

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

Regular Board Meeting

Mar. 15, 2021

“approved”

Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Diana London, Yvette Ramsdell, Kelly Graham, Kevin Beliveau, Mary Jo Samotis,
Alanda Barnes

Absent: Ron Janis

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

Press Coverage: Patricia Alvord

Pledge of Allegiance recited

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Clerk Graham requested an addition to New Busines, Item D. Tire Grant.

Barnes made the motion to approve the amended agenda for Mar. 15, 2021

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items: Ms. Emily Meyerson, from NEMCOG, was introduced and had no comment at this time.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion by Ramsdell to approve the consent agenda. Second by Graham

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

PRESENTATIONS:

- A) Treasurer –
- B) Clerk – Accounts Payable
- C) Superintendent – Superintendent’s Report

OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail Update -
- B) Sewer Project –

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Iron Belle Trail Grant Discussion - Ms. Emily Meyerson, per requirement of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, gave a presentation to the Township Board and the public. Her intent was to give a summarization Iron Belle Trail / Iosco Exploration Trail. Some of the highlights were as follows:

- *The Iron Belle begins at Belle Isle and continues to Ironwood
- *A portion of the trail will go thru Iosco County and AuSable Township
- *The Iron Belle Trail is part of the Iosco Exploration Trail
- *Iosco Exploration Trail was formed in 2014 and became part of the Iron Belle in 2016 when they began offering grants which were made available to local communities
- *AuSable Township received a grant for a preliminary study to decided where the trail would be constructed
(which was done by Spicer Group)
- *In 2019 there were 2 public input meetings that were held by the township (Mar. 18th & July 10th)
- *The second grant AuSable Township received was for hiring an engineering group to complete design and engineering plans for the train in the township

*MDOT required a southern trailhead property for their grant. In 2020 the Township found & purchased property to meet this need.

*This brings us to 2021 to actually apply for grants to build the trail in AuSable Township. The estimated time construction will begin in 2023.

More details regarding the construction of the trail and grants, will be posted on the AuSable Township website.

Public Comments regarding the Iron Belle/Iosco Exploration Trail -

Mr. Tom Wdowik – Owner of the Sand Castle Resort 3554 N. US 23

Mr. Wdowik began by saying how very excited they were about the trail going by the resorts. It will give people the opportunity of riding their bikes to explore our area and to ride to town. They are anxious for construction to begin.

B) Resolution 2021-09 - This resolution pertains to the approval of application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the development of 4.8 miles of non-motorized trail between East Point Rd. and Smith St. London made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-09. Second by Barnes
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

C) Resolution 2021-10 – This resolution is for pursuing a project involving the installation of a new gravity sewer line and pumping station along Highway 23 and upgrading and improving the Township's existing sewer collection system. The resolution is a requirement of the USDA.

The verbiage in this resolution authorizes AuSable Township to move forward with the process but does not commit us.

The cost of the project is covered by 75% grant funds in the amount of \$4,767,000.00, 25% bond funds in the amount of \$1,589,000.00. The bond amount breaks down to an estimate of \$25.00 per hook up, per month, for 40 years.

Superintendent Sutton said that after reviewing the numbers, (which do not include hook ups beyond the required 200' from the right-of-way and vacant lots), the \$25.00 monthly debt retirement fee is higher than what we would actually be charged. She continued that it would be a worst-case scenario figure even with escalating construction costs. She explained that if the project goes extremely over budget during the bid process, AuSable Township Board of Trustees would have the ability to stop the project. Superintendent Sutton also noted that this was factored into the numbers, which has been communicated, and will not likely be the case.

Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-10. Treasurer Samotis asked for a copy of the Superintendent's notes and copy for the board for their review. Second by Samotis

Supervisor Beliveau reconfirmed the monthly retirement fee as \$25.00 per hook up, and at 150 confirmed residents and businesses, it would generate \$1.8 million, and we are looking at borrowing \$1.589 million. At this time, there has been 212 users identified as required hook ups, and that will amount to over \$2 million to be collected.

Trustee Barnes wanted clarification if it was the State or Township that mandated the 200' and over for hook up? Superintendent Sutton replied that it was a township ordinance from 1970's and the State has an additional mandate that backs the township ordinance. Supervisor Beliveau added the 200' was a non-negotiable item as it is also set by State requirement.

Trustee Barnes asked about the length of time residents had to hook up? Superintendent Sutton explained that it was basically 1 year, and that the township would work with homeowners because of the limited number of contractors available. The project will be done in phases and the people in each of these phases will be notified so they may search for a contractor. Clerk Graham asked for a fact sheet with information regarding the project for easy access to this information.

Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-10. Second by Samotis

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

D) Tire Grant - Clerk Graham received an application for the collection of scrap tires in our township. The township has held this event twice with the last one being approximately 5 years ago. Each time the event was held it was successful with the help of volunteers. The collection is for residents and not business or commercial tires. Barnes made the motion to approve application for the scrap tire grant in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Second by Ramsdell
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

BOARD COMMENTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Alvord, from the Oscoda Press, asked what entity offered the tire grant. Clerk Graham received the correspondence from EGLE.
Mr. Tom Wdowski asked for a copy of the phases for the sewer extension project to let property owners know when to expect construction. Superintendent Sutton replied that as soon as she got some dates, she would keep everyone updated.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by London
Second by Ramsdell
Unanimous – Voice Vote
Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm

Submitted By:
Susie Olpere
Recording Secretary

Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor
Charter Township of AuSable