

Austinburg Township Minutes
May 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Ginny Seifert, Mark Byram, Ron Duff, Laurie Robishaw, Lynn Egensperger, and Bill Wilms.

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

Res. 76-26 John moved to accept the minutes once the correction is made from Tim Gildersleeve to Dan Gildersleeve to make sure the electrical boxes are up and working for Country Days, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 77-26 John moved to pay the bills, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$50,817.85 and receipts were \$2,175.00.

In terms of correspondence, the Board received an email from ACTA stating that its meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the County Engineer's Office. On behalf of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners, notice was received regarding an upcoming informational meeting focused on township planning and local decision-making related to wind and solar energy development. The meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at A-Tech. Resident Darren Burke submitted an email regarding cremation burials to be read into the record. Trustee John Kusar explained that Mr. Burke would like the Trustees to consider changing the policy concerning the number of cremated remains that may be buried in a single plot. Mr. Kusar stated that he will prepare a proposed policy amendment for the Board's consideration and vote at the next meeting.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh issued a permit for an accessory structure on Riverview. Rob had a meeting with RTS and they have started to clean up the Route 45 facility. Rob has the drawing for the new gas station/convenient store which will be going in at Rt 45 and Rt 90 in the old Mr. C's restaurant. Resident Mark Byram questioned what the zoning regulations were in regards to storage containers.

Fire Chie Bill Wilms reported that some new hose was purchased and put on fire truck 503. Bill said he went up and checked on the demo that was happening with UPS. Trustee John Kusar said he hasn't had any updates from the brokerage company selling the UPS building.

Road Dept. no report.

John went over the bids for the paving project for paving Forman Rd North of Clay St. There were two bids: one from Koski and one from Ronyak. This project is part of an OPWC grant so the Township will be getting some money back once the project is completed.

Res. 78-26 John moved to go with Koski Construction out of Ashtabula for \$66,274.25, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 79-26 John moved to pay off the OPWC loan Round 38 of \$18,188.18 which was for the paving from Forman to Allen Rd, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Pete reported on OPWC Round 41 and stated that he would like to use the funding for improvements to the ditches on College Street and Mill Street. Pete also inspected the mausoleum at Center Cemetery. He reported that the brickwork needs some attention and may only require resealing. He still needs to inspect the roof of the building. Pete spoke with ODOT regarding cleaning out the ditch on the east side of Route 45 near the veterinary clinic. Byron reported that the Township received a large quantity of grindings from the Route 307 paving project. He also stated that Cleanup Day went well this year and that several residents expressed their appreciation to the Township for providing the service. John reported that seven 40-yard dumpsters were filled and removed during Cleanup Day. Byron expressed interest in installing a

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combination lock on the Township office door. John raised concerns regarding the use of a combination lock. After discussion, it was decided to contact the Township's insurance company to determine any applicable requirements or regulations. John reported receiving a complaint regarding mowing at Mechanicsville Cemetery. He spoke with Canter's and explained that mowing is also required on the opposite side of the fence, as that area is Township property. John reviewed a vegetation management quote for spraying guardrails and cemeteries.

Res. 80-26 John moved to go with Canter's Classic Lawncare for the vegetation quote for \$3,207, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal aye.

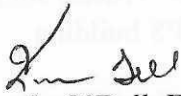
John went over the final plans for the Memorial Day parade and ceremony in the Township Park.

Res. 81-26 John moved to donate \$50 to the Rock Creek VFW for providing a Color Guard for Memorial Day, Pete seconded. The roll call; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusal aye.

Resident Mark Byram asked about cleaning out the ditches on Lampson Road. He also inquired about possible improvements at Tote Road Park and stated that he would like to see the boat ramp cleaned off again this year. Mr. Byram asked whether a portable restroom could be placed at the park. It was explained that a portable restroom had previously been provided; however, due to repeated vandalism, the Township no longer places one at that location. Mr. Byram also asked whether the Township has any contacts with the telephone company regarding the cleanup of utility lines. Trustee Pete Haase suggested that he contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

The Fiscal Officer reminded the Trustees and the Fire Chief we need to finalize plans for the Fire Department Fund and the General Fund levies for this November. These two levies expire next year. The Fiscal Officer will ask the County Auditors Office to run the millage again with increase.

Res. 82-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusal, aye.


Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer


John Kusal, Chairman



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TRUSTEES

John Kusar
Byron Dutton II
Peter Haase

FISCAL OFFICER

Kanda O'Dell

June 1, 2026

The Austinburg Township Trustees are changing our cremation regulations. As of June 1, 2026, any grave that has not had a burial will now be able to have up to four cremated remains per grave. We shall install the first set of remains closest to the headstone and go towards the foot of the grave. No previous remains will be disturbed.

Starting on June, 1, 2026, cremated remains must be in an approved vault.

John A. Kusar

Handwritten signature of John A. Kusar in black ink.

Peter Haase

Handwritten signature of Peter Haase in black ink.

Byron Dutton II

Handwritten signature of Byron Dutton II in black ink.

