

**Au Train Township Special Board Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission
January 29, 2024 6:00 pm**

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Michelle Doucette, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee Tom Balmes. Planning Commission Members Present: Bill Weisenger, William Gramm and Jason Cain.

Also Present: Township Attorney, Bill Nordeen, Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist, Matt Lang, John Carr, Donna Shields, Joshua Grove - Munising Beacon, Kris and Greg Lindquist, Bob and Tina DesArmo, Dan and Phyllis LaCombe, Tom Hill, Peg and Scott Smith, Brian and Kristen VanWieren, Bob Leibinger, Jamie Nieman, Clyde Shult, Wyatt and Kirsten Seaberg, Dale Meese, Tom Beauchaine, Susannah LaCombe, Lou Kustin, Raelene Reilly, Howard Varvil and other persons who may not have signed in.

Supervisor Doucette opened our special meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Purpose of the Special Board Meeting:

Supervisor Doucette noted that the purpose for the Special Joint Board Meeting, of the Au Train Township Board and the Planning Commission, is due to the receipt of a letter by Ridge Road residents demanding the removal of three members of the Planning Commission. As of today, Supervisor Doucette noted she was served as Supervisor of Au Train Township, a Summons from several residents of Ridge Road, which means we are entering into a litigation phase. Being as such, we will follow through the Agenda, as written, and continue with the two public comment items. She reminded everyone again that the Public Comments are to be no more than 3 minutes in length and to please remain quiet while others are speaking. The Township Board and Planning Commission will not respond to comments.

Approval of the Agenda:

Moved Johnson/seconded Doucette to **approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

Public Comment: An emailed comment was received and on file from Duane Newton. Kristen VanWeiren, on behalf of the 20+ property owners on Ridge Road, read the letter that was submitted to the Au Train Township Board demanding the removal of 3 members from the Planning Commission for misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance in office. Comments were also received from Bob Leibruiger, and Raelene Reilly.

Township Attorney's Opinion: Township Attorney Bill Nordeen noted that because of the Summons and now pending litigation received today, he will not be providing any information or opinion publically on the matter and that no statements from members of the Township Board and Planning Commission are advised.

Public Comment: Public Comments were received from Kristen VanWeiren, Raelene Reilly, and Clyde Shult.

Planning Commission Member Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Additional Comments were made by Trustee Balmes, and Clerk Johnson.

Planning Commission Adjournment: Motion Miller/seconded Cain to **adjourn at 6:25 pm**.

Township Board Adjournment: Motion Johnson/seconded Doucette to **adjourn at 6:25 pm**.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson