

Austinburg Township Minutes
December 30, 2024

The year-end meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Jackson Wilms, Ted Seifert, Bill Wilms, Ted Wilms, Pat Yuhas, Mike Petro and Brian O'Dell.

Fire Dependency Board was called to order by Pete Haase and seconded by Fire Chief Bill Wilms. Secretary Ted Seifert started the meeting at 7:30 pm. Present for the meeting was Jackson Wilms Fire Fighter and rep for the board, Pat Yuhas Fire Fighter, Ted Wilms Fire Fighter and Rob Lupah Fire Fighter and rep for the board. Trustee Pete Haase was the representative for the Trustees. Ted Seifert reported that to his knowledge there were no cases to report and all is in order. Motion to adjourn by Trustee Pete Haase and seconded by Rob Lupah at 7:35 pm and all were in favor to close the meeting.

Res. 186-24 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Byron seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 187-24 John moved to pay the bills, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$23,210.33 and receipts were \$15,734.23.

In terms of correspondence we received a letter from NOPEC that it is time to fill out the Community Event Sponsorship grant. We received the Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce Directory for 2025. We received a card from Tree Tyme Nursery thanking us for our patronage. We received an email from the Ashtabula County Commissioners, the Planning & Development Department meeting date will be Wednesday, January 8th, 1:00-3:00 pm at the Old Court House.

Res. 188-24 John moved to apply for the NOPEC Community Event Sponsorship Program for \$500 for Clean Up Day for 2025, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

The Fiscal Officer presented Temporary Appropriations to the Board of Trustees in the amount of \$1,310,333.58 for 2025.

Res. 189-24 Pete moved to accept the temporary appropriations for 2025, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

The Fiscal Officer went over the Township meetings in January. The only issue is Tuesday, January 21, 2025 because of holidays. The Fiscal Officer reported that our last few ARPA funds need used up for 2025. The Fiscal Officer also reported she will be working with Harpersfield Township until someone is appointed to the Fiscal Officer position.

Res. 190-24 John moved to use the ARPA funds for salaries for Trustees, Road Dept and Fiscal Officer, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported on the year-end report of revenue from permits for 2024. The amount of revenue was \$5,919.80. Rob also reviewed the permits that were issued for the year: 2 of the biggest were for new construction and 1 was for a new business.

Fire Dept Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported that there were over 200 fire calls. Fire Truck 501 is having some major issues which if not able to fix we may have to take it out of service. Fire Truck 504 needs some work just for upkeep. The fire station needs to have some major repairs done to it. There was lots of discussion on what our options might be for a new fire station and whether that is building something or finding a building we could turn into a fire station. Fire Chief Bill Wilms would like to see us look to go for a new levy due to equipment issues and fire department personnel costs. There is more discussion to come in regards to the fire department. Resident Ted Seifert suggested the Trustees and Fire Dept worked together to decide what direction to prioritize and work together for one goal.

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Road Supervisor Mike Petro reported that with the community growing that there are going to be a lot of big projects coming down the road. Mike also reported that some of the road equipment needs to start getting upgraded. Mike reported that we again lost a large tree in the park. Mike suggested that in the spring we look at maybe getting rid of the old trees and replant new ones for safety reasons. Mike said he was disappointed on the chip n seal job this year because it was done so late in the season. Trustee John Kusar said that when we bid the Forman Rd project and the chip n seal project in 2025 there will be a statement in the bidding that we want the projects done at a certain time of year not when the contractor has time to fit us in. Mike reported Sidley Ct and GH drive are going to be a very large expense for us to repair.

John announced we were going into executive session to discuss pay raises for our employees for the year 2025. The Fiscal Officer said we need to check on the question we sent in to the Matrix in regards to recreational marijuana getting sold in our Township. John said we would probably have to wait a few months into the new year because of changes at the County Prosecutors Office. Byron said he will be out of town but should not miss any meetings in January. Pete will cover the NAD meeting for Byron.

Res. 191-24 John moved to go into executive session at 8:24 pm to go over personnel matters, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 192-24 John moved to come out of executive session at 8:39 pm, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

After the executive session the Trustees went back into the public meeting to go over what was discussed.


Res. 193-24 John moved to give Mike Petro, John Luban and Anthony Maley all a \$1.25 wage increase per hour starting on January 5, 2025, Pete seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.


Res. 194-24 John moved to give Rob Lapuh Zoning Administrator a \$50.00 a month increase so his new wage will be \$875 a month going into effect January 1, 2025, Byron seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 195-24 John moved to give Cindy Hejduk Townhall caretaker a \$25.00 a month increase so her new wage will be \$300.00 a month going into effect January 1, 2025, Pete seconded. The Roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 196-24 John moved to give Fire Chief Bill Wilms a \$25.00 a month increase per hour his new wage will be \$908.33 a month going into effect January 1, 2025, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 197-24 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.


Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer


Pete Haase, Chairman