

**Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 17, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:33 pm**

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**Roll Call:**

Board Members Present: Supervisor Michelle Doucette, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee Tom Balmes. Also Present: Zoning Administrator Kathleen Lindquist, Assistant Fire Chief Justen Knuttila, Ryan Walther, Donna Shields, John Carr, and Peggy Smith.

Supervisor Doucette opened our June 17, 2024 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved Doucette/seconded Johnson to **approve the minutes of the May 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Moved Doucette/seconded Cota to **approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 Special Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

**Pay Bills:**

Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Doucette, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17153-17186; Fire Fund #9177-9189; Garbage Fund #2133-2135; Road Fund #3015).

**Financial Reports:**

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

**Budget Amendments:**

Clerk Johnson presented necessary Budget Amendments for the General Fund Account for review. (See attachment #1).

**Board Member Reports:**

Treasurer - Balance as of May 31, 2024: General Fund \$317,382.57; Fire Fund \$286,902.66 + CD \$53,385.38; Garbage Fund \$356,424.97; Road Fund \$198,296.71.

Treasurer Cota noted that Summer Tax Bills are scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup> delivery. The BS&A Website for Au Train Township Property Information access is all set. The direct link was made available from the website. Persons are able to access their own properties at no charge by creating an account. There are no financial benefits for the Township by providing this access. Any fees charged are set and retained by BS&A for maintaining the account. Upcoming hall rentals include Munising Memorial Hospital Open House on June 26<sup>th</sup> and a Bridal Shower on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The 2023 Tax Payoff from the County was received and is reflected in the June report. The Grant funds from Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians were received and will reflect on the July report.

Clerk - Since the May Meeting I have answered several emails, responded to FOIA requests, returned phone messages or forwarded to appropriate Board Members. The Election Commission is scheduled to meet prior to our July 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 for the August Primary Election to approve the roster for Election Inspectors.

State of Michigan Election Administrators training is on June 20<sup>th</sup> and Election Inspectors Training and 2-Year Certification class at the County is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. I have ordered supplies for the August 6<sup>th</sup> Primary and expect ballots to arrive within the week.

We've had two Parcel Division Land Split Applications. (Olson and Shult) - that were pending as we sorted through some access and easement issues on both, with phone calls and several emails. Attorney Bill Nordeen was able to come up with a solution that resolved both, which have now been approved. We accepted a Prescriptive Easement Statement on both, which we rely on the purported existence of a Prescriptive Easement for the purposes of a Land Division of the Parent Parcel. They agreed to hold Au Train Township harmless should any litigation ensue concerning the validity of the Prescriptive Easement.

Spectrum Enterprise completed the installation of Business Internet and it has been reported that there has been much improvement in the quality and stability.

The FY 2023-2024 Audit will begin with ATC for the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As noted last month, The SLFRF Report was due April 30, 2024 - due to technical issues I was not able to submit the final report. I finally received an email response to my HELP message (after 6 weeks) and am working on the steps necessary to finalize the report.

Trustee's - Trustee Balmes noted he attended the June Fire Department meeting. He also noted that after speaking with several local businesses, that tourism in the local area is trending down. Also reminded several constituents of the Master Plan Survey and upcoming deadline for completion. Trustee Miller noted that he answered calls and questions about short term rentals and questions on the Master Plan survey. He attended the June 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission Meeting and noted the upcoming meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> and Special Meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The new pickleball court installation has been delayed because of weather conditions.

Supervisor - Supervisor Doucette provided her report. The Spring Clean-up was well attended. Reindeer run residents plan to attend the September Board Meeting to discuss needed improvements and consideration for the 5-Year Road Plan. There was 3 full loads of dust control applied successfully within the Township. The total cost was \$23,699.80.

Phone calls continue and are numerous regarding GFL garbage collection, cart placement and replacement. Supervisor Doucette told GFL they should be placing a Notice informing the property owners of their obligations regarding pickup procedures.

Several complaints regarding Noise and Blight at the Christmas Mall property were received. There is an upcoming court date for the Moorman dispute on June 25<sup>th</sup> that will be attended. An update will be provided to the Board at the July meeting.

**Special Presentation:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Boards/Departments:**

**Zoning Administrator/Panning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals-** ZA Lindquist present. Report received and on file and was reviewed and discussed. The Planning Commission had a Regular Board on June 6, 2024 and has CUP Hearings scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> and a Special Meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> to continue work on the Zoning Ordinance and receive a presentation by CUPPAD on Solar Energy and preliminary survey results. The Zoning Board of Appeals will be hearing a Variance Request on June 24<sup>th</sup>. ZBA Member Shields attended MTA training in Gaylord on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Assessor/Board of Review** - July Board of Review has been scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Maintenance Department:** Ryan Walther provided an update on maintenance items. An update was received regarding the mower from Northland. There are approximately \$1,800.00 in repairs and maintenance items needed. The storage building for the Cemetery is scheduled for delivery. There were some necessary building repairs completed at the Au Train Fire Hall and the Heritage Trail Dock was installed and is functional, but a few repairs are needed.

**Fire Department:** Assistant Fire Chief Knuttila was present and provided the Department Report, which is on file. There were no call for the past month. Discussion about a Fleet Card for fuel purchases was made. A WEX Fleet Card is accepted locally and will make fueling the department fleet more convenient. Moved Johnson/seconded Balmes to **authorize application of a WEX Fleet card for the Fire Department.** Motion carried.

The July Monthly Fire Department Meeting will be held on Grand Island at 7:00.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Litigation update/Ridge Rd. PC CUP Approval - There is a Hearing scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.
2. Munising Memorial Hospital Lease - Clerk Johnson noted that a Lease was prepared and executed by all parties for liability purposes. They are still working on the monthly schedule for clinic days and hours.
3. Noise Ordinance Review - Review of the Noise Ordinance was completed. Language regarding enforcement procedures was reviewed. As to Amendment #3, Moved Doucette/seconded Cota, to **approve the amendment to Section 3A of the Noise Ordinance as prepared.** Doucette, yes; Cota, yes; Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried. (See attachment #2).
4. Cemetery Ordinance Review - Review of the Cemetery Ordinance was completed. Clerk Johnson will prepare the proposed amendments and present for approval at the July Board Meeting.
5. Road Sign Replacement - Supervisor Doucette noted that a preliminary list of road/street signs that need replacement has been completed. The list will be reviewed and added to as needed. A cost estimate for the bulk order will be obtained from Lange Enterprises.
6. Life Saving Station – Supervisor Doucette noted that our current permit from MDOT allows for a non-permanent placement of life saving equipment at the Au Train River Beach. A more permanent solution will be submitted by amending and/or renewing our current permit with MDOT.

**New Business:**

1. Correspondence - Presented and reviewed.
2. USFS Prescribed Burn - Notice was provided regarding the upcoming prescribed burn. The date has yet to be established. The Notice will be shared by the Township, but the USFS is responsible for notification and press release of same.
3. Designated Assessor - Supervisor Doucette provided information whereas the Township opted into an agreement in 2021. There was no majority, so the plan was never implemented by the County and no one was hired. If the Township opted in and an on-call Assessor was hired, they would request a yearly retainer fee that could cost each Township up to \$1,000.00 for year. The need for a Designated Assessor would only occur if a Township was ordered by the State to retain one. After much discussion, the Township Board noted being confident in our current Assessor. Therefore, Moved Cota/seconded Doucette to **“opt out” of a Designated Assessor Agreement with Alger County.** Cota, yes; Doucette, yes; Johnson, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried. (See attachment #3).

4. Grant Funds - Clerk Johnson noted that grant funds were received by the Township on behalf of Noquemanon Trail Network - Friends of Valley Spur in the amount of \$10,165.61. Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **distribute the grant funds received on behalf of the Friends as Valley Spur, as previously agreed.** Motion carried.

5. Michigan Townships Association Membership - Clerk Johnson provided the Yearly Dues Statement from the Michigan Townships Association. Moved Balmes/seconded Doucette to **continue membership with the Michigan Townships Association and pay yearly dues** in the amount of \$1,508.83. Balmes, yes; Doucette, yes; Miller, yes; Cota, yes; Johnson, yes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Public Comments were received Peggy Smith.

**Board Member Comments:** None

**Next Meeting:** The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion Doucette/seconded Johnson to **adjourn at 8:33 pm.** Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

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Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: July 8, 2024

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06/25/2024  
mwj

**Au Train Township Budget Resolution - Re: FY Budget 2024-2025 - Amendment No. 2**

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: COTA

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": JOHNSON, COTA, BALMES, DOUCETTE, MILLER

"Nay" NONE

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Date: June 17, 2024

General Fund - Fund No. 101

| Revenues                  | Current Budget | Amended Budget | Change        |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Grants 101 588.000        | 5,000.00       | 15,165.61      | (+) 10,165.61 |
| <i>Total Revenues</i>     | 553,680.18     | 563,845.79     | (+) 10,165.61 |
| <b>Expenditures</b>       |                |                |               |
| Recreation 101 750.000    | 15,000.00      | 25,165.61      | (+) 10,165.61 |
| <i>Total Expenditures</i> | 358,984.00     | 369,149.61     | (+) 10,165.61 |

Reflects receipt of Grant Award from the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians on Behalf of the Noquemanon Trail Network - Friends of Valley Spur.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP NOISE ORDINANCE DATED JUNE 17, 2024, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2024, AS APPROVED BY THE AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD.**

**Section 3: Unlawful Noise Prohibited**

Add Sub-section A. Enforcement and Penalties

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Au Train Township Board or such persons who shall be designated by the Au Train Township Board. The Alger County Sheriff Department has accepted and agreed to assist Au Train Township in enforcement of this Ordinance. The complaint will be forwarded to the Sheriff, Undersheriff or Captain to pass onto the officers. However, once received, there may be other priorities that take precedence, which may result in a delay in issuing a citation, if deemed warranted.

**Effective Date**

This amendment to the ordinance shall take effect on 08/01/2024, No less than Fourteen (14) days after the date of publication. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved by the Au Train Township Board at a Regular Board Meeting held on 06/17/2024.

Motion made for approval by: Supervisor Doucette

Second: Treasurer Cota

Ayes: Doucette, Cota, Johnson, Balmes, Miller

Nays: None

Motion declared passed by the Au Train Township Supervisor.

By:   
Mary Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

06/17/2024  
Date:

Appeared for publication on: July 12, 2024 in the Munising Beacon.

Interlocal Agreement for Alger County to Opt Out of a Designated Assessor for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029

Public Act 12 of 2024 amends the General Property Tax Act to allow a county to opt out of the requirement to appoint a Designated Assessor. Accordingly, the following interlocal agreement (hereinafter "AGREEMENT") has been executed by the Au Train Township Board, the assessing district in Au Train Township, Alger County and the Assessing Districts are collectively referred to throughout this AGREEMENT as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, The Assessing Districts are Municipal Corporations located within the County of Alger, in the State of Michigan;

WHEREAS, The Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article 7, Section 28 permits a political subdivision to exercise jointly with any other political subdivision any power, privilege or authority which such political subdivisions share in common with each other and which each might exercise separately;

WHEREAS, The Urban Cooperation Act of 1967, being MCL 124.505 *et seq*, and the Intergovernmental Transfer of Functions and Responsibilities Act, give effect to the Constitutional provision by providing that public agencies may enter into interlocal agreements to carry out their respective functions, powers and authority.

WHEREAS, P.A. 12 of 2024 requires each County to enter into an AGREEMENT that designates the individual who will opt out as the County's Designated Assessor, or elects to opt out of appointing an individual as the Designated Assessor. That interlocal agreement must be approved by the County Board and a majority of the assessing districts in the County.


WHEREAS, P.A. 12 of 2024 mandates that if a county decides to opt out of the requirement to appoint a Designated Assessor the State Tax Commission will appoint an individual to serve if an assessing district is not in substantial compliance per Public Act 660 of 2018 (MCL. 211.10g).

WHEREAS, P.A. 12 of 2024 requires that if a county decides to opt out of the requirement to appoint a Designated Assessor and the State Tax Commission appoints a Designated Assessor to serve if an assessing district is not in substantial compliance the assessing district will be responsible for covering all expenses related to the Designated Assessor appointed to oversee and manage the annual assessment roll.

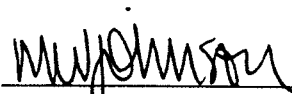
NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Recitals, and in consideration of the terms of this Agreement, the Members agree as follows:

Au Train Township proposes to opt out of appointing an individual to serve as the Designated Assessor for assessing districts within Alger County based on a Motion/Second/Approval at the Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting on June 17, 2024, with all members present and voting yes.

Signature:

  
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Au Train Township Supervisor, Michelle Doucette

Date: 7-2-2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Au Train Township Clerk, Mary Walther Johnson

Date: 06-17-2024