

**Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024 6:00 pm - 7:41 pm**

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Thomas Balmes, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee John Carr. Also Present: Fire Chief Perry King, Ryan Walther, Donna Shields, Matt Lang, Kathleen Nimee, Samantha Nimee, Becky Wilder, and Scott Smith.

Supervisor Balmes opened our December 9, 2024 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **approve the minutes of the November 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.** Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **pay bills, including Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals 2024 Meeting Dates and December Board of Review.** Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Miller yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17327-17354; Fire Fund #9256-9289; Garbage Fund #2144).

Financial Reports:

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

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of November 30, 2024. General Fund \$280,953.08; Fire Fund \$235,311.95 + CD \$54,250.94; Garbage Fund \$262,953.16; Road Fund \$4,849.90.

Treasurer Cota noted that there are no upcoming hall rentals, but likely will be one on Christmas Day. Winter Tax bills went out, which can be paid by mail or online. Upcoming office hours are scheduled for Thursday, December 26th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Treasurer Cota also noted the Appointment of Sarah Mannisto as Deputy Treasurer for the current term.

Clerk - Since the November meeting several emails were answered and responded to FOIA requests. Responded to one Parcel Division App and they are working on obtaining splits from the conveyor. Heard today they have been granted 4 splits and will be providing updated information. Also received a boundary adjustment application and will be scanning and emailing this to attorney Nordeen for review.

It was nice to have a relatively quiet month after the Election. Prepared some year ends docs, Fire Department Payroll, and will begin working on finalizing our last SLFRF report. Clerk Johnson also noted the Appointment of Monica Erikson as Deputy Clerk for the current term. Plan to work on office sorting/purging etc after the holidays. Website updates will continue.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr had nothing to report. Trustee Miller noted he had received comments and questions regarding the H58 snowmobile trail being shut down after an agreement between the DNR and Alger County Road Commission could not be reached. Also addressed the trestle bridge update from SORVA and addressed plowing concerns from constituents.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes provided his report. Visited the Tom's Road dumpster after calls about keys not working properly, made several calls to GFL regarding the keys and pickup service and several missed stops within the Township. Attended the Fire Department Meeting and responded to additional calls regarding plowing.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: None

Boards/Departments:

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals- Acting ZA Johnson read her report and it is on file. The Planning Commission Special Meeting scheduled for December 5th was rescheduled for December 18th at 6:00 pm because of weather. The Zoning Board of Appeals will schedule their Organizational Meeting after the 1st of the year.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Fuess report has been received and is on file. Clerk Johnson noted that the Assessor Contract calls for a pay rate adjustment beginning January 1st, 2025 based on the Federal COL percentage. The December Board of Review will meet on December 11, 2024.

Maintenance Department: Ryan Walther provided an update on maintenance items.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Perry King was present and provided his report, which is on file. There were three calls this past month. The December Meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. The Department will update the Board at the January Meeting of any officer updates.

Chief King noted he was just contacted by County Commissioner Seaberg noting that had additional funds from the SLFRF money that needed to be allocated by the end of the month. They proposed purchasing battery operated extraction tools for the Au Train Fire Department. The Townships obligation would be to purchase the items and submit for reimbursement from the County. The cost would be \$11,500.00.

Motion Carr/seconded Miller to **authorize the purchase of battery operated extraction tools/equipment, with funds being reimbursed by Alger County, up to \$11,500.00.** Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Cota, yes. Motion carried.

Upon receipt of additional information the Motion was amended. Motion Carr/seconded Miller agree to **amend the expenditure up to \$12,500.00.** Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Cota, yes; Johnson, yes.

Motion Johnson/seconded Cota, to **appoint Trustee Jacob Miller as the Board Member Liaison to the Fire Department.** Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Street Signs - Former Supervisor Michelle Doucette presented information to the Board on the data gathered regarding street sign replacement needs. There was much information to review, as to the sheer number of signs, poles, parts, connectors, size and necessary placement. Board members will review the information provided and take action at a future meeting.

2. Planning Commission Member Appointment - After review of letters of interest received, Motion Johnson/seconded Cota, to **appoint the following persons to the Planning Commission: Scott LaCombe (2 yr Term), Scott Smith (2 yr Term) and Matt Lang (1 yr Term), effective January 1, 2025.** Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried.

3. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment - Action tabled.

New Business:

1. Zoning Violation Complaint - Acting ZA Johnson presented information to the Board regarding a Zoning Violation Complaint received after the placement of a shipping container without permit on the property at E7796 Pine Tree Street, occupied by Samantha Nimee and her mother Kathleen. The container was purchased and placed to store her mother's items. Current zoning does not allow the placement, even with a Conditional Use Permit, because of insufficient lot size. Additional information was provided and discussed by the Board. Motion Johnson/seconded Balmes, to **give the Nimee's until July 1, 2025 to have the shipping container removed.** Motion carried.

2. Township Board Member Appointment to the Planning Commission - after discussion regarding the position and obligation, Motion Cota/seconded Johnson, to **appoint Trustee John Carr, to the Planning Commission as the Township Board Representative, effective immediately.** Cota, yes; Johnson, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, abstain. Motion carried.

3. Board of Review Member Appointments - After discussion, Motion Balmes/seconded Cota to **reappoint the following to the Board of Review - Kristy Drake, Amy Hernandez, and Donna Shields and Tom McHale as alternate.** Balmes, yes; Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Johnson, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.

4. Correspondence - Clerk Johnson noted correspondence received from Superior Central Schools thanking the Board for funds toward their playground project. Also a membership request from CUPPAD. Motion Cota/seconded Balmes, to **pay 2025 CUPPAD membership dues of \$203.00 for the year.** Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Johnson, yes; Miller, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Public Comments were received by Becky Wilder and Linda Welch, as member of Valley Spur, thanking the Township for assistance in receiving the grant funding for the Grooming Capital Campaign.

Board Member Comments: Board Members Carr, Johnson, and Balmes offered additional comments.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for January, 2025, with a date and time to be determined.

Adjournment: Motion Johnson/seconded Cota to **adjourn at 7:41 pm.** Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: January 10, 2025

12/19/2024
mwj