

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting

December 12, 2022

6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Au Train Township Board convened on the above date at 6:00 p.m. at the Au Train Township Hall, N7569 Spruce St., Au Train MI 49806

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 12 persons attended the meeting. A complete list is on file.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Trustee Balmes, second by Supervisor Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16828 through #16851; Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8875 through #8912; Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2108).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month ending November, 2022

GENERAL FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 307,653.03
Deposits	8,536.00
Interest	173.19
Disbursements	19,947.82
Total Checks Not Cleared	2,704.28
Ending Balance	\$ 293,710.12
FIRE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 490,039.23
Deposits	
Interest	276.35

Disbursements	3,463.79
Total Checks Not Cleared	2,809.25
Ending Balance	\$ 484,042.54
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 51,555.30
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 218,529.72
Deposits	
Interest	123.39
Disbursements	13,690.96
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 204,962.15
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 195,464.15
Deposits	
Interest	108.12
Disbursements	146,000.00
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 49,572.27

*A Complete copy of the November 30, 2022 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson. Treasurer Cota noted the Winter Tax Collection is underway. She will be holding office hours on Friday, December 30, 2022 from 9:00-5:00 for in-person tax payments. There is a Community Building Rental on December 25, 2022.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson noted that it has been a quiet month after the Election Storm. The recent recount at the state level did not include any precincts in Alger County. The election upload of voter history was completed and we are now waiting for final canvas by the State before releasing any FOIA requests on file. A Thank You card was received from KCI and the Secretary of State thanking the Clerk and staff for the successful implementation of the General Election.

Payroll for the Fire Department, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals was completed. Payroll for the December Board of Review will be processed upon completion of the December Board Meeting. Clerk Johnson noted that she also completed the update of Zoning Administration forms for the Petition for Administrative Appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Zoning Violation Complaint Form and the Conditional Use Permit Application. The 2022 Salary Report has been completed, as well as the research and recommendation of the sounds panels.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Balmes noted he attend the fire department meeting and is working with them preparing specs for the updates at the Christmas Fire Hall. Trustee Balmes also noted he attended the retirement gathering for Norm Balko, and would have been available to attend the Cole vs Au Train Township Hearing last minute had Supervisor Doucette contacted him.

Trustee Miller noted he has received call from citizens with questions about the new Zoning Ordinance and Short Term Rentals.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls and emails. She also noted that both herself and Clerk Johnson received the email regarding the upcoming Cole Hearing Date, that was overlooked. Attorney Quinnell was present however, and felt it wasn't necessary for a Board Member to be there. After hearing from both parties, the Judge noted he would make a decision in a couple of days and our Attorney would be notified.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Donna Shields regarding Short Term Rentals.

*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. No Budget Amendments were necessary.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - The Zoning Administrators report was provided and is on file. Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist was present and provided a brief update and answered any questions. Discussion about upcoming CUP Hearings was made, as there are 6 applications pending for hearing dates. A schedule will be established with the Planning Commission at their January Meeting.

The two recent CUP Hearings were discussed with information that the two in Town Development were approved, and two denied. At least one of the denials expects to reapply as soon as possible for reconsideration with additional information being provided and presence at the hearing.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will need to schedule a 2023 Organizational Meeting.

Assessor/Board of Review - No Assessor was received this month prior to the meeting time. Supervisor Doucette confirmed that the December Board of Review is December 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions/Cemetery - Ryan Walther provided an update for the Board on recent activities via text. Treasurer Cota noted she received a request for permission to use the Community Building for a donation only Yoga Class on Saturdays at 9:00 am. Permission granted with no rental fees.

Discussion about sound proofing panel options for the Community Building as we prepare for the meeting equipment being installed. Clerk Johnson had previously sent the information via email to the Board members for consideration. After further review, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to proceed with the purchase of the sound panels from Vant Panels, at a cost of \$1,672.00, with funding from the SLFRF Funds. JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report was received and is on file. Members of the Department were present to provide additional information to the Board. There were 3 calls for the month of November. Some of the Fire Department members participated in the food drive with the City of Munising Fire Department. Norm Balko retired from the Fire Department after 44 years of service. A gathering and award was presented to Norm for his service. Pomasl anticipates the delivery of the Fire Truck after the first of the year. At the December meeting they had their election of officers, which included appointing Brandon Lewis as 16 Mile Lake Hall Captain and recommendation that the Township Board appoint Perry King as Fire Chief and Justen Knuttila as Assistant Fire Chief for 2023. All other officers remained the same. Hunter MacArthur was added to the department roster.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Balmes to appoint Perry King as Fire Chief and Justen Knuttila as Assistant Fire Chief for 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

Ambulance/Ford Van Bids - Clerk Johnson noted two bids for the department Ambulance were received. 1. Nathan Curry - \$1,650.00; 2. Rock Richard - \$1,651.00. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Balmes to accept the bid for the 1995 Fire Eagle Van of \$1,651.00 from Rock Richard. DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

The Departments January Meeting will be on the 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Christmas Fire Hall.

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Correspondence - Clerk Johnson presented a letter from Munising Schools asking once again for the Board to consider funds for the playground project. After further discussion, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to contribute \$5,000.00 for the Munising Public Schools Playground Project, with funding from the SLFRF Funds. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Recreation Plan - Supervisor Doucette presented the Au Train Township Recreation Plan DRAFT from Jason McCarthy for further input from the Board. Much review and discussion produced items for correction, clarification and addition of Future Projects. Superior Doucette will provide the updated information to Mr. McCarthy for revision. Upon completion of the updated DRAFT Plan, it will be noticed and available for review for the required 30 day period. A Special Meeting will be scheduled after completion of the 30 Days for the Public Hearing and adoption consideration.

Trustee Balmes excused himself from the meeting at 7:30 pm for an additional obligation.

Ballfield - Supervisor Doucette noted she just received correspondence from the USFS regarding the surrender of the ballfield permit and requirements for the completion. This will be reviewed and discussed at the January Board Meeting.

***NEW BUSINESS -**

Commission/Board Resignations - Clerk Johnson noted that the following resignations were received. John Carr from the Planning Commission effective February 1, 2023. Duke Fillmore from the Board of Review and Planning Commission effective January 1, 2023 and Jerry Doucette as alternate to the Board of Review effective January 1, 2023. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota to accept the resignations. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Johnson will prepare notice of vacancies on the Board of Review and Zoning Board of Appeals. After further discussion, MOTION Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, that due to the recent resignations (Carr and Fillmore) from the Planning Commission, the Township Board will not actively seek applicants to expand the Planning Commission to 7 members at this time. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission Bylaws - Clerk Johnson presented the Planning Commission Bylaws as revised and approved by the Planning Commission at the December 1, 2022 Meeting, for consideration. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the Planning Commission Bylaws, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

2023 Township Board Meeting Dates - The Township Board Meeting dates were discussed. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to continue with Township Board Regular Meetings being held on the second Monday of each month, with additional dates added in February for Special Budget Workshop Meetings (February 20th for Fire, Garbage and Road Funds; February 27th for General Fund) and noting the 2023-2024 Budget Hearing will be held as part of the March Township Board Meeting. All Meetings will start at 6:00 pm and held at the Au Train Township Hall/Community Building. MOTION CARRIED.

***PUBLIC COMMENT** - Comments were received from Jerry Doucette, providing information on activities of the Alger County Board as he completes his many years of service. He thanked the Township Board for the pleasure of serving them as Commissioner and the Board thanked Mr. Doucette for his service. John Carr also provided comments.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:31 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk