

Austinburg Township Meeting
March 20, 2023

The regular meeting of the Austinburg Township Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm. In attendance were Rob Lapuh, Ted Sciefert, Ginny Sciefert, Lorna Masek, Bill Wilms, Mike Petro and Brian O'Dell.

Res. 49-23 Byron moved to accept the minutes as with the correction of \$8,830 for the floor in the Townhall, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Res. 50-23 Pete moved to pay the bills; Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye. Bills paid were \$6,995.53 and receipts were \$2,985.85.

In terms of correspondence, we received 3 letters from Ashtabula County Environmental Services that back flow tests need done at Townhall, Fire Dept and R&B Garage. We received a letter from the County Commissioners about an application for funds to be used for Memorial Day expenses. We received a letter from ODOT about the request we put in for a traffic study north side of the SR 45 and I-90 interchange ramps. ODOT will also be looking at North 45 and Austinburg Rd intersection. We received letters from recycling companies in regards to our Spring Clean Up Day. We received an email late in regards to the Ashtabula Township Assoc meeting which was held March 16, 2023. We received the answer back from the County Prosecutor's Office in regards to selling property of the Township. The answer is that if the item is about \$2,500 in value it must follow public auction rules. We received notice that PennOhio will be raising our trash rates to \$110 a month for both the Townhall and R&B garage.

Res. 51-23 John moved to keep PennOhio Corporation as our trash pickup provider for 2023 for \$110 per month for each location, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

The Fiscal Officer presented Permanent Appropriations for 2023 to the Board of Trustees in the amount of \$1,885,098.33. Res. 52-23 John moved to accept the Permanent Appropriations for 2023, Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.

The Fiscal Officer presented the % that should be used to break up the electric bill since the Townhall and Fire Dept are both on the same meter now. It would be broken down by 67% of the bill to the Fire Dept and 33% to the Townhall based on previous bills usage prior to the combining of one meter for both.

Res. 53-23 John moved to accept the break down of % for the electric bill with the Fire Dept paying 67% and the Townhall paying 33%, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Zoning Administrator Rob Lapuh reported on some building permits. Rob also reported he had heard back from the Prosecutors Office regarding the Nichols/Bailey situation. Rob will check on the progress at Cunningham's house regarding his garage issue. The Health Dept has been notified about the Cunningham issue. Rob will stop at the old COPES building to visit the new business in there because a change of use needs to be done.

Fire Chief Bill Wilms reported that the new turnout gear has come in. Bill reported that he had to order more helmets. Bill also reported that they will be hiring someone to come out and do the fire hose testing starting this year. Bill reported that there are currently 20 firemen on the roster however 2 are probationary. Byron mentioned Scott Wilms who is one of the our township firemen and also works for South Euclid about getting recognized by South Euclid as their Fireman of the Year.

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Cemetery Sexton Bill Wilms reported on looking at possibly raising the cemetery rates. Bill also said we need to add a fee for disinterment. Bill reminded the Trustees we need to add something in our cemetery's rules covering Indigent burials and how we cover them and who services them.

Road Supervisor Mike Petro reported that the elevator for the Townhall has been repaired. The only thing that needs fixed yet is a light with the elevator. Mike said that one of the garage doors at the road and bridge garage broke today but it has been fixed.

John reported the newsletter is almost ready to go just waiting for the zoning report. John went over the 3 quotes for trash pickup for our Township clean-up day.

Res. 54-23 John moved to accept PennOhio's bid for our clean-up day for May 6, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

John went over the plans for Memorial Day, Monday May 29 at 11:00 pm. Byron will contact the vets and a speaker, Bill will handle the Fire Dept, John will contact the State Patrol and Sheriff's office also for traffic control. Ted Seifert will contact Pastor Bill. Brian O'Dell will contact the Geneva HS/JR band. Pete will do the set up and announcing in the park. Byron reported on the NAD meeting. Byron also stated that we need to make sure we are using the Matrix system for questions or concerns for the County Prosecutors office. Pete went over the suggested changes of rates for the Townhall. The rate will be changed but groups that are nonprofit and local will still be available to use the Townhall for free if not already booked. It was discussed that Cindy Hejduk can keep doing the \$50 fee for the building if it isn't cleaned up after the event.

Res. 55-23 Pete moved to increase the Townhall rental fees to \$125 flat fee for residents and \$175 for non-residents from this day forward 3/20/23 Byron seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar aye.

Resident Lorna Masek asked what was going on with the culvert on Lampson/Pelton Road. Ted Seifert reported on the Electronic Cleanup Day that the Austinburg United Church of Christ is doing on Earth Day.

Res. 56-23 John moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm, Pete seconded. The roll; Haase, aye. Dutton, aye. Kusar, aye.



Kanda O'Dell, Fiscal Officer



Pete Haase, Chairman