

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

Regular Board Meeting

Sept. 8, 2020

Virtual Meeting

“approved”

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kevin Beliveau at 5:40 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: Motion was made by Janis to approve the agenda for Sept. 8, 2020.

Second by Barnes

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items: None

Approval of Consent Agenda: Moss made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Second by Ramsdell

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

PRESENTATIONS:

- A) Treasurer – Bank Fund Report - Treasurer Samotis explained the Payroll Tax Deferral and has a letter of explanation from the township auditors. At this time the township will opt out of participation in the provisions of the President’s Executive Order.
- B) Clerk – Accounts Payable
- C) Superintendent – Superintendent’s Report

PUBLIC HEARING: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A) **Jeff Moss – RAB Update**

B) **Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail Update -**

Clerk Graham thought funding would be loosening up soon, which is good news for the bike path.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A) **Land Survey** – Superintendent Sutton is requesting the consideration of a land survey with permanent monumentation and a certified survey be done for the township hall property and the connecting lot to the south. The purpose would be to clarify the legal descriptions of both lots. Barnes made the motion to approve the proposal of \$1600.00 from Riggs Land Surveying for Permanent Monument & Certified Survey Drawing with building improvements and descriptions of Shoreline Park and Trailhead Market properties. Second by Samotis
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

- B) Proposal of Demolition** - The last meeting, the trustees had decided to have the concession stand at McCuaig Park removed due to it's condition and vandalism being done at the park. It was tabled when a question arose regarding the septic tank, which would need to be emptied and removed or filled in. The DPW will be able to resolve the septic issue. Motion made by Janis to accept the proposal for demolition from Travis Sanitation in the amount of \$4,200.00, with half due upon acceptance. Second by Ramsdell
 Unanimous - Roll Call Vote
 Motion Carried
- C) Budget Meeting** - Superintendent Sutton requested to schedule a date for 2021 Budget Meeting. Samotis made the motion to have the first budget meeting for 2021 on Sept. 14th at 5:00pm
 Second by Barnes
 Unanimous – Voice Vote
 Motion Carried
- D) Water/Sewer Formatting** – Provided in the packet was a copy of the newly formatted water/sewer bill which would include the Water and Sewer ready-to-serve, Water and Sewer Usage, and room to add a Sewer Debt Fee item for those who will be affected by the sewer extension. This new formatting was brought before the board for general information and consideration. The board accepted the new formatting for the future utility billing.
- E) LEP** – Superintendent Sutton explained to the board that the township would be required to comply with the Limited English Proficiency Plan in order to be a recipient of the USDA Grant and loan for the sewer extension project implemented by Executive Order 13166. This pertains to individuals who do not speak English well and who have a limited ability to read, write and speak, or understand English and are entitled to language assistance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with respect to a particular type of service, benefit or encounter. Moss made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-08 Limited English Proficiency Plan as required by the USDA to move forward with the sewer project. Second by Ramsdell
 Yays – Ramsdell, Graham, Barnes Janis, Moss and Beliveau
 Nays – Samotis
 Motion Carried

BOARD COMMENTS: Supervisor Beliveau extended an apology for the technical difficulties at the beginning of the meeting. A backup system is being added to be able to launch virtual meetings with better success.

Township residents have approached Trustee Moss about their concern over erosion of property due to extra boat traffic and failure to abide by the No Wake issue on the AuSable River. Superintendent Sutton explained that the DPW had posted signs but should be enforced by the County Sheriff or DNR. Supervisor Beliveau suggested we call the Sheriff's Dept. and possibly the DNR and see if we can get more signs put up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Morgan Shevett had questions for the board regarding the sewer extension project.

***How many letters were actually sent and how many responses were received?**

210 letters were sent to residents and businesses, 12 responses as of this date

***Prior to this last letter, has there been any previous correspondence sent to affected residents?**

Yes, there were previous letters sent, 2 public hearings

***During high unemployment and a pandemic and some residents living check to check, how are they supposed to pay for this connection?**

We have researched some financial aid that may be available to those that qualify for hardship cases, but we don't know what qualifies as a hardship or how much funding will be available. Supervisor Beliveau explained that we had been asked by residents along that corridor for assistance because of the lake levels which caused septic systems to fail. The District Health Dept. evaluated the area & wrote a detailed recommendation in support of the sewer system due to health and safety risks to the public.

Mr. Shevett asked if the Health Dept. had tested the ground water? Supervisor Beliveau replied that he was unaware of how they had come to the conclusions.

***Is the average monthly cost going to decrease as the borrowed principle is paid back?**

The cost for the Debt Retirement Fee is going to be fixed for 40 years.

***Why is the Sewer Debt Fee not spread throughout the township?**

Supervisor Beliveau answered that it is infrastructure that does not serve the whole township and benefitted these specific customers.

***According to the township timeline, it will be 90 days to schedule service and you have 270 days for connection completion. He asked what the rush was because the State gives 18 months to accomplish this?**

Expanding the timeline is under consideration due to the fact that there is a limited number of contractors that are capable of doing this type of work. The township is also responsible for the repayment of the loan the day that the disbursement is made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Janis

Second by Barnes

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Submitted By:

Susie Olpere

Recording Secretary

Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor
Charter Township of AuSable