

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

Regular Board Meeting

December 19, 2022

“approved”

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kevin Beliveau at 5:06 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:** Superintendent Strayer requested additions to New Business, Item F – Resolution 2022-41, Item G – Resolution 2022-42. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Graham

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items:** None

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Supervisor Beliveau moved the correspondence from Susan and James Mucciante to Item H under New Business for further discussion. Motion was made by Ramsdell to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. 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** - Clerk Graham has received (2) \$1,000.00 anonymous donations for the AuSable portion of the bike path. She accepted these gifts with much appreciation on the township’s behalf.

B) **Sewer Project** – Superintendent Strayer relayed that the new generators had been connected to gas lines and had been successfully tested. There are a few small issues that need to be addressed and then the job would be considered complete.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

A) **Fire Truck** - On the original Capital Improvement Plan our cost of the replacement of the Fire truck was \$135,000.00. At the last budget meeting, our share of the purchase increased to \$199,144.00. Superintendent Strayer had some inquiries regarding the participation of fire service and their contribution to equipment and service from Oscoda Township. Also, there was confusion on the sale of fire equipment and if there were any benefits reimbursed to AuSable. Discussion with Fire Chief MacGregor clarified that it was not only the inflation of materials, but the truck was also designed to be a Pumper/Rescue truck. Therefore requiring less manpower, maintenance, storage, and allowing the replacement of two other vehicles.

Samotis made the motion to join in the purchase of the Pumper/Rescue truck at the price of \$847,421.00 and AuSable's portion not to exceed \$199,144.00. Second by Cinquino  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- B) Addendum for Police Services** – Superintendent Strayer briefed the trustees with the annual addendum from Oscoda Township to update the original 1983 police contract. This year Oscoda is going to bill us \$453,937.16. This represents roughly a 14% increase from last year. We pay 22.6% of the Police budget based on our Population, Number of Complaints, and Taxable Value. At a meeting with Police Chief David and Fire Chief Macgregor, Supervisor Beliveau conveyed that AuSable Township was very satisfied with the level of service provided to our residents but stated that if those costs don't begin to decline, we will be in a position to have to renegotiate the level of service that we get from Oscoda Township or seek other services. Samotis made the motion to approve the police contract as stated per addendum.

Second by Barnes  
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- C) Addendum for Fire and Cemetery Services** - The annual addendum for Fire and Cemetery was presented for 2023. This year the Fire portion is \$71,943.00 (an increase of 3% over last year) and the cemetery contract is \$25,231.86 or an increase of 21% over last year. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the addendum for Fire and Cemetery for 2023. Second by Samotis

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- D) Vapor Intrusion Testing at Hedblum Site** – Included in the packet is information regarding further testing being done at the Hedblum Site and surrounding homes. These tests are to see if vapor is being found coming out of the soil.

No action is needed

- E) Bike Path Funding** - Two meetings have occurred since the end of November with MDOT, the utility companies, and Spicer Engineers. At the last meeting it was explained that if the proposed bids for the bike path (tentatively in April) are up to 9.99% above the construction cost in the engineering part of the project, the Township would be responsible for the extra cost. The estimated cost is \$2,698,000.00. So, if the lowest bid came in over the projected cost by just under 10% (or \$270,000.00) the Township would have to accept the lowest bid and pay the extra cost. If the lowest bid was over 10% higher than the projected cost, the Township has the right to refuse and stop the project if so voted on by the board. Motion by Ramsdell to continue with the bid process for Phase IV of the bike path. Second by Barnes

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- F) Resolution 2022-41** – This resolution increases Township Board wages by \$500.00 due to the number of meetings this year and budget meetings. Graham made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-41. Second by Barnes

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- G) Resolution 2022-42** – This resolution is the corresponding amendment to increase the budgeted use of fund balance by \$500.00 to account for Resolution 2022-41. Barnes made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-42. Second by Cinquino

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote  
Motion Carried

- H) Letter from Susan and James Mucciante** – A letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Mucciante regarding concerns with the water/sewer rates when connection was made to the new sewer system. Correction was made for the Ready-to-Serve fee depending on when the owners were actually using the service.

The second issue was the increase in the water/sewer rates. Superintendent Strayer gave the breakdown of the charges and the expense of having the sewer sent to Oscoda Township for treatment.

The last concern regarded the charges for sewer usage being based on the metered water usage. There was further discussion over having a separate meter installed for outdoor use (i.e. outdoor sprinklers, power washing, gardens etc.) Further research would have to be done.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Trustee London wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made by Barnes  
Second by Cinquino  
Unanimous – Voice Vote  
Motion Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm

Submitted By:  
Susie Olpere  
Recording Secretary

---

Kevin Beliveau, Supervisor  
Charter Township of AuSable