

Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30 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-five (25)

Agenda: The agenda needs to be amended to remove #4 under old business and add American Funds and Cemetery property under new business. A motion was made by Warren to approve the changes to the agenda. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

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 was protesting that we had the Sherriff present at this meeting. He was asked to leave the meeting.
- A resident was pleased to have the Sherriff and Road Commission present to discuss local traffic problems as discussed last month. Comments on radar speed sign placed in the area. This will be discussed later under old business.

Minutes: A motion was made by Warren to approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 9, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of June 23, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Earl to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of July 7, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Nickerson. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes of Special Board meeting of July 12, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – Karmen Nickerson

- Treasurer's Report
- A complaint letter was received with a property tax payment today from a resident on Hickory Road (trailer park area). This information was given to Jack Ward by phone today.

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

- Barry County clerks are being interrogated by a private investigator, accompanied by a deputy. Asking questions on election policies and ask to sign an affidavit.
- Two FOIA requests on the 2020 election have been received this month. One was asking for award and final report for The Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL) grant. This was provided. The other one was from True North Law, LLC. This was asking for a lot of information on the election, financial information, etc. After talking with our lawyer, we ask for an 10-day extension on 6-30-21 and requested a ½ down deposit on the estimated total cost. There has been no response to date.
- August 3, 2021 Special Election – preparing for election day, Hastings School District only

Fire Report – Fire Chief Pete Dunn

- 54 incidents in June for a total of 266 incidents year to date.
- 36 MFR in May, 200 MFR year to date.
- Training: Team Building, Ventilation/Ladders
- Personnel changes: 1 retirement, 2 resigned
- Current Membership: 19 Active, 4 probationary, 2 cadets.
- Department Activity: None
- Great job on firework display by Brennen Foote on Fine Lake
- Fire Dept. in parade on Fine Lake. Would like more than one day's notice in the future.

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is October 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Report - Bruce Campbell

- Commissioner Meetings are every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.
- The emergency order has been rescinded
- The Barry County Fair begins next week

Old Business:

- **Long Lake Ordinance Update:** After more review, we need to have the lawyer look into possible changes to the ordinance before moving forward. A local resident provided some additional information that was published in an old DNR handout regarding the change of time due to Daylight savings. The petitions addressed the request to change time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. only. The DNR brochure listed a change from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. One resident was concerned about losing the hour of fishing time.
- **Fine Lake Traffic Issues:** Road Commission – Jake Welch & Sherriff Dar Leaf
Radar signs were up for a short time. Concerns were expressed that it was too near a sharp curve, and was only up for a few days. A presentation of all the data collected was presented on both Hickory Road and Banfield road from data collected from the radar unit was shared by Dar Leaf. Speeding was noted on both road with Banfield Road showing the highest speeds. The Sherriff's Dept. is trying to provide additional police patrol but they are currently short staffed.

Jake from the Road commission indicated that Hickory Road is not a class A road, but a primary road. Other discussions included truck traffic, ordinances, State weight laws and frost laws. The weigh master is out in that area during frost law periods monitoring truck traffic.

There is a need for trimming in many areas' intersection was also discussed.

Old Business: (continued)

- **Sleepy Hollow:** Still pending, need more work on terms before petitions signatures. Looks like an installment loan for 10 to 15 years may be the best option to get annual payments into the affordable range and to get enough signatures on petitions. Treasurer to contact the bank on interest rates.

New Business:

- Banfield Cemetery – had a preliminary meeting with local resident about the possibility of purchasing additional property from her to expand Banfield Cemetery by almost 6 acres. She is currently working on details and will get back in touch with us as things get ready to proceed. We are looking at a cost of approximately 3,000 per acre, the cost of the survey and closing expenses.
- American Rescue Funds: A motion was made by Powell to authorize the clerk to make application for these funds. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.
- New Bank Account: A motion was made by Powell to authorize the opening of a new bank account to move these funds into when received. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Pay Invoices and Payroll:

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$167,830.66 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Citizen's Comments:

Dar Leaf commented on the November election issues and feels that the clerks in Barry County do an great job.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

Attested to by:
Barbara Earl
Supervisor



Sheri Babcock, Clerk