

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
June 13, 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 17 persons attended the meeting in person. A complete list is on file.

\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

\*MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Special Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Balmes, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2022 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; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16724 through #16744; Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8788 through #8807; Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2100 and #2101).

\*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

- TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month ending May 31, 2022

GENERAL FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 264,732.75
Deposits	15,385.73
Interest	33.55
Disbursements	13,298.20
Total Checks Not Cleared	4,931.91
Ending Balance	\$ 261,921.92

FIRE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 622,700.55
Deposits	150.30
Interest	78.16
Disbursements	11,727.46
Total Checks Not Cleared	4,382.74
Ending Balance	\$ 606,818.81
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 51,491.10
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 274,299.51
Deposits	100.62
Interest	34.57
Disbursements	13,395.70
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 261,039.00
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 372,244.99
Deposits	100.62
Interest	47.43
Disbursements	
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 372,393.04

\*A Complete copy of the May 31, 2022 report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that she is preparing for the Summer Tax Collection with bills going out July 1, 2022. There will be hall rentals on June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>. Payment was received from the Alger County Treasurer for Winter payoff settlement and a payment in the amount of \$17,500 for the Road Fund for NFR was also received. Both were deposited in June and will show up on the June 2022 Treasurer's Report.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an update to the Board on recent activities. These included finishing up Zoning Administrator Duties on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Meeting with Kathleen Lindquist at 5:00 pm and turned over all files, pending applications and learning materials. FOIA requests and emails continue, and updates to the Qualified Voter Files (QVF) are completed. Clerk Johnson attended a State Election Training on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Munising Township Hall. Absentee Ballot applications for the primary election will be mailed within the next couple of weeks. Ballot proofs that include the Garbage and Road Millage questions were reviewed and approved. The audit was scheduled with Anderson, Tackman and Company to begin the week of June 27<sup>th</sup>. Election Inspector Training will be held during the month of July for anyone interested in serving as an Inspector. It is a two year certification. The Election Committee will meet on July 11, 2022 at 5:30 pm, just prior to our Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Miller located a TV at Walmart and Clerk Johnson will make arrangements to purchase and pickup.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Balmes noted he had a few contacts from Citizens regarding the Planning Commission Public Hearing, vacation rentals, and a complaint about the Zoning Administrator not returning emails or phone calls to their satisfaction. Also concerns about consistency of approved Zoning Permits via email and lack of proper record keeping was addressed.

Trustee Balmes also asked Supervisor Doucette about obtaining a permit from MDOT about the installation of a Life Saving Station at the Au Train River Beach. The equipment is still available and being stored, but he would like to see it placed as intended.

Trustee Miller noted the he attended the Planning Commission Public Hearing on June 9, 2022 and answered several citizen questions regarding zoning and vacation rentals.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls and emails. Also, an acknowledgment and thank you to David DeLisle for picking up and disposing of the chair that was at the end of Au Train Forest Lake Road. Dust Control was completed, with application of 3 loads. Issues with tipper carts/dumpsters continue. It is an ongoing process. A solution for Old Plank Road is still being discussed with residents as the prior approved location for a dumpster isn't going to work. GAD, which was purchased by GFL Environmental indicated that they will be purchasing new trucks in the next 18 months and all Alger County Residents will required to have a tipper cart or dumpster. Supervisor Doucette also noted that she attended the Regional Government Meeting and met with MML Insurance Representative Judy Thomson-Torosian for a quick hello and discussion about the Township. All is going well with insurance. There is an upcoming recycling event in Alger County for electronic waste and a recycling survey is being sent to all residents, who are being asked to complete.

\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Melinda Van Stone, Cory Cole, Rick Nebel, David DeLisle, Drew Ogle and Duane Newton, via email read by Supervisor Doucette.

#### \*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* - No Zoning Administrators report was provided. Clerk Johnson provided a brief update.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for August 11, 2022.

Planning Commission and Trustee Miller provided information on the Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Amendments and map updates. The Resolution approving the Amendments and updates was provided prior to the meeting to the Board, along with a Summary of the Comments, and recommendations from the Planning Commission.

*Assessor/Board of Review* - Assessor Fuess report has been received and is on file. Supervisor Doucette noted that the July Board of Review meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

*Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions/Cemetery* - Ryan Walther updated the Board on recent activities. He indicated that the flags were placed for Memorial Day, the dock installation at The Heritage Trail will be scheduled as soon as possible. Discussion about the Christmas Fire Hall overhang and bathroom update was made. Clerk Johnson confirmed that it will need to go out on bids. If the specifications can be provided, a bid sheet notice will be prepared and advertised.

Ryan indicated that he will continue with the Summer projects as needed and will also work with Supervisor Doucette on ordering and replacing street signs that are needed.

*Fire Department/First Responders* – The Fire Department report was received and is on file. The new paid Captain position was awarded to Codey Grahovac and the Assistance Fire Chief is Justen Knuttila. Assistant Chief Justen Knuttila and other Department members were present to answer any questions. There was a total of 6 calls for the month. Swem completed all the DOT's on the trucks. They are still doing some necessary repairs on the Au Train trucks. Information about obtaining a lost title for the ambulance so it can go out on bids, upcoming training and a request for Wildland Fire Gear was provided and discussed. The Wildland Fire Gear would run approximately \$6,800 per member. Clerk Johnson will forward Justen the Fire Department Budget so it can be reviewed. Trustee Tom Balmes will be the acting Fire Department Liaison for the Township Board. Meetings are typically held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Discussion regarding the additional responsibilities of the Assistant Fire Chief since Chief Perry King is out on leave was made. Additional compensation during that time period was discussed. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Balmes, to pay an additional \$500.00 per month effective June 14, 2022, to the Assistant Fire due to additional responsibilities through the Fire Chief's Leave of Absence. JOHNSON, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

**\*OLD BUSINESS**

Township Attorney Update - Supervisor Doucette noted that she has not yet been able to schedule a time to meet with Attorney Stephanie Quinnell. Clerk Johnson and herself will plan a time to meet Stephanie in Marquette before the July Board Meeting and report back to the Board.

Recreation Plan - Discussion about survey questions and using an online survey option was made. Jason McCarthy indicated he would assist in set up whenever the Township was ready to proceed.

Blight Complaints - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent Blight Complaints. Johnny Kroupa property on Woodland Ave., two older complaints in Christmas where there are still issues, the Antique Mall in Christmas and Superior Times Resort on Au Train Lake. Supervisor Doucette noted she contacted Attorney Murphy to assist with review of the Superior Times Resort Complaint and send a letter indicating that it was a private dispute and not a blight violation.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

Township Audit - Clerk Johnson indicated that the Full Year Audit with Anderson, Tackman & Co is scheduled to begin June 27<sup>th</sup> on site. It will be in the \$8,000 to \$9,000 range per our existing contract.

Michigan Townships Association Membership - Clerk Johnson presented information to the Board regarding membership options with the MTA for the upcoming renewal that includes educational opportunities. After further discussion, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette to proceed with membership renewal with the Michigan Townships Association at the yearly rate of \$1,437.81, which does not include additional education hours. JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Zoning Administration Fees - Clerk Johnson presented information to the Board on the rising costs of administering the zoning ordinance and that several of the fees don't even cover the cost of notice required. Inasmuch as now would be a good time to address that, the following Resolution was introduced:

AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION No. 2022- 005

ZONING FEES

WHEREAS, Public Act 110 of 2006 - Michigan Zoning Enabling Act; authorizes a Township Board to establish fees in the Administrating of a Zoning Ordinance;

AND WHEREAS, the cost associated with Administration of the Au Train Township Zoning Ordinance, an Ordinance effective January 1, 2009, have increased since first established;

AND WHEREAS, the review of the fees and costs related to the administration and processing of applications justifies a amendment to the current fee schedule;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as of June 14, 2022 the Au Train Township Board sets the following fee schedule for the Administration and processing of applications, forms and appeals associated with the Zoning Ordinance:

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Zoning Compliance Permit -    | \$ 50.00    |
| 2. Conditional Use Permit -      | \$ 250.00   |
| 3. Zoning Variance Application - | \$ 250.00   |
| 4. Petition to Rezone -          | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 5. Appeal to the ZBA -           | \$ 250.00   |

The foregoing resolution was offered at the Au Train Township Board Regular Meeting on June 13, 2022

Resolution offered by Board Member Treasurer Cota

and supported by Board Member Trustee Miller

Upon roll call vote, the following voted

“AYE”: Cota, Miller, Johnson, Doucette, Balmes

“NO”: None

The Chairperson declared the resolution adopted.

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Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk  
June 13, 2022

Zoning Ordinance and Map Amendments and Adjustments -

Supervisor Doucette presented the Resolution from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the updated zoning ordinance and map adjustments. Much discussion among the Board taking into consideration non-conforming legal and illegal properties, map adjustments, public comments and how what is most important is to get it right. There were some specific questions developed that will be presented to Attorney Murphy. The matter was tabled until additional information is received. The Board will continue with the matter at a called Special Meeting or at the July Regular Board Meeting.

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - 8:27 pm Public Comments were received from Katrina Walther.

\*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