

April 2021



# AUSTINBURG NEWS & VIEWS

## Township Officials:

### Township Fiscal Officer:

Kanda O'Dell – 216-409-0952

### Trustees:

Jerry Burke – 440-812-3581

Byron C Dutton II – 440-344-6433

John Kusar – 440-275-0788 or 440-223-6511

### Zoning Inspector:

Rob Lapuh – 440-812-0273

Office – 440-275-1378

### Fire Chief:

William Wilms

### Road Personnel:

Mike Petro – Road Superintendent

William Wilms – Cemetery Sexton

John Luban – Roadman

## Meeting Dates:

### Township Monthly Meetings:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. **Please try to come!!**

### Zoning Commission:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month – 7:00pm in the Town Hall

**Township Hall Phone** – 440-275-1378

**Township Garage** – 440-275-3402

**Website** - [austinburgtownship.org](http://austinburgtownship.org)



## From the Desk of the Fiscal Officer

Hello 2021 and Goodbye 2020!

The year of COVID brought several challenges but fortunately our Township finances are still very solid. Here are a few examples that I would like to share with you to show the impact COVID has had on our income for the Township. In 2019 our hotels and bed and breakfast brought in \$72,368 but in 2020 it only brought in \$45,625 in tax money. In 2019 our gas stations brought in \$147,725 but in 2020 it only brought in \$89,033 in tax money. In 2019 our Townhall brought in \$2,465 and in 2020 it only brought in \$1,325.

We also had many bright spots in 2020! We were awarded two grants from NOPEC. One grant paid 100% of the cost for repairs and improvement made to the basement door of the Townhall. The other grant paid 60% of the cost for a new furnace for the Fire Station. We also received a \$60,000 grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission that went towards the second phase of improvements on Forman Road. The Trustees won the bid on purchasing our old 503 fire truck for \$15,000. The old 503 fire truck will be turned into a work truck to be used by the Township road crew. The \$15,000 was moved from the Road and Bridge budget to be put on the principle of the new 503 fire truck to help pay down the principle of the bond. That was a

win, win for the Township. Here is looking at getting back to some bit of normalcy. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Thanks,**  
**Kanda O'Dell**  
Austinburg Township Fiscal Officer



### **Fire Department Corner**

*I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during this pandemic, it has been quite a year of changes. Despite the pandemic the Fire Department ran a total of 185 calls this year; from auto lock outs to a couple of structure fires. The department went in for a grant with neighboring departments, and we were recently awarded a grant to get new marcs radio equipment which is the best way to replace some of our old and dated radio equipment. The department has also purchased two new thermal imaging cameras, they are smaller about the size of a cell phone, these will help us in finding hot spots during fires, finding missing person in woods, and other uses. May everyone stay safe and healthy, thank you for your support.*

**Assistant Chief**  
**Todd Dutton 440-275-3450.**



I don't know about you folks, but I am ready for some warm weather! The clean-up day will be May 8, 2021 from 8:00am to 12:00pm. It is great to be able to resume this event that was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 virus.

I would like to welcome two new businesses to our community, Marianne's Chocolate and Cheese, which opened recently and Sidley's Volvo and MACK truck dealership which is under construction.

The board of trustees is considering installing a new roof on the old garage behind the fire hall. No details at this time.

The township's big project for the year is paving South Forman Road from Allen Road to Eagleville Jefferson Road. Tim Martin, County Engineer estimates the cost will be \$270,000.00. I applied for a grant with Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and the township was awarded a grant of \$135,000.00. The township is responsible for 50% of the paving project cost. The board will be putting this project out for bid very soon.

The board of trustees purchased the old #503 fire truck from the fire department to install a dump box to the body for use by the township road department.

### **Jerry Burke**

Since we no longer have a land line, please contact me on my cell 440-812-3581, if you have any questions.

Hello Fellow Residents,

While writing this edition to the newsletter, there is still snow on the ground, and we continue to look forward to the Spring ahead. We know that the year 2020 was indeed challenging for all. Even though we have seen some decreases in our revenue streams, the Townships financial well-being is sound. As we enter into 2021, we have some major development at the freeway currently underway. Sidley corporation is building a Volvo dealership to service and sell commercial trucks; this will bring even more jobs to our community. We continue to work with the Ashtabula County Commissioners and their organizations to promote Interstate-90 as a developing area to continue this trend. The more commercial development we attract as a Township, the more this will help to keep our real estate taxes in check.

Austinburg Township purchased a new fire truck last year through a bond issue. We are currently repurposing the 1991 fire truck to a dump truck with a plow for use on our township roads. This truck only has around fifteen-thousand miles of use. We will use this truck as a backup to our regular road maintenance vehicles, as this will be more economical for our residents than to purchase a new vehicle.

Please remember to be aware when you see our maintenance crews working on our highways. This is for their safety as well as your own as there will be paving jobs, roadside mowing, ditch cleaning, culvert replacement, and general maintenance along our highways.

Our Township meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:30pm at the

Township hall. If Monday is a legal holiday, the meeting will be held on Tuesday at 7:30pm.

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or the other Trustees.

**John A Kusar**  
**(440) 223 - 6511**



Hello Fellow Residents

Well another year has passed, and what a year it has been. A lot of us are looking for our sanity. I never thought that I would be a person that wore a mask into the bank, but I do.

We have completed the dirt work and setting back of the ditches on South Forman Road which was an issue 2 project. We were able to get around \$50,000 dollars as a grant. We applied and received issue 2 money for paving this section of road this year for this year.

We have been pushing to grow the Route 90 and 45 corridor. Several business have built in this area, with several more to come. The way I figure it, if there is more business the less my taxes will be and the community will benefit more, and also we have some more local jobs. The State is planning to put in a, Center Turn lane on Route 45 north and south of Clay Street to improve the traffic flow.

The Northwest Ambulance set another record year with around 3300 calls this year. Because there were few festivals that they attend this year, because of the virus, all of the extra call came from the nursing home to transport patients to the hospital. Northwest Ambulance is still running the membership program,

were you will not receive a bill for service if you are a member, the cheapest insurance you can purchase.  
We received a state grant, for about \$25,000 dollars to improve the road sign on our roads. Most of the signs have been put up.

We will continue to look for grants to upgrade the community, and spend your tax dollars as wisely as possible in upgrading our roads and parks, to make this a place, you are proud to call home. If you have any question or concerns, please ask us, we are here to serve you.

Your Faithful Servant  
Byron Dutton II

**Your Faithful Servant  
Byron Dutton II**



## THE BELL

There is a bell on the brick stand in the frontyard of the First United Church of Christ 2870 Rt. 307. This bell has a lot of history. The bell (#520) was cast by Henry McShane & Co. of Baltimore MD. This company is still in existence today. I called them to ask about this bell and they looked it up on their records. The bell was sold to the "City of Austinburg" (order #2906) on October 20, 1884 and was pattern "500 lbs bell". It was ordered by J.H. McClure who was probably an Austinburg Township trustee. It was shipped on November 1, 1884

by rail freight, and the bell weighed 462 lbs. There was a bell traded in on this bell and Austinburg received \$0.16 per pound as credit toward the new bell.

The now Town Hall was originally built as a church and I believe that the bell that was traded in was the bell that had been in the steeple of this church. By 1884 the church congregation had left this building and the building was being used as a town hall. In those days, we did not have telephone or electricity, so if there was a fire in town, the bell would be rung to call the town people to come and fight the fire. At some time, probably in the 1930's, the town hall steeple was removed when the town hall was re-roofed. The bell then sat in the township garage for many years. It was probably in the early 1970's, at the urging of Bill Seeley, the bell was put on a brick stand, in the church yard. The brick stand was built by township resident Dick Wharram,

In June of 2011, a windstorm came through Austinburg and blew down a tree directly on top of the bell. The bell was cracked and the cast iron frame was broken in to many pieces. The bell was again put in storage at the township garage. A couple of years later the bell was returned and the frame and bell were repaired by township resident, Pete Haase, and placed on the stand again. The bell is a working bell and can be rung by anyone.

Submitted by Ted Seifert



**From the desk of the Zoning Administrator**

My name is Rob Lapuh. I am your newly appointed Austinburg Township Zoning Administrator. Prior to my appointment, I served for the past six years on the Austinburg Zoning Board.

I look forward to assisting our residents and Township with positive future growth in both Commercial and Residential development.

Our office hours are Mondays from 5:00-7:00pm. I will be available whenever necessary and can be reached at 440-812-0273. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

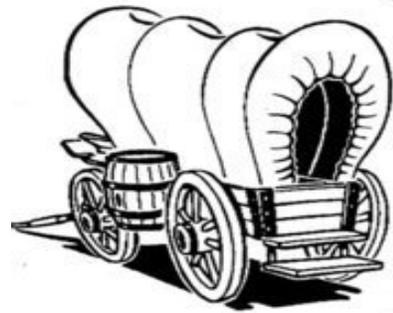
**Respectfully yours,  
Rob Lapuh,  
Austinburg Zoning Inspector**



Drop off recycling bins are located at the Austinburg Township Garage, 1393 State Route 45, Austinburg, Ohio. These are available for use by all township residents.

Our annual festival will be held August 27, 28 & 29, 2021 in the Austinburg Township Park. We have entertainment for the family throughout the weekend including games and activities for people of all ages. Saturday will be a fun filled day starting with a parade at noon. There will be several activities in the park for kids including a pet show, a pizza eating contest (sponsored by Capp's Pizza), a petting, Jungle Terry and even a Demolition Derby with Mini Power Wheel cars. Sunday children can join the frog jumping contest, watch a magician enter in various yard games/water battles (sponsored by the Austinburg Volunteer Fire Department) and visit a reptile trailer We will have live bands Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings along with various local artists performing in the afternoons.

Please stop by and support many local food and craft vendors and be sure to visit the beer tent sponsored by Austinburg Volunteer Fire Department (all proceeds from the beer tent go to the fire department).



**We are opening Friday Night!**  
Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 10pm  
**Band: Rough Cut**  
Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 10pm  
**Band 6pm to 10pm**  
**Bobby Hayes & the H2O Band**  
Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 8pm  
**Meeting Dates:**

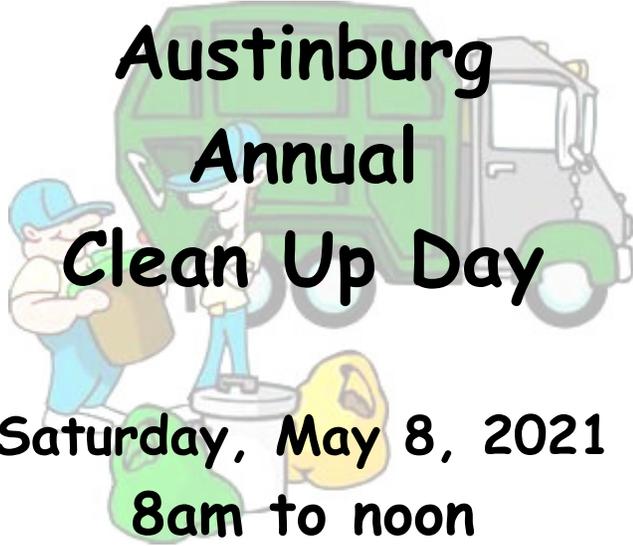
For upcoming meeting dates contact Marcy Hejduk 440-812-7281

*All Meetings Will Be At The Austinburg Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.*

AUSTINBURG NEWS & VIEWS  
Austinburg Township  
P.O. Box 134  
Austinburg, Ohio 44010

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
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AUSTINBURG, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 5

Boxholder  
Route 1  
Austinburg, OH 44010



**Austinburg  
Annual  
Clean Up Day**

**Saturday, May 8, 2021  
8am to noon**

**Austinburg Twp. Garage  
1393 Route 45**

**See information enclosed in  
newsletter regarding items  
that will be accepted**

**Keep our township beautiful!!!!**