

Regular Board Meeting  
Blackman Charter Township  
September 16, 2024

The Blackman Charter Township Board convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2024 at the Township Hall located at 1990 W. Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Jancek, Treasurer Preston, Clerk Elwell, Trustee Ambs, Trustee Pack and Trustee Thomas.

**Members Absent:** Trustee Williams.

**Public Attendance:**

Ray Snell      Carrie Wold,      Joe Lawson

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS – (two minutes limit)**

1. **Ray Snell**, 9<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner.
  - a. County has a meeting tomorrow.
  - b. No decision has been made yet as to jail.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

1. Treasurer Preston requested that under the Planning Commission section the case number needs to reflect #1581, not #1580.

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Trustee Pack to approve Board of Trustee Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting held on September 16, 2024, with change.

***Unanimously approved by voice vote.***

Motion by Trustee Thomas, supported by Trustee Ambs to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for Regular Board meeting held on August 19, 2024, and the Board of Trustee minutes for Special Board Meeting held on September 05, 2024.

***Unanimously approved by voice vote.***

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. **Carrie Wold, Jackson County District Library.**
  - a. Overview of the upcoming millage renewal for the library.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of payroll for the dates 8/2/24 in the amount of \$181,276.59 and for 8/16/24 in the amount of \$214,189.89, for 8/30/24 in the amount of \$187,368.05.
2. Approve \$200,000.00 transfer of funds from General Fund to Public Safety Fund for the month of August 2024.
3. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of August 2024.

Motioned by Trustee Thomas, supported by Clerk Elwell

***Roll Call:*** Ayes – Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Elwell, Preston, Pack

Nays – none      ***Motion carried.***

**SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE:**

1. Flags next door are for the upcoming trail loop project.
2. Leoni has approved the request for \$239,000.00 for payment of the Dettman sewer.
3. Streetlight Fund will not have a surplus. Discussions with Consumers Energy to see where increase is needed. Rates will need to be increased soon.

(Discussion followed as to who should be billed, how much it will increase, and changing over from old lighting to LED will reduce costs. By the end of December, the account will be at zero. There are 4100 special assessments for streetlights.) Once discussions are finished with Consumers the Supervisor will relay the information to board members.

TREASURER'S UPDATE:

1. Tax collection time. We have collected 91% of the taxes owed, which is about the same as last year. However, there are more people paying with credit cards than ever before. There was \$1,000,000.00 paid total and of that \$470,000.00 was paid directly at the front counter.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

1. Grant Update: \$18,000 grant was awarded. Contacted Jackson Glass Works to give us a ballpark estimate as our grant expires on May 30, 2025.
2. General Election Update: applications and absent voter ballot requests keep us busy.
3. Public Safety Building RFQ update: it is posted on the website and is advertised with a 9/26/24 due date.
4. Public Safety Millage Language. We received the November ballot proof, however, the public safety millage language is incorrect in that it states that "Shall the **expired** voted increase..." when, in fact, the actual current millage does not expire until December. After conferring with Attorney White and the County Election Commission, there needs to be a change made.

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Supervisor Jancek, to change the language to read as follows: "Shall the **previous** voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article 9, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in the Charter Township of Blackman, of 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) be renewed at the original voted 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for 5 years, 2025 through 2029 inclusive, for the operations and equipment for the Township's Public Safety Department, raising an estimated \$1,285,505.45 in the first year the millage is levied?"

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC SAFETY: Just keeping busy.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

1. Case #1581 – CONDITIONAL USE                      Airport – Solar Array Carport  
Address: 3606 Wildwood Ave                      Parcel #000-08-32-101-001-00  
Zoning: Light Industrial (I-1)  
Requested by: Harvest Solar (Evan Rohloff)  
Presented by: Harvest Solar (Evan Rohloff)  
Solar array mounted on carports located in existing parking lot.

Public Comment: None

Planning Commission Discussion: Location of electrical equipment adjacent to drive entry. Suggestion to relocate to north of solar carports or east side of solar carports. away from traffic. Fence and bollards to be shown on site plan submittal.

Motion by Preston, seconded by Frohm to recommend approval of Case #1581.

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Clerk Elwell, to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

2. Master Plan Work. Region 2 will be giving the Township an update. They are developing a questionnaire to be sent out.

PARKS & RECREATION:

1. There is a grant application in the works with 3 more coming. We are also waiting to hear some information regarding the naming rights for the pavilion at Marinos.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

No meeting

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

No meeting

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

No meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mission statement. The word "agricultural" was left off the last time. It was intended for it to be included and has been added.

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Clerk Elwell, to approve the Mission statement, with the word "agricultural" added.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

BILLS:

Motion by Trustee Thomas, supported by Treasurer Preston, to approve payment of the Bills on the Board Invoice Post Audit Report dated September 4, 2024, in the amount of \$319,828.91 and the Board Invoice Report dated 9/17/24 in the amount of \$276,034.76.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. **Joe Lawson, Consumer's Energy**
  - a. Spoke about the tall grasses they have planted on the east side as covering for the project. Clerk Elwell asked if they could plant the tall grasses along Blackman Road instead of just filling it in with trees. Mr. Lawson said that they would look into that request and see about the cost compared to just planting trees.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Treasurer Preston stated that he had gone to a GREAT meeting, and someone was asking about Canary Lane and why we withdrew our grant request. There are some thoughts about combining with the GREAT group and asking if Jackson County Parks & Recreation would like to buy it for a boat launch.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Jancek adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



David Elwell, Township Clerk