

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:25 pm

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Michelle Doucette, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee Tom Balmes. Also Present: MMH Robin Brown, Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist, Maintenance/Fire Department Member Ryan Walther, Donna Shields, John Carr, Matt Lang, Rebecca Wilder, and Marilyn and Leonard Beverley.

Supervisor Doucette opened our April 8, 2024 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Doucette/seconded Johnson to **approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Doucette to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Doucette, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17094-17119; Fire Fund #9151-9161; Garbage Fund #2130).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the March Financial Reports, which were reviewed. Reports are provided to Board Members prior to the meeting.

Budget Amendments: As noted during the March Budget Public Hearing, all Funds need to be amended to reflect actual Fund Balances as of March 31, 2024.

Au Train Township Budget Resolution - Re: FY Budget 2024-2025 - Amendment No. 1

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 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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: Balmes

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

General Fund - Fund No. 101

Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	348,774.00	327,149.18	(-) 21,624.82
Ending Fund Equity	216,321.00	194,696.18	(-) 21,624.82

Reflects Actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024.

Fire Fund - Fund No. 206

Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	322,961.00	319,078.57	(-) 3,882.43
Ending Fund Equity	198,498.00	194,615.57	(-) 3,882.43

Reflects Actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024.

Garbage Fund - Fund No. 226

Revenues	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	360,501.50	356,725.80	(-) 3,775.70
Ending Fund Equity	331,597.50	327,821.80	(-) 3,775.70

Reflects Actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024.

Road Fund - Fund No. 204

Expenditures	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fund Balance	187,576.97	183,301.84	(-) 4,275.13
Ending Fund Equity	157,198.00	152,922.87	(-) 4,275.13

Reflects Actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of March 31, 2024: General Fund \$327,149.18; Fire Fund \$267,438.49 + CD \$52,534.46; Garbage Fund \$356,725.80; Road Fund \$183,301.84.

Treasurer Cota noted that 2023 Winter Tax Collection and balance with the County is complete. There are some upcoming rentals.

Clerk - Since the March Meeting several emails were received, phone messages were returned or forwarded to appropriate Board Members. The process preparing for the May 7th School Election has begun. There will be no early voting and only the residents in the Munising School District (for tax purposes) within the Township will be eligible to vote. Received notification that the Townships local insurance representative contact MML has been changed to Tyler Gauthier of Gauthier Insurance. The Workers Comp Audit will be completed by the end of the month for billing updates, if necessary. The autraintownship.gov domain was approved and secured. Arrangements will be made with Kelley Marketing to begin transfer of the .org address to .gov. Website updates continue, as time allows.

Trustee's - Trustee Miller noted that the signs for the Doucette Bridge along Au Train Forest Lake Road have been replaced by an anonymous Doucette relative. He attended the virtual MSU Planning Commission Training, but website stability issues remain. Clerk Johnson noted she would continue to work with Charter Spectrum on a solution.

Trustee Balmes noted he attended the Fire Department monthly meeting, left a message for Brenda with the USFS again requesting written documentation that the Townships commitment for the Ballfield Lease has wrapped up and we successfully fulfilled our obligations.

Discussion regarding the Township Road System and roads within the Plat of Au Train that had never been developed. Who has the responsibility to maintain if development occurs, the Township or the County?

Supervisor - Supervisor Doucette provided her report. Noted that a letter was sent to the residents of the Mirror Lake area informing them that they will need carts for garage pickup service. In addition, GFL was informed that residents are responsible for their own tipper carts. The Township is not responsible for replacement of missing or damaged carts. A conversation regarding Old Golf Course Road and upgrades, location of the road (part of which is outside of Au Train Township) and the Road Commission continuing to request it be included in future development plans.

The monitoring of documents filed by RWE regarding the Forest Lake Dam continues.

Special Presentation: Robin Brown of Munising Memorial Hospital/Bay Care Clinic presented information to the Board regarding their desire to offer services to residents through their Outreach Program. They are seeking approval to use the Township Hall/Community Building as a service location. Initially they are requesting use twice a month, and would need a storage solution for their portable equipment and supplies. Much discussion about the need, storage options, building use, days, times and rental cost was made. They would anticipate starting toward the end of May, first part of June.

Public Comment: John Carr provided public comment regarding the Old Golf Course Road, noting it serves a private enterprise. Clerk Johnson noted that an email public comment was received from Duane Newton, which was shared with Board members prior to the meeting.

Boards/Departments:

Zoning Administrator - ZA Lindquist present. Report received and on file and was reviewed and discussed. The Planning Commission has a regular meeting on April 11th at 6:00 pm and scheduled CUP/Rezone Request Hearings for April 18th at 6:00 pm. Trustee Miller noted that 3 members attended the MSU online training. The April 11th meeting will be to begin the process of Zoning Ordinance Review and meet with CUPPAD regarding the Master Plan schedule. The Zoning Board of Appeals has their Organizational Meeting scheduled for April 10th at 6:30 pm.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Fuess provided his report to the Board, via email. It was reviewed and discussed.

Maintenance Department: Ryan Walther provided an update on maintenance items and plans for the next couple of months. He also indicated that he completed some maintenance work on the playground. Discussion about the Heritage Trail, and dock placement dates were finalized. Discussion regarding the cemetery and replacement shed was made. Ryan indicated he would work on obtaining cost estimates.

Fire Department: Member Ryan Walther was present, and provided a verbal Department Report, which was noted. There were 3 calls for the month.

Unfinished Business:

1. Litigation update - Ridge Road/VanWieren et al vs Au Train Township. Supervisor Doucette indicated that she received notice of Adjournment as the Plaintiff retained Attorney Adriene Wolf, who requested extended time to file a response. The next hearing date is scheduled for June 25th at 1:00 pm.
2. Heritage Trail Center - Supervisor Doucette provided information to the Board regarding maintenance/cleanup contract for services with Anthony Grady. After review and discussion, Motion Johnson/seconded Cota to enter into a **Contract for Services with Anthony Grady**, as follows: \$14.00 for cleanup and \$6.00 for garbage collection/disposal per day. Service would be from May 18 through September 14, 2024, with a second cleaning on July 3rd through the 6th and August 2nd through the 4th, for an extra \$5.00 per day. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Doucette, yes. Motion carried.
3. Tri County Septic - Information regarding cost for placement of the porta jons was provided by Supervisor Doucette. Motion Cota/seconded Miller, to **contract with Tri County Septic for the placement of two porta jons at the Doucette Bridge** from Memorial Day through Labor Day at a cost of \$350.00 per month. Cota, yes; Miller, yes; Johnson, yes; Doucette, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried.
4. Army Corp of Engineers Letter - Supervisor Doucette presented correspondence for review prepared for the US Army Corp of Engineers supporting their PAS Project at the Forest Lake Dam, **indicating support of the project, but no cost commitment from the Township**. It will be sent out as presented.

New Business:

1. Munising Memorial Hospital - Motion Doucette/seconded Cota to **authorize MMH/Bay Care Clinic use of the Community Building/Township Hall for their Clinic Outreach Program** - 2 days per month at a rate of \$100.00 per month. Motion carried.
2. Correspondence - Munising 4th of July Committee sent a letter requesting support of the fireworks. Motion Clerk Johnson/seconded Balmes to **donate \$1,000.00 to Munising 4th of July Fireworks Fund**. Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Doucette, yes; Cota, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.
3. **Fire Department Millage RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-008**
Motion Johnson/seconded Cota to **approve the following millage ballot question language and directs the Clerk to submit it to be placed on the August 6, 2024 Primary election ballot**. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Miller, yes; Doucette, yes; Balmes, yes. Resolution Adopted. **See attachment #1**
4. Spring Cleanup - The times for the Spring Cleanup on June 1st will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. After review of participation of the spring clean up, the fall clean up date may be eliminated.
5. Review Noise Ordinance - Clerk Johnson noted that Board had agreed to review the Noise Ordinance for any necessary changes and/or amendments. **An in-depth review will be placed on the June Agenda.**
6. Review Cemetery Ordinance - Clerk Johnson noted that the Board had agreed to review the Cemetery Ordinance for any necessary changes and/or amendments. **An in-depth review will be placed on the June Agenda.**

7. Review Prior Expansion Resolutions for PC and ZBA Members - Discussion regarding prior membership expansion resolutions authorizing the membership of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Review to increase in size was made. Challenges with persons interested in serving has prevented such expansion. At this time the Board will no longer pursue such expansion unless several persons step forward as being interested in serving.

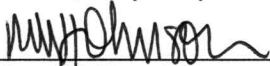
Public Comment: Public Comments were received from Matt Lang.

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

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion Doucette/seconded Balmes to **adjourn at 8:25 pm.**

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk



Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: 05-13-2024

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MWJ 04-25-2024

AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MILLAGE BALLOT LANGUAGE

Au Train Township, Alger County
Resolution Number 2024- 008

WHEREAS, the Township board of Au Train Township wishes to provide Fire Protection Services; and

WHEREAS, townships may provide fire protection services, as authorized by the Michigan Constitution of 1963, MCL Article IX, Sec. 6; and WHEREAS, townships may contract and cooperate with other entities to provide fire protection services, as authorized by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and other laws; and

WHEREAS, townships may impose and levy ad valorem property taxes to finance lawful public services, as authorized by Article 9, Section 6, Michigan Constitution of 1963 and other laws; and WHEREAS, the Township Board of Au Train Township wishes to levy 3 mills to provide fire protection services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Au Train Township, Alger County, approves the following millage ballot question language and directs the Clerk to submit it to be placed on the August 6, 2024 Primary election ballot:

Au Train Township, Alger County Millage Proposal

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE TAX RATE LIMITATION BY THREE (3) MILLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING A FIRE DEPARTMENT, WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF AU TRAIN, COUNTY OF ALGER.

Shall Au Train Township impose an increase of up to 3 mills (\$3 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for five (5) years, 2025 through 2029, inclusive, for fire protection services, which 3-mill increase will raise an estimated \$243,687.00 in the year 2025, the first year the millage is levied, (renewing a special tax levy of 3 mills which will expire with the 2024 tax collection).

Motion Johnson, Second Cota . Upon a roll call vote the following voted:

YES - Johnson, Cota, Miller, Doucette, Balmes .

NO - None .

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

CERTIFICATE: I, Mary Walther Johnson, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Au Train Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board by a roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Board held on April 8, 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present; and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.



Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk