

# Johnstown Township Minutes

13641 South M-37 Highway. Battle Creek Michigan 49017

Regular Board Meeting – September 14, 2022 – 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-one (21)

**Agenda:** Two additions are needed to New Business: #4 Set up date for ARPA Special Meeting, Sleepy Hollow Public Hearing and #5 Review Electrician estimate for Township repairs.

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

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

- John Howe, Dowling library board member representative for Johnstown Township, announced that the Dowling Library is planning an 80-year celebration event to be held at the Dowling Library on October 22, 2022. He wondered if they would be able to borrow about 4 tables and 20 chairs for this event.
- A resident voiced concerns over the amount of semi-truck traffic they are seeing on Lacey Road. Another resident has the same concerns and will be making a presentation under New Business.
- A resident voiced concerns over the new proposed cell phone tower on Hobbs Road. They recently purchased a farm on Hobbs Road and one of the reasons they considered purchase was because there were no towers in the sight line of their property. We explained that this was approved some time ago by Barry County as we do not do our own planning and zoning in our township. The Clerk has also responded to their email presented as a FOIA request on any future plans and referred them to Jim McManus in Planning & Zoning in Barry County.

**Minutes:** Two (2) sets of minutes were presented:

- August 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- August 31, 2022 Special Board Meeting – ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Powell to approve both the August 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes and the August 31, 2022 Special ARPA Board Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

- Today, September 14<sup>th</sup> is the last day to pay property taxes without a penalty. After today, a 1% penalty applies for the month of September, a 2% penalty for payment received in October and a 3% penalty for payments made in November.
- As of Sept 1<sup>st</sup> over a million dollars was still left to collect. Over \$800,000 came in during the last two weeks.
- An increasing number of payments are being made with the on-line payment options with collection of over \$37,000 processed on-line.

**Treasurer’s Report – Karmen Nickerson (continued)**

- Replacement of debit card for Fire Chief Jozwik has been requested from the bank. Prior approval for these cards was made for previous Fire Chief so this is informational.

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**

**Nov. Election:** Ballot Proofs have been received and ballot orders should be in by the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. Additional AV apps have been mailed to those who did not have one on file for the August election. Request for AV apps have been coming in daily. Two military requests have also been received. These have to be emailed out by Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and other ballots will begin being mailed out on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Three State proposals have been approved to appear on the ballot. Please see ballot draft attached. Pay particular attention to the proposal language. This could be very costly to the township.

**Nov. Board Meeting Date**

I would ask for Board consideration to make a change in the meeting date for the board from November 9, 2022 to November 16, 2022 due to the election. With the increased required days and hours prior to the election it would be very difficult to prepare for the board meeting. A motion was made by Powell to approve the rescheduling of the November Regular Board Meeting from November 9, 2022 to November 16, 2022 due to the November election. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Audit:** Audit Draft has been received and the management letter has been returned for filing of the required State reports. A draft copy has been made available for the board for review prior to next month’s board meeting when Auditor, Jeff Rodd will be in attendance.

**FOIA Requests:** Two FOIA requests were received this week. One was asking for contracts for any type of Solid Waste, recycling, transfer stations, etc. in our township. A 10-day extension was requested today. Does the Fire Dept. have an agreement of any type with the Scouts? We have a contract with Barry Township for the Transfer Station. The second request was for information on any existing or future plans for cell towers. This request came from a new resident in the area that was not aware of the tower approved near his home. He stopped into the office today and I provided contact information for Barry County Planning & Zoning.

**Septic System:** Trustee Jeff Warren has scheduled the pumping of the septic system for next Wednesday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. It was originally scheduled for today, but they needed to re-schedule. Are they going to open this up or does that have to happen before they come? No, they are aware that they will have to open up the system.

**Budget Modifications:**

CLERK

101.215.900.000	Clerk – Printing & Publication	-160.00
101.215.715.000	Clerk – Office Supply	+ 160.00

TOWNSHIP HALL

101.265.956.000	Miscellaneous	-50.00
101.265.861.000	Mileage	+50.00

FIRE DEPT.

206.336.932.000	Maint./Repairs	+1,000.00
206.336.970.000	Capital Outlay	-1,000.00

SLEEPY HOLLOW SAD

Revenue

811.000.450.000	Spec Assessment-Principal	+7,000.00
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Expense

811.811.802.000	Legal	+4,000.00
811.811.900.000	Printing & Publication	+3,000.00

A motion was made by Warren to approve the budget modifications as presented. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Assessor’s Report – Joyce Foondle**

- Building Permit report – 5 new permits, solar panels are now very common.
- Property letters are ready to be sent for Goodrich Rd, North Ave., & Holden Rd. Culver Rd. and Jones Rd. to follow. Next focus will be inspection of outstanding building permits.
- Sales Information Report – SWMRIC vs. Johnstown Statistic comparison

Sales-Average Price per Square Foot

2022 \$140.00 – SWMRIC  
 2022 \$193.53 – Johnstown Twp sales  
 \$178.85 Median Low \$56.11 High: \$310.25  
 23 total sales from 1/1/22 to 9/13/22 – 11 were lake sales

Sales-Median Sales Price

2022	\$240,000	SWMRIC
2022	\$257,600	Johnstown Twp sales

Land Divisions: None  
Tax Tribunal: Nothing to report

**Fire Department Report – Fire Chief Chris Jozwik**

- 35 calls in August, with a total of 289 incidents year to date;
- 22 MFR calls in August, for a total of 183 MFR calls year to date;
- Training: Search & Rescue, Semco Gas at the Lacey Storage Facility;
- Personnel Changes: None
- Current Membership: 20 Active, 1 Cadet
- Department Activity: Hose and Ladder testing completed.

Next Quarterly Meeting of the Township Board and JFD Officers is October 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**County Commissioner Report – Bruce Campbell**

- Reminder that Commissioner Meetings are held every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the upper level of the County building.

- Road Commission Annual Report. The Road Commission appreciates the townships contributions to our local roads.
- Continued talks on COA building
- PA116 approved for Johnstown Township resident
- K9 officer “Grizzly” to retire and transfer to handler.
- Housing projects
- Walk for Warmth

**Old Business:**

**Sleepy Hollow Dr. Paving Special Assessment:** First public hearing was held earlier this evening. We are now ready to proceed to the next public hearing. Notices and publications will be done and the meeting will be scheduled for just before the Regular Board Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Clear Lake Weed:** Petitions have been certified, moving forward with information to the lawyer. Resolution #1 will likely be processed at our next special meeting and Resolution #2 and Public Hearing to be held before the next Regular Board Meeting on October 12, 2022.

**Mill Lake Sewer:** A resident has requested petitions to start getting signatures for moving forward with the sewer. We have a petition prepared but will run it by the lawyer before sending this out.

**New Business:**

- Tom Allen, a resident on Lacey Road presented information and pictures on his concern over the amount of semi traffic on Lacey Road. He has discussed this with Jake at the Road Commission and is requesting that the township look into the possibility of putting up some signs for no through truck traffic and no use of compression brakes. The cost is about \$100 per sign. He was told that the township would have to have a resolution to designate Lacey Road as a no thru truck traffic road before the Road Commission would put up a sign. He tracked 9 trucks in about an hour and 19 minutes. Sometimes it has been over 120 trucks in a day. Other residents are present with same concerns.

- Resolution #2022-9-1: Tax Rate Request L-4029  
The resolution was offered by Board Member Powell and supported by Board Member Warren to be adopted.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Warren, Powell, Nickerson, Babcock, Earl  
Nays: None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

- The next ARPA Meeting Date: September 28, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Post on web site, display and sign.
- The next Public Hearing for Sleepy Hollow to be scheduled for October 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Publications and notices will be sent out.
- We have an estimate for electrical work needed to be done at the township hall. This includes replacement of emergency lights, adding circuits for outlets in the hall that trip, banking hall lights, retro fitting front entry lights to LED and tapping off the sign circuit to add flagpole lighting in the amount of \$4,500.00.

A motion was made by Warren to accept the estimate and proceed with these repairs. Seconded by Powell. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Additional Citizen's Comments:**

- A resident stressed the problem with road traffic also on Hickory Road and semi traffic on local roads.
- A resident commented on information presented from our lawyer last month on Anti-Blight and hopes the township will move forward with this plan. An informal hearing is set for problems on Winans Drive for Monday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m. October 4<sup>th</sup> hearing for Uldriks Drive.
- Charlton Park – Darrell Cheeseman provided a flyer on the upcoming proposal to appear on the November ballot and special event information on the Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival.

**Pay Invoices and Payroll:**

A motion was made by Powell to pay the bills in the amount of \$57,643.66 as presented. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Seconded by Warren. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Attested to by:  
Barbara Earl  
Supervisor**



**Sheri Babcock, Clerk**