

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
May 9, 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 8 persons attended the meeting in person. A complete list is on file.

\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions and Changes to the Agenda were made as necessary. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

\*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

\*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16709 through #16723; Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8769 through #8787; Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2098 and #2099.)

\*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 261,500.96
Deposits	17,007.87
Interest	31.85
Disbursements	7,745.54
Total Checks Not Cleared	6,062.39
Ending Balance	\$ 264,732.75

FIRE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 361,078.69
Deposits	9,424.11
Interest	78.64
Disbursements	32,094.46
Total Checks Not Cleared	5,786.43
Ending Balance	\$ 622,700.55
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 51,491.10
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 288,156.92
Deposits	241.56
Interest	35.35
Disbursements	14,134.12
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 274,299.71
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 372,052.91
Deposits	160.99
Interest	45.89
Disbursements	
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 372,244.99

\*A Complete copy of the April 30, 2022 report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that she is preparing for the Summer Tax Collection. Community Building rentals have been scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and June 25<sup>th</sup>. There is also one in August.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an update to the Board on recent activities. It was noted as being a busy month taking on the role as Acting Zoning Administrator as well. The SLFRF Report was completed and filed on 4/29/22, which took over 5 hours and extensive training to complete. Clerk Johnson recommended contracting with Anderson, Tackman and Co. for any future reporting. The cost can be used in the fund budget for the SLFRF monies.

In addition Clerk Johnson noted that the Election Commission will need to meet for the Primary Election on August 2, 2022. It may be possible to schedule prior to the June Board Meeting, but Clerk Johnson will confirm and let members Treasurer Cota and Supervisor Doucette know. There is a State Election Bureau Continuing Education/Election Training scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Munising Township Hall. Clerk Johnson also noted she completed the US Census Bureau Wage Report online and will schedule the Township Audit with Anderson, Tackman and Company.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller reported on questions he has received regarding vacation rentals. He has attended the Planning Commission meeting finishing the proposed mapping adjustments.

Trustee Balmes noted he had a few contacts regarding roads in the Township and concerns on their condition and contracts with the Alger County Road Commission. In addition he had received questions on the vacation rentals Moratorium.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls and emails regarding loud music, the cemetery, stealing garbage cans. She also received a call from Melinda Van Stone regarding a request of a formal letter from the Township that authorized her vacation rental.

Supervisor Doucette also read a letter from State Representative Sara Cambensy regarding the House Bill 5521 Introduced that provides for the levy, collection and administration of an excise tax on room charges of certain short-term rentals.

\*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.

Future Budget Amendments will be presented as necessary.

*Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA* - Acting Zoning Administrator Clerk Johnson provided a detailed Zoning Administrators report from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Miller noted that the next meeting of the Planning Commission is a special meeting scheduled for May 18, 2022, in which they plan to review and finalize the Zoning map changes. A Conditional Use Hearing for the Au Train Beach Campground expansion is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The Public Hearing for the Proposed Amendments and Map Adjustments will be held as part of a Special Board Meeting on June 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Clerk Johnson is preparing the Public Notices, and copies of the Draft Zoning Ordinance and Map Adjustments will be available to purchase at \$5.00 each and online no later than May 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Assessor/Board of Review* - Assessor Fuess report has been received and is on file. Assessor Fuess is working on the tax data base for Summer Tax Collection, entering Deeds and transfers and scheduling field work. Assessor Fuess also attended the Planning Commission meeting to assist with the map adjustments.

The July Board of Review will be scheduled and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in July.

*Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions/Cemetery* - Ryan Walther updated the Board on recent activities. He is working on the cemetery, scheduling burials with Supervisor Doucette, purchased replacement flags, and presented information on gravel placement at the cemetery for the road maintenance. MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve up to \$7,500.00 for the maintenance and gravel purchase. COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Ryan also noted that the lawn tractor was picked up by Northland for the maintenance items. Cleaning up the Veterans Memorial will be done prior to Memorial Day, along with the flag placement. The new sign for the Community Building was installed. Discussion regarding street sign replacement was also made. Ryan and Supervisor Doucette will get together to prepare a list of needed signs and get them ordered. Ryan also noted that the old trailer was sold for \$1,700.00 and replaced with a light weight aluminum trailer at a cost of \$1,950.00.

*Fire Department/First Responders* – The Fire Department report was received and is on file. Justen Knuttila presented the report as Chief Perry King is on leave attending Police Academy Training. There were several members of the Department present who were introduced to the Board.

Justen indicated there was one call for the month. The new lockers and stands were received and assembled in the halls. The new truck delivery is delayed again as they are still waiting on the chassis. Swem Services continues to work on the DOT's for the trucks. He has completed the Christmas and 16 Mile Lake fleet but the Au Train Hall fleet has several issues. Air bottle testing will be completed on May 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. We have 40 bottles to test, which will run approximately \$1,200.00.

Justen also noted that they voted at their last meeting to update Article II, Section II of their Bylaws and provided that update to Clerk Johnson.

After presentation and much discussion, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Cota, to add an additional salary position to the Fire Department and authorize a Fire Captain position, starting June 1, 2022 at a monthly salary of \$250.00. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*Alger County Commission Update* - Commissioner Doucette was present and provided updates to the Board on recent happenings with the County. He noted that they are reviewing suggestions for allocation of the County SLFRF monies and that Broadband, Mental Health and Childcare are the top priorities.

The next meeting of the Alger County Regional Government meeting will be on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Munising Township Hall. Commissioner Doucette also commented on HB 5521.

#### \*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Administrator Position - Supervisor Doucette noted that a Special Meeting was scheduled with possible Township Attorney candidate Stephanie Quinell for May 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm. It was suggested that we also interview Zoning Administrator position candidates during that meeting.

Recreation Plan - Supervisor Doucette noted that questions for a possible recreation plan survey questions to Jason McCarthy to review and plan for a survey we hope to include with the Summer Tax bills.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

Election Security Grant - Clerk Johnson noted that a State of Michigan Election Security Grant up to \$1,500.00 is available. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second Treasurer Cota to apply for the Election Security Grant. MOTION CARRIED.

Porta Jon Placement - MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second Treasurer Cota, for approval of up to \$400.00 per month for the rental of 2 porta jons for placement at the Doucette Bridge. They will be placed Memorial Day Weekend through September 30, 2022. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES.

Heritage Trail Maintenance - MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Trustee Miller to contract for services with Anthony Brady from May 27, 2022 through September 30, 2022, to clean the Heritage Trail bathrooms and garbage removal as presented. COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Dust Control - Supervisor Doucette presented information from Bay Dust Control regarding costs and delivery for dust control application. MOTION Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve up to \$25,000 for the purchase of dust control from Bay Dust Control, division of Liquid Calcium Chloride Sales at a rate of .891 cents per gallon. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Munising 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee - Clerk Johnson presented a funding request from the Munising 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second on Trustee Balmes to provide \$750.00 to the Munising 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. JOHNSON, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Millage Ballot Questions - Clerk Johnson presented copies of the letter and ballot wording submitted to the Alger County Clerk for the Road and Garbage Millage questions.

Marijuana Odor Complaint - Supervisor Doucette noted that she had received two complaints regarding strong marijuana odors on Grove Street. She is looking into whether the Blight Ordinance might apply. Clerk Johnson reminded the Board that personal growing is allowed in Michigan and the Board has no regulatory authority.

TV Purchase - MOTION by Trustee Miller, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize up to \$1,200.00 for the purchase of an HD Smart TV, wall mount ad HDMI cables for telecommunications improvement at the Township Hall. MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Brice Burge who noted that road sign replacement appears to be a countywide need and it might possible to cooperate on a joint purchase to save some money.

**\*ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk