

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
December 11, 2016
6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Au Train Township Board convened in the Community Building, Au Train, Michigan, on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michelle Doucette, with the following members present: Mary Rogers, Clerk; Ann Clapp, Treasurer; Kristy Cota, Trustee and John Carr, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 6 persons attended the Board Meeting. A complete sign up sheet is on file with Clerk Rogers.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Additions and Changes to the Agenda were made as necessary. MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Clerk Rogers, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

***MINUTES**

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #15362 through #15383-Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7748 through #7782- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2008 and #2009).

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None**

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - Mr. George Sisco of N7789 Pine Tree Street in Christmas requested information from the Board regarding letters from the Zoning Administrator regarding the pets he has on his property. He considers them ornamental pets. He noted that he received prior approval from Zoning Administrator William Rogers. He feels he is being harassed and authorized a visit to his property by the Zoning Administrator and any member of the Board. Supervisor Doucette will arrange for an onsite visit.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jennifer Wagener presented her report to the Board, which was reviewed and discussed. Specific details of the report were provided, which followed discussion by the Board on the Sisco matter, the Kleeman property and individual inquiries.

Jennifer also requested approval to attend the Zoning Certificate Program being offered by MSU in February. The cost is \$850 for registration and then lodging and travel expenses. Our insurance company will reimburse the Township the class registration fee upon completion of the course.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to authorize up to \$2,000.00 for Zoning Administrator Jennifer Wagener to attend the Zoning Certificate Program. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; CARR, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

After discussion, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Carr, to appoint Trustee Cota to the Planning Commission as the Board representative for the current term. MOTION CARRIED.

And, after discussion, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to extend the term of Planning Commission member Kim Rolfe, which expires on 12/31/16, for 3 years, expiring on 12/31/19. MOTION CARRIED.

Assessor - The December Board of Review has been scheduled for December 13, 2016 from 2:00-5:00 pm.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota to appoint the following members, for 2 years, to the Board of Review: Millard Fillmore, Lonny Church, and Judith Holloway. With Patrick Syers being appointed alternate. MOTION CARRIED.

Cemetery - It was noted there was one burial and plot purchase this month, Clerk Rogers will issue the Cemetery Deed.

Recreation - Supervisor Doucette noted that the next meeting of the Alger Parks and Recreation Department will be held later this week. She updated the Board on recent activities of the Board and future fundraising events.

Supervisor Doucette will continue as the Board representative until June 30, 2017. A decision regarding continued membership with the Alger Parks and Recreation Board and appointment of a representative will be made at that time.

Community Building/Promotion - Karate classes continue to be held on Sundays at the building. Discussion regarding AA and clean up after their meetings was held.

Fire Department – Chief Perry King presented his monthly report to the Board. There were two calls this past month.

Construction of the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall is wrapping up and on schedule. The fitting for the Gladstone Truck is almost complete.

Chief King requested authorization to purchase 2 additional 800 radios. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Carr, to authorize up to \$5,900.00 for the purchase of two 800 radios for the fire department. The purchase will be made through the Alger County Sheriff Department. ROGERS, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion about fire hours turned in for the year was made. In addition, clarification is needed regarding the payment to members for actual training hours. MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Trustee Cota, to authorize \$15 per actual training hours for members. CARR, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Doucette noted that she attended the December Fire Department meeting. Discussion regarding the appointment of the Fire Chief for 2017 was made by members. No additional persons, except for current Chief Perry King, showed interest in the position. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Clapp, to appoint Perry King as Fire Chief for 2017. MOTION CARRIED.

*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of November 30, 2016, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	88272.19
Deposits		4605.56
Interest		0.98
Disbursements		20847.09
Ending Balance	\$	72,031.64

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	342135.71
Deposits		
Interest		3.88
Disbursements		49257.76
Ending Balance	\$	292,881.83

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,375.10

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	51431.75
Deposits		
Interest		0.63
Disbursements		10680.00
Ending Balance	\$	40,752.38

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	75242.12
Deposits		
Interest		0.92
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	75,243.04

*A Complete copy of the November 30, 2016 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

Treasurer Clapp noted that the cost of postage is going up again and recommends purchasing an additional supply. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to purchase 5,000 stamps at a cost of \$2,350.00. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CARR, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer Clapp noted that she appointed Amber Denman Weathers as her Deputy Treasurer.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Rogers updated the Board on recent activities. Discussion regarding the November 8th General Election was made and the proposed recount request. Clerk Rogers also noted that she would be working on W2 and 1099 prep after the 1st of the year.

Clerk Rogers noted that she appointed Jennifer Walther as her Deputy Clerk.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent meetings attended. She also provided information to the Board regarding the removal of the Heritage Trail dock system, and assistance provided by David Walther, discussion regarding fire extinguishers in the hall and the need for a thorough cleaning, a garbage issue on Stella Lake, attending the Alger County Jail Open House and Dedication, and cell phone coverage in the Deerton area.

Supervisor Doucette also gave the Board an overview of the Regional Government Meeting held on November 30th at the Au Train Township Hall. The next meeting will be held on February 22nd at 5:00 pm, hosted by the City of Munising.

Information was provided regarding cost for dock reinstallation in the Spring and the expiration of the dredging paperwork on December 31, 2016.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Litigation Update - Seitz vs Au Train Township - Supervisor Doucette noted that we are still waiting for a decision by Judge Carmody on the matter.

5 Year Road Plan - Clerk Rogers presented the Road Plan as proposed by Bob Lindbeck of the Alger County Road Commission. The plan, as determined by previous Supervisor Tom Balmes and Mr. Lindbeck, is a working document and contingent on further funding.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp to approve the 5 Year Road Plan as presented by the Alger County Road Commission, contingent upon having funds available and subject to revision.
MOTION CARRIED.

Great Lakes Research Center Final Report - Au Train River Mouth. After review and discussion by Board Members, the report was accepted. Supervisor Doucette will be forwarding copies of the report to MDOT and members of the Michigan Legislation.

*NEW BUSINESS -

2017 Board Meeting Dates - MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, that the Au Train Township Board meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 pm, on the following dates in 2017: January 9th, February 13th, Budget Workshop Meetings on February 20th and February 27th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th and December 11th. The Budget Public Hearing will be held on March 13th at 5:30 pm. MOTION CARRIED.

Application for Rezoning - Clerk Rogers provided a copy of the Application for Rezoning prepared by Attorney Greg Murphy for review. Approval of the form should be made at the January Board meeting.

MTA New Officials Training - Clerk Rogers presented information regarding the Michigan Townships Association New Officials Training that will be held in January. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to authorize up to \$600.00 for registration and attendance of the MTA New Officials Training on January 12th in Harris by Supervisor Doucette and Trustee Carr, at a cost of \$229.00 each plus mileage reimbursement. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; CARR, YES.
MOTION CARRIED.

Township Policies - Clerk Rogers noted that after discussion with Supervisor Doucette, that she would be working on implementing and/or updating policies for the Township Board. Those will include Human Resources, Fire Department, Bidding, etc. Policies will be introduced throughout the year for consideration.

In addition, review of current ordinances should be scheduled throughout the year as well, to amend and or update as necessary.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Jerry Doucette arrived and presented information to the Board about happenings of the Alger County Board over the past month. The 2017 Budget has been balanced and approved, negotiations for labor contracts are complete, the jail addition was complete and an open house and dedication was held. A contract for use of the jail by Luce County was finalized. Additional information and discussion was provided regarding brownfield projects, updates to jail equipment, employees as subcontractors, big box store issue, tax exempt bonds, HUD money, USDA grants and tax increment financing. As always, Commissioner Doucette was thanked for his continued services and updates to the Board.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - None

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Clapp, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:28 pm.

Submitted by: Mary F. Rogers, Au Train Township Clerk