

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
December 9, 2019  
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 Johnson, Clerk; Kristy Cota, Treasurer; John Carr, Trustee and Jake Miller, Trustee

\*VISITORS PRESENT – 2 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 Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

\*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

\*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. JOHNSON, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16234 through #16243 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8325 through #8355- Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2060.)

\*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

- TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of November 30, 2019

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	127,216.30
Deposits		2,782.86
Interest		103.02
Disbursements		20,964.59
Total Checks Not Cleared		142.30
Ending Balance	\$	108,995.29

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	346,453.90
Deposits		
Interest		288.95
Disbursements		14,005.63
Total Checks Not Cleared		230.88
Ending Balance	\$	332,506.34

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,955.46

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	148,310.33
Deposits		
Interest		123.43
Disbursements		12,230.40
Ending Balance	\$	136,203.36

ROAD FUND CHECKING			
Beginning Balance		\$	270,131.59
Deposits			
Interest			233.13
Disbursements			
Ending Balance		\$	270,364.72

\*A Complete copy of the November 30, 2019 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that the Winter Tax Bills have been mailed. She also noted she has set December Treasurer Office Hours.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson noted that she continues to work on her training for the upcoming Presidential Primary. Information was provided regarding her office not maintaining a permanent Absent Voter List, W2 and 1099 preparation, and August deadline for Fire Department millage request.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Fire Department Meeting and the Sara Cambensy Coffee hour.

Trustee Miller noted that he assisted in Township plowing when asked.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. Supervisor Doucette noted that she also attended the Sara Cambensy Coffee Hour held at the Township hall. Information was provided regarding the serving of food on Thanksgiving Day during the extended power outage. The health department voiced their concerns to Sheila Peters, Emergency Management coordinator, about serving food without permit. The December Board of Review will meet on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

\*PUBLIC COMMENTS - 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.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther was present and noted that he has spent much of his time dealing with snow removal. The lights on the exterior of the Au Train Fire Hall have been replaced. Discussion about a key organization system was made. Ryan will work with Supervisor Doucette on setting something up.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Clerk Johnson noted that Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy's Zoning Report has been received and is on file. There was no November Planning Commission Meeting due to the lack of quorum.

Clerk Johnson noted that the contract for Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy is due for renewal January 1, 2020. Mr. McCarthy was asked to submit a proposal for consideration, which he did. He is requesting a monthly salary of \$1,200.00 per month. He was contacted via phone during the meeting and it was stressed that the Board requests a monthly Zoning Administrators report without prompting, quarterly attendance to a Township Board Meeting and timely responses to inquiries about Township Matters.

Trustee Carr noted that the Planning Commission will meet on December 19, 2020 and will be holding a Public Hearing for a CUP as well. Clerk Johnson noted that they should consider a 2020 Zoning Budget, along with determining 2020 Meeting Dates. Also a member of the Planning Commission will need to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace the position held by Member Kim Rolfe. A recommendation from the Planning Commission would allow the Township Board to take care of this at the January Meeting.

Assessor/Board of Review - Clerk Johnson noted that the Assessor's Report has been received and is on file. Assessor Cameron included the Vacant Land Sales report for review.

Cemetery - No report

Fire Department – Monthly report has been received and on file. There were 12 calls for the month of November. Fire Chief King was present. Information was provided to the Board regarding the appointment of Hall Captains. In addition, Chief King noted that reports are being completed for the State and we would be in compliance by the end of the month.

Discussion regarding the appointment of Fire Chief was made. No other members of the Fire Department indicated their interest.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to appoint Perry King as the Au Train Township Fire Department Fire Chief for the year 2020, with a continued monthly salary of \$750.00 per month. JOHNSON, YES; CARR, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

County Commission Update - Commissioner/Chair Jerry Doucette arrived and provided an update to the Board regarding recent happenings within the County. Chair Doucette noted that the 2020 Budget Approval is scheduled for next week. If the State Budget amendments get approved, the County should be in good fiscal shape. In addition, he noted that they expect to ask for a Ambulance Millage in 2020 - 1.85 mills. The Michigan State Police will have an outpost at the Alger County Complex after the first of the year. They are still in discussions with legislators regarding the possibility of a Use Tax. The County recently had a wrap up meeting with Emergency Management regarding the recent storm and extended power outages and discussed whether any changes are necessary.

#### \*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kleeman - Supervisor Doucette noted that she spoke with Magistrate Lynn Maki, who spoke with Judge Luoma. Judge Luoma stated that the Board would have to schedule a court session through our attorney with evidence that Mr. Kleeman is in violation of the order. Discussion regarding Home Occupation II was also made. The matter, with all notes and files, will be turned over to our Zoning Administrator.

Zoning Administrator - As previously noted, Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy submitted a proposal to the Board requesting a salary of \$1,200.00 per month, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. After being in the position for the past year he feels that is fair compensation. During the phone conversation earlier, Mr. McCarthy was asked if he would consider a 2 Year Employment Contract.

MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Trustee Miller, to approve a 2 Year Zoning Administrator Employment Contract renewal with Jason McCarthy at a salary rate of \$1,200.00 per month, effective January 1, 2020. CARR, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

In addition, Clerk Johnson updated the Board on the unemployment compensation matter with previous Zoning Administrator April Lark. After visiting the Unemployment Resolution Center in Marquette, the issue has been resolved.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence - Clerk Johnson presented correspondence from the Michigan Townships Association offering educational opportunities. While the Board has interest in some of the offerings, travel in the winter is not desired.

Appointment Planning Commission - Clerk Johnson noted that after advertisement, Supervisor Doucette received one letter of interest from Bill Weisinger. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to appoint Bill Weisinger to the Planning Commission, for a Two Year Term, effective January 1, 2020. MOTION CARRIED.

2020 Board Meeting Dates - 2020 Meeting Dates were established and scheduled as follows for Regular Board Meetings: January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Budget Workshop Meeting: February 17<sup>th</sup> and, if needed February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Computer Purchase - Clerk Rogers noted that the Clerk's desktop system should be replaced, it is acting slow and is at least 4 years old. Treasurer Cota noted that she would still like to get the laptop previously budgeted. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Carr, to purchase a desk top computer for the Clerk's office and a laptop for the Treasurer's office, not to exceed \$1,000.00 each. Trustee Carr also suggested purchasing battery backup systems so they will properly shut down during power outages. DOUCETTE, YES; CARR, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public comment was received from Clerk Johnson, and Commissioner Doucette.

**\*ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Carr, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk