

Austinburg Township Minutes
March 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Ginny Seifert, Ted Seifert, Mike Petro, Laurie Robishaw, Mike Petro Jr., Marie Steele, Bill Wilms and Luc Tomasello.

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

Stone bids were opened at 7:31 pm and results were gone over.

Awarding of Stone Bids and Cold Patch Bids

Res. 48-26 John moved to hire Simak Trucking for 2026 for the following items: #8 Limestone at \$31.46 a ton, #57 Limestone at \$30.88 a ton, #67 Limestone at \$31.17 a ton, #304 Limestone at \$26.86 a ton, #411 Limestone at \$26.86 a ton, #304 crushed concrete at \$26.50 a ton, Pea Gravel at \$26.75 a ton all delivered to the Road & Bridge garage on Route 45, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase aye, Dutton aye, Kusal, aye.

Res. 49-26 John moved to hire Suit-Kote for 2026 for the following items: AEP applied at \$2.38 a gallon and cold patch for \$118.75 per ton delivered to the Road & Bridge garage on Route 45, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye, Dutton aye, Kusal, aye.

Res. 50-26 John moved to hire Martuccio Asphalt and Paving for 2026 for the following items: CRS-2 applied as directed at \$2.46 a gallon and CRS-2 applied as directed with the computerized tools for \$2.614 a gallon delivered to the Road & Bridge garage on Route 45, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye, Dutton aye, Kusal, aye.

The regular Township meeting started at 7:45 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Ginny Seifert, Ted Seifert, Mike Petro, Laurie Robishaw, Mike Petro Jr., and Bill Wilms.

Res. 51-26 Byron moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal abstained.

Res. 52-26 Byron moved to pay the bills; Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal, aye. Bills paid were \$38,218.20 and receipts were \$1,218.61.

In terms of correspondence, we received an email from the Ashtabula County Township Assoc that their meeting will be on Thursday March 19 at the Ashtabula County Engineers Building at 6:30 pm. We received a notice that the backflow tests are due for the Townhall, Fire Department, Township Park and Road Department. We received a proposal from MC Lawncare for mowing and vegetation control for 2026. We received an email from First Energy that they will be starting a five-year plan to replace the street lights to LEDs. We received a letter from Cleveland Industrial Recycling in regards to recycling scrap. We received an email from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp in regards to a free wellness program for our employees. We received a letter from NOPEC that we have been award the Energized Community grant for \$2,627 for 2026.

Res. 53-26 John moved to apply for the NOPEC NEC grant to be used to make things more energy efficient at the Township, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal aye.

The Fiscal Officer presented Permanent Appropriations for 2026 to the Board of Trustees in the amount of \$2,431,787.34.

Res. 54-26 John moved to accept the Permanent Appropriations for 2026 for \$2,431,787.34, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal, aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh is in the process of issuing a permit for the cell tower on 2468 Forman Rd. Rob reported that the new hotel is looking to do a lot split because of the soil samples that were taken close to the highway.

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Fire Chief Bill Wilms had nothing to report other than there have been several calls the past month.

Road Supervisor Mike Petro asked to see where we are in looking at putting a cul-de-sac in on GH Drive. Mike reported that there are still issues with RTS hitting the pipe and crushing it in front of Austinburg Machine. Pete will get with the County Engineers Office in regards to fixing the pipe on Industrial Park Dr. Mike Petro announced his last day is April 30th. Mike will need to turn in a list of vacation days and sick days that need paid off before April 30th to the Trustees to be voted on.

Pete reported on the OPWC grants we have out still. OPWC Round 39 is to pave North Forman Road for \$56,000 and our cost is \$28,000. OPWC Round 40 is to fix the drainage on Mill Street for \$175,000 and our cost is \$87,000. Pete is concerned about the catch basin on Betts Drive. Pete updated everyone on the different costs and types of salt bins. Byron is going to investigate on how to apply for a small community grant. Byron asked what our 2026 budget is for chip n seal costs. We are going to keep the same amount as last year of \$180,000 for chip n seal. Shawn Shannon asked Byron about using the township park for his Nickel Carnival being held on June 5th this year. Byron reminded Shawn that it was first come first serve to using the park. John reminded the Trustees and the Fiscal Officer that articles for the Township Newsletter are due. John is going to ask around to get some mowing quotes for the township cemeteries.

Roadman Mike Petro Jr asked about updating the trackhoe. John explained why we must keep the smaller trackhoe to be used in the cemeteries. John asked Mike Jr to go out and start getting some prices so in 2027 we could look at getting another bigger trackhoe to use on the roads. Ted Seifert said in Center Cemetery the stone needs raked back in the drive and there are a lot of tree limbs down.

Res. 55-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



John Kusar, Chairman