

Austinburg Township Minutes
June 1, 2026

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Mark Byram, Laurie Robishaw, Lorna Masek and Bill Wilms.

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

Res. 83-26 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 84-26 John moved to pay the bills, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$67,060.73 and receipts were \$49,636.51.

In terms of correspondence, we received a phone call from a resident asking if we had any idea when the trees will be taken down in Center Cemetery. We received a thank you note from Mike Petro's family in regards to his retirement. Additionally, notice was received that Sophia Bailey will be conducting an Eagle Scout fundraiser for her project at the Township Park. The fundraiser will be held on June 7 at the Austinburg United Church of Christ from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Fiscal Officer reported that paperwork needs to be completed for the Planning Commission regarding the Fire Department. Currently, the Fire Department's address, 2800 State Route 307, is not listed separately and is instead grouped under the Town Hall. The Fiscal Officer also reported that the Fire Department payroll for the period of December 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026, totaled \$5,191.50, which is approximately \$500 higher than the previous pay period. Additionally, the Fiscal Officer provided an update on the millage figures related to the Fire Department and the General Fund levies that are nearing expiration. The Fiscal Officer further reported that the two certificates of deposit (CDs) at Andover Bank need to be renewed or transferred.

Res. 85-26 John moved that the Township's two five-month CD's in Andover Bank be changed to nine-month CD's at 3.36%, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported that permits were issued for a new residence on the Forman property and for an accessory building on State Route 45. Rob also reported that the lot split for the proposed hotel project has been completed. In addition, Montrose is in the process of requesting a lot split. Resident Mark Byram asked whether there were any outstanding issues regarding residences using storage containers. Rob explained that when he becomes aware of a storage container on a property, he contacts the resident and provides them with the applicable rules and guidelines governing their use.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported that calls are up already for the summer. Payroll was turned in to the Fiscal Officer.

Res. 86-26 John moved to approve the fire department's payroll; Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Road Dept. no report.

Pete reported that Koski is scheduled to begin paving Forman Road with the first pass on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Pete also provided an update on the mausoleum at Center Cemetery. He noted that the lower sandstone band is in poor condition and will need to be replaced. Pete reported that wood or fiberglass doors appear to be suitable replacement options for the Town Hall. Byron asked about Michael Petro Jr.'s job title. John explained that his position is Maintenance Supervisor. Byron reported that there will be a NAD meeting on Tuesday, June 3, and a zoning meeting on Wednesday, June 4. He also expressed interest in contacting Suit-Kote to determine whether there is a way to seal the tar on township roads as temperatures continue to rise. John reported that the UPS building has been sold to a wholesale investment group as part

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of a package that included five other UPS properties. John thanked the road department employees for maintaining the park in excellent condition for Memorial Day. He also noted that there were no complaints regarding cemetery mowing. Resident Mark Byram likewise thanked the Township for mowing Tote Road Park and cleaning the boat ramp. John asked Pete whether he had obtained any pricing for fill dirt. John reviewed a proposed change to the cemetery's cremation regulations. Effective June 1, 2026, any grave that has not previously had a traditional burial may accommodate up to four sets of cremated remains. All cremated remains must be placed in an approved vault.

Res. 87-26 John moved to go with the change of cremation regulations, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

The changes will be posted on the Township website. John went over a letter he had written to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The letter is in regards to phone lines on poles with trees and limbs leaning on them. John went over the list of things to try to get done for 2026. The signs on the bandstand and pavilion in the park both need to be replaced. John said it looks like Austinburg Country Days will be purchasing the new signs for the bandstand and pavilion.

Res. 88-26 John moved to have Pete order metal for the end of the pavilions in the park up to \$500, Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

John reviewed the millage rates for the Fire Department and Current Expense levies. Fire Chief Bill Wilms stated that, due to the significant increase in costs associated with operating the Fire Department, including training and equipment expenses, he believes there is a need to pursue more than a simple renewal of the levy.

Res. 89-26 John moved to do a 1 mil renewal with a .4 increase for a total of \$89,035 for the fire levy, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 90-26 John moved to go with a renewal no increases for a total of \$52,316 for the Current Expense levy, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Residents had no concerns.

Res. 91-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



John Kusar, Chairman