

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
October 10, 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 11 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 Treasurer Cota, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Trustee Balmes, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2022 Special Board Meeting, as corrected. 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; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16792 through #16802; Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8850 through #8860; Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2105 and Road Fund Check Number 3008).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

- TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month ending September 30, 2022

GENERAL FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 318,831.24
Deposits	700.00
Interest	128.88
Disbursements	11,187.87
Total Checks Not Cleared	4,260.75
Ending Balance	\$ 304,211.50

FIRE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 554,832.55
Deposits	
Interest	209.44
Disbursements	53,463.06
Total Checks Not Cleared	3,680.34
Ending Balance	\$ 497,898.59
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 51,555.30
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 245,219.03
Deposits	
Interest	96.72
Disbursements	13,440.96
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 231,874.79
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 385,144.85
Deposits	
Interest	158.28
Disbursements	
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 385,303.13

*A Complete copy of the September 30, 2002 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that she is preparing for the Winter Tax Collection. There is a Hall Rental on November 5th for a Craft Show.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an update to the Board on recent activities. These included Numerous FOIA requests and emails, General Election preparation and absentee ballot issuance. Review and receipt of the Audit Report from Anderson, Tackman and Co., and review and submission approval for the F65 Report was also completed. Clerk Johnson also noted she processed 3 Parcel Division Applications, and revised that application along with the Conditional Use App to reflect the current fee schedule. A call was received regarding the draft minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals Van Stone Hearing . The call was referred to ZBA Secretary Jason Cain and Attorney Quinnell.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted he is continuing work with the Alger Conservation District on the Au Train Lake Habitat Project. Approximately 25 residents have signed up to participate. He also noted he addressed questions regarding Short Term Rentals and the September Board Resolution.

Trustee Balmes noted he had a few contacts from citizens regarding garbage, zoning and blight. Trustee Balmes also wondered if our insurance coverage allowed for alcohol in the Township Hall during a rental. He attended the Fire Department Meeting. Discussion about Stop Signs, and the need for law enforcement but receiving negative feedback from residents about paying for Sheriff Department presence within the Township.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls and emails. 34 residents participated in the Fall Clean-up. GFL indicated that it may be cost prohibitive for them to continue to offer two drop off dates per year. Further discussion about this and possible collaboration with another Township will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting. Supervisor Doucette spoke with the USFS about public parking signs in the Doucette Bridge area. Marquette Alger Community Action Committee will be hosting Feed America with commodity pick up authorized outside the Township Hall. Active Blight Complaints are being addressed. Attorney Quinnell noted that Cory Cole did submit the additional documents requested by the Judge within the deadline and the legal matter will continue.

Sound/Security Options for the Township Hall improvements will be discussed at the November Regular Board Meeting. Bids will be presented from 906 Technologies, Iron Bay Computer and Design and Range Telecommunications.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Jerry Doucette, Alger County Board Chair presented information to the Board and visitors regarding his reelection bid. His was honored to be in attendance and noted his 13 years of serving on the Board and accomplishments during that time. He stated he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Matt Lang as a member of the Planning Commission.

*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.

Au Train Township Budget Resolution - Re: FY Budget 2022-2023 - Amendment No. 2

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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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, Balmes, Miller, Doucette

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

Dated: October 10, 2022

Garbage Fund - Fund No. 226

Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Current Tax 226-403.000	0	241,458.00	+ 241,458.00
	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Ending Fund Equity	120,306.00	361,764.00	+ 241,458.00

To reflect approval of Garbage Fund Millage of 3.0000 mills (Primary Election 08-02-2022)

Road Fund - Fund No. 204

Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Current Tax 204-403.000	0	160,972.00	+ 160,972.00
	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Ending Fund Equity	31,927.00	192,899.00	+ 160,972.00

To reflect approval of Road Fund Millage of 2.0000 mills (Primary Election 08-02-2022)

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - The Zoning Administrators report was provided, Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist provided a brief update and answered any questions regarding her report.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for October 13, 2022.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will be scheduling their January 2023 Organizational Meeting.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Fuess report has been received and is on file. Supervisor Doucette noted that the December Board of Review date will be confirmed and published.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions/Cemetery - Ryan Walther updated the Board on recent activities. He will be meeting with the excavator regarding the road work at the cemetery, which will include a small parking area at the old cemetery. The work may not get completed until Spring because of availability. The Heritage Trailhead has been shut down for the winter and a final clean out of the vault toilets will be scheduled with Tri County Septic.

Discussion about the Community Building and possible winter projects was made. Clerk Johnson suggested that funds from the SLFRF monies be set aside for improvements in the Clerk/Treasurer Offices which will include more storage and desk options. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Clerk Johnson to authorize up to \$5,000 to improve the Clerk/Treasurer Offices with funds from the SLFRF monies. DOUCETTE, YES; JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. Clerk Johnson and Treasurer Cota will get together with Ryan Walter and develop a plan.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report was received and is on file. Chief Perry King and Assistant Chief Justen Knuttila were present and provided additional information to the Board. There were 4 calls for the month of September. The asbestos testing has been completed on the training structure with results expected soon. The new truck from Pomsal will be delivered by the end of year. The hose testing was completed and all passed. A brush guard was donated to the department by A. Lindberg & Sons. Assistant Knuttila also noted that calls have increased over last year and there should be a review of the budgeted funds for support wages prior to the December payout date.

County Commission Update - Chair Jerry Doucette provided an update to the Board on recent activities of the County Board. Information was provided on the Short Term Rental Bill, County Foreclosure Tax Sales, and Road Patrols within the County. He noted there has been a 50% increase in Rural Road Patrols in part because of funding from the State. Mr. Doucette confirmed that the Sheriff Department is not in support of a County-wide millage for Road Patrol. Mr. Doucette concluded that the Reinvestment Act is still be considered by the State Legislature and hopes progress will be made in the upcoming session.

*OLD BUSINESS - The Township Board revisited Au Train Township Board Resolution 2022-011 of August 8, 2022. After discussion regarding the expansion of the Planning Commission to 7 members, from 5, there was no Board action to reverse that decision moving forward.

*NEW BUSINESS - Alger County Road Commission 2023 Road Improvement Agreement - After review and discussion, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Balmes, to approve the Agreement with the Alger County Road Commission for improvements to Grove Street and Perry Road in 2023, with the Townships share of the project cost not to exceed \$180,220.00. DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Audit Receipt - Clerk Johnson presented the Audit from Anderson, Tackman and Company for FY 2021-2022 for review. Any questions should be presented at the November Regular Township Board Meeting.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - 8:37 pm Public Comments were received from Jerry Doucette, County Board of Commissioners Candidate Kelly Livermore, Perry King, and Duane Newton, via email.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:43 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk