

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

Regular Board Meeting

July 17, 2023

“approved”

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kevin Beliveau at 5:01 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 the addition of Item I – Discussion of the Reimbursement from Water and Sewer to General Fund, which would be under New Business. Ramsdell made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Barnes

Unanimous – Voice Vote

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items: None

Approval of Consent Agenda: Barnes made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Second by Ramsdell

Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Motion Carried

PRESENTATIONS:

A) **Treasurer** –

B) **Clerk** – Accounts Payable, Revenue & Expenditures, Balance Sheet

C) **Superintendent** – Superintendent’s Report

OLD BUSINESS:

A) **Kelly Graham – Iron Belle Trail Update** - Update on funding later on the meeting.

B) **Sewer Project** – Superintendent Strayer informed trustees that Consumers Energy had completed the hookup over on Huron Street Station and Lake Street Station has to be changed and has been postponed until the end of November. We have over 50% of the eligible residents hooked up and will be sending out a letter at the beginning of August reminding people of the deadline which is May for Phase II and III.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) **Bike Path Funding Agreement** - A copy of the correspondence that was sent to Iosco County Road Commission and MDOT was provided for the trustee’s review. The Township expressed at that time that we could fund the Bike Path if the next bid process comes in at or below the last low bid, but wouldn’t be able to fund the path if it came in over that amount. Iosco County Road Commission has provided a letter stating that they would pay the difference if the bid came in over, but the Township would have to agree to pay that amount back on “agreed upon terms”. Motion was made by Ramsdell to send a letter stating we will negotiate in good faith for any excess above the amount that was already committed. Second by Graham
Unanimous – RCV
Motion Carried

B) Pay Application #2 C2R2 Grant – This invoice is from Fleis and Vandenbrink for engineering costs for the C2R2 projected from April 30th to May 27th for \$17,486.86. If approved the Clerk will initiate reimbursement from EGLE. Motion was made by Graham to approve the Pay Application for the C2R2 Grant Program for payment of \$17,486.86. Second by Samotis
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

C) Health Insurance Proposal - Superintendent Strayer provided the Health Care Rates for the upcoming year for employee health insurance. The current plan would have the vision portion increase to \$1.06, dental would increase \$34.39 a month and Health Care also has an increase \$10,566.98 a month. If the Township continues with the same coverage, our insurance would go up \$7,011,96 (5.09%) for the next year. Trustees were provided other alternatives for review. Motion was made by Barnes to renew the current policy. Second by Cinquino
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

D) Audit Proposal - The Township's current agreement of service with Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein ends after this year. The proposal for the next 3 years:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Year Ending - December 2023 | \$13,250. |
| December 2024 | \$13,850. |
| December 2025 | \$14,475. |

The cost of Audit Services last year was \$15,790. which included additional services needed according to the USDA Loan and Lease Reporting requirements. Ramsdell made the motion to renew our contract with Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein for 2023, 2024, and 2025. Second by Samotis
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote

Yays – London, Ramsdell, Graham, Samotis, Barnes, Beliveau Nay - Cinquino
Motion Carried

E) Ordinance #136 – This is the second introduction of Ordinance #136, which the trustees concluded further discussion was warranted. This ordinance refreshes the grass and weed (Ordinance #41) with one that is more enforceable and current with state statutes. The next meeting it will be put in front of the Board for adoption. London requested more clarification on removal of dead trees. Superintendent Strayer will make the necessary changes and present it again. No action was needed

F) Project For Township Hallway – Mr. Bill Parsons has approached the Township with a project to install historic vignettes down the hallway. He left pictures of an example which intended for the board to review and see if they would like him to continue with the idea. The trustees did agree to support Mr. Parson's project.

G) Letter of Support for Develop Iosco - Superintendent Strayer provided a copy of the letter of support for the Rural Readiness Grant to hire a grant writer that would help Develop Iosco members compile future grant applications. Graham made the motion to approve the letter of support for Develop Iosco. Second by Barnes
Unanimous – Voice Vote
Motion Carried

H) Letter of Support for EMCOG Grant - Another letter of support was requested by EMCOG, which was initiated by them for the Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity 2023 Grant. The grant will provide workshops for municipal employees and the public regarding methods to mitigate damage resulting from Lake Huron flooding and erosion. Samotis made the motion to approve support for this letter. Second by Barnes
Unanimous – Voice Vote
Motion Carried

I) Reimbursement from Water & Sewer to General Fund - Superintendent Strayer explained that in the past few years the township has paid \$15,000.00 to the General Fund from Water and Sewer and is called a "reimbursement" based on work that is provided by the Clerk and Treasurer. The Superintendent is submitting a proposal to increase the amount from \$15,000.00 to \$40,000.00. There has been an increase of duties performed by each of these offices due to the Sewer Extension and Water Projects throughout this year. Ramsdell made the motion that we reimburse the General Fund and move it from \$15,000.00 to \$40,000.00 from Sewer & Water. Second by Barnes
Unanimous – Roll Call Vote
Motion Carried

BOARD COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Cal McLaren saw a copy of the audit and was inquiring why rates were so high, when according to the article the Sewer had over \$5 Million fund balance and Water had over \$4 Million. Treasurer Samotis explained that he may have been looking at the Asset Fund balances and not cash fund balances. Superintendent Strayer also added that we are currently having a rate study done by Natural Water Resource Association, which is a benefit service from being a member of the association. When the report is finished the public will be able to review a copy per request.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Ramsdell
Second by London
Unanimous – Voice Vote
Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm

Submitted By:
Susie Olpere
Recording Secretary

Kevin Beliveau
Charter Township of AuSable, Supervisor