

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Austinburg Township/ County Commissioners

Meeting

Held June 1,

2009

The meeting of Austinburg Township Trustees and the Ashtabula County Commissioners was called to order by Jerry Burke at 7:00pm on June 1, 2009. Commissioners Carlo, Claypool, and Moroski were present. Trustees Burke, Spade, and Kusar were present. Audience present are listed on attached sheet.

A hand out containing schedules and numbers was passed out to all present. Commissioner Carlo stated the assessment now stands at \$43.00 per foot. It is time to move forward as the stimulus money was granted based on the project being shovel ready.

Trustee John Kusar said he does not think it is right we have not received approval from the EPA on both systems. The EPA has had both sets of biddable plans for 6 months. We need to get hold of the EPA and get their approval going.

Commissioner Moroski stated all involved have done a good job. We are at the point now that the EPA has both plans, but wants the Commissioners to choose one system for review. Larry Meaney said they are confused as to why two sets of plans were submitted.

John Kusar said the trustees agreed to let the Commissioners spend an additional \$20,000.00 to have the EPA look at both systems.

Commissioner Dan Claypool stated things are different now than they were before we received stimulus funds. There is a time clock since stimulus funds are only given to shovel ready projects. He said the commissioners are going to have to choose eventually, and there is the need to get the project ready for bid. All has to be done and be ready to move on by June 30, 2009.

John Kusar asked if the commissioners are going to bid both systems as they had previously promised to do. Commissioner Carlo said probably not. Things were different when that was discussed and decided. We didn't have stimulus money then. John asked if the EPA has said they will not approve both systems. Larry said they did not.

Dan Claypool said both engineering firms have stated if the money is available, the gravity system is best for Austinburg. The bids could come in lower and estimates might be even lower.

Keith O'Connell said we voted for the commissioners and feels if they tell us they are going to do something, they should do it. He feels the commissioners have betrayed our trust.

Mary Ann Claus said the commissioners must look at the future not just short term savings.

Ted Seifert asked if any other grants may turn up. Joe Moroski said not at this time. Dan Claypool stated there may be some CDBG money to help with tie ins.

Jerry Howard inquired about the time frame. The project needs to start within this nine month window.

Jerry Burke asked Larry Meaney if the vacuum system is chosen, will grants be impacted. Larry stated they would. Applications were made using the gravity system estimates.

John Kusar said the sticking point tonight is that the commissioners agreed to bid both systems. He would like to speak to the EPA about it.

Janie Spade asked about advantages and disadvantages to both systems. Peggy Carlo said all our information indicates the gravity system is a better long term system as far as maintenance is concerned. Shawn Aiken from CT Consultants said the vacuum system uses more energy, every home will require a vacuum valve. There is more labor involved and moving parts. These things will result in more costs.

Mike Schaab referred to the hand out given. There is a \$425,000.00 project cost listed, not paid to the contractor. He said that should be included in the original 2.2 million price. This is the first time he has seen it show up like this. Shawn Aiken stated it has always been there. He apologized if it has not been as obvious as it should have been, but it was always there.

Shelley Kelner said the decision on which system to use should not be made until both systems are bid.

Mary Ann Claus said there is more to consider than just economics.

John Kusar said the commissioners should get the EPA to approve both systems. This is about honesty.

John Claus said the commissioners have taken the advice of two engineering firms. Things were different before the stimulus funding.

Shawn Shannon said the money was spent to do something, we need to get it done to solve

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this situation.

Jerry Howard asked if there was still time to bid both systems. Joe Moroski said bidding both should not hold things up. Jerry Howard asked who is responsible for maintenance costs. The people will be, in their sewer rates.

John Kusar said the break even point between the two systems is 31 years. Mike Schaab said after discrepancies were found in earlier reports, that break even point could come down to only 15 years.

Janie inquired about a time line for bids to be back. No time line is given on this yet.

Dan Claypool said we have to rely on the professionals hired, and do what's best for Austinburg.

Nelson Hejduk said the bids may come in more competitively with bidding both the vacuum and gravity system. Shawn Aiken disagreed, saying the contractors involved with each system will bid against each other, not system to system.

Peggy Carlo summed things up, saying the EPA has not reviewed the plans, they want the commissioners to choose a system first. They have really only spent \$12,800.00 of the \$20,000.00 for review.

At this time, Jerry Burke ended the meeting since the trustees have a meeting to follow in the office upstairs. He thanked all for their attendance.

Jerry Burke

Charlie

Barbara Schaab

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The regular meeting of Austinburg Township held on June 1, 2009 was called to order at 7:55pm immediately following the commissioners' meeting. Janie raised the discussion that at last meeting she stated she wanted first and last names used when recording trustees present. The fiscal officer stated she has done the minutes this way for over eight years, why does Janie want the change now. Janie stated she feels it is more respectful. The fiscal officer said she disagrees, saying using the title of "Trustee Spade" is definitely not disrespectful. Barb asked Jerry and John their opinion. Neither one cared if first names were used.

Res. 1176-09 Janie moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting noting the above request. Jerry seconded. The roll call; Kusar, aye. Spade, aye. Burke, aye.

Res. 1177-09 John moved to pay the bills as the lawful obligation to the township. Jerry seconded. The roll; Spade, aye. Kusar, aye. Burke, aye.

Receipts totaled \$13,874.46. Bills totaled \$24,543.42.

Res. 1178-09 John moved the township vote for Ed Demshar and Tom Martin as OPWC representatives. Janie seconded. The roll call vote; Burke, aye. Kusar, aye. Spade, aye.

John reported he spoke with Dave Brown about the Fox property. There is \$2,500.00 in back taxes owed.

John stated John Beninato is going to be on vacation for two weeks. Discussion was held on what to do about permits in his absence. The board decided to play it by ear, not many permits have been requested lately. John Beninato will have his cell with him if an urgent need arises. Most people could wait till he returns for permits.

John addressed the issue of 4-10 hour days for the road crew. Pete never did get back to the trustees about it. Jerry would like to get a Prosecutor opinion on the personnel policy first. John stated the board could work on the policies this year and get them ready to implement next summer. Janie stated some of the points raised by the townships responding to her questions were good points to consider.

John reported on the savings to our insurance premium.

Janie stated the NAD meeting will be June 3, 2009 at 6:00pm.

Janie addressed the engineer's estimate on the asphalt overlay for the River Glen area.

Res. 1179-09 Janie moved to advertise for bids on the 1 ½ " overlay on River Glen, West, East, and South River View, to be opened at the July 6, 2009 meeting. John said if we are looking at doing this, Pete may have to curtail some of the dust control. We have committed the \$75,000.00 to the Forman Rd. project. John seconded the motion to go for bids. Jerry stated we have to keep track of our money as we are still possibly looking at chip and seal on Pelton Rd. The roll call vote; Burke, aye. Spade, aye. Kusar, aye.

Janie asked if it would be alright, she would like to get quotes on the town hall cleaning. The board stated it was fine.

Jerry reported he and Pete went to see a resident in Eagleville complaining about dust near his driveway.

Res. 1180-09 Jerry moved the township purchase the New Holland TT68 tractor from Bortnick Tractor for road side mowing. The cost is \$16,400.00. They will give \$1,800.00 in trade on the old one. John seconded the motion. Janie inquired about a canopy for it. Jerry said Pete stated he could build one for less than the cost of canopy. The roll; Kusar, aye. Burke, aye. Spade, aye.

Jerry showed the sample of the material for the insulation of the garage ceiling. The cost is \$5,610.00 including the rental of the cherry picker. It will give about a R-40 insulation value.

Res. 1181-09 Jerry moved the township go with this insulation product for the garage at a cost of \$5,610.00. John seconded. The roll call vote; Spade, aye. Kusar, aye. Burke, aye.

John Beninato gave his zoning report. A copy is available in the office.

Janie reported she received a call from Tom Hamper, next to Eagleville Cemetery. He wondered about leasing the empty field next to the cemetery to grow strawberries. She told Mr. Hamper there would be a liability issue for the township.

In audience, Nelson Hejduk commented on the Commissioners' not living up to their commitment to bid both sewer systems.

Ted Seifert stated Pete has the pipe to go under Lampson Rd. by his property.

Ginny Seifert asked permission to take her class through the town hall as part of a history lesson. The board said it was fine.

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Mary Ann Claus said she is elated at the amount of funding received for the sewer project, and hopes things move quickly so we lose none of the funding.

John Claus said he hopes all officials involved in the decision making process of the sewer system, look down the road in addition to right now.

Joe Hejduk thanked the board for advertising the commissioners'/trustees' sewer meeting on the sign in front of the town hall.

Jerry read a birthday greeting to the fiscal officer commemorating her 50th birthday.

Res. 1182-09 With no other business to come before the board, John moved to adjourn. Janie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Geoff Beck

Chairman

Barbara Schaub