

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
June 14, 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 also broadcast Live via Facebook.

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 9 persons attended the meeting in person, with additional persons logged on for the Facebook Live event. A complete list is on file with Clerk Johnson.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

*MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16542 through #16558 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8573 through #8591 - Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2082 through #2084 - Road Fund Checks Number #3002 and #3003).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	172218.06
Deposits		14376.00
Interest		21.84
Disbursements		13745.93
Total Checks Not Cleared		1037.07
Ending Balance	\$	171832.90

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	537817.82
Deposits		22834.05
Interest		69.57
Disbursements		2283.31
Total Checks Not Cleared		442.24
Ending Balance	\$	557995.89

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51299.02
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 198415.16
Deposits	15222.83
Interest	25.28
Disbursements	11719.25
Ending Balance	\$ 201944.02
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 322757.95
Deposits	30396.80
Interest	43.30
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$ 353198.05

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

Treasurer Cota noted that she is preparing for the Summer Tax Collection, and responding to phone inquiries. KCI will be printing and mailing the bills. The gov.pay account has been set up and information will be provided directly on the bills. In addition, the tax bills will include the information regarding the GAD garbage collection cart program. Clerk Johnson noted that Grand Island Township will be sending their payment for the Fire Protection Agreement.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an updated to the Board on recent activities. The Off-Year Audit with Anderson, Tackman and Company was scheduled for the week of August 16, 2021. They will be on site for 3 days. The registration requirements for the State/Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program have been completed. Additional actions, under the direction of the Michigan Townships Association will be addressed as necessary to make sure the Township is eligible for the program. In addition, Clerk Johnson noted that the cost of postage is going up the end of August and after discussion with Treasurer Cota, the purchase of 20 rolls is recommended.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to authorize the purchase of 20 rolls of Forever postage at a cost of \$1,100.00. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted that he contacted the Sheriff Department regarding a parking issue on North Shore Rd. A joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Township Board will be scheduled for the end of July to review the amendments.

Trustee Balmes noted that he will address the Board under Unfinished Business - Conflict of Interest.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. Information on the MDOT Au Train River Bridge project was provided. They expect to be onsite through September 3rd. The quote for the Kayak Launch railing repair was \$700.00. Ryan will check for a local repair solution. The Heritage Trail and Cemetery signs have been ordered.

The Dust Control application was completed, with a total cost of \$19,789.38.

Cemetery lots continue to be purchased and inquiries are being made on a regular basis.

Supervisor Doucette noted that she spoke with CUPPAD regarding a possible DNR Trust Fund Grant Application. They can assist the Township at no expense. In order to apply, the Recreation Plan needs to be completed by December 2021. Information on the dumpster/garbage cage at Woodland Ave that serves Sunset Drive was provided. It was overflowing and included building materials.

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION -**

Stewart Sarisan was present and provided information and concerns about the parking - in the no parking signed areas on N Shore Rd for those recreating on the Au Train River. They are blocking road access. The State Police Department responded and had vehicles towed. Mr. Sarisan is requesting additional signage. It was suggested he attend the next meeting of the Alger County Road Commission. Supervisor Doucette also noted she would follow up with ACRC Manager/Engineer Bob Lindbeck.

Margaret Lauer, who is a part time resident on Grove Street addressed the Board. Her husband was cremated and she is seeking permission to have them placed within the old cemetery section where her parents are buried, She is requesting that the Township assign her additional lots within the old cemetery. Precedence and policy clearly indicates that there are no additional lots available within the old section of the Cemetery, it should not be allowed. Ryan Walther, Sexton will meet with Ms. Lauer to discuss the options within the parents site.

***PUBLIC COMMENT -** Public Comments were received from John Carr, Bob Gibbons, and Rudy Kleeman.

***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. Quarterly Review and any necessary budget amendments will be included in the July Board Meeting packet.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy provided his report to the Board prior to the meeting. John Carr, Planning Commission chair provided information to the Board regarding their last meeting. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be scheduled as a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Township Board to review the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing being scheduled.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Cameron Fuess provided an update to the board on recent activities via email prior to the meeting. The July Board of Review is scheduled for July 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther was present and provided a department report. The Veterans Flag is up and the cemetery was clean up and flowers added. In addition, flags were placed prior to Memorial Day. Discussion about trailhead concerns, garbage being left and concerns about vandalism were addressed. Michelle noted that the "rules" signs were ordered for placement. Ryan suggested the Board seriously consider a camera system.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report has been received and is on file. Justen Knuttila and Jon Pacl were present to answer any questions. There was one call for the month. The department is looking at ordering new uniform jackets for the members at a cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000. Pump testing, ladder testing and hose testing will be scheduled.

Chief King recommended that the Board consider donating the Gladstone Fire truck to the Tri County Volunteer Fire Department. It is no longer in service as part of our fleet and Tri County is finding it difficult keeping trucks in service with limited funds. The truck is a '87 Grummond that was received when the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall was damaged.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Miller to donate the Gladstone Fire Truck ('87 Grummond) to the Tri County Volunteer Fire Department at no cost value so they can continue to provide support services to the Township Fire Department. MOTION CARRIED.

Justen Knuttila noted that the Community Building needs Fire Extinguishers.

County Commission Update - Supervisor Doucette provided a few updates from Commissioner Doucette. Jerry spoke with Rick Nebel about the bulletin board at the Post Office and Bank and asked that it updated. They are looking at reopening the Au Train Branch.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Refuse Contract - The refuse contract from GAD was finalized. A flyer is being placed in the Summer Tax Bills notifying residents of the change. The effective date is August 2, 2021.

Correspondence Review HB4590 - Supervisor Doucette presented the Townships letter of support for HB4590 to the Alger County Board.

Vacation Rentals Mapping - Clerk Johnson noted that she spoke with Assessor Fuess and he indicated that he would complete the vacation rentals mapping at no cost to the Township. It could be easily updated as necessary and would allow him comparison for the purpose of Homestead Pre Exemptions.

Cemetery Plots - Continued discussion regarding the request from Margaret Lauer regarding placement within the old cemetery. After review of the site it was agreed that an extension of the original family plot of no more than 3 feet would be allowed to accommodate for cremains burials only.

Recreation Plan Update - Supervisor Doucette will obtain updated pricing from CUPPAD on preparing our Recreation Plan.

Correspondence Attorney Murphy Conflict of Interest - After review and lengthily discussion and additional input from Trustee Balmes after his discussion with the Michigan Townships Association attorney, it was agreed that the Board will be moving forward and that each Board member must make a decision regarding their possible conflict of interest on Township matters. Planning Commission chair John Carr indicated that they would be following the guidelines outlined within their Bylaws when it comes to Conflict of Interest.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Request for Funding - Clerk Johnson presented a request for a donation from the Munising 4th of July Committee for fireworks.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Balmes to authorize \$750.00 to the Munising 4th of July Committee for fireworks. DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Tri County Volunteer Fire Department - Clerk Johnson presented a contract for services from the Tri County Volunteer Fire Department. Their department provides support services to the Township. Fire Chief King recommended we continue with the contract.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota to enter into a one year Contract for Services with the Tri County Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$3,000.00 for providing support services to the Au Train Township Fire Department. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

UPSET - Clerk Johnson presented a contract for services from UPSET to provide support services to the fire department. Fire Chief King recommended we continue with the contract.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota to enter into a one year Contract for Services with UPSET in the amount of \$1,500.00 for providing support services to the Au Train Township Fire Department. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from County Commission Chair Jerry Doucette. He noted that the County will be conducting a 2 Day Emergency Response Exercise where the scenario is that there is an active shooter on a cruise boat.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:29 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk