

Austinburg Township Meeting
November 20, 2023

The Public Hearing meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by John Kusar in regards to text changes to the zoning. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Dave McFarland, and Ted Seifert. The Trustees had some questions. Some of the changes will be in regards to building heights, lighting requirements, and off premise signs. Byron said he thought the zoning board was doing a good job of trying to keep Austinburg beautified and correcting text that needed addressed to clean up some of the Township prior issues. The discussion was opened to the public.

Res. 146-23 Trustee John Kusar moved to close the public meeting, Trustee Byron Dutton seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. The meeting was closed at 7:26 pm.

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Dave McFarland, Ted Seifert and Lorna Masek

Res. 147-23 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 148-23 John moved to pay the bills; Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$20,597.60 and receipts were \$2,163.74.

In terms of correspondence we received an email from Burnham and Flower in regards to the dental insurance for the Township. The initial renewal from Delta Dental indicated the need for a 9.5% increase. After negotiations we were able to have the overall increase reduced to 5.5%. The PEBA dental plan hasn't had an increase in over 9 years. We also received an email from the Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce that we have been approved for membership. We received an email from Julie Mock who is the General Manager for the Fairfield Inn in Austinburg. Julie was wondering what the bed tax was used for in the Township. We received the new paperwork for 2024 Election and Faithful Performance Coverage from OTARMA in regards to John and Kanda.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh attended the Ashtabula County Township meeting. The speaker spoke on trying to get the County zoning and Township zoning to work together.

Fire Chief no report.

R&B no report.

Res. 149-23 John moved to adopt the Zoning changes presented by the Zoning Board, Pete seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 150-23 John moved to go with the new medical insurance carrier of Anthem SOCA MEWA for the Township employees as of Dec. 1, 2023, Byron seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 151-23 John moved to raise the HRA from \$3,000 a year to \$4,500 for the Township employees as of Dec. 1, 2023, Byron seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

John explained to the residents in attendance why the medical and HRA were changed this year. John asked if the public records request for David Thomas was submitted. The Fiscal Officer reported that the public records request was completed. John has a person interested in maybe taking over the webpage. Byron also has a person possibly interested in doing the website. Byron reported on a letter from the Ashland Prosecutor in regards to zoning requirements when it comes to the new law of legalizing cannabis. Byron asked if the Fiscal Officer has looked into STAR fund in regards to interest rates. The Fiscal Officer has an email out to them for more information. Byron

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reported on getting the new generator and the generator that is at the Fire Station serviced once a year. Byron has a name of a company looking to service our equipment. Pete went over two bids he had for moving the circuit box in regards to the elevator.

Res. 152-23 Pete moved to go with Titan Electric to move the 20-amp circuit box from behind the elevator to the basement for \$485.00, Byron seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Resident Lorna Masek asked who was requesting the public records request in regards to David Thomas. The person running against David Thomas was the one who requested it.

Res. 153-23 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



Pete Haase, Chairman