

Austinburg Township Minutes  
February 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Ginny Seifert, Ted Seifert, Brian O'Dell, Bill Wilms, Jacquelyn Carkhuff and Diane Carkhuff.

The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 38-26 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 39-26 John moved to pay the bills, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$38,953.96 and receipts were \$5,289.

In terms of correspondence, we received a letter from Sourcewell in regards to Fabric Storage Buildings. We received a letter from LaCitadelle Investments in regards to purchasing land in our area. We received the dispatching contract for 2026-2027 from the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office for the Fire Dept. We received an email from NOPEC that some Energy Customers will be seeing a credit on their electric bills because of a settlement in regards to a lawsuit. We received an email from the Community Development Coordinator for Ashtabula County in regards to a Township Safety Sign Grant Program. There is an Ashtabula County Township Association meeting Thursday, February 17 at 6:00 pm at the Engineers Office. We received an email from the County Auditor's office in regards to the proposed constitutional amendment that would eliminate property taxes in Ohio. We received an email from Ashtabula Planning Commission in regards to the proposed new hotel on GH Drive. We received an email from Master Gardeners in regards to Plant 250. They are looking to plant 250 Ohio Native Buckeye Trees.

The Fiscal Officer reported she will be going to the 2026 Local Government Conference in Columbus March 19-20. The Fiscal Officer reported we received the renewal for the Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce for 2026 for \$215.

Res. 40-26 John moved to go with the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office for dispatching for 2026-2027 for the Fire Department, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 41-26 John moved to pay the renewal fee for the Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce for 2026, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh went over the new Zoning Map. Rob would like to see more streets added to the map.

Fire Chief Wilms reported that the SCBAs passed for inspection for this year. The Fire Chief reported that the fire department was already over 50 calls for 2026. Fire Truck 501 is in for repairs. The Fire Chief would like to thank Mogren Landscape for his assistance with the house fire on Jefferson Eagleville Road. John reported he spoke with different representatives from UPS about purchasing the building and turning it into a building to house our fire equipment. John said he wants the Fire Chief and the architect there with him to look at the building before any decision is made.

Road Sup no report.

Pete reported the furnace in the fire station has been repaired. Pete would like to purchase the buckeye trees to possibly plant in the cemeteries.

Res. 42-26 Pete moved to purchase five 6ft Buckeye trees in containers from the Plant 250 project, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Byron wants to inquire with the County Prosecutor to see if we can donate a grave plot to a resident. John will type up an inquiry so it can be submitted in the Matrix. Byron asked when articles for the newsletter need to be in. John would like them in by the end of March. Byron did

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talk to the County Engineers Office in regards to painting lines on the Forman Road. The cost will be about \$3,000 to paint the center line on Forman Road. It will need to be repainted approximately every 2 or 3 years. Byron will sign the millage sheet when he is in Jefferson this week. John went over the stone bid quantities needed for this year. Road Sup Mike Petro said to keep things the same. Bids will be due on Monday, March 16 by 7:15 pm and will be opened at 7:30 pm before the regular Township Meeting.

Res. 43-26 John moved to go out for stone bids and they will be opened on March 16 at 7:30 pm. Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

John said we really need to think about building a salt structure to store the salt. This was discussed last year so we need to get updated information and prices. John would like see if we can get this in place for the end of the year. Since we have more paved roads and there seems to be more of an issue getting salt, this is becoming a priority.

Residents Jacquelyn Carkhuff and Diane Carkhuff were questioning what it would take to get approval to build an apartment complex. The complex will also have amenities that could be used by the community. John explained the different steps that are needed to go through zoning. It was stated that there is a need for more housing in our Township especially for those that no longer need a home with land.

Res. 44-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, absent, Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



Pete Haase Vice-Chairman