

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Austinburg Township

Meeting

Held September 8, 2009

The regular meeting held Sept. 8, 2009 was called to order at 7:40pm with the Pledge. Trustees Spade, Kusar, Burke, Mike Petro, Ted, Ginny Seifert, Mike Schaab, Jim Simmons, Winnie Cerbin, Diane Mongenel, Jacklyn Krysa, Nelson Hejduk, Byron Dutton were present.

Res. 1216-09 Janie moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. John seconded. The roll; Burke, aye. Spade, aye. Kusar, aye.

Res. 1217-09 John moved to pay the bills. Janie seconded. The roll; Spade, aye. Burke, aye. Kusar, aye.

Receipts were \$39,220.81. Bills were \$94,866.29.

Res. 1218-09 Jerry moved to lower speed limits to 35 mph on Ravinewood and Silver Fox Drs., as per the Engineer's recommendation following a speed study conducted by his office. John seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Burke, aye. Spade, aye.

In correspondence, a letter was received from the Ahlman family concerning drainage problems on their property. Janie suggested contacting Tim Martin to get his opinion, and set up a work session. Jerry will contact Tim Martin.

John Beninato gave a zoning report. A copy is in township files.

Road Supervisor Mike Petro gave a road dept. report. Forman Rd. work has started. Discussion was held on that project.

Janie stated a bus driver had contacted her. There are low tree limbs on Allen Rd. hitting her school bus.

Part time help and town hall window repairs were discussed with Pete.

John K. said Jacklyn Krysa will contact three professional planners, and a work session with the trustees, Zoning Commission, and representatives from the planners will be scheduled.

John reported the County Commissioners have agreed to come to Austinburg for their Public Hearing on the sewer project. He said he notified them that their consultants have sent the wrong site plan to the EPA. The Hearing is tentatively set for October 6, at 6:00pm.

John stated questions have come up about the posting of township meeting minutes on the web site. He agrees some content may be sensitive but he believes trustees have a responsibility to residents who cannot attend meetings, to let them know what is going on.

Mike Schaab said a sign stating the fact minutes will appear on the web at least should be posted, then post them from this point forward. Past minutes should not be posted. Residents may be intimidated to speak their minds or air complaints at meetings, knowing they will be on the web site. John agreed the sign is a good idea.

Janie reported on the NAD meeting held Sept. 2, 09. The next meeting is Oct. 7 at 7:00pm.

Janie stated the Geneva Area Senior Services, which covers the Austinburg area, has a renewal levy on the ballot in Nov. this year. She said she believes the trustees should support this levy.

Res. 1219-09 Janie moved the Austinburg Trustees support the 5 year, 1 mil renewal levy for the Senior Services. John seconded. The roll; Burke, abstain because he said he has mixed emotions on township trustees endorsing county wide levies. There is nothing wrong with the levy, but does not feel right endorsing it as trustees. Spade, aye. Kusar, aye. Discussion was held on services provided by the Senior Services.

Janie addressed ditching on Pelton Rd. Resident Kim Wolfe is afraid this will affect her outlet. Tim Martin had letters from past discussions on the drainage, stating it will affect the outlet as well as our road. Kim asked the trustees to look at the area. The County Engineer has said he will provide equipment and operator to clean the outlet. The township would then provide rip-rap to lay in on the ravine to prevent further erosion.

John said this is an ongoing problem, and further development will compound it. It needs addressed. John said we could go back to an old agreement from 2002, the township will pay for the stone, the county will clean the channel back 300 feet to help lessen property erosion.

Res. 1220-09 John moved the township pay for rip-rap as per the County Engineer's recommendations only, on the Kim Wolfe property, when she signs the agreement with the County to clean the channel. Jerry seconded. Janie said she would like to add that this problem will eventually damage Pelton Rd. if not addressed. The roll; Spade, aye. Burke, aye. Kusar, aye.

John said he spoke with Randy Bluhm of Grand River Academy, who would like to place

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pedestrian signs on College St. near the crosswalks. He referred the matter to John Beninato. John B. stated zoning does not discuss this, only setbacks. It should possibly go through the Director of Transportation. Janie stated it could be discussed with Tim Martin. Jerry said he sees nothing wrong with signs there, as long as they are not permanent. John K. said he could put portable signs there, and we can check with the county. Janie offered to follow up on this.

Jerry discussed pipes on Ravinewood are not draining. Pete flushed them. The pipe there is not causing erosion problems, the bend is. Elbows will be placed on the pipe to direct the water.

Jerry said about a month ago, Barb read a letter from the water dept. that said the township had put a water meter in backwards. Jerry and Pete looked at it, and we have never turned that meter.

Jerry has received the new sign letters we ordered, he will bring them in.

Jerry stated to Janie that at the meeting from which he was absent, she did not sign a check, and he then had to sign it when he returned. Janie answered she has a right to not sign any check that she feels there is not enough documentation. Jerry said every check has the information right on the stub for what the check is paying for.

In audience comments, Diane Mongenel said as a Zoning Commission member she feels courtesy copies of zoning reports would be very interesting.

Jacklyn Krysa agreed she would like to see the reports from the Zoning Inspector.

Jacklyn inquired about Janie's comments on signing checks without documentation. The fiscal officer stated all necessary documentation is presented to trustees for payment of the bills. Discussion followed on bills and payment. John stated he feels Janie should not approve all bills and then not sign some of the checks. He said the fiscal officer is an elected official and answers to the residents not trustees. It is her job to watch the money, the trustees' job to legislate and spend the money. There is a checks and balance system. The state auditor's office provides the audits. Janie stated that she was told by the County Prosecutor's office that if there is not reasonable documentation she does not have to sign those checks. Barb disagreed with the information Janie said she received from the Prosecutor's office, stating she had received different information.

Nelson Hejduk asked if the township would consider sprucing up the buildings behind the town hall. He also said the power line between the town hall and fire hall is very low.

Diane Mongenel said Randy Bluhm had approached the township 2 or 3 years ago about signs on College St. The signs should not be permanent.

Byron Dutton asked what the plans were for Pelton Rd. after drainage work is completed. Jerry said we will see what the finances are at that time.

Nelson Hejduk asked how the township is going to handle the cost of sewers to the township itself. The trustees told him there would be no increase in taxes to pay for the township's sewers.

Res. 1221-09 John moved to adjourn the meeting. Janie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Jerry Bush
Boyd Chavira
Barbara Schaub