

Ausable Township Board Meeting

January 13, 2024

9:00 AM

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called all board members present. Erica Wise's first meeting since replacing the late Ann Church.

A motion by Kurtis and a second by Kathleen to accept the minutes from December 9, 2023 as written. Motion carried 5-0

The following balances were reported by the Treasurer in her report:

A. CD 1 (2924)	\$53,608.33
B. CD 2 (2937)	\$53,608.33
C. General Checking	\$38,413.16
D. Fire Account	\$33,317.46
E. General Savings	\$87,231.70
F. Tax Account	\$103,710.05

A motion by Kathleen and a second by Erica to accept Treasurers report as presented. All in favor, motion carried

Bills were presented for payment. A motion to pay the bills by Kathleen and a second by Kurtis. All in favor motion carried

Payroll \$5,468.13 Net pay \$4,928.63

EFTPS \$875.32 Liabilities Fed \$38.68 Medicare \$158.60 FICA \$678.04

Waste Management trash removal \$495.94

Consumers Energy Electric Bill \$70.09

Forward Energy \$56.00 Budget plan for propane

Roscommon County Treasurer \$6.97 PRE adjustment (DOW)

Hess Law Office \$3,000.00 services rendered 11/10/23 thru 1/2/24

GFL Environmental \$99.96 (Recycling Dumpster)

Randy Booth \$703.75 Assessor Contract

Houghton Lake Resorter \$76.15 Plan/Zone Ad's

Brad Schwalm \$60.00 Plan/Zone meeting 12/19/23

Debbie Sharpe \$60.00 Plan/Zone meeting 12/19/23

Total \$10,972.31

Debit Card Purchase's

Verizon Wireless \$28.00 hall phone (auto pay)

USPS (St. Helen) \$16.50 Certified mail for end of year township docs

USPS (St. Helen) \$396.00 six rolls of stamps. Able to get reimbursed by state for Feb 2024 election

Total \$440.50

Old Business:

The old Kirtland campus was sold on 11/01/2023 for 2.5 million dollars on a "land contract" The township still has pending litigation in the Tribunal. The Winter taxes for the college were paid at the point of sale in the amount of \$25,219.24 Scott Hess the Township attorney received correspondence from the attorney representing the college stating if the tribunal sides with the college as still being "educational" that the college would demand a refund. **Opinion of the Tribunal reached 1/4/24 siding in favor of the college. The Township has 20 days to appeal the decision, if not on day 21 the opinion of the Tax Tribunal is rendered as a final decision. A motion by Kurtis with a second by Ron to enter into a closed session to discuss this matter with attorney Hess. A vote was conducted. Motion carried 4-1 with trustee Kathleen Wray casting a no vote. Board entered a closed session for approximately 15 minutes and discussed this with attorney Hess. A motion by Ron and a second by Kurtis to come out of a closed session and back in to an open meeting. A vote was conducted and the motion carried 5-0. Ron made a motion with a second by Kurtis to have Attorney Hess have a conversation with Township Assessor Randy Booth to see how the township should proceed based on the Tribunals opinion. A vote was conducted motion carried 5-0**

Proposed ordinance change(s) for 7.1 needs suggestions from Township Attorney addressed before its published and takes effect. **Proposed suggestions not completed by Plan/Zone yet. Current ordinance 7.1 in effect.**

CCC (Cherry Capital Communications) Tim Maylone spoke and discussed obstacles and opportunities in Ausable Township. **A couple conversations with the clerk but due to the Christmas thru New Year Holiday(s) nothing of any substance has been presented.**

New Business

Per recommendation(s) From Scott Hess the clerk will be the designated as the Townships official FOIA coordinator. There will also be a new section added to the Township website entitled FOIA and will

contain 8 drop down sections for the person requesting information to fill out. **A motion by Erica with a second by Kurtis to Authorize the Clerk to have the Discussed FOIA information added to the website and to take effect as soon as it is on the website as the Townships way to conduct any/all FOIA requests moving forward. A vote was conducted. Motion Carried 5-0**

Fix the copy machine or replace it. Brad from the Plan/Zone states it's no longer functional. Need a motion to fix it or replace it. **A motion by Kurtis with a Second by Kathleen authorizes the Clerk to purchase a new copy machine at or below \$150.00 A vote was conducted. Motion carried 5-0**

Plan/Zone committee needs 2 new members since Jim Mowbray and Dan Lockert both resigned. (See letters of resignation) **Charles Mifsud and Tanya Lockert both expressed interest and will meet with the Plan/Zone and if interest is still there, they will take the oath of office and be part of that board.**

MHDDS wants to know if the Township is interested in taking part in a chemical exposure monitoring project in March 2024 (27-29) This request was from an email dated December 19, 2023 the Clerk provided the board and public in attendance. **A motion by Kurtis with a second by Kathleen to have the Clerk email MHDDS back and invite them to bring their mobile lab and park it at the hall March 27-29 and conduct their study with interested residents. A vote was conducted. Motion carried 5-0**

Fire/EMS and Trash millage expire after the collection of 2025 taxes. 3 options available (1) place them on the November 2024 Presidential Election as a renewal effective 2026 thru whatever number of years desired inclusive. (2) Place them on the ballot 2026 since 2025 is paid but risk not having funding moving forward if the Township residents don't approve it. (3) have a special election. This is the costliest option because the Township would pay 100% of all election costs. Randy the Township assessor said the board should decide what direction to go with the three options. Clerk Presented election verbiage that was approved in 2021 as a reference. **There was conversation with the board and some residents also spoke about the millage. Some said the millage was unfair because you pay more if your house is worth more. While another resident said the millage is fine but there should be a "max cap" for paying. The clerk will get with the Equalization department to see if there is such language as a "Max Cap" This will be on the agenda until the board decides what route to go.**

Plan/Zone

See minutes from December 19, 2023

Schedule for January -March 2024 meeting dates (Published in Resorter)

January 16, February 20, & March 19

Jim Mowbray letter of resignation. Dan Lockert letter of resignation. Charles Mifsud and Tanya Lockert both expressed interest in filling the vacancies. They will meet with the Plan/Zone committee and take the oath of office.

Zoning Administrator

Nothing to report this month

Correspondence

Board of review training flyer mailed to Clerk

Election Materials from COOR in regards to what a "YES" vote means in February

Letter from "Church Boys" in regards to Ann Church Passing away

Public Comment

Dan Lockert wants to know the rate of pay for the Townships various positions. The Clerk will email Dan the requested information and if upon request the Clerk will print the information and present it to Mr. Lockert at the February meeting.

Announcement:

The next meeting is February 10, 2024 at 9:00 AM

The Plan/Zone next meeting is February 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM

A motion was made by Kurtis with a second by Kathleen to adjourn the Township meeting. All in favor the motion was carried, meeting adjourned 10:10 AM

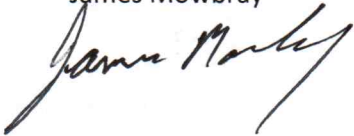
December 9, 2023

I, James Mowbray resign from the AuSable Township Zoning Board.

I am returning the keys to the Hall and the Filing Cabinet.

I am returning the book for Zoning.

James Mowbray

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Mowbray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

BOARD RESIGNATION LETTER

From: Daniel Lockert
Address: 11895 N St. Helen Rd.
City, State, Zip: Roscommon Mi. 48653
Phone: 989-390-6509
E-Mail: Danlockert13@gmail.com

Date: 1-13-2024

To: Ausable township
Address: 9181 N Keno Rd.
City, State, Zip: St. Helen Mi. 48656
Phone: 989-389-3541
E-Mail: Doitkurt@yahoo.com

Dear Ausable township residents and board members

This letter represents my official notice of resignation from my board position with Ausable township which is to be made final on the 13th day of January, 2024.

I regretfully announce this decision due to lack of support from the township board.

It has been with great pleasure to be alongside the individuals at this organization and I will always appreciate the experience and knowledge I gained during my time here.

I hope the notice-period is enough for you to find a replacement. Furthermore, please let me know of any help that I could be in the future to help in this transition.

Sincerely,

