**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE**

Regular Board Meeting

Feb. 18, 2020

“approved”

**CALL TO ORDER**:

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kevin Beliveau at 5:00 pm

**ROLL CALL**:

Present: Jeffrey Moss, Yvette Ramsdell, Kelly Graham, Kevin Beliveau, Mary Jo Samotis, Alanda Barnes,

Ron Janis

Staff Present: Leisa Sutton, Superintendent, Susie Olpere, Recording Secretary

Press Coverage: Patricia Alvord

Pledge of Allegiance recited

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Supervisor Beliveau made a couple of additions to the agenda: under Old Business – Item D. Saw Grant and under New Business – Item D. Letter of Engagement. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the amended agenda for Feb. 18, 2020. Second by Barnes  
Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items**: None

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Janis to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Barnes

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Treasurer – Fund Balance Report
2. Clerk – Accounts Payable, Revenue and Expenditures, and Balance Sheet
3. Superintendent – Superintendent’s Report

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Notice of Intent to Apply to the USDA  
Samotis made the motion to suspend the regular meeting and open the public hearing. Second by Graham  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried  
Time: 5:04

Fleis and Vandenbrink’s representative, Mr. Gary Bartow, explained the Notice of Intent to apply for a USDA loan for the intended sewer expansion down US 23, to cover sewer improvements and the construction of a lagoon system. Once the environmental review is complete, the entire application will be ready to be uploaded to the USDA for their consideration. The project estimated cost has lowered to approximately $14,000,000.00 instead to the prior amount not to exceed $20,000.000.00. The Sewer Project will continue to 3008 N. US 23 (Whispering Winds Resort).

Jan Biddulph of 2984 N. US 23 had questions regarding the responsibilities of the homeowner as far as hook-up, hiring a contractor to do the job, and the specifics for owners to be required to connect to the

sewer. Supervisor Beliveau explained it is a stipulation of the State that dwellings within 200’ be connected to this service. It is also the owner’s job to hire a contractor for installation of lines.

Mr. Cal McClarren and Mr. Terry Dutcher had questions about expanding the system further south and maybe into the common areas before reaching the lagoon. Mr. Bartow agreed the future phases for expanding the system would be a possibility, but this part of the project was substantial.

Motion was made by Janis to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. Second by Ramsdell.   
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

Time: 5:17

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Jeff Moss – RAB Update**Trustee Moss informed the board of the March 18th RAB meeting to be held at the library. Open House will be from 4:00 - 5:00pm and the regular meeting will go from 5:00 – 7:00pm.
2. **Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail Update -**Clerk Graham relayed information from the meeting with MDOT regarding the southern terminus. The one option brought before the MDOT representatives has been turned down and another alternative is being sought. Clerk Graham is searching for grant opportunities to purchase a parcel on US 23. Until a terminus is selected there will be no further progress by MDOT to proceed.
3. **Road Projects –** Superintendent Sutton provided the original and updated quotes for three road projects: Cameron Dr., Thompson Products Rd. and Third Street (State to Pierce) for an amount of $35,092.76. Trustee Moss opposed the idea improving the roads and suggested using the money from General Fund to purchase terminus needed for the bike path. Treasurer Samotis disagreed and said funds should be used from selling the old township hall to improve roads as the consensus for a capital improvement asset. She also pointed out that General Fund is the only money that can be put into roads, whereas grants can be obtained for recreational use. Trustee Moss believes that the $35,000.00 would be put to better use by investing it in the bike path. Supervisor Beliveau expressed his concern over postponing the repair to the roads because it would only be more expensive in a year or two and if the roads are not taken care of then the County would turn them into gravel road if it became more cost effective.   
   Samotis made the motion to accept the proposal from the County Road Commission to improve the three roads previously described in the amount of $35,092.76. Second by Barnes  
   Roll Call Vote -  
   Yea’s – Janis, Ramsdell, Graham, Samotis, Barnes, Beliveau  
   Nay’s – Moss  
   Motion Carried
4. **SAW Grant –** Mr. Bartow presented the board with the results of the Asset Management Plan. This SAW grant was given to AuSable Township in September 2016 by the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality. This AMP (asset management plan) is intended to be a living document that is updated as assets continue to wear and age, and as additional inspection/condition results are found and incorporated into the plan. He made comment that the system and lift stations were in very good condition. No action from the board was needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2020 Water Projects -**  Superintendent Sutton reviewed last year’s Capital Improvement plan and found that the Board had identified three water projects for 2020 based on the estimated cost of $175,000.00. The prices provided were inaccurate in their estimation and is causing us to reevaluate the projects. Included in the meeting packet is an estimate for installing a looping watermain for McNall and Denise Streets. These projects were first identified in their need to remove dead end watermains and provide for fire protection in the vicinity. The current amount estimated is $281,561.00. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the water projects on McNall and Denise St. in the amount of $281,561.00. Second by Samotis  
   Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
   Motion Carried
2. **Trailhead Market Place –**  B&B Construction has provided the preliminary drawings and budget for your review. Mr. Poland believes that the bids will come in somewhere between $360,000.00 and $380,000.00. Superintendent Sutton, upon Board approval, will begin searching out further grant opportunities for this construction. A sample of the plans was provided for the board review which is similar in scope, but adjustments can be made. Moss made the motion to authorize the Superintendent to seek grant opportunities to fund the Trailhead Market Place not to exceed $400,000.00. Second by Janis  
   Unanimous –Roll Call Vote  
   Motion Carried
3. **Consideration of Property Purchase -** New requirements for the Iron Belle Trail include the requirement of a terminus on the south end of AuSable Townships planned bike path. Very recently a property was listed that would fill this need. The property consists of 4.54 acres with the asking price of $29,000.00. An option discussed was to purchase the property, determine how much was required for the terminus, separate that portion off from the block and sell the remaining property. Clerk Graham may have further input on our options for this property such as how the purchase price can or cannot be counted against the $80,000 commitment and more. The property is currently listed with Real Estate One out of Alpena. No action was taken until more information is gathered.
4. **Letter of Engagement -** The audit is scheduled to happen in a couple of weeks, and it was realized that a Letter of Engagement had not been completed. A Letter of Engagement has been provided for review with Stephenson & Company with options for one, three, or five years. Graham made the motion to choose a one year engagement with Stephenson and Company for their auditing services in the amount of $19,705.00 for year 2019. Second by Barnes  
   Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
   Motion Carried

**BOARD COMMENTS:**   
Supervisor Beliveau announced that today was the big announcement day for the Michigan Launch Initiative. Oscoda was competing with four other sites that passed the initial evaluation for selection, and this morning it was announced the committee selected Oscoda. It now kicks off Phase II of a full evaluation and analysis of properties, financial issues, economic issues, environmental issues, safety issues, and geographical. The State of Michigan has granted $2,000,000,00 for evaluation of this site to get us to the next phase.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made Barnes

Second by Samotis

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Susie Olpere Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor

Recording Secretary Charter Township of AuSable