

Regular Board Meeting
Blackman Charter Township
March 20, 2023

The Blackman Charter Township Board convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2023 at the Township Hall, 1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan.

Members present: Supervisor Jancek, Clerk Sercombe, Treasurer Preston, and Trustees: Ambs, Thomas, Pack, and Williams.

Members absent:

Public Attendance:

Ray Snell	Gary Schuette	Deborah Nagy
Jennifer Biddinger	David Elwell	Nancy Shirkey
	Pete Herr	

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS - (two-minute limit)

1. **Gary Schuette, Jackson County Sheriff**
 - a. Millage for the jail did not pass
 - b. Plan B
 - i. Temporary repairs for leaks
 - ii. Roof job has been brought down in cost
 - iii. Committee will be created to decide what will happen with the jail
 - c. Deputies have new uniforms.
 - i. Materials have been switched to cut down cost and make them lighter in the summer.
 - ii. Officer policy on facial hair has been relaxed to help with recruitment & retention
 - d. Applaud you on the pension system; very difficult for us to recruit and retain officers.
 - e. Jackson has been identified as a source for drugs in the community and we have been battling with that for awhile
 - i. In 2020, 179 drug overdoses. 37 were fatal
 - ii. NARCAN vending machine was put into place in 2021. Allows for those battling with addictions to have access to it for free. Located at the west-side entrance of the Wesley Street jail.
 - iii. In 2022, 72 drug overdoses, 12 were fatal
2. **Ray Snell, 9th District County Commissioner**
 - a. Tomorrow night's meeting
 - i. Additional prosecuting attorney
 - ii. Circuit, Family and Probate Court will be getting new audio and video recording, paid for by ARPA
 - iii. Construction season
 1. Looking to be three more years before completion
 2. Majority will be done in the next two years
 - iv. Capital improvements that are a carryover from last year
 1. 2 million dollars from unfinished projects due to supply chain issues
 - v. There are several board commission appointments coming up
 - vi. Looking for reappointment on the Lifeways board
 - vii. Public seat expiring on Region 2 Planning Commission
3. **Jennifer Biddinger, Blackman Resident**
 - a. I am a conservative with conservative values. Please stand up against those with liberal agendas.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS

1. Additions:

- a. Authorize the Supervisor to sign the attached letter in support of the City of Jackson's Community Project Funding grant application for the North Extension Sanitary Sewer.
- b. Approve the amendment of the cemetery fees to allow residents to purchase a singular foundation that can be centered between two plots, as recommended by the township sexton.

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Clerk Sercombe to approve the Board of Trustee agenda for the Regular Board Meeting held on Monday, March 20, 2023.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

MINUTES APPROVAL

- No changes/corrections.

Motion by Clerk Sercombe, supported by Trustee Ambs to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of payroll for the dates 2/03/23 in the amount of \$167,489.78 and for 2/17/23 in the amount of \$187,819.96.
2. Approve \$1,300,000.00 transfer of funds from General Fund to Sewer Fund for the month of February 2023.
3. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of February 2023.

Motioned by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Pack

Roll Call: Jancek, Ambs, Williams, Pack, Sercombe, Preston, Thomas

Ayes – 7

Nays - 0

Motion Approved

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

1. Jackson Technology Park North
 - a. Force main is completed, working on storm sewer now.
 - b. We have not dealt with any supply chain issues at this point.
 - c. Erosion control is now through JCDOT.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

1. Quiet time, not much to report.

CLERK'S UPDATE

1. AV Applications are in everyone's mailbox and returning quickly.
2. Spectrum invoice items will be up for reimbursement between the schools and the state.
3. April 3 is the Public Accuracy Test at 5pm

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Discussion about SRO positions and Da Vinci being interested in having an SRO.
 - a. Prompted discussion about Northwest Schools and their payment agreement for SRO.
 - b. We are not in a position to move forward with providing more SROs with the lack of staff.
 - c. Important to maintain full staff before discussing or providing more SROs. We are currently down three officers.

VACANT PSO POSITION

Motion by Trustee Williams, supported by Clerk Sercombe to authorize the Director of Public Safety to hire another Public Safety Officer to fill a vacancy within the department.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

**BUILDING/ZONING
INSPECTION FEE
INCREASE**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Clerk Sercombe to approve an increase of \$5.00 per inspection fee for electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspections as requested by the contracted inspectors to cover their increased service costs.

Roll Call: Jancek, Preston, Pack, Thomas, Sercombe, Ambs, Williams
Ayes – 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**TEMPORARY
PART-TIME
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Motion by Clerk Sercombe, supported by Treasurer Preston to authorize the Supervisor to advertise for a temporary part-time administrative assistant due to the Utility Billing Clerk being on short-term disability leave. **Discussion**

Roll Call: Jancek, Ambs, Williams, Pack, Sercombe, Preston, Thomas
Ayes – 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**MI JAGS FC
HOLDING INC.
JACKSON CLUB &
MARINO’S FIELDS**

Motion by Trustee Pack, supported by Trustee Ambs to authorize the Supervisor to sign a contract with Michigan Jags FC Holding Inc. Jackson Club for use of Marino’s Fields.

Roll Call: Preston, Williams, Thomas, Ambs, Pack, Sercombe, Jancek
Ayes – 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**COMCAST
BUSINESS
RENEWAL**

Motion by Trustee Williams, supported by Clerk Sercombe to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 36-month renewal with Comcast Business to continue providing existing phone and internet service to 1990 and 1996 W. Parnall Rd, and to add 1980 W. Parnall Rd. to the contract.

Roll Call: Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Sercombe, Preston, Pack, Williams
Ayes – 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**CITY OF JACKSON
NORTH
EXTENSION
SANITARY SEWER**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Williams to authorize the Supervisor to sign the attached letter in support of the City of Jackson’s Community Project Funding grant application for the North Extension Sanitary Sewer.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

**CEMETERY FEE
AMENDMENT:
SINGLE CENTER
MARKER**

Motion by Trustee Thomas, supported by Trustee Williams to approve the amendment of the cemetery fees to allow residents to purchase a singular foundation that can be centered between two plots, as recommended by the township sexton.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

BILLS

Motion by Clerk Sercombe, supported by Treasurer Preston to approve payment of bills on the Board Invoice Post Audit Report dated 3/13/23 in the amount of \$1,364,417.40 and Board Invoice Report dated 3/21/23 in the amount of \$1,083,304.15.

Roll Call: Pack, Sercombe, Preston, Williams, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs
Ayes – 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

PLANNING COMMISSION

- *No activity*

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- *No activity*

PARKS & RECREATION

1. Jack is drawing up a footprint of the new land we have now.
 - a. Looking to get a map to plan potential uses.
2. Met with Little League last week.
 - a. Agreed the contract and will be \$1,000 for the use of the fields.
3. Park is still extremely wet. Only one tree was down after the snow & ice storm.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- *No activity*

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

**WATERMAIN
EXTENSION:
NORTH & SOUTH
ELM ROAD**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Thomas to authorize the township engineer to get bids for the South Elm Road Watermain Extension at an estimated cost of \$43,686.00 and the North Elm Road Watermain Extension at an estimated cost of \$319,744.00, per recommendation of the Utility Committee.

Roll Call: Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Sercombe, Preston, Pack, Williams
Ayes - 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**3616 DAVE ST:
SEWER BACKUP
REIMBURSEMENT**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Clerk Sercombe to authorize partial reimbursement request for 3616 Dave Street for the costs associated with cleanup of sewage backup, priced at \$12,778.00.

Roll Call: Williams, Preston, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs, Sercombe, Pack
Ayes - 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- *No activity*

NEW BUSINESS

**ESTIMATE:
SPECTRUM
PRINTING FOR
ELECTIONS**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Clerk Sercombe to approve the estimates provided by Spectrum Printing for absent voter applications and postage, estimated at \$6,791.62.

Roll Call: Thomas, Ambs, Sercombe, Jancek, Pack, Williams, Preston
Ayes - 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**MERS RETIREE
HEALTH FUNDING
VEHICLE**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Williams to approve payment of \$300,000.00 to MERS to fund the MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle as follows: \$120,000 from the General Fund and \$180,000 from the Public Safety Fund.

Roll Call: Pack, Sercombe, Preston, Williams, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs
Ayes - 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

**MERS DEFINED
BENEFIT PLAN**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Williams to approve payment of \$750,000.00 to MERS to fund the MERS Defined Benefit Plan from the Public Safety Fund.

Roll Call: Sercombe, Pack, Thomas, Williams, Ambs, Jancek, Preston
Ayes - 7 Nays - 0 Motion Approved

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute limit)

1. **Pete Herr**, *Blackman Resident*
 - a. Live on Herbert J Ave. over by the airport
 - i. Cutting down trees that drink a lot of water, I have water in my basement.
 - ii. 1168 Herbert J. I have lived there all my life and pay taxes. Can't you help us out?
 - iii. Sump-pump running every 2 minutes.
 - iv. Supervisor Jancek: I will relay your concerns to the person who runs the airport.
2. **Jennifer Biddinger**, *Blackman Resident*
 - a. New Business Item #1 – brings me concerns.
 - b. AV applications are only sent out to those who request them. Correct?

OPEN DISCUSSION

1. *Trustee Thomas*: Any feedback on sewer rates increasing?

The Supervisor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.



Shelly Sercombe, Township Clerk

