

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023 6:00 pm - 8:21 pm

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Michelle Doucette, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee Tom Balmes. Board Members Absent: None. Also Present: Ryan Walther, Assistant Fire Chief Justen Knuttia, Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist, Matt Watkeys, Dean Seaberg, Bill Harris, Jon Pacl, Donna Shields, John Carr and Dean Richard.

Supervisor Doucette opened our July 10, 2023 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

Moved Johnson/seconded Doucette to **approve the agenda** as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Cota/seconded Johnson to **approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Cota/seconded Johnson to **pay bills**. Cota, yes; Johnson, Yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Doucette, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #16946-16963; Fire Fund #9002-9017; Garbage Fund #2020.)

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the Financial Reports for June, 2023 and 1st Quarter 2023. No budget amendments were recommended.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of June 30, 2023: General Fund \$308,751.94; Fire Fund \$134,490.06 + CD \$51,696.67; Garbage Fund \$348,007.13; Road Fund \$207,470.94. Summer Tax Bills were sent out July 1st and payments are coming in. There are two Community Building Rentals for July, 2023.

Clerk - Answered several emails, returned phone messages or forwarded to appropriate Board member, and approved/completed or denied FOIA requests. A big request was received from Attorney Tim Quinnell, who is representing the Moormans. There will be no November, 2023 Election. The next Election will be the Presidential Primary on February 27, 2024. The MML Workers Comp Audit for 2022-2023 is being completed, as is the insurance renewal application. The new copier is scheduled for delivery. Two municipal license plates were ordered from the Secretary of State for the Fire Department.

Review of the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines and Zoning Ordinance PDF corrections will be placed on the August Meeting Agenda.

Trustee's - Trustee Balmes attended the Fire Department Meeting, and is working with Ryan on completing the Ballfield Land Lease Restoration Project. In addition he continued monitoring the Christmas Mall Blight complaint.

Trustee Miller attended the Planning Commission CUP Public Hearings on June 29th. All were approved. He also responding to questions about Short Term Rentals and inquired as to why the dock at Au Train Lake Boat Launch was not placed by the USFS.

Supervisor - Received several phone and emails over the past month. Responded to a complaint at Heritage Trail with nails on the blacktop areas and cleaned them up. Also responded to several Noise Ordinance Complaints, continued assisting with a solution to the Tom's Road garbage pickup issue and provided a report from GFL on the Spring Clean-up, which showed an increase in the amount of disposal.

Special Presentation: Matt Watkeys from the *Alger Conservation District* noted that they received a grant for two E-waste and Appliance site drop off for year round use. They have two Aquatic Invasive Species presentations coming up with information available on the Conservation District website. They are assisting in the Onota/Au Train Township Joint EGLE Scrap Tire Collection Event on September 15th and 16th. A presentation was then made regarding the Au Train Lake Habitat Improvement Project that will provide food and shelter for the lakes fish population. A Celebration Event for the Project will be held on September 1st at the Au Train Township Hall, thanking participants.

Bill Harris, President-CEO of Kiser Hydro, LLC, which operates the *RWE Hydro Plant* at the Au Train Basin, along with Dean Richard, local Manager provided information to the Board on some history of the damn, previous use and ownership, the current status of the dam, their bankruptcy, and status with their mandated repairs through FERC and the State of Michigan. Mr. Harris requested the Board provide a letter indicating that the Township Board offer support for the continued operation of the dam and urge RWE to do whatever is necessary to keep it running. Concern for ceasing operation of the dam would have a negative impact on the Townships recreational opportunities and its residents should also be included. Supervisor Doucette will prepare a Resolution for consideration by the Board at the August Regular Board Meeting.

Public Comment: One comment was received from Dean Seaberg urging the Board to consider a Fireworks Committee and local Ordinance.

Boards/Departments:

Zoning Administrator - ZA Lindquist present. Report received and on file. 3 CUP Hearings are scheduled for August as part of the Planning Commission Regular Meeting.

Planning Commission - Upcoming CUP Hearings/Meeting on August 17, 2023.

Zoning Board of Appeals - No report.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Fuess monthly report was received and is on file.

Maintenance Department: Ryan Walther present. Provided an update to the Board. Normal clean-up and summer maintenance work continues. He also noted that he received one complaint regarding the Townships intent to give up the baseball field lease.

Fire Department:

Assistant FC Knuttila was present. Report received and on file.

Unfinished Business:

1. Moorman/Smith Property Blight Report - no update.
2. Ballfield License Surrender update was provided under Trustees Report.

New Business:

1. Correspondence: Request for sponsorship from the MBTN was received, letter from LMAS District Health thanking Supervisor Doucette and Board during the COVID Emergency, letter from the US Fish and Wildlife noting upcoming sea lamprey treatment of the Au Train River and requesting use of the Heritage Trail area. Supervisor Doucette will contact the DNR because of our Lease obligation and inform them as well.

2. Website Update/Redesign Proposal - Clerk Johnson provided information on the Townships need for a website update and redesign. It has been several years since it was updated. A redesign would allow for easier navigation and location of departments, Board Members, Ordianances, Forms and Documents. The site is providing valuable information to our residents and property owners. A proposal was presented from Kelley Marketing and reviewed by Board members. They would offer a complete redesign of the site. Moved Miller/seconded Cota to **contract with Kelley Marketing for the Township website redesign** at a cost up to \$3,200.00. MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment: Comments were received from John Carr, Dean Seaberg, and Donna Shields.

Board Member Comments: Additional Comments were shared by Board Members.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion Johnson/seconded Doucette to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

DRAFT
07/24/2023

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APPROVED DATE: _____