

Austinburg Township Meeting

September 8, 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, Amanda Ensman, Joe Petti, Ted Seifert, Robert Obhof and Ron Duff.

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

Res. 125-26 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 126-26 John moved to pay the bills, Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$36,094.96 and receipts were \$61,591.15.

In terms of correspondence, an email was received from the County Engineer's Office advising that Forman Road reopened on August 27, 2026. An email was received from the County Commissioners advising that the Special Assessment will need to be voted on again after the revised figures are available, due to House Bill 335. A notice was received stating that the Zoning Board held a public hearing on Wednesday, September 2, regarding solar panels and systems for commercial use. An email was received from ODOT regarding a Rural Consultation Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, at 2:00 p.m.

The Fiscal Officer reported that the OPWC paperwork for Forman Road South has been submitted for payment. The cameras have been installed at the Townhall and Road Department. The bill from the County Engineers Office for striping Forman Road was turned in but it's over the original quote. The Fiscal Officer reported that we have received the results of our OTARMA Risk Control Visit. We need to vote on obtaining annual motor vehicle records for all drivers.

Res. 127-26 John moved to amend the previous resolution for striping Forman Road to the current amount of \$3,710.73 Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 128-26 John moved to go with Embark Safety MVR monitoring system for OTARMA members to monitor our township employees that are driving for our Township motor vehicle reports, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported that he has reviewed the plans for the new hotel and the new building proposed for the former Mr. C's location. Rob also asked whether there are enough members available to hold a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. He is currently addressing a neighbor issue on Orchard Grove Drive involving a request to install a fence. At this time, there does not appear to be sufficient space to accommodate the proposed fence.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms no report.

Road Dept. no report.

Pete reported that trimming has been completed at the intersection of Sexton Road and Clay Street. Pete asked John if any additional quotes had been received for repairs to the Road Department trucks. Byron stated that he feels the striping on Forman Road is helping keep traffic on its proper side of the road. Byron asked John if he had heard any updates regarding the new truck being purchased for the Road Department. John reported that the issue is getting the truck equipped with everything that was requested. John reported that the Fire Chief decided not to purchase the used fire truck that the Fire Department had been considering. Byron asked for an update on the OPWC grant for the Mill Street drainage project. Pete said he would check on the specifications for the project so the Township can be ready to put the project out for bid in February of next year. John reported on the use of Petro Services for emergency repairs to Township road equipment. He stated that the Township is reviewing this policy due to a change in the Road Supervisor position. Several years ago, the Township contacted the County Prosecutor because of concerns regarding nepotism. The County Prosecutor's Case No. 2021-

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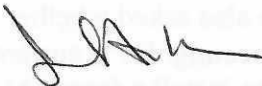
OPN-0107 indicated that the Township could use Petro Services for emergency repairs if they provided the lower quote. The call to use Petro Services must also be made by one of the other Road Department employees and not a family member. John obtained quotes from Petro Services and Southeastern Equipment. Petro Services charges a standard rate of \$155.00 per hour. Southeastern Equipment charges a mileage fee of \$3.80 per mile and an hourly rate of \$180.00. Southeastern Equipment also charges an overtime rate of \$270.00 per hour. John requested that the Township review this arrangement annually. John asked the Trustees to inspect the Township cemeteries. He stated that there have been no complaints and would like to look into securing cemetery mowing services for next year. Resident Mark Byram questioned why the Township does not perform the cemetery mowing in-house. John explained that it is more cost-effective to contract the mowing of the cemeteries. The Road Department does mow the Town Hall and Township Park. Mark Byram also questioned why the Township does not perform its own vegetation and weed spraying. John explained that the Township has a Road Department employee who is licensed to spray. However, the cost of liability insurance required to perform the work is very expensive. John stated that he would like to begin obtaining quotes for salt and would like to purchase 200 tons up front. Resident Mark Byram questioned why the Township does not use the State Bid for salt. John explained that the Township prefers to stay local and typically locks in its pricing from November through April of the following year.

Resident Mark Byram said the portable restroom needs to be restocked but it was clean. Ron Duff asked if the new cameras are CCT. Yes, the cameras are CCT.

Res. 129-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm, Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



John Kusar, Chairman