

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

Regular Board Meeting

Aug. 15, 2022

“approved”

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kevin Beliveau at 5:02 pm

## **ROLL CALL:**

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

Staff Present: Eric Strayer, Superintendent, Susie Olpere, Recording Secretary

Press Coverage: Manuela Kress

Pledge of Allegiance recited

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion was made by Barnes for the Aug. 15, 2022 agenda.

Second by Ramsdell

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items:** *Supervisor Beliveau gave a brief explanation to the audience, that the Public Comment section of this meeting is to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns and will not continue if it becomes a debate.*

The beginning comment was made informing the board that information regarding the bike path had not been received by all of the residents in that corridor.

Steven Kostas – 3012 N. US 23: Mr. Kostas asked if the township had a rendering of the bike bath. Supervisor Beliveau informed him the bike path had been redesigned due to the change in landscape of the sewer project. Spicer Group had indicated it would be available in a couple of months.

Where will the hook-up to the sewer be, relative to the bike path construction? The hook-up should be located in the Right-of-Way and closest to the house, and green markers have been put in the ground to indicate where it is located.

Barbara Pielack – 3149 N. US 23: She did receive information regarding help with low interest loans, but found out the state funds were for municipalities and not individuals.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Superintendent Strayer requested additions to the agenda under Receive and File: 4) Mr. McLuckie Letter, 5) Pocket Park – from Iosco County Parks and Rec, and under New Business: Item G – Bill Griese Bench Donation. Samotis made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Graham

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

- A) **Treasurer** – Bank Balance Report for June
- B) **Clerk** – Accounts Payable
- C) **Superintendent** – Superintendent’s Report

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A) **Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail Update** - Clerk Graham began by explaining the design of the bike path had to be reengineered by Spicer Group due to the change in landscape made by the sewer project. Copies of the plans will be sent to the township as soon as they have completed the plans. There has been an offer to donate a bench by the John Reardon family and it will be located by the school property. Superintendent Strayer is in the process of composing a letter asking for a \$50,000. grant from the Iosco County Parks and Rec. Commission to help with expenditures for the bike path.

- B) Sewer Project** – Superintendent Strayer reported installation of the sanitary sewer has been completed. Driveway and final landscaping details continue and should be final in the next two weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A) Resolution 2022-14** – This resolution is regarding the Mosquito Millage which was approved at the last board meeting. If wording is acceptable this millage request will be forwarded to the County Clerk's office for inclusion in the Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> election. Graham made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-14 Mosquito Contract Millage Proposal. Second by London  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- B) Resolution 2022-15** – This resolution is to amend the budget for payment of Resolutions 2022-16 thru 2022-18 by increasing the budgeted Use of Fund balance by \$3,000.00. This increase is due to miscalculations on election wages, election postage, and office supplies. Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-15 to Amend the 2022 Budget. Second by Cinquino  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- C) Resolution 2022-16** – This resolution is to amend the budget by increasing the appropriations for Election Postage by \$850.00. This is due to the redistricting by the State of Michigan and the postcards that legally had to be mailed to all residents. Motion by Ramsdell to approve Resolution 2022-16 To Amend the 2022 Budget. Second by Cinquino  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- D) Resolution 2022-17** – This resolution to amend the Budget by increasing the appropriations for Election Wages. When the budget was put together, it was calculated with only one election, not two. Plus the election workers wage increase has led to a need to add \$1,850.00 to the budget. Motion was made by Ramsdell to approve Resolution 2022-17 To Amend the 2022 Budget. Second by Samotis  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- E) Resolution 2022-18** – This resolution to amend the budget by increasing the appropriation for Election Office Supplies by \$300.00. This is due to the second election and the redistricting by the state and the associated paperwork that went along with it. Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-18 to Amend the 2022 Budget. Second by London  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- F) Pay Application #14** - Presented for the board's consideration is an invoice from Fleis and Vandenbrink for \$39,922.76 regarding work completed on the Sewer Extension Project. If approved, the Clerk will initiate payment from USDA for this amount. Graham made a motion to approve Pay Application #14 to Fleis and Vandenbrink for \$39,922.76. Second by Ramsdell.  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- G) Memorial Bench** – Mr. Bill Griese has indicated per his letter that he would like to donate a bench in his father's honor. He would like it placed at Finish Line Park as Mr. Richard Griese was a paddler in the canoe marathon. Barnes made the motion to include a bench similar to the ones at Shoreline Park and the family would be responsible for all expenses. Second by Graham  
Unanimous – Voice Vote  
Motion Carried

**BOARD COMMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *Supervisor again reminded the attendants to please keep the comments to a minimum so that everyone that wanted to speak would get a chance. This is a time of comments and opinions, not debate.*

Larry Forbush Sr. – 3227 N. US 23: He discussed the sewer system and what contractors are over charging for hook-ups.

Craig Perry – 3160 N. US 23: Mr. Perry got three estimates for his job and there was a substantial difference between them. He suggested residents get multiple estimates before making a decision.

Lisa Winn – 3146 N. US 23: Mrs. Winn said she would like to know where the hook-up was located. She also said she knew of people along the corridor who were unable to pay and wanted the township to make exceptions for them. She inquired about what would happen to them at the end of the 270 days to connect. Supervisor Beliveau replied that the township board has the option to extend the 270 days, but at this time they were not ready to commit to any extensions.

Some people also suggested grandfathering the owners until the ownership of their residence was transferred to a new name.

Georgia Matheson – 3790 N. US 23: Mrs. Matheson wanted to get a list of the contractor's names. Another resident responded that there was a list on the AuSable Township website.

A homeowner asked if the pumping stations were operational and if they could hook-up now? Superintendent Strayer said Phase I (Johnson Rd. north) is ready to go, Phase II & III still have to have cameras run though the lines to make sure that everything is operational. After they are inspected, residents will be notified by mail. The letter will indicate when the 270 days begin. There is a permit fee of \$25.00 and an inspection fee of \$150.00 which is collected by the township. The debt service charge will be added to the monthly water bill for the next 40 years to repay the grant money received for this project. Supervisor Beliveau added that the USDA covered 75% of the sewer extension at a zero (0) repayment by the residents. The township is therefore left the balance of 25% of the project cost at 1.3% interest over 40 years.

Dennis Roy – 3479 N. US 23: Mr. Roy asked why the 270 days couldn't be extended at this meeting? Superintendent Strayer explained the 270 days were set in an ordinance and the language of the ordinance would have to be changed before that could happen. He asked the board to eliminate the property taxes.

A question from the audience: Who was responsible for making the hook-up mandatory? Superintendent Beliveau replied it was a State mandated law and if your home is within 200ft of the Right of Way you would be required to connect.

Barbara Pielack – 3149 N. US 23: Mrs. Pielack suggested grandfathering her property because her septic was in good working condition. There are people that cannot afford to connect, and they should be grandfathered. She asked how much she would be fined if she did not connect to the sewer? Supervisor Beliveau summarized the township's decision to put in the sewer extension was to do what was right for the environment, what was right for the residents of the township, and what was the best avenue to complete that. The township did not put in the sewer to make money.

Mr. LaPointe – 3743 N. US 23: What happens if there's a clog in the pipeline because they don't have a specific pitch when the lines were put in?

Supervisor Beliveau answered the sewer project was engineered by Fleis & Vandenbrink as far as the line is concerned and anything inside the Right of Way would be the township's responsibility.

Blake Patterson – 3220 N. US 23: Is there any way the township could find another loan so that could help residents pay for their hook-up.

Supervisor Beliveau assured him that everything was being researched for loans and grants to offset the burden for the township and the taxpayers.

Linda Howe – 3639 N US 23: Mrs. Howe was wondering why she had to pay for city water? She was referred to the Water Dept. to get specifics for her property.

Mr. Roy also questioned how many phone calls had been received by residents to say they won't be able to afford to make the payments or I might lose my house?

Treasurer Samotis replied that a tally count had not been kept of phone calls for the different categories, but both sides of the equation (for and against) had been heard from on a somewhat daily basis.

Supervisor Beliveau ended the public comments by saying that a lot of ground had been covered in this session and hoped they had got some satisfaction by airing their concerns. He appreciated them coming to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made by London  
Second by Ramsdell  
Unanimous – Voice Vote  
Motion Carried  
Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm

Submitted By:  
Susie Olpere  
Recording Secretary

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Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor  
Charter Township of AuSable