

Austinburg Township Minutes  
October 7, 2024

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, David Gottwig, Teresa Gottwig, Laurie Robishaw, Ted Seifert, Lorna Masek and Brian O'Dell.

Res. 144-24 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 145-24 John moved to pay the bills, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$237,643.04 and receipts were \$20,538.96.

In terms of correspondence we received a letter from the Budget Commission of Ashtabula County about a public hearing Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the County Commissioner's meeting room. The meeting is a mandated meeting by the State to discuss the Local Government Fund. ODOT is having a meeting Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm at the ODOT garage on Seven Hills Rd to go over Ohio's 4-year transportation planned program. We received our OTARMA insurance renewal for building and equipment. The cost of renewal will be \$26,687.07. Last year's cost for 2024 was \$24,124.00 for OTARMA insurance. We had an email from the Ashtabula County Township Assoc that Carla Slusher passed way Oct. 3. Carla was Windsor's Fiscal Officer and the ACTA secretary. We received a message about a mattress being left by the side of Forman Road last Wednesday.

The Fiscal Officer ask for approval to pay a bill from EFCC for the road department for \$4,753.54. Trustee John Kusar said he would discuss this later in the meeting. The Fiscal Officer also reported she wasn't comfortable with spending the money to put cameras in at the Townhall and Road Department because it is so late in our fiscal year. This will be looked at again in the beginning of 2025.

Res. 146-24 John moved to go with OTARMA insurance for next year again, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 147-24 John moved to do Trick or Treat in Austinburg on Thursday Oct 31 from 5:00-7:00 pm, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported he has issued 2 building permits. Rob showed the Trustees the tentative plans for the old Mr C's restaurant. The company is also looking to possibly purchase some land off the America's Best Motel. Rob also had a visit from Montrose and they are hoping to get moving on development plans by the end of this year.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms no report.

Road Supervisor Mike Petro no report.

John went over the meeting that Kanda, Anthony and John attended with Joslin-Landis Insurance. There was a lot of discussion on HRA and HSA in regards to what would benefit our employees the most. Joslin-Landis Insurance is working on drawing up some different scenarios so we can discuss it. John went over the bill from EFCC for riprap that was purchased for the Glenwood ditching project and for extra stock piling at the yard. The cost for the riprap was \$4,753.54.

Res. 148-24 John moved to pay the EFCC bill, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Byron reported on a call he received inquiring what our Township policy was on cannabis sells. There was lots of discussion on this matter in the meeting. Since the person didn't get specific on whether it was medical or general cannabis sells, Rob the Zoning Inspector

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will investigate our zoning policy in regards to cannabis plus how our policy is affected because of the new State of Ohio laws. Byron reported that he received a phone call in regards to an abandoned well on the Lampson Rd which the Township owns. Byron spoke with the neighbors, but they don't recall there being a well on that piece of property. Byron reported that the piping project and seeding of the land has been completed. Byron also reported on the NAD meeting. Pete would like the Township to look at putting a catch basin and piping at Lampson Road and Orchard Grove Drive. Pete will get with the road department on fixing this issue. Pete has spoken with the Illuminating Co about the street lights that are out around town.

Resident Laurie Robishaw asked who to contact when we have issues with lines whether phone, cable or electric. The trustees said to call PUCO to report issues. David Gottwig asked again for permission for the Zoning Board to start working on the Townships Compressive Plan in regards to the future growth of Austinburg Township. Ted Seifert asked if the Zoning Board has considered looking into an historical district in town. Ted Seifert asked what the Illuminating Co was doing on Route 45 North. Pete said he was told they were adding more lines and straightening poles.

John announced we were going into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Res. 149-24 John moved to go into executive session at 8:36 pm to go over personnel matters, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal aye.

Res. 150-24 John moved to come out of executive session at 9:02 pm, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal aye.

No Business was discussed.

Res. 151-24 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



Pete Haase, Chairman