

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
May 10, 2021
6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Au Train Township Board convened in person on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was also broadcast as a Facebook Live Event.

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 6 persons attended the meeting in person, with addition 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 Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 Special Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16526 through #16541 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8567 through #8580 - Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2082).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	168591.87
Deposits		17372.00
Interest		20.36
Disbursements		13228.87
Total Checks Not Cleared		537.30
Ending Balance	\$	172218.06

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	536932.97
Deposits		9011.75
Interest		66.50
Disbursements		7236.38
Total Checks Not Cleared		957.02
Ending Balance	\$	537817.82

Certificate of Deposit \$ 51299.02

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 210109.09
Deposits	
Interest	25.32
Disbursements	11719.25
Ending Balance	\$ 198415.16
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 322715.16
Deposits	
Interest	39.79
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$ 322757.95

*A Complete copy of the April 30, 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. The tax data base is being prepared and will be sent to KCI for printing and postage.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an updated to the Board on recent activities, including a May Election report. Only 184 voters participated, with over one-half being absentee ballots. The day was uneventful and went well. Clerk Johnson also noted she will contact Anderson, Tackman and Company regarding scheduling of the Off-Year audit, and is continuing Election Administration Accreditation, preparing cemetery deeds and overall filing and budget maintenance.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Balmes noted that he continues to respond to constituent inquiries regarding vacation rentals, zoning and tourism concerns. Discussion regarding meeting attendance guidelines and how it might affect the Planning Commission.

Trustee Miller noted that he has received inquiries regarding vacation rentals, shipping containers, attending the April Planning Commission meeting. Discussion regarding the involvement of Alger County Building Codes Department in the vacation rentals continued. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for May 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls, forwarding those relating to zoning to Jason McCarthy. She also noted that the Spring Clean-up was held on May 8th, less residents participated this year, but more trash was collected. The repair on the Kayak Launch is on hold as EZ Dock is working on pricing for the custom fabricated piece needed for the dock. Dust control is scheduled to begin on May 17th and will continue until it is completed.

Supervisor Doucette also noted that she confirmed with the Michigan Townships Association, and the Township is not required to request bids for professional services (ie. Garbage Collection, Legal Representation, Audit Services).

In conclusion Supervisor Doucette noted that Becky Johns, the Veteran Officer for Alger County, is available to meet with local veterans at any time, and that she continued discussion with Charlie Marsh of the USFS regarding the possible placement of a dumpster on the East End of Woodland Ave to serve those residents and persons on Sunset Drive. The Board discussed whether we should accommodate them with a dumpster or require cans like most other residents. Mr. Marsh also noted that the USFS tree sale is complete and they will be working on Au Train River bank restoration this summer. Funding for additional projects along the river, including parking and restrooms, could be completed with grants and match opportunities from the USFS. The Au Train Township Recreation Plan will need to be updated in order for the Township to consider grant applications to provide funding.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

*PUBLIC COMMENT - None

***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 - Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy provided his report to the Board prior to the meeting. He was also present via Facebook and provided additional information on specific items within his report. John Carr, Planning Commission chair provided information to the Board regarding their last meeting, and Matt Lang's work creating a rental data base within the Township, including a Beta map. This is a working document that needs additional clarification and updates. At present there appears to be 93 undocumented/non-permitted vacation rentals within the Township and this concerns Planning Commission Secretary Matt Lang. Clerk Johnson will contact Assessor Fuess regarding mapping of the vacation rentals.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Cameron Fuess provided an update to the board on recent activities via email prior to the meeting.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther was present and provided a department report. The trailhead is open, the dock installation is scheduled for this month, and Clerk Johnson purchased the automatically door lock for installation on the trailhead cabin. Concerns about the bathrooms and whether they should be locked at night was discussed. They will be left unlocked for the time being.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report has been received and is on file. They had 3 calls for the month of April. Chief King also noted they are working on changing department by-laws, with Township Board approval, to vote in officers, rather than appoint, and vote out if they are not meeting expectations. A draft will be provided to the Board when complete for consideration.

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Refuse Contract - The refuse contract from GAD was presented to the Board prior to the meeting for consideration. Clerk Johnson noted it was also sent to attorney Murphy for review and he had no substantial concerns with it. After continued discussion and input, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to enter into a 5 Year Contract with Great American Disposal to provide garbage/refuse curbside collection within the Township, using the rented cart system, beginning August 1, 2021, with an addendum contingency related to millage approval available. The contract will have a monthly rate of \$12,800.00 and a cart rental rate of \$460.00, for a total of \$13,260.00 per month. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENTS BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD
Resolution Number 2021-003

WHEREAS, Public Act 280 of 1995, MCL 129.221, et seq., authorizes a township board to adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of payments by financial transaction devices; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Treasurer and Clerk of Au Train Township that acceptable financial transaction devices include:

VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER CARD, DEBIT CARDS and

WHEREAS, the financial transaction devices that may be accepted comply with the Township's depository resolution under MCL 129.12 of the Michigan Compiled Laws,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective May 10, 2021, the Au Train Township Board authorizes the use of transaction devices and authorizes the Treasurer to proceed to implement their use according to the following policy:

- a. Any and all fees associated with the processing of payments shall be the responsibility of the payer.
- b. Financial transactions that may be paid by a credit/debit card shall include Real and Personal Property taxes only through "gov.paynow.com".
- c. The following departments are authorized to accept such payments by financial transaction devices:

 X Treasurer's Department

The foregoing Resolution was offered at the Township Board Meeting on May 10, 2021 by Board Member Clerk Johnson and supported by Board Member Supervisor Doucette.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted

"AYE" JOHNSON, DOUCETTE, COTA, BALMES, MILLER

"NAY" NONE

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.

Signed Mary Walther Johnson
Township Clerk

***NEW BUSINESS**

Conflict of Interest - Supervisor Doucette presented information to the Board from the Michigan Townships Association regarding Conflict of Interest by Board Members relating to matters that may affect members on a personal basis. It was strongly suggested that Board Members reclude themselves from matters (Discussing and/or Voting on Motions) where they may benefit personally by the actions. A written opinion is expected from Attorney Murphy as well.

Blight Ordinance Review - Clerk Johnson presented copies of the current Blight Ordinance and Complaint form for review. After review and discussion, the Board felt confident in the ordinance and complaint form as presented.

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Supervisor Doucette noted that three letters of interest were received for appointment consideration to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Letters of interest were received from Jason Cain, John Delaney and Donna Shields. After review and discussion, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Miller to appoint Jason Cain to the Zoning Board of Appeals and offer the alternate position to John Delaney. JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, NO; DOUCETTE, NO. MOTION CARRIED.

Koski Road Agreement with the Alger County Road Commission - Clerk Johnson presented the contract authorizing additional gravel to Koski Road. The Road Commission has already begun the work previously approved and agreed that an additional .25 miles of graveling on the roadway was in the best interest of the residents. The additional Township obligation is \$4,650.00. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Cota, to enter into the Agreement with the Alger County Road Commission to authorize an additional 0.25 miles of graveling on the roadway, with a Township obligation of \$4,650.00. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

House Bill 4590 - Discussion about the previous HB4590 was made. The original bill died during the Lame Duck Session. It is going to be reintroduced as a Senate Bill. This bill will allow for a user tax that would go to the Counties which is centered on safety and services for county residents and tourists. It would be a "user fee", not a tax on Alger County Residents. County Chair Doucette expects the bill to be reintroduced as a Senate Bill in 2021. He is asking for a letter of support from the Township in order to advance this bill through legislature. Supervisor Doucette will draft a letter to present to the Board for consideration at a future Board Meeting.

***PUBLIC COMMENT** - Public Comments were received from John Young, Jerry Doucette, Lisa Cromell, Donna Shields, and Matt Lang.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:28pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk