bruce is available to the board or residents with any concerns or questions that we may wish to have presented to the commissioners. You can email him at bcampbell@barrycounty.org

Old Business:

- **Scott Monroe from SWBCS** – provided current information on the Sewer Authority and reviewed rate increase request.

Resolution #2021-04-1 was offered by member Powell and seconded by Warren. Roll call vote: Yeas: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl Nays: None Abstain: None. Resolution declared adopted.

Old Business: (continued)

Amendment to Articles of Incorporation to change the number of Commissioners on the Authority Commission from the present five (5) to four (4) was adopted by board approval on the 14th day of April 2021.

Resolution #2021-04-2 Resolution to approve Amendment No. 3 was offered by Warren and seconded by Powell. Roll call vote: Yeas: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl. Nays: None, Abstain: None Resolution declared adopted.

Sleepy Hollow & Barry County Road Commission – Jake Welch from the Road Commission was here to present information on proposed Special Assessment for road repair on Sleepy Hollow. Residents were also present for questions and answers. Jake provided a general overview of roads in our township and the current state of funding. We will see more and more of these special assessment projects coming up to help subdivisions with drainage and paving projects. The Township is struggling with funds to keep up with roads with high traffic use.

The board is continuing to look at options including Bonds and/or township funding of these projects. Suggestions included using a Revolving Fund, which has had prior approval by resolution, the length of time to extend these loans, and the interest rates. More detailed information needs to be provided to the board at least a week or two before the next meeting before any decisions can be made.

The township will consider extending the time frame on the Sleepy Hollow project if an agreement in the above policy is approved.

Asset Level test guidelines for Poverty Exemption has been available to the board for review. A motion was made by Warren to adopt the Asset Level Test for Poverty Exemption as required by AMAR as presented. This guideline is an addendum to Resolution #2021-2-1. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Long Lake Ordinance: Resident Steve Conlogue was present to ask about changing the time on our local ordinance for Long Lake. We recalled the attempts made last year to make these changes and how things did not end up going forward. We can provide petitions again and mail them to him.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:


A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$18,929.89 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments:

- Assessor Joyce Foondle provided information that AMAR stands for Audit of Minimum Assessment Requirements

Adjournment: A motion was made by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor


Sheri Babcock, Clerk