Austinburg Township Minutes
October 19, 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, Anthony Maley, Bill Wilms, Ted Seifert, Jeremy Hall, Ginny Seifert, Michael Petro and Nelson Hejduk.

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

Res. 144-26 John moved to accept the minutes as written, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 145-26 John moved to pay the bills, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were $18,287.00 and receipts were $14,335.29.

In terms of correspondence, an email was received from ODOT regarding the District 4 STIP Rural Consultation meeting scheduled for October 13. The Fiscal Officer forwarded the information to the Trustees. An email was received announcing that the Ashtabula County Township Association meeting would be held on October 15. An email was received regarding NOPEC's Energy Workshop for Businesses and Nonprofits, scheduled to be held in Rock Creek on October 21. An email was received from the office of State Representative David Thomas regarding next year's State Operating Budget. His office offered to attend a Township meeting, upon request, to discuss the proposed budget with the Trustees. A letter was received from the Ad Hoc Jefferson Community regarding a survey seeking input about the community in which we live.

The Fiscal Officer reported that the Special Assessment resolutions submitted will remain the same as last year. The Special Assessments may need to be revisited next year; however, at this time, the State provides direction to the County regarding how they are to be managed. The Fiscal Officer also reported that she has been working with Spectrum to get RingCentral and the security cameras installed and fully operational.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported that excavation work has begun for the new hotel. Rob also reported that he will be preparing a letter regarding the Township's zoning regulations for storage containers. He plans to hand-deliver the letters to property owners at locations where storage containers are present. He would like to begin with a courtesy letter rather than sending the notices by certified mail. Questions were raised by those in attendance as to why the Township does not impose fines for violations involving storage containers. It was explained that the Township does not have the authority to issue fines for storage containers.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported on the estimate to get the fuel tank replaced on Fire Truck 503. The new tank will be stainless steel and the cost will be $7,893.21. It will be 4 to 6 weeks before the parts are in. Fire Chief also reported that the ladder testing will be next month.

Res. 146-26 John moved to go with the estimate in regards to replacing the fuel tank on 503 with a stainless-steel tank, Pete seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Road Department representative Michael reported that the International truck is currently having brake work completed. He is still working on getting tires installed on the Mack. He also mentioned that the Mack may need a clutch adjustment. Michael reported that a gentleman from Canter's Lawncare had contacted him regarding cemetery headstone cleaning. The gentleman operates a nonprofit organization that provides this type of cleaning service. John asked Michael to obtain additional information, as the Trustees would be interested in learning more about the service. Michael also asked for approval to order 75 tons of road salt and 150 tons of grits.

Pete reported that the new lights for the Township garage have been ordered. Pete and Byron attended the ODOT meeting. He also reported that Brobst's has agreed to grind the stumps at no cost to the Township and will take the stump grindings with them. Pete stated that he has spoken with John Montgomery regarding the ditching on Chestnut Street. He explained that there

is currently no ditch in that area, only a swale. Resident Nelson Hejduk, who also owns property along Chestnut Street, expressed his concerns regarding the proposed ditching. After considerable discussion, it was suggested that the Township continue following its current ditching policy, which provides that the property owner purchases the pipe and the Township installs it. Pete also reviewed the Round 41 OPWC grant paperwork. The Round 41 project will include paving and overlay work, along with ditching throughout the Township. The estimated project cost is approximately $200,000.

Res. 147-26 Pete moved to accept the OPWC grant for Round 41 for paving streets in town and ditching on Creek Rd, Byron seconded. The roll call: Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

Byron reported that he attended the NAD meeting. He stated that, based on ODOT's current road construction plans, there will be no road grindings available for the Township to obtain over the next few years. Byron also reported that he reached out to Sue Avsek regarding the process and proper contact for handling the Zoning Board of Appeals paperwork. John stated that the Trustees would enter into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters relating to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Road Department. No action or business would be conducted following the executive session. John reported that he spoke with the truck dealership and was informed that the new truck is expected to arrive by the end of November. John also shared that he has been researching Data Centers. He reported that there is currently legislation at the State level intended to help regulate Data Centers. John suggested that the Zoning Board consider drafting zoning text that would restrict Data Centers to the I-90 corridor and establish strict regulations for their development. He expressed concern that without specific language in the Township's zoning regulations, the Township could be left without adequate control over where Data Centers are located and how they are developed. Zoning Board Chairman Laurie Robishaw stated that the Zoning Board has already begun looking into possible zoning language and regulations regarding Data Centers.

John reported that he is continuing to investigate how to get the communication poles and phone lines along Creek Road cleaned up. Since the poles only carry communication lines and do not have electric service, OPWC does not have authority to require the communication companies to address the issue. This remains a concern because the poles and several trees are interfering with the area where ditching needs to be completed. The cleanup will need to be addressed before the Township can proceed with ditching along Creek Road. John also brought up the ongoing discussion regarding salt storage and the need for a salt bin. There have been several discussions over the years concerning the appropriate size and type of structure needed for salt storage. John asked the Trustees and Fire Department members for their thoughts on the preliminary Fire Station plans. It was noted that there are a few suggested changes, but overall, the plans look good. John reminded everyone that, due to the cost of the project, it will need to be presented to the voters for approval. He emphasized the importance of keeping construction costs in mind while designing a building that adequately serves the Fire Department personnel and provides sufficient storage for fire equipment and trucks. John stated that he will reach out to the individuals preparing the drawings to communicate the suggested changes.

Resident Mark Byram asked whether additional concrete could be added to the boat ramp at Tote Road Park while the river level is down. The Trustees explained that they have made efforts to repair the boat ramp at Tote Road Park. However, the project requires approval and involvement from both the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, making the process complicated and costly. The Trustees have also pursued

grant opportunities to help fund the repairs, but unfortunately, none have been successful to date. Resident Nelson Hejduk brought up a concern regarding the small basement window located near the stairs and requested that it be looked at.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.229 (G) (1) John moved that we enter into an executive session at 8:47 pm: To consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.

John moved to come out of executive session at 9:20 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.

No Business was discussed.

Res. 148-26 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase aye. Dutton, aye, Kusar, aye.

Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer

John Kusar, Chairman

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[illegible] opportunities to help fund the repairs, but unfortunately, none have been successful to date. Supervisor Hopkins thought up a new one regarding the Small Businesses Saturday. He asked [illegible] the dates and requested that it be limited to

Upstairs in Cabin Reserved Cash section 121 329 (D) (1) Jobs moved that we enter into an executive session at 8:42 pm. To consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee. Roll recorded. The roll. Hines aye. Linton aye. Kasser aye.

John moved to come out of executive session at 9:20 pm. Pete seconded. The roll. Hines aye. Linton, aye, Kasser, aye.

No Business was discussed

Hines motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm. Bryan seconded. The roll. Hines aye. Linton, aye. Kasser, aye.

Kayla O'Dell, Fiscal Officer

John Kasser, Chairman