

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
November 8, 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 10 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 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 October 11, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16619 through #16633 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8639 through #8653 - Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2090 and #2091 - Road Fund Check Numbered 3005).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	205,703.89
Deposits		34,558.55
Interest		27.26
Disbursements		12,588.87
Total Checks Not Cleared		390.51
Ending Balance	\$	227,210.32

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	545,325.16
Deposits		25,224.33
Interest		71.79
Disbursements		6,101.81
Total Checks Not Cleared		148.86
Ending Balance	\$	564,370.61

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51,362.98
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	154,475.95
Deposits		13,132.83
Interest		20.38
Disbursements		13,187.68
Ending Balance	\$	154,441.48

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	338,034.23
Deposits		18,132.83
Interest		45.08
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	356,212.14

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

Treasurer Cota noted that the Winter Tax Bills are being prepared and will go out December 1, 2021. The propane tank is scheduled to be installed at the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall tomorrow.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an update to the Board on recent activities. These included budget review for all funds, Clerk Certifications for State Accreditation through continuing ed is being completed, garbage calls and messages were forwarded to Supervisor Doucette and a recent FOIA was fulfilled.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Balmer provided information about the need for additional tipper carts for Koski Road residents and had questions regarding the Cole/Newton matter.

Trustee Miller noted that he has spoken with Duane Newton regarding the Cole/Newton matter and attended the two Planning Commission Meetings that have been held since the October Board Meeting.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. She noted that effective immediately calls regarding tipper carts should be directed to Great American Disposal direct. The repair on the generator at the Township Hall was completed by Superior Electric. She also requested that they provide a maintenance contract bid for review. The Sunset Road dumpster was placed and locked. Keys were distributed. Correspondence from the Alger County Treasurer was provided regarding Title III monies, which will be placed on the December agenda. Correspondence was provided regarding the Forest Lake Dam, Ferc #10856, and AMCAB requested permission to use the Township Hall as a commodities distribution site.

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION -**

Duane Newton requested the opportunity to address the Board regarding property rights and the Blight/Zoning Violation Matter related to his property located at N7556 Arbutus Street, being used by Cory Cole as The Yack Shak. Questions about how a Blight Violation became a Zoning Violation which resulted in a fence requirement were asked. Mr. Newton felt they were two separate issues and there was some confusion on their part regarding this. Mr. Newton was assured that the Zoning Administrator indicated he felt the Blight Violation was resolved. Cory Cole also addressed the Board during this time. They both noted that they felt they were not given proper notice of either complaint and received no direction on the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Clerk Johnson, Trustee Balmes and Supervisor Doucette all addressed their concerns at length. Start 6:26 pm - End 7:05 pm.

***PUBLIC COMMENT -** Public Comments were received from Duane Newton, Mary Johnson and John Carr.

***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. Recommendations for Budget Amendments will be addressed under New Business.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy's report was received and is on file. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be on December 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Continuation of the Zoning Map review is expected with approximately 3/4 of the mapping is complete.

The next scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals is January 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Assessor/Board of Review - The Assessor's Monthly report was provided and is on file. The December Board of Review is scheduled for December 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions/Cemetery - Ryan Walther updated the Board on recent activities. An overhead projector screen was purchased for the Community Building. The cemetery flag will need to be replaced in the spring. The Heritage Trail restrooms are closed down for the season and serviced by Tri County Septic. The restroom closed sign has been installed. Ryan also indicated he reported the loose garbage around the Sunset/Woodland Ave dumpster to Supervisor Doucette, he observed the dumpster was unlocked. Ryan noted he spoke with Roger Hess regarding the terms agreed to for its placement and that it needs to be locked at all times.

Clerk Johnson indicated she received an email regarding use of the building for an exercise/fitness class. It was confirmed that there is no charge for that type of activity. They will contact Treasurer Cota to set up a schedule. Treasurer Cota noted there is a Community Building rental upcoming for a baby shower on December 11, 2021.

Discussion regarding winter access to the Clerk/Treasurer entrance and dropbox location was made. Ryan suggested adding a handrail to assist in what can be a slippery entrance. The dropbox will remain accessible, but a long term solution needs to be considered.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report was received and is on file. Chief Perry King was present and provided additional information to the Board. There were no call outs for October. Discussion regarding the need for turnout gear was made.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to authorize the purchase of up to three sets of Turnout Gear for Department members, at a cost of \$4,500 each set, through Pomasal. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Chief King noted that electrical upgrades are needed for the new compressor fill station and he is working on getting those completed. The upgrade was included in the cost of the project approved by the Board.

Member Justen Knuttila is attending training to become a Certified Instructor.

Final Plans were received and reviewed for the new fire truck. Chief King noted that delivery is now expected in January or February of 2022. This is ahead of schedule.

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cole/Newton Zoning Violation - After further discussion, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Balmes to allow Cory Cole/Duane Newton the opportunity to file an appeal to the Au Train Township Zoning Board of Appeals, the Administrative Decision by Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy requiring fencing at N7556 Arbutus St. The appeal needs to be filed within 30 days of November 8, 2021. JOHNSON, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Township 5 Year Road Plan - Review of the revised plan was made. The Board reminded members of the audience that it is a working document subject to review any time requested or as needed. An updated plan was provided to the Board by Bob Lindbeck of the Alger County Road Commission after suggestions were made at the October Board Meeting.

LFRF (Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) Plan/Projects - Clerk Johnson asked Board Members to bring forward any ideas for use of the LFRF Funds for discussion at the December Board Meeting. It is a difficult task in that there are specific uses the funds can be used for. Clerk Johnson noted that Building upgrades are allowed and suggested that a video/sound system be something considered so the Board can adequately increase meeting participation through Facebook Live events.

*NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Cota noted that KCI will be printing and mailing the Winter Tax Bills, which will go out on December 1st. It was agreed that Treasurer Cota be given the authority to proceed with contracting with KCI in the future as needed for tax bill printing and mailing, as an reoccurring expense. The cost is much less than if it were contracted with the Alger County Treasurer or done by the Township.

Prohibition Recreational Marijuana Establishments Ordinance - Trustee Miller requested that the Township revisit this Ordinance as the Planning Commission finalizes the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Trustee Balmes has questions about the Ordinance and why it was enacted. Clerk Johnson and Supervisor Doucette gave a brief summary, but then suggested Trustee Balmes review the minutes leading up to the Ordinance approval and the discussion and thought that went into the decision to Prohibit Establishments within the Township.

Budget Amendments -

Au Train Township Budget Resolution
Amendment No. 3
November 8, 2021

Re: FY Budget 2021-2022

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Au Train Township Board to establish a General Appropriations Act for the purpose of budgeting the Township finances in a manner which does not allow expenditure, to exceed revenues, including any available unappropriated surpluses, and,

WHEREAS, the Au Train Township Board recognizes that some activities may require amendments to this Act, and such amendment shall be made by resolution of the Au Train Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Au Train Township Appropriations Act for FY 2021-2022 does not permit deviations which cause expenditures for any activity to exceed budgeted amounts without amendment to the Act by the Au Train Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Au Train Township Board has duly reviewed the budgets for the General Appropriations Act, which includes all funds of Au Train Township, at public meetings of the Au Train Township Board,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Au Train Township Board hereby amends the Appropriations Act for FY 2021-2022 in accordance with budgetary information presented to the Board and the limitations defined within this Resolution.

The foregoing Resolution offered by Board Member: Clerk Johnson

Second offered by Board Member: Treasurer Cota

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": Johnson, Cota, Doucette, Balmes, Miller

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson
Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

General Fund - Fund No. 101

General Fund - Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	166759.46	172559.03	+5799.57
Total Revenue Amendment			+5799.57
Total Revenues	419596.00	425395.57	+5799.57
Ending Fund Equity	175330.00	181129.57	+5799.57

Reflects 2020 Winter Tax Dispersal Deposit 10/5/2021

Fire Fund - Fund No. 206

Fire Fund - Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	587687.00	612311.33	+24924.33
Current Tax	222972.00	212873.08	(10098.92)
Total Revenue Amendment			+14825.41
Total Revenues	823559.00	838384.41	+14825.41
Ending Fund Equity	229109.00	243934.41	+14825.41

Reflects 2020 Winter Tax Dispersal Deposit 10/5/2021

Reflects Tax Tribunal Refund Request from Grand Island Township for 2018, 2019, 2020

Garbage Fund - Fund No. 226

Garbage Fund - Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	210109.00	223241.83	+13132.83
Total Revenue Amendment			+13132.83
Total Revenues	435231.00	448363.83	+13132.83
Ending Fund Equity	262131.00	275263.83	+13132.83

Reflects 2020 Winter Tax Dispersal Deposit 10/5/2021

Road Fund - Fund No. 204

Road Fund Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	210109.00	228241.83	+18132.83
Total Revenue Amendment			+18132.83
Total Revenues	502842.00	520974.83	+18132.83
Ending Fund Equity	348592.00	366724.83	+18132.83

Reflects 2020 Winter Tax Dispersal Deposit 10/5/2021

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Duane Newton, Perry King and Tom Beauchaine.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Balmes, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:32 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk