

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:05 pm

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Michelle Doucette, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Jake Miller, Trustee and Trustee Tom Balmes. Also Present: Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist, Assistant Fire Chief Justen Knuttila, Ryan Walther, Deputy Clerk Monica Eriksen, Wyatt and Kirsten Seaberg, Donna Shields, John Carr, Matt Lang, Scott and Peggy Smith, and Mary Tiernan.

Supervisor Doucette opened our May 13, 2024 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Doucette/seconded Johnson to **approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Doucette, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17074-17093; Fire Fund #9141-9150; Garbage Fund #2129).

Financial Reports:

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

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of April 30, 2024: General Fund \$329,047.84; Fire Fund \$265,379.35 + CD \$53,385.38; Garbage Fund \$341,608.81; Road Fund \$183,452.50.

Treasurer Cota noted that she is finalizing the 2024 Roll with Assessor Fuess and preparing for 2024 Summer Tax Collection. The 2023 payoff funds from the Alger County Treasurer has been received and will be noted on the May Treasurer's Report. (Summer and Winter past due amounts). There is a rental over Memorial Day Weekend and in early June for the Large Animal Rescue Training at the Township Hall. The proposal from KCI for Summer tax bill printing and mailing has an estimated postage cost of \$863.92, which was approved for a July 1st mailing.

Clerk - Since the April Meeting Clerk Johnson answered several emails, responded to FOIA requests, returned phone messages or forwarded to appropriate Board Members. The information, demands and FOIA requests from Duane Newton continue. There have been 33 emails from Mr. Newton from May 1, 2024 through May 12, 2024. Mr. Newton on May 8, 2024 was notified that I would no longer be responding to his emails unless it is specifically labeled as a FOIA request in the subject line.

Billing to the State of Michigan for the February 27th Presidential Primary Election costs has been completed and a bill will be prepared for Munising Public Schools for the May 7th School Election costs. The Election Commission will need to meet prior to our July 8th Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 for the August Primary Election to approve the roster for Election Inspectors.

Clerk Johnson noted that **Deputy Clerk Jennifer Walther has resigned** as her family situation has become more demanding raising two special needs boys. **Monica Eriksen has been appointed effective May 1, 2024**. Jennifer was thanked for her many (many) years of serving as Deputy.

The Approved FD Millage Resolution and wording have been sent to the County Clerk for placement on the August Election ballot, as well as the list of Qualified Candidates for Au Train Township Board positions.

The May 7th MPS Election went well, but with only a total of 120 voters, 61 in-person and 59 returned AVs. The official results indicated that the proposal failed by a total of 4 votes (two signature cures increased the NO votes by 2 from the preliminary results). Several residents in the ATO District came to vote but were not eligible. The School District map posted at the polls assisted with explanation and all were very understanding.

We have received two Cemetery lot applications. One has been completed for 1 lot and one is pending for 4 lots. Cemetery Deeds will be prepared and provided. We have received two Parcel Division Land Split Applications. One has been approved (Curtis) and one is pending with further easement clarification required (Olson). Our attorney is reviewing and providing the recommendations.

Spectrum Enterprise (their business division) was contacted last week and we attempted to resolve the intermittent internet stability issues. Waiting for an in-person service appointment to be scheduled and the Twp will contract for a new modem and Charter supplied router to install business Wi-Fi. This will allow the technician to locate and assign the best channel available. This will cost an additional \$10 per month and a one time service charge.

The FY 2023-2024 Audit has been scheduled with ATC for the week of July 22nd. I have letters that need to be signed by the Supervisor/Clerk and also Board members in regards to any fraud concerns.

The SLFRF Report was due April 30, 2024 - due to technical issues I have not been able to submit the final report even after 5 hours, review of 174 pages of instructions and a call to Mike at ATC. Waiting on an email from the US Treasury Department for assistance. This should be our final report, which I thought was already done.

Trustee's - Trustee Balmes noted he attended the May Fire Department meeting and attended the First Responders Training Session. He continues to receive phone calls from constituents and responds accordingly. Trustee Miller noted he continues to receive phone calls regarding GFL trash concerns and asked about allowing music at the Heritage Trail Center (allowed during normal operating hours). He was also asked that the Township consider painting a pickleball court at the Au Train Playground.

Supervisor - Supervisor Doucette provided her report. A Veterans Memorial Plaque was received for the Matt Algo site. Received correspondence from LMAS District Health Department asking if the Township would be requesting ecoli testing at the Au Train River Beach. The Board felt this was the responsibility of MDOT. If the Township were to take on this responsibility would liability come with it as well and who would manage the closures, if necessary. Trustee Balmes also asked if the Life Saving Stations would be installed this year.

The ACRC Road Projects in the Township have begun. The 16 Mile Lake Road project is projected to take 10-12 weeks, with closures each day from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm in the areas where the work is being done. They are adding gravel to 1.2 miles of the road, with significant improvements. The Ridge Road Project will begin May 14th and should last about a week. The Dust Control application is scheduled for May 28 and 29th, contingent on weather conditions. A Road Sign Replacement List will be prepared in coordination with the dust control application so they can be ordered in June.

Phone calls continue and are numerous regarding GFL garbage collection, cart placement and replacement. The property owners are responsible for obtaining tipper carts at a cost of \$75.00 each.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: Public Comments were received from Donna Shields, and via email from Duane Newton.

Boards/Departments:

Zoning Administrator - ZA Lindquist present. Report received and on file and was reviewed and discussed. The Planning Commission has a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for June 6, 2024 and CUP Hearings for June 20th. Discussion about the Violation Process and Policy was made. Direction from the Planning Commission will assist in developing this policy. Information on the CUPPAD Master Plan Survey and access information was provided to the Board by Planning Commission Secretary Donna Shields. ZBA Member Shields will be attending training in Gaylord on May 15th, presented by the MTA.

Assessor/Board of Review - No report received from Assessor Fuess.. July Board of Review has been scheduled for July 17th at 6:00 pm.

Maintenance Department: Ryan Walther provided an update on maintenance items and plans for the next couple of months. Discussion about the Heritage Trail dock placement and cemetery improvements was made. Information was provided regarding the demolition and replacement of the well housing storage shed at the Cemetery.

Fire Department: Assistant Fire Chief Knuttila was present and provided the Department Report, which is on file. There were 3 calls for the month. Information on existing dry hydrant repairs and the need for additional hydrants was discussed. They will obtain any necessary permits from the DEQ. 5 Members of the Department will be attending the Large Animal Rescue Training on June 1st. The USFS will be holding a prescribed burn at the area near the Doucette Bridge off Au Train Forest Lake Road. The Department will be notified in advance.

Unfinished Business:

1. Litigation update - No update. The rescheduled hearing date will be in June.
2. Forest Lake Dam - Recent correspondence was reviewed, including a letter from the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition voicing their concerns regarding their possible failure of the dam.
3. Review Noise Ordinance and Cemetery Ordinance - Clerk Johnson reminded Board members that review of the Noise and Cemetery Ordinances will be on the June Agenda.
4. Interlocal Assessor Agreement - Additional information will be forthcoming from the Alger County Clerk regarding the Interlocal Agreement for the appointment of a Designated Assessor within the County.

New Business:

1. Correspondence - None
2. Michigan Townships Association Online Education Subscription Renewal - Review of the current online educational subscription options from the MTA were reviewed with no Board action to renew.
3. Road Sign Replacement - As noted as part of the Supervisor's Report, Supervisor Doucette will be preparing a list of road signs that need replacement for presentation at the June Board Meeting.
4. Cemetery Building Purchase - As discussed earlier, a purchase proposal for the replacement of the storage building at the Cemetery was presented and discussed. Placement would require the demolition and removal of the existing shed. Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **purchase a storage shed from Premium Sheds at a total cost of \$6,650.00**. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Doucette, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried.

Moved Cota/second Balmes, to **contract with Seaberg Enterprises for the demolition and removal of the existing storage building at the Cemetery at a cost of \$900.00**, not including disposal fees, which would be billed to the Township. Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Doucette, yes; Miller, yes; Johnson, yes. Motion carried.

4. Au Train Playground Pickleball Court Request - Additional information will be gathered regarding the painting of the existing basketball court (for dual use) and possible installation of an additional pickleball court and related costs will be discussed at a future meeting, to be scheduled when the information is available. Clerk Johnson noted she ordered a court template and portable net from Amazon.

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 June 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion Cota/seconded Balmes to **adjourn at 8:05 pm.**

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

06/17/2024

APPROVED DATE: _____

PAGE 4