

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
August 9, 2021
6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Au Train Township Board convened on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michelle Doucette, with the following members present: Mary Johnson, Clerk; Kristy Cota, Treasurer; Jake Miller, Trustee; and Tom Balmes, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 7 persons attended the meeting in person. A complete list is on file with Clerk Johnson.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions and Changes to the Agenda were made as necessary. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 Special Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2021 Joint Work Session with the Planning Commission, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Clerk Johnson, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. DOUCETTE, YES; JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16574 through #16590 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8604 through #8613 - Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2086).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of July, 2021

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	172,497.09
Deposits		7,354.05
Interest		21.28
Disbursements		15,418.67
Total Checks Not Cleared		1,194.91
Ending Balance	\$	163,258.84

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	588,113.26
Deposits		
Interest		70.47
Disbursements		6,821.73
Total Checks Not Cleared		237.98
Ending Balance	\$	551,124.02

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51,299.02
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	189,040.91
Deposits		
Interest		23.31
Disbursements		11,791.18
Ending Balance	\$	177,273.04
ROAD FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	324,151.03
Deposits		
Interest		41.30
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	324,192.33

*A Complete copy of the July 31, 2021 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that Summer Tax Collection continues.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an updated to the Board on recent activities. The Application was submitted for the State/Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program. The Worker's Comp Audit was completed in person and any premium adjustment will be made accordingly. The application for the insurance renewal through MML was received and will be submitted this week. A review was emailed to Board members and Fire Chief King prior to the meeting. In addition, numerous calls, emails and text messages were received and returned, in conjunction with Supervisor Doucette, regarding the GAD Garbage Cart Program.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Balmes noted that he felt the Board meetings were running too long. Under the guidelines of the MTA, he suggested we try and keep them within the 1-1/2 hour time frame. This would benefit the Board and citizens. He also noted that he received calls regarding the trash service and zoning.

Trustee Miller noted No Parking signs were replaced on North Shore Road, not additional signs as originally expected. He also has received calls regarding the trash service and zoning ordinance amendments.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. On July 21st the Board of Review met and addressed necessary corrections and VA Exemptions. Assessor Fuess indicated that he believed the campground on Hayward Road is actually a family setup and not for public use. Supervisor Doucette noted that Bob Lindbeck from the Alger County Road Commission will be present at the October Board Meeting to review the 5 Year Road Plan and finalize projects for 2022. Information noting the signs have been placed at the cemetery and Heritage Trail was provided.

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION -**

Mr and Mrs Wachter presented information to the Board regarding, what they recall was a site being secured in the old area of the cemetery in 2013. They noted they met with former Sexton Moore and marking 8 sites behind the Veterans Memorial as their site. There doesn't appear to be any record. They requested that the Board consider their situation and desire to again secure these sites and keep to the word they were given. Under current Board Policy, no exceptions are being considered regarding burial in the old section of the cemetery.

***PUBLIC COMMENT -** Public Comments were received from Tom Beauchaine.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Financial Reports - Clerk Johnson presented monthly financial reports for all funds. All reports were emailed to Board members prior to the meeting for review.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - John Carr, Planning Commission chair provided information to the Board regarding their last meeting. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for August 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Assessor/Board of Review - No report.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther was present and provided a department report. The trailhead and cemetery signs were installed. 6 yards of top soil was ordered for the cemetery for use in site maintenance. Plow truck maintenance will be scheduled. Mowing and cleanup is winding down as fall preparations are coming soon. Discussion regarding the leased ballfield property was made. Ryan noted that he has not been mowing it. Trustee Balmes agreed to contact Brian Hinch of the USFS regarding the lease and our decision not to continue with it.

Cemetery - Discussion regarding the Wachters request to the Board regarding the securing of 8 sites within the old cemetery. While their situation cannot be documented and the Board understands their disappointment, a decision to stay with policy and not allow additional burials in the old section of the cemetery was made. The Board will offer them a discount for the purchase of any plots in the new section. Supervisor Doucette will contact them with the Board's decision.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report has been received and is on file. Trustee Miller noted that they had 1 call for the month. Swem Repair in Rapid River took care of the necessary pumper electrical repairs. Several departments are going through them and have been happy with the service. The pump and hose testing will be scheduled.

Clerk Johnson presented information from Superiorland Gas Company on their Propane Pre-Purchase Program. Treasurer Cota will do some comparable pricing research and report back to the Board. Superiorland offered a pre-purchase price of \$1.85 per gallon. This is for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall.

Clerk Johnson presented a Contract for Services with the Alger County K9 Unit for consideration. MOTION by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balmes to contract with the Alger County K9 Unit for services assisting the Au Train Township Fire Department in the amount of \$1,500. MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

County Commission Update - Jerry Doucette, County Commission Chair provided an update to the Board regarding recent activities. Mr. Doucette also noted that the Assessor of Record Agreement the Township opted into was not accepted by other Townships and did not finalize.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

GAD Cart Program and Contract - Supervisor Doucette provided information to the Board on the GAD Cart Distribution that was poorly planned, their need to order more carts based on a miscalculation, their need to reorder carts and the gathering of addresses by Clerk Johnson and herself for those who still need a cart. In addition the drivers were told to pick up second cans that were not GAD carts because that was allowed under agreement. GAD is stating they will need additional funds for the cart rental monthly because more carts are being distributed than planned. Supervisor Doucette requested that Steve from GAD send an email outlining what he is expecting and how the distribution issue is being resolved prior to attending a future Board Meeting. While the rollout of the Cart System wasn't as planned, the Township Board is doing everything possible to get the carts distributed to those who still need them and will continue to follow up with GAD until it has been satisfactorily resolved.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence - Supervisor Doucette presented correspondence via email from FERC regarding the Au Train Hydroelectric Project (P-10856) to the Board and their inspection on June 25, 2021. The 5-Year Part 12D Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection and no deficiencies were observed that would require immediate remedial action.

Insurance Renewal - Review of the Property Schedule for the MML application was made by the Board. Recommended value changes were noted and will be provided with the completed renewal application.

2018 County Tax Foreclosure - Supervisor Doucette provided correspondence from the Alger County Treasurer's office regarding a parcel located in Au Train Township that was available for purchase under the foreclosure tax sale. Clerk Johnson noted that any purchase would need to benefit the public. Based on its location, Old Plank Road, there was no Board action.

***PUBLIC COMMENT** - Public Comments were received from John Carr, Erin Miller, and Jerry Doucette.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:29 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk