

Regular Board Meeting  
Blackman Charter Township  
September 18, 2023

The Blackman Charter Township Board convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2023 at the Township Hall, 1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan.

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

**Public Attendance:**

Commissioner James Shotwell  
Diane Derby  
Jennifer Biddinger.

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS – (two-minute limit)**

1. **Commissioner Shotwell**
  - a. Gave a brief summary of what is taking place in the County. The newly remodeled Animal Shelter is done and he encouraged members to go and have a look at it. They are in the process of hiring a part time administrative clerk and kennel attendant. He also spoke about installing control arms at Keeley Park downtown. The County is looking into turning the former Rolletorium into indoor pickleball courts. They have also had a property donation of 10 acres. The budgets for the County and Health Departments are being worked on. Finally, they are partnering with other counties to provide for a part time medical examiner position. This position would be approximately 29 hours a week and it will be out at the Chanter Road Facility.
2. **Jennifer Biddinger, Blackman resident,**
  - a. Spoke regarding the lawsuit filed by the Attorney General against Republican electors, specifically Hank Choate. There is a fund set up for donations to his legal defense.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

1. No additions/deletions.  
Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Treasurer Preston, to approve the Board of Trustee agenda for the Regular Board meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023.  
*Unanimously approved by voice vote*

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

2. Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Pack to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on Monday, August 21, 2023.  
*Unanimously approved by voice vote*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of payroll for the date of August 4, 2023, in the amount of \$168,077.62, and for August 18, 2023 in the amount of \$200,089.75.
2. Approve \$400,000.00 transfer of funds from General Fund to Public Safety Fund for the month of August 2023.
3. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of August 2023.  
Motioned by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Ambs.  
*Roll call: Pack, Thomas, Williams, Ambs, Jancek, Preston, Elwell*  
*Ayes – 7      Nays – 0      Motion Approved*

### SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

1. Update given on the County Farm Road Project. A sign will soon be posted listing the parcels for sale. There is nothing interfering with the cemetery. The final coat is done in Ayshire Lane. West end of County Farm Road is milled and paved. Most of the sidewalks are in and curbs and gutters are almost done. The westbound closure will be done in about 2 weeks and 2 days.
2. The Supervisor met with DDA and reported the following: Universal will be redone and there will be a sidewalk going up to the Memorial. There will be loop sidewalks from Meijers along Boardman, through the new highway and connect to Springport Road.
3. Paving update also given.

### TREASURER'S UPDATE

1. Taxes collected this year are up a bit from compared to last year.
2. There has been a theft of a check that did not get where it was supposed to. This check was in payment of a bill. The matter was turned over to Public Safety for investigation. This is the first time we have had this happen.

### CLERK'S UPDATE

1. The November election will be November 7, 2024. There will be no early voting this year.
2. A new absentee ballot box, furnished by the State of Michigan, has been installed at the front entrance to the building. We are working on getting a camera installed, which is a requirement.
3. Blackman Township is going in with the County for the nine-day early voting. There will be contracts ready to be signed by the end of the month. We will then have two voting places where individuals from all townships can vote. Upon registering, the appropriate ballot will be printed off for the individual. The County is looking at possibly having Blackman Township dedicated as one of the places for early voting. More to come on these once agreements have been worked out.
4. The Presidential Primary is currently in flux. It is set for February 27, 2024; however it is required to be held 90 days after the legislators have adjourned their session. This could mean that the February date will be moved to different date. We just have to wait to see what happens.
5. There are new requirements that will have to be done concerning the Presidential Primary election. Everyone will have to choose a party and those that do not will have to be contacted by the Clerk's Office for their party preference. If no designation is made, the individual will be sent a ballot that does *not* contain any issues regarding party preference.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### **PURCHASE (2) LIFEPAK 1000 AED's**

Trustee Williams stated that they had met on September 13, 2023 and minutes are attached.

Motion by Trustee Williams, supported by Trustee Ambs, to Authorize the Director of Public Safety to purchase two (2) LIFEPAK 1000 AED's, not to exceed the amount of \$5,600.00, from account #205-901-970.000

***Roll call: Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Elwell, Preston, Pack, Williams***

*Ayes: 7*

*Nays: 0*

*Motion passed*

### PLANNING COMMISSION

1. No activity. Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

1. No activity. They have a meeting scheduled for later this month regarding a tabled issue on a setback on Balmars.

### PARKS & RECREATION

1. Treasurer Preston reported that the committee met last week and had lots of discussion. They are still working on getting cameras installed at Rod Mills Park. This will be a line of sight between the water tower and the park.
2. Based upon the surveys that have been returned, a walking trail seems to be a big item for the residents of Blackman Township. The committee is looking into installing trails around the Parnall property once the demolition of the B & H Property is completed. Supervisor Jancek stated that since they had used Brownfield money on this property, he emailed them to see if they had any requirements regarding the demolition of the property. He received an email back stating that the asbestos abatement requirement is all that needs to be done on their end. Jack and Pete will be getting together to write up the bid requirements so they can be sent out.
3. Treasure Preston indicated that the survey results will be extended until the end of October and compiled and then they will have a public meeting to discuss the results.

### TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

1. Chris Boulter gave a presentation to the Board regarding the issues they have with the body cameras and in car issues. They have looked at several camera companies and have come up with some figures to replace/upgrade their systems. Public Safety currently owns the body and in car cameras, but lease the tasers. If Public Safety were to partner with Axon they figure it will be a total savings, in less than two (2) years, of \$100,000.00. A breakdown of the different prices and pros and cons was presented to the Board. There was discussion among the board members regarding some of the items. The cost for the replace/upgrade would be in the 2024 budget.
2. Supervisor Jancek stated that there are three (3) computers that need to be replaced at the Township. We have our computers on a rotating schedule so that they do not all need to be replaced at once.

### UTILITIES COMMITTEE

1. Supervisor Jancek had a meeting with the City of Jackson regarding the water rate increases, etc.... The City has not finalized anything yet. They have been meeting with the various townships to resolve the issues of who is utilizing what parts of their system. The townships want to make sure that each community only pays for what they need or use and nothing else. They want to make sure that any increases are not being used for the lead line replacements.

### ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. No activity
2. Supervisor Jancek wanted to thank the Airport Manager, Juan Zapata, as he was instrumental in getting the Airport Restaurant to pay their unpaid sewer bill.

### NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION  
#17-2023-0918:  
TO AMEND THE  
2023 GENERAL  
FUND, PUBLIC  
SAFETY FUN AND  
BUILDING FUND  
BUDGET**

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Clerk Elwell to amend the 2023 General Fund, Public Safety Fund and Building Fund Budget.

*Roll Call: Jancek, Preston, Pack, Thomas, Elwell, Ambs, Williams*

*Ayes – 7*

*Nays - 0*

*Motion Approved*

**ACCEPT  
RESIGNATION OF  
MARTIN RISKE,  
ELECTRICAL  
INSPECTOR**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Williams to accept the resignation of Martin Riske, Electrical Inspector, effective 10/31/23.

*Motion Approved*

**AUTHORIZE  
ADVERTISING OF  
VACANCY FOR  
ELECTRICAL  
INSPECTOR**

Motion by Trustee Williams, supported by Trustee Ambs to authorize the advertising of the vacancy for Electrical Inspector.

*Motion Approved*

**AUTHORIZE THE  
ADDITION /  
REMODEL  
OF AN OFFICE AT  
THE TOWNSHIP  
OFFICE**

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Treasurer Preston to authorize the addition/remodeling of an office at the Township Office, not to exceed \$8,904.00, construction management by David Wilson.

*Roll call: Williams, Preston, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs, Elwell, Pack*

*Ayes: 7*

*Nays: 0*

*Motion approved.*

**BILLS**

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Clerk Elwell, to approve payment of bills on the Board Invoice Post Audit Report dated August 8, 2023, in the amount of \$238,815.78 and the Board Invoice Report dated August 22, 2023, in the amount of \$477,138.89.

*Roll call: Jancek, Ambs, Williams, Pack, Elwell, Preston, Thomas*

*Ayes – 7*

*Nays – 0*

*Motion Approved*

**EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute limit)**

**1. Diane Derby**

- a) Asked a question of Clerk Elwell regarding the calling and/or getting a hold of the individuals regarding their party preference for the Presidential Primary. He stated that if they did not respond with their party preference, they would be sent a ballot without any party preference matter to vote on. She also inquired about two (2) properties: the former Finleys Restaurant and the former Gilbert's Steakhouse. The Finley's restaurant we have no idea what is going on until it is sold again and someone comes in for a building permit. The former Gilbert's property is looking bad again and Pete will get with Scott Griffin, owner, and get him working on getting it cleaned up.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

1. Comment by Treasurer Preston that our auditor, Nannette Sponsler has retired. She will be helping us look for another auditor and preparing a proposal for ongoing support for us.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee Thomas, supported by Trustee Pack to adjourn.

*The Supervisor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.*



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**David Elwell, Township Clark**