**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE**

Regular Board Meeting

Aug. 19, 2019

 “unapproved”

**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, Ron Janis
Absent: Alanda Barnes

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

Press Coverage: Patricia Alvord

Pledge of Allegiance recited

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion made by Janis to approve the agenda for Aug. 19, 2019. Second
by Ramsdell.

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items**: None

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Janis made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Ramsdell

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Treasurer – Bank Balances for April and May
2. Clerk – Accounts Payable, Rev. & Exp., Balance Sheet
3. Superintendent – Superintendent’s Report

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Jeff Moss – RAB Update –** RAB (Restoration Advisory Board) will be meeting Sept. 11th and are looking for a community member that would be interested in joining the RAB from AuSable Township. An additional seat is available.
2. **Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail** Update **- Nothing** to update at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Gary Bartow – Preliminary Engineering –** Supervisor Beliveau introduced Mr. Bartow from Fleis & Vanderbrink to present preliminary engineering information and some discussion about the proposed sewer system. Approximately 7 or 8 months ago he had discussed the possibility of going to an independent system with board members due to costs projected by Oscoda Township for water treatment at their facility. One option was to look at building the township’s

own lagoon system for the existing 239 sewer customers. USDA was approached about funding opportunities and found the township may be eligible for a Poverty Interest Rate of 2.125% and up to a 75% grant to help pay for construction of the lagoon and internal improvements that were needed in our own collection system.

 Mr. Bartow continued to explain consideration of extending the sewer line to serve both the east and west side of US 23 and going further south to approximately 3008 US 23 due to high water causing septic problems. The failure of septic systems qualified AuSable for the Poverty Interest Rate due to the potential health and safety issues. This extension would include gravity sewers, 3 pumping stations and an enlargement of the lagoon to accommodate an additional 164 users. Mr. Bartow continued by stating his purpose is to examine an overall conceptual plan to see if it’s 1) affordable and 2) what kind of grant money we can get from USDA for the project. Currently the township’s waste water goes to Oscoda Township and is treated in Oscoda Township. The two municipalities met in February to discuss a major increase in the cost of treatment that AuSable would be paying over the next 10-15 years.

 Supervisor Beliveau asked Mr. Bartow to inform the board and audience of the projected costs if we continue with the sewer system or the costs if we do nothing. Mr. Bartow began by the information on last year’s township budget, AuSable paid approximately $111,000.00 to Oscoda for waste water treatment for 239 customers. The AuSable Township has to adjust the rate to our sewer customers to cover the increase expense from Oscoda. Due to the improvements that Oscoda must make to their system, AuSable is looking at a new lagoon system as an alternative that may stabilize the rates for the residents and business owners.

 Supervisor Beliveau summarized the situation by explaining that we are at the mercy of Oscoda Township and what they want to charge us for sewer treatment. The board is trying to be proactive and build a system that has the capacity to handle this township’s requirements and more and have a 40 year stable rate on a system that is brand new. He also enlightened the residents present, that currently we are paying $15,000.00 a month for waste treatment and guaranteed this expense would go up. When we are done with this project (a lagoon, sewer lines, pump stations, etc.) the payment would be estimated at just over $13,000.00.
 Mr. Bartow suggested moving forward with the first step of filing a Notice of Intent to apply to USDA for a grant and funding. There will be no obligation for the township to accept the grant or loan, but if you don’t apply then you pass on the chance to be considered.

Motion was made by Ramsdell to authorize a Notice of Intent with the USDA. Second by Janis

Unanimous - Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

Ramsdell made the motion to authorize the township to publish the Notice of Intent to pursue this project with a limit not to exceed $20,000,000.00. Second by Janis

Unanimous – RCV

Motion Carried

1. **Request from the Convention & Visitor’s Bureau –** Presented to the board is a request from the Oscoda Area Convention & Visitor’s Bureau for AuSable Township representative in a project they are undertaking. Supervisor Beliveau moved to appoint Kelly Graham to the Pure Michigan Trail Town project representing the AuSable Township. Second by Samotis
Unanimous – Voice Vote
Motion Carried

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Treasurer Samotis said how nice it was to see our hall accommodate our community.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

 Bill Szuch from 281 Chrysler Rd. - Mr. Szuch was speaking to request the consolidation of Oscoda and AuSable Township be put on the ballot for the election in 2020. His feeling is that we should be looking at high cost items from a regional perspective instead of 2 relatively small townships that are trying to remain independent. He is looking into starting a petition from each township & organizing a citizens committee with members from each township.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made by Janis

Second by Ramsdell

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

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

Susie Olpere Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor

Recording Secretary Charter Township of AuSable