

Austinburg Township Meeting  
April 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Ted Seifert, Ginny Seifert, Mark Byram, Ron Duff, Laurie Robishaw, Shawn Shannon, Bill Wilms and Brian O'Dell.

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

Res. 64-26 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 65-26 John moved to pay the bills, Byron seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$18,935.23 and receipts were \$18,265.86.

In terms of correspondence there is nothing to report.

The Fiscal Officer reported that the American Relief/SLFRF certification for 2026 has been completed. The Fiscal Officer reported she requested the millage for the Fire Dept levy and the Current Expense levy (General Fund) from the Ashtabula County Auditor.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported he issued a zoning permit for an addition on Cork Cold Springs. Rob will be sending a letter to RTS in regards to zoning violations as well as fire violations at the new building they acquired on Route 45. There is a Zoning Board variance meeting April 20 at 6:30 pm in regards to the lot split on GH drive. Resident Ted Seifert asked what the lot split was for. Rob explained it was because the soil samples didn't come back acceptable where the proposed hotel is going in.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported Owen Wilms will be taking a 240-fire class at A-Tech. The cost is \$3,000.

Road Dept. no report.

Pete reported he is still working on getting door quotes to replace the front door on the Townhall. Pete spoke with Smolen Engineering about getting drawings drawn up to possibly put a handicap ramp on the outside of the Townhall. Pete spoke with the County Engineers Office and the estimated cost to finish paving Forman Road will be around \$60,000. Since we have the OPWC grant, our cost would be around \$30,000. Byron reported on the NAD meeting. Byron has the USB drive from putting a camera down through the culvert pipe at Austinburg Machine owned by Rick Pildner. John went over the price of a new Ford F50 heavy-duty four-wheel drive truck with the plow and everything on it when delivered. The cost is around \$150,000 going through Sourcewell. John spoke with Jody McClenaghan about the water that keeps standing on Allen Road after a heavy rain. The plan is this summer to go in and clean out the swell. John went over the quote from Haines Memorial Ltd to repair the damaged headstones in Center cemetery from the storm/tree damage.

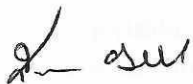
Res. 66-26 John moved to go with Haines Memorial Ltd for \$4,818 for repairs, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye. John said the newsletter mailing went very well this year. The Memorial Day plans are set: Pastor Bill Terry will do the prayer, VFW will be in the park for the gun salute, and the guest speaker will be Judge Harold Specht. The parade will step off at 11:00 am followed by the ceremony in the Township Park. John spoke again with the people handling the selling of the UPS building and there is still no movement on the sale of the property. John reported on the Ashtabula Township Assoc meeting. The speakers were State Rep David Thomas and State Rep Sarah Fowler. The question was asked, "What is the plan if the proposed constitutional amendment to get rid of property tax passes?" Currently there is no plan because they aren't even sure if there are enough signatures for them to turn in the paperwork by July.

Residents Ron Duff asked if there was a plan to prevent the trees from coming down in the cemeteries. The Trustees explained that some of the trees have been removed already prior to

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this last big storm. The Trustees explained that we budgeted \$25,000 this year to take down more trees in the Township. Mark Byram questioned why the Township is looking at getting a new salt bin. The Trustees explained because our salt bins are old and we need more storage. Mark Byram said that he personally would prefer not to use salt on the back roads and to just use grit. The Trustees explained there is still salt in the grit used on the back roads plus we have more paved roads in the Township. Shawn Shannon explained the plan for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Nickel Day Carnival. The carnival will be Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Township Park. This will be the last Nickel Day Carnival. Shawn is working on creating the largest postcard celebrating the countries 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Shawn also reported that he has sold Shannon's store and will probably turn it over to the new owner by July.

Res. 67-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



John Kusar, Chairman