

Austinburg Township Mins
December 4, 2023

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:34 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Bill Wilms, Ted Seifert and Lorna Masek

Res. 153-23 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded.

The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 154-23 Byron moved to pay the bills; John seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$93,519.53 and receipts were \$71,936.15.

In terms of correspondence we received an email from FirstEnergy Corp in regards to a new leadership team. Wendy Zele will still be our liaison for FirstEnergy. We received an email from Representative Fowler Arthur asking for input on what kinds of projects should be considered for state funding and the process for requesting funds. We received an email from the U.S. EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) in regards to some grants. We received an email from NOPEC in regards to winter pricing. NOPEC's Standard Program Price will be 6.6 cents/kWh. NOPEC also recently lowered their fixed term product prices to 6.7 cents/kWh for a 12-month product and 6.5 cents/kWh for their 24-month product.

The Fiscal Officer reported that OTARMA sent the new invoice for insurance that covers the Township buildings and equipment. The cost for next year will be \$24,124 which is \$1,507 dollars higher than last year.

Res. 155-23 John moved to go with OTARMA for insurance to cover our buildings and equipment, Pete seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

The Fiscal Officer reported that she moved \$14,000 from the General Fund to the Zoning Fund to cover expenses.

Res. 156-23 John moved to approve moving \$14,000 from the General Fund to the Zoning Fund, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

The Fiscal Officer reported she did hear back from the County Prosecutor in regards to the public records request. They sent a letter to the group requesting the public record.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported that things have been quiet. Rob said he would like to bring up at the next Zoning meeting to maybe changing the rule that you have to have a home before you can build an out structure. Rob feels like in this day in age we need the change to allow the out building first to store their stuff in as long as plans were presented in regards to the house that is to be built.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported that Fire truck 501 is really starting to nickel and dime the department in repairs. The ladders were all tested and passed. Next year the Fire Chief would like to hire a company to do the hose testing. There are currently 18 members on the department. Two just joined in November.

R&B no report.

John discussed the Christmas stipend for the roadmen. John said he would like to see the stipend be the same as last year.

Res. 157-23 John moved to give Mike Petro \$600, Bill Wilms \$550 and John Luban \$500 for Christmas stipend, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

John discussed when to have a year end meeting. Since we now have the roadmen direct deposit and the Fiscal Officer goes into temporary mode instead of closing everything out on Dec 3, it was decided not to do a year end meeting. Instead at our next

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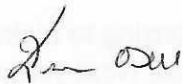
meeting on Dec. 18th we will do business that is usually saved for the year end meeting. Fire Chief Bill Wilms and resident Ted Seifert both felt this was a good idea because it involves the Fire Dept Indemnity Board. Chief Bill Wilms said he is asking Jackson Wilms to go on the Fire Dept Indemnity Board. The Fire Dept Indemnity Board will meet at the Dec 18 meeting at 7:30 at the start of the regular Township meeting. John asked if the new insurance cards were in yet. Roadman Bill Wilms said the digital ones were working. The Fiscal Officer reported the physical ones were being mailed out and should be here any day. John reported on the response from the Prosecutor's Office in regards to offering insurance to new employees. The Prosecutor's Office said they need us to be more specific with what we are looking for like including HRA etc. John will type up a new email for the Fiscal Officer to send them. John brought up about the TIF we had started to look at for putting on the properties North of Interstate 90. John feels it might be wise for us to wait on adding on the TIF. The Trustees discussed it and agreed to wait on implementing the TIF.

Byron reported that there is a NAD meeting Tuesday Dec. 5 and Zoning meeting Wednesday Dec. 6. Byron said Shepp Electric will be at the Township Garage Wednesday Dec. 6 to look at hooking up the new generator.

Pete reported on getting another call in regards to the property in Austinburg on Route 307 that still needs cleaned up. The Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh will send a letter in regards to cleaning up the issue. Pete reported he has been working with the Austinburg United Church of Christ with there drainage issues. Pete asked the other Trustees if they had an issue if a catch basin was put in the driveway between the park and the church near Maple Street to help get rid of the standing water on Maple Street and in the driveway. The Trustees said if the catch basin is put in on Township property then there is no problem.

Resident Lorna Masek asked if there was any update on a buyer for Mr. C's. The Zoning Administrator said currently it is on hold because the buyer is possibly looking at adding some more property to it. Ted Seifert invited everyone in attendance to the Christmas Eve Service at Austinburg United Church of Christ at 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Res. 158-23 Pete moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



Pete Haase, Chairman