

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

~~Austinburg~~ Township

Meeting

Held January 15,

2007

The regular meeting of Austinburg Township held January 15, 2007 was called to order at 7:30pm by Chair Lynn Frank. Trustees Burke, and Spade were present. Audience present were Ginny and Ted Seifert, Nick Deering, Dave Long, John Kusar, Byron Dutton II, and John Beninato.

Res. 621-07 After adding that Trustees Spade and Burke were present at the meeting of the Records Commission, Janie moved to approve the minutes of the Records Commission meeting, the Fire Dependency Board meeting, and the year end meeting all held Dec. 28, 2007. Lynn seconded. The roll call vote; Frank, aye. Spade, aye. Burke, aye.

Res. 622-07 Janie moved to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2007 meeting. Lynn seconded. The roll call vote; Burke, aye. Spade, aye. Frank, aye.

Res. 623-07 Jerry moved to approve the bills as the lawful obligation to the township. Janie stated she would like to view all invoices before she signs all but payroll checks from now on. The fiscal officer asked why after all the time we have been doing checks this way, would she need to see invoices now. Janie stated she feels it is her responsibility as a trustee. Barb asked Janie if she has been acting without responsibility by signing checks for her first three years as trustee without viewing invoices at the time she signs the checks. Barb said she would work with Janie on this issue with a legitimate reason for this request. Janie stated my explanation is that I want to see the invoices as I sign the checks. Barb said if the board has a question about specific invoices, she will show the invoice when requested. Barb added the board has no legal right to dictate how her job is done as long as all her work is completed. Jerry stated we have an auditor and she watches how things are paid. Janie said she does not feel Barb is doing anything wrong. Janie said she just wants to look at the invoices as she signs the checks. Jerry said he disagrees with Janie's request. The fiscal officer explained that each receipt is turned in with the proper dept. signature and she compares them to the invoice. Barb said the motion is on the floor and asked if there was a second. Lynn seconded the motion. The roll call vote Frank, aye. Burke, aye. Spade, aye. Janie stated the balance for the township is \$707,804.94.

The fiscal officer asked where the records are that she placed in a storage box and labeled pre-2000, D-Z, and stored above the office. The box is empty and in the hallway. Lynn said they have been placed in the stage file cabinets. Barb stated she would like to be notified when records are rearranged as she is responsible for those records.

The fiscal officer said the township had no income from last meeting, and bills totaled \$19,032.75.

Zoning Administrator John Beninato gave his report. It is available in the office of the town hall. Jerry discussed the possibility of an increase in septic system permits due to the change in septic laws.

In correspondence we received a copy of surveys sent to residents of the CountryView area by the Ashtabula Co. Dept. of Environmental Services asking about interest in water lines. Included was a list of residents sent the survey.

The annual notice from the County Recorder notifying townships zoning amendments and maps must be recorded at her office. The fee structure was indicated.

We received an invitation and nomination form for the Red Cross Heroes Breakfast to be held on March 3, 2007.

A letter was received and read into the record from Catherine Colgan, Ashtabula Co. Prosecutor, regarding changes made to health care for the trustees mid-term. Barb said this letter was an answer to a letter she had written to the Prosecutor regarding HSAs previously discussed by the township, and whether it would constitute an in-term increase to elected officials. We did not take the HSA. Barb said the letter indicates to her we cannot change plans for the officials. Copies were given to the board. The fiscal officer said Catherine's letter refers to any change not just increases. Janie said the legal dept. was fine with the change of plans, Barb stated she would defer to the county Prosecutor. Jerry said he does not think this has any effect on the change of plans, and Janie does not think so either. Discussion was held on the change is in plans, not a change from Medical Mutual. Barb said it is up to the board, what course of action they want to take, but a clarification should come from Catherine Colgan. Ms. Colgan's letter refers to a change in the formula of compensation, results in a change to the officials compensation. Jerry said that is in the first sentence of the letter. Janie

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Janie said this is to the Ohio Attorney General has stated the township is not permitted during an existing term of a township trustee to authorize the purchase of a health or hospitalization for the trustee during the term. We are not, because that was at the beginning of the term. But the purchase of health and hospitalization has to be authorized by resolution before that term begins, which we did, so that's ok. We are not increasing their amount or salary, because we are only paying their deductible. Janie would like a copy of what Barb sent to Catherine so she knows the question. Janie said to her it looks like it is ok. Janie stated she would be glad to call Catherine on this issue. Jerry requested Janie get any information she receives back in writing.

Res. 624-07 Lynn moved to receive the letter from the Prosecutor and bring the issue back at the next meeting. Jerry seconded. The roll call vote; Spade, aye. Burke, aye. Frank, aye.

Jerry reported that he, Pete, and Jim Donathan from the Engineer's office looked at Creek Rd. where we want to raise the road. Jim shot some grades. He gave a rough estimate of 800 tons of stone would be needed to raise the road.

Jerry said he would like a work session with Pete to plan road work for this year. Jerry sees work needed on Pelton Rd., lower Forman Rd., and Ravinewood. Jerry will coordinate the session.

Jerry stated he would like to look at possibly picking up a good used road grader.

Jerry reported there are problems with the office heater. Barb said she called Jerry because the heater thermostat had gotten stuck and it remained on over the weekend. Jerry will check on prices for heaters.

Jerry reported on a meeting he attended at the Rome fire hall on Thursday concerning the proposed repeater system. He stated there is a \$59,000 EMA grant, and a \$10,000 Division of Forestry grant. He said the \$10,000 grant must be matched. The total cost of the system will be \$109,000.00. There is no plan yet on placement. He discussed changes that will be necessary to all department radios due to channels used. Questions still remain on maintenancè, liability, and ownership. Jerry stated this system will help south county, primarily, not the low spots in Austinburg. Janie stated she believes both grants Jerry referred to must be matched.

Janie stated the NAD meeting will be Wed., February 7, at the NAD building.

Janie said she had attended Marc Dann's swearing in ceremony.

Lynn said she would like set up interviews for zoning candidates, and zoning secretary applicants for Monday, January 22 starting at 6:30pm.

Lynn stated ODOT received the contract sent from Austinburg for work done on the local detour roads during the Rt. 45 construction.

Lynn said if the newsletter meets the board's approval, she will take it to the printer.

Lynn said she does not think it will be necessary to send a letter to the Commissioners about the Brown Rd. name change as had been previously discussed.

Lynn said the Water Advisory Board will meet Wed., at 7:00pm.

Lynn reported the Zoning Public Hearing is Tuesday at 7:00 and the Planning Commission will meet that day at 4:30. The zoning issue to be discussed at the public hearing is on the Planning Commission's agenda.

Lynn reported back on prices of the reflective strips being placed on stop sign posts. The cost to Freedom Twp. Is \$7.00 for three foot strips, and \$10.20 for the four foot strips. These are from The Municipal Sign Co. They are available in red or yellow.

In audience participation, Nick Deering inquired why Janie had asked to see invoices now after so much time had passed without viewing them. Janie indicated she wanted to see them. Most fiscal officers she spoke with clip them all together when paying the bills. Nick then asked Lynn what her opinion is on this matter. Lynn stated she really has no opinion on this.

Dave Long asked if anyone has heard anything on the old Ellsworth gas line. Nothing has been heard. Dave stated he looks at invoices when paying bills for his private company.

Ted Seifert asked if he may sit in on the interviews for zoning secretary candidates. The board stated that would be fine.

John Beninato reported on situations regarding gas wells in Plymouth Twp. He said he thinks ODNR notifies township trustees when drilling is going to take place. Discussion was held on permit processes for drilling and who is involved in that process.

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Res.625-07 Lynn moved the meeting be adjourned. Janie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

*Barbara Schaub*  
*Gym Frank*  
*Janie Schaub*