

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

Regular Board Meeting

Sept. 19, 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,  
Gina Cinquino

Absent: Alanda Barnes

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

Press Coverage: Manuela Kress

Pledge of Allegiance recited

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Superintendent Strayer requested additions the following items:  
Under New Business – Item I – Resolution 2022-24, Item J – Saturday Farmers Market, Item K -  
Form L- 4029. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by London  
Unanimous – Voice Vote  
Motion Carried

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items:**

Cathy Wusterbarth – Mrs. Wusterbarth is a co-founder of NOW (Need Our Water), a group to educate residents about PFAS contamination. A recent study presented to the Oscoda Township Board from Fleis & Vandenbrink reported high levels of PFAS contamination in sewer sludge in the lagoon system.

Marjorie Harrison – Ms. Harrison had questions about whether PFAS was considered in the drafting of Ordinance #131. She also asked questions regarding consideration of lagoon system for AuSable.

Supervisor Beliveau – He explained that USDA representatives reviewed plans for a lagoon and sewer extension project but would only consider them as separate projects. Our board decided to give priority to the sewer extension while we consider a lagoon in the future.

Superintendent Strayer – He explained the amendment to Ordinance #131 will change the time frame for hook-ups from 270 days to 540 days.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motion by Ramsdell to approve the Consent Agenda.

Second by Graham

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

A) **Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail Update** – Nothing to update

B) **Sewer Project** – Superintendent Strayer told trustees that the contractors were still doing remediation & repairing landscaping. One of the new pump stations had a failed meter and is being repaired.

He also had an addition to the Bike Path update. The Iosco Country Parks and Recreation committee committed \$25,000.00 when the project is complete.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A) AuSable 2023 Community Directory** – We have been requested to participate in the annual AuSable/Oscoda Chamber of Commerce 2023 Profile and Membership Directory. Ramsdell made the motion to have a full page at \$1850.00 along with \$50.00 for the link to our website. Correction needed on copy is the new address and email. Second by Samotis  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- B) Ordinance #131** - This Ordinance was introduced at the Special Board Meeting on Aug. 31, 2022. The amendment will extend the time limit for connections to the Municipal Sewer System from 270 days to 540 days. Treasurer Samotis reminded everyone it was at a meeting just like this several weeks ago, when we were asked to do this very thing. It will give more time up to 540 days which is the limit set by the State. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the change to Ordinance #131.  
Second by Samotis  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- C) Resolution 2022-19** - This resolution will authorize the Clerk to sign for a change in the original contract dated 7/1/18 ending in 7/1/23 with Consumers Energy for the township lighting. This change is merely to show that Consumers Energy will be using LED lighting instead of Standard High Intensity Discharge lighting from the original contract. Motion was made by London to give the Clerk permission to sign the change in the original contract for Consumers Energy regarding Resolution 2022- 19. Second by Ramsdell  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- D) Resolution 2022-20** - This resolution extends the contract for LED lighting with Consumers Energy for 5 years with AuSable Township. Consumer's will be switching out streetlights as they fail with LED lights. This will change the Township's watt usage per streetlight from 150 to 70 watts. Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-20. Second by Graham  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- E) Resolution 2022-21** – This resolution adds \$1,000.00 to the budget for Building and Grounds Operating Supplies, taking it from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00, due to the increased price of hardware used to repair the dugouts at McCuaig Park and the need to purchase all new flags for the flag poles. Motion was made by Samotis to approve Resolution 2022-21. Second by Graham  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- F) Resolution 2022-22** - This resolution adds \$1,500.00 to the 2022 Recreation Budget taking it from \$1,995.00 to \$3,495.00, due to the projects to improve our parks, such as cement pads, bike racks, and dog clean up stations. Graham made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-22. Second by London  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- G) Resolution 2022-23** – This resolution adds \$2500.00 to the Budgeted Use of Fund Balance due to the increase of Resolution 2022-21 and Resolution 2022-22. Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-23. Second by Samotis  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- H) Pay Application #15** - The total of this payment reflects invoices received from Fleis and Vandenbrink for work from July 3 – July 30 in the amount of \$25,883.49 and July 31 – August 27<sup>th</sup> for \$62,736.86. A bill from Elmers for work completed between June 30<sup>th</sup> – September 16 for \$711,894.34. Mr. Troy Shank from USDA gave us permission to submit a bill for \$147.00 for publication of announcement I the Oscoda Press plus \$500.00 for lawyer fees. The five bills total \$801,161.69. Motions was made by Ramsdell to approve Pay Application #15 totaling \$801,161.69. Second by Graham  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- I) Resolution 2022-24** – This resolution granting Iosco County Coats for Kids as a charitable organization and recognized as a nonprofit organization which operates in our community for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license. Ramsdell made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-24 to grant Iosco County Coats for Kids to be recognized as a charitable organization status operating in our township. Second by Graham  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried
- J) Request for Saturday Farmers Market** – Superintendent Strayer received correspondence from Hope Anglican Church (219 W. River Rd.) asking to use our parking lot facilities for a Saturday Market. A copy of this letter was given to the trustees prior to the start of tonight’s meeting. Supervisor Beliveau tabled this matter until more specifics were gathered for the market.  
No action was taken
- K) Form L-4029** - This form sets our Millage rates for the upcoming year. The Millage Reduction Factor per equalization is 1.0, and as a result on Township Millage Rates will stay the same as last year. Motion was made by Ramsdell to approve Form L-4029 to be approved and sent to the county as is. Second by Samotis  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Supervisor Beliveau requested that microphones be installed before the next meeting.

Treasurer Samotis noted that many different professional consultants had advised the board’s process of study and development of the sewer extension project. While not ideal, the project is substantially complete. She also wanted to share an opinion from District Health Dept. #2 dated from 2018. She read correspondence from District Health No. 2 (September 30, 2019):

*“A municipal sewer extension in this area would: provide a reliable and consistent means of sewage disposal for property owners facing sometime severe spatial limitations for the construction of new or replacement SDS (Sanitary Disposal System); would prevent the necessity of SDS to be installed with variances or deviations related to size or isolation distances; and accordingly, would be protective of public and environmental health.*

*DHD2 is committed to offering our support of this project and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. Should you have any furth questions please contact me at any time.”*

*Environmental Health Program Coordinator*

*District Health No. 2*

Treasurer Samotis also informed the audience the applications for low interest loans and grants through the USDA are available in the office of the township.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

A resident suggested putting info on loans/grants on the front page of the township’s website. He also was concerned about the township joining a lagoon with PFAS issues.

John Loch – He questioned the date that he needed to connect to the sewer. Superintendent Strayer indicated a letter would be sent to residents of Phase I, II, and III and in it would have the information about the start date.

Barb Pielack - Ms. Pielack voiced her complaint regarding lack of information from state and local entities about relief from the costs available for relief from costs associated with hooking up to the sewer system.

Nancy Roy – Mrs. Roy expressed her frustration with the township about not funding residents to borrow for sewer connections.

Cal McClaren – Mr. McClaren asked who decided AuSable Sewer Rates. Supervisor Beliveau said Oscoda does.

Greg Wenn – His question was whether or not we were considering building a lagoon? Supervisor Beliveau repeated his answer that a lagoon is a township consideration.

Cathy Wusterbarth – Mrs. Wusterbarth continued with her information regarding PFAS. MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) is making available medical assessment to determine PFAS levels through blood testing for Oscoda residents. She continued that as of this date, AuSable residents were not included in this testing opportunity. Mrs. Wusterbarth will keep us posted and encouraged communication with State and Federal representatives.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made by Graham  
Second by Ramsdell  
Unanimous –  
Motion Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

Submitted By:  
Susie Olpere  
Recording Secretary

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Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor  
Charter Township of AuSable