

Au Train Township Special Board Meeting Minutes
Budget Workshop
February 19, 2024 5:30 pm - 8:54 pm

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Michelle Doucette, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee Tom Balmes. Board Members Absent: None. Also Present: Fire Chief Perry King, Ryan Walther, Tommy McHale, Phyllis LaCombe, Susannah LaCombe, and Brian and Kristen VanWieren.

Supervisor Doucette opened our February 19, 2024 meeting at 5:30 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Public Comment: An emailed comment was received and on file from Duane Newton, which was forwarded to the Board members prior to the meeting.

Budget Review - Recommendations for FY 2024-2025:

•Fire Fund Budget - In order to accommodate our Fire Chief Perry King, a review of the proposal from the Fire Department was made. He and member, Ryan Walther explained the needs of the Department and upcoming expenditures for building improvements and upgrades, equipment purchases and maintenance schedule for the existing fleet.

Work on the Fire Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year began and was completed. Review of financial documents and the current voted millage of 2.8782 mills was made. The Fund account was budgeted with careful consideration on anticipated revenues and expenditures, and the proposed expenditures developed and presented by the Department.

•Garbage Fund Budget - Work on the Garbage Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year began and was completed. Review of financial documents, contract with GFL and the current voted millage of 3.0000 mills was made. The Fund Account was budgeted with careful consideration of anticipated revenues and expenditures. Discussion regarding increased operational costs from GFL and fuel surcharges was made. It was determined however, that authorizing 2.0000 of the 3.0000 mills voted, would be enough to support the account and maintain a healthy Ending Fund Equity balance.

•Road Fund Budget - Work on the Road Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year began and was completed. Review of financial documents, contracts for services with the Alger County Road Commission, dust control application and the current voted millage of 2.0000 mills was made. In addition, review of the costs associated with Road Sign replacement (as needed for missing signs) was discussed.

•General Fund Budget - Work on the General Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year began and was completed. Review of financial documents, current allocated millage of 0.6782 and anticipated revenue sources were used in creating an approximate fund balance. The account expenditures were budgeted with careful consideration of the increase in costs and retention of staff and board members by anticipating wage increases based on the cost of living, capital improvement projects and replacement of the 911 Fire Number/Address signs throughout the Township was discussed.

Unfinished Business:

•Friends of Valley Spur - Local Government Sponsorship Resolution for Grant Application.

As discussed at the February 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, Clerk Johnson presented the following Resolution:

Au Train Township Resolution - 2024
Friends of Valley Spur Groomer Capital Campaign Support

Resolution No. 2024-001

February 19, 2024

WHEREAS, Valley Spur Cross Country Ski Trails are located in Au Train Township, Alger County, Michigan and is part of the Hiawatha National Forest managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Friends of Valley Spur (FVS) is an independent subsidiary of the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN), and has managed the trail system since 2007;
and

WHEREAS, the FVS is in need of new trail grooming equipment and is currently conducting a Groomer Capital Campaign, and as part of that Campaign, has applied for 2% Funding Grant through the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Au Train Township Board recognizes that recreational opportunities and volunteer efforts in our Township are critical to our residents, property owners and visitors of Alger County, and with proper grooming equipment, Valley Spur Cross Country Ski Trails will continue to provide recreational opportunities and attract persons to Alger County and support our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Au Train Township Board hereby supports the efforts of the Friends of Valley Spur in their application for 2% Funding Grant and agrees to act as the fiduciary agent upon approval.

The foregoing Resolution offered by Board Member: Doucette

Second offered by Board Member: Cota

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

"Nay": None

The Clerk declared the resolution adopted.
Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

New Business:

•Budget Amendments:

Upon review of the Garbage Fund Account and the recent increase from GFL, the following Budget Resolution was presented:

Au Train Township Budget Resolution
Re: FY Budget 2023-2024 - Amendment No. 3
February 19, 2024

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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 in accordance with budgetary information presented to the Board and the limitations defined within this Resolution.

The foregoing Resolution offered by Board Member: Johnson

Second offered by Board Member: Cota

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

"Nay": None

The Clerk declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

Garbage Fund - Fund No. 226

Expenditures	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
General Operations	167,000.00	200,000.00	(+) 33,000.00
Ending Fund Equity	\$364,429.00	\$331,429.00	(-) \$33,000.00

To correct a shortfall in General Operations by reducing the Ending Fund Equity.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments: Additional Comments were shared by Board Members.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion Johnson/seconded Doucette to **adjourn at 8:54 pm.**

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson