

Austinburg Township Minutes
July 20, 2026

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

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

Res. 111-26 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 112-26 John moved to pay the bills, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$38,338.25 and receipts were \$13,482.16.

In terms of correspondence, we received the 2025 Annual Report from OTARMA. We received an email from the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival thanking us for supporting them by paying for the portable restroom for their festival. We received a thank you note from Master Gardeners in helping them reach the goal of planting 250 Ohio Buckeye trees in Ashtabula County.

The Fiscal Officer reported that she spoke with Andover Bank and confirmed that the Township may pay off the fire truck bond early without incurring any penalties. The invoice for Clean-Up Day totaled \$6,812.56, which was \$1,038.46 higher than last year's cost. The Township received a \$500 NOPEC Community Grant to help offset the expense of the event. The Township has not yet received the scrap reimbursement. The Road Department also submitted a list of items it would like to sell through GovDeals.

Res. 113-26 John moved to have the Road Department sell the following items on GovDeals: 8 sticks of miscellaneous-sized metal pipe, 8 sticks of miscellaneous-sized concrete pipe, 1 complete pallet of Profile High Mulch Blend grass seed for the hydroseeder, 1 500-gallon fuel tank, and 1 air greaser, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported he issued an accessory structure permit on Route 45. The new hotel is getting pushed back until the fall to break ground. Resident Ted Seifert spoke to the owners of the old Stuff Toy property and asked when they were going to start working on the property again. The Trustees asked Rob to go over and speak with them about cleaning and mowing up that area before Austinburg Country Days.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported fire truck 501 was in for repairs. New tires are also needed for 501. Fire truck 503 will go in next month for annual maintenance.

Road Dept. no report.

Pete reported that he spoke with the County Engineer's Office, which hopes to complete the striping of Forman Road by the end of the month. Pete also reported on several trees in the park that he believes should be removed. He marked the trees so the other Trustees can inspect them and determine whether they agree. No trees will be removed until the Township receives the second half of its property tax distribution, which is expected no later than October. Byron reported that he spoke with Koski to explore alternative methods for chip-and-sealing the roads. He also submitted the NAD report. In addition, Byron is preparing a letter to the County Prosecutor requesting clarification on the Township's liability if a tree located within the road right-of-way falls and damages private property. John reported that he authorized the Road Department to order additional stone for the roads. He is still awaiting a response regarding the moratorium related to data centers. John also reported that he has not yet received a response from The Illuminating Company concerning the installation of electrical service at Tote Road Park. Finally, John reported that he spoke with PennOhio about placing a portable restroom at Tote Road Park. The restroom will be available only during the summer months and will be insured by the company providing the unit.

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Res. 114-26 John moved to go with PennOhio for a portable restroom for the summer at Tote Road Park. There will be a \$65 delivery fee and a monthly fee of \$125, Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Zoning Chair Laurie Robishaw said the North East Ohio Planning Commission workshop is August 28th. Laurie would like to invite all the Zoning Board members to attend. The cost is \$75 a person.

Residents Joe and Cindy Petti expressed their concerns regarding rumors of a wind turbine being proposed for the property on Route 307 across from Dadeyville Road. Ted Seifert reported that he has marked the trees on his property adjacent to Center Cemetery. He asked the Trustees to mark any additional trees near the property line that they would like removed. Once all trees have been identified, Ted Seifert and the Trustees will walk the property together to review the trees and discuss when the forester will be available to remove them

Res. 115-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



John Kusar, Chairman