

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting

May 8, 2023

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 8 persons attended the meeting. A complete list is on file.

\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

\*MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. 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; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16905 through #16928; Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8972 through #8988; Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2115 and #2116).

\*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month ending April 30, 2023

GENERAL FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 322,656.92
Deposits	23,893.47
Interest	199.76
Disbursements	14,437.28
Total Checks Not Cleared	2,561.64
Ending Balance	\$ 329,751.23
FIRE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 385,599.24
Deposits	29,306.10
Interest	219.38
Disbursements	259,870.50

Total Checks Not Cleared	4,418.49
Ending Balance	\$ 151,105.73
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 51,696.67
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 371,829.01
Deposits	20,443.68
Interest	229.99
Disbursements	13,440.96
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 379,061.72
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 196,791.96
Deposits	13,628.93
Interest	126.62
Disbursements	
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$210,547.41

\*A Complete copy of the April 30, 2023 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson. Treasurer Cota noted that the process of preparing for Summer Tax Bills is underway. There was an additional payment from Grand Island Township that was a May deposit, in addition to a payment for a check sent last fall that was never received. There are currently no upcoming rentals.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided information on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> School Election administration. There was a very low turnout, which is typical for off year elections, and the weather played a roll as well. There were 96 walk-in voters, and 139 AV ballots returned. MARESA and Munising Public Schools will be billed for the costs. The state will be reimbursing for return postage on applications and ballots. The Election Grant Application was approved for the purchase of the Electronic Poll Book laptop purchase in the amount of \$599.00. There were several FOIA's again this past month which have been completed or denied.

The SLFRF Compliance Report has been filed with some direction and assistance from Mike Grentz at Anderson, Tackman & Co. by April 30, 2023. A complete report on the process of reporting is an Agenda item.

In addition, Clerk Johnson hopes to have copier replacement costs on the June agenda. Despite recent cleaning and toner installation, the auto feed issue remains.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Tom Balmes provided information on recent activities which included addressing emails, and messages. He attended the recent Fire Department meeting where information was provided regarding turnout gear for our department assisting the USFS and the DNR fighting forest fires. Trustee Balmes noted that turnout gear for fighting forest fires needs to be authorized for our members. Discussion was originally made during budget meetings, but approval was not requested. Mr. Balmes wondered if funds from the SLFRF monies was available. Discussion about funds allocation was made, which included the \$18,750 direct expenditure for the fire department members. The remaining funds were slated for the completion of the Clerk/Treasurer's office as part of the community building updates and a community project.

Mr. Balmes also requested the Township try and set-up a brush drop off site. He was contacted by a resident who utilizes the Sunset Road/Woodland Avenue garbage dumpster regarding the mess that is left (it is a locked dumpster) and that gravel needs to be placed to make drop off easier for residents. Supervisor Doucette noted that cleanup was to be done by the residents as part of the agreement and that it can't be left unlocked.

Trustee Miller updated the Board on recent calls and inquiries. He addressed the lake and river levels and his discussion with residents concerned about flooding. Mr. Miller also noted that the "campground" Magical Woods off Crossover Road in the 16 Mile Lake area is being listed on "Hip Camp". He noted he attended the recent Planning Commission meeting/hearing which included 3 CUP Applications for Short Term Rentals.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities. She noted that she was contacted by a Tom's Road property owner who is willing to host a dumpster for garbage drop off, rather than using the carts. If most owners are in agreement, the option will be considered. Emails with Bob Lindbeck of the ACRC indicates that Grove Street and Perry Road projects are slated for this summer, with work beginning in early June. No dust control will be applied. The dust control application in the Township is scheduled for the week after Memorial Day. Supervisor Doucette noted she will reach out to MDOT about installation of the life saving station at the Au Train River Beach area.

\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - None

\*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.

*Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA* - The Zoning Administrators report was provided and is on file. Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist was present and provided a brief update and answered any questions. Three CUP applications have been received and will be scheduled with the Planning Commission. In addition, discussion about recent CUP approvals, and Zoning Compliance complaints were discussed. Zoning Administrator Lindquist continues to investigate.

The Planning Commission held a Meeting/Hearing on April 20<sup>th</sup> where 3 CUP Applications for Short Term Rentals were heard and approved. The Educational opportunities were shared with members of the Planning Commission and ZBA. Clerk Johnson will be signing members up for the MTA online class available after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each member can review at their convenience and a joint review of the material could also be scheduled. The next Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for August 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm. The June Meeting/Hearing will be posted on the calendar when scheduled.

There was no report or meetings recently held for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

*Assessor/Board of Review* - The Assessor's report was received prior to the meeting, which updated the Board on recent activities. Since Equalization has wrapped up, the database was rolled over and a new 2024 database was created. Upcoming fieldwork is being planned for the summer to review problem parcels, new construction and focusing on the southern part of the Township. The July Board of Review will be scheduled for July 19, 2023.

*Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions/Cemetery* - Ryan Walther provided an update via text prior to the meeting. Summer maintenance projects are starting and will include the cemetery (preparing for Memorial Day) and the Heritage Trail Center, in addition to regular mowing and maintenance items.

*Fire Department/First Responders* – The Fire Department report was received via email is on file. There was one call for the month. The new rescue truck was picked up in West Virginia. It will be ready for service in about a month. It will receive the department logo and it needs to be fitted with the necessary tools and equipment. The controlled house burn sponsored training went as planned on May 6<sup>th</sup>. All who attended we very grateful for the training opportunity and thanked the Township Board for allowing the department to sponsor this training. The agreement with Catt Hose Testing was signed and a date is being scheduled.

#### \*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Blight Update - Supervisor Doucette noted that the property taxes were paid for 2020 to keep the Moorman/Christmas Mall property from County Tax Foreclosure. Discussion about the next steps and notification was made. Supervisor Doucette will be contacting our Attorney regarding the Blight issue.

Update RWE Forest Lake Dam - Supervisor Doucette provided information on the Bankruptcy status of RWE and attended a meeting, via Zoom, on May 1<sup>st</sup> with State Representative Jenn Hill and other agencies, including FERC. FERC stated that RWE is accountable for repairs for the dam structure. If their license is surrendered, the structure would go to the State of Michigan. Supervisor Doucette will continue to monitor the correspondence and report to the Board.

Flooding update - The recent record rainfall and snow event that occurred May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> has added to the already saturated water levels of the Au Train Lake and Au Train River. Supervisor Doucette met with the Forest Lake Dam operator last week, who indicated that the water is already flowing over the dam and they have no control measures at this time. Water is rising and flooding areas of the Au Train Forest Lake Road, Wilderness Drive and North Shore Road and neighboring properties.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence/Funding Requests - Clerk Johnson presented a request from the Munising Vietnam Veterans of American regarding a funding request for improvements and updates to the Memorial at Munising Bayshore Park. MOTION by Trustee Balmes, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize \$500.00 for the All-Veterans Memorial at Munising Bayshore Park. BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Bids Christmas Fire Hall Project - Clerk Johnson indicated that only one bid was received for the project. A bid from David Walther Contracting in the amount of \$57,080.00 was presented. After much discussion, and project depth and need, action was tabled and will be revisited at the June Regular Board Meeting.

Dust Control - Supervisor Doucette presented information to the Board regarding the Dust Control cost and application time line. The quote from Liquid Calcium Chloride Sales is 0.939 per gallon, an increase from last year. Application will be scheduled for the week after Memorial Day. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize the Dust Control expenditure at a cost of 0.939 per gallon from Liquid Calcium Chloride Sales, with a total cost of approximately \$20,000. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Porta Jons - Tri County Septic indicated the cost of placing two porta jons would be \$400.00 per month. MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Trustee Miller, to authorize placement by Tri County Septic of two porta jons at the Doucette Bridge parking area, at a cost of \$400.00 per month. Placement would be for Memorial Day Weekend through the end of September. COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Contract Heritage Trail Summer Maintenance - Supervisor Doucette presented a quote from Tony Grady for the Heritage Trail bathroom janitorial service and garbage removal. The cost would be \$12.50 per day for bathroom cleaning and \$6.00 for garage removal. MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Supervisor Doucette, to authorize a Contract for Services with Tony Grady for the Heritage Trail Summer Maintenance, at a rate of \$18.50 per day, from May 27<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

SLFRF Compliance Report - Clerk Johnson noted earlier that the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance Report was due April 30, 2023. After consultation with auditors Anderson, Tackman and Company the report was filed noting the remaining funds were used to replace revenue for services within the General Fund of the Township, including but not limited to payroll, election administration, tax administration, assessing administration, maintenance services and facility upgrades. This was the final report that is due for the funds since they all have been allocated. Mike Greutz at Anderson, Tackman and Company said to keep track of actual spending for audit purposes for the Current Fiscal Year.

**\*PUBLIC COMMENT** - Public Comments were received from Kelly Livermore-District 4 County Commissioner, John Carr, and Brice Berge.

**\*ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Balmes, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:16m.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk