

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
August 10, 2020
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.

Due to the current State of Michigan Stay Safer at Home Order 2020-170, the Au Train Township Board did meet in person, followed social distancing guidelines and authorized the use of Teleconference call in for the public to participate. The meeting was also broadcast over Facebook Live.

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 – Approximately 5 persons attended the meeting. A sign up sheet is on file with Clerk Johnson.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***MINUTES**

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Carr, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. DOUCETTE, YES; CARR, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16365 through #16392 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8433 through #8445 - Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2070.)

***BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -**

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of July 31, 2020

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	143,667.61
Deposits		4,790.86
Interest		88.84
Disbursements		14,418.81
Total Checks Not Cleared		179.95
Ending Balance	\$	133,948.55

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	500,124.23
Deposits		
Interest		316.60
Disbursements		5,335.33
Total Checks Not Cleared		1,075.71
Ending Balance	\$	494,029.79

Certificate of Deposit \$ 51,158.72

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	183,418.61
Deposits		
Interest		112.91
Disbursements		12,743.50
Ending Balance	\$	170,788.02

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	287,841.20
Deposits		
Interest		170.74
Disbursements		20,459.28
Ending Balance	\$	267,552.66

*A Complete copy of the July 31, 2020 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that the 2020 Summer taxes are coming in regularly, that she has been preparing for the upcoming audit and that she has office hours on August 15th from 10:00-2:00.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided the Board information on the August 4th Primary Election. Over 32 hours from Saturday through Election Day were spent preparing and administrating the election. We had a total of 376 voters, with 258 Absent Voter Ballots sent and 188 returned. The Fire Department Millage passed with 215-Yes and 99-No. Trustee Candidates Balmes and Miller will be moving on to the November General Election. We will need to amend the Fire Department Budget to reflect the renewal of the 3 mills, which will generate approximately \$215,857.00 in the first year collected.

The General Election Ballots should be received by the Clerk's office by the end of September and the process of sending out Absent Voter Ballots will begin upon receipt. A FOIA Request from "True the Vote" was received requesting information regarding the Primary Election. An extension was requested and work responding to the FOIA will begin immediately.

The Township Audit will begin with Anderson, Tackman and Co. On Monday, August 17th. The Clerk will meet with them to begin the process and provide access for approximately 4 days onsite.

The MML Insurance Renewal Application has been received and will be prepared for a quote to be reviewed at our October Board Meeting.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted that he had no report. Trustee Carr noted that he attended the insurance onsite review with Supervisor Doucette on July 29th, Attended the August 2nd Fire Department Meeting, followed up on the street light relocation in Christmas and picked up some supplies for the firehall as requested by Chief King.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. She also noted that she attended the July Board of Review, meet with the MML Representative for the insurance review at the Twp Hall and fire halls, spoke with Cory Cole on more than one occasion regarding customer parking at the Heritage Trail Center, spoke with GAD regarding garbage pickup issues, attended the virtual County Road Commission Meeting and worked with persons regarding the placement of headstones at the cemetery.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

*PUBLIC COMMENT - The public comment period opened. Persons in attendance addressed the Board regarding the concerns on Reindeer Run and visitors to the Paradise Point location. Several emails to the Board were received prior to the meeting from local residents in that location, requesting the opportunity to address the Board with hopes of developing a solution to the traffic, noise and complete disregard to the private property rights in the area. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes own the right of way access to Paradise Point and has allowed access over the years. A meeting between the property owners, the USFS, who manage the point and camping area, and a representative from the Alger County Sheriff Department and/or the Road Commission will be holding a gathering on Wednesday August 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm. While this is not a meeting of the Au Train Township Board, two Township Board members will attend the meeting as well. Public Comments were received by Diane Hart, John Delany and Charlie and Mary Barnes. Comments were also received from Carolyn Zanarisi regarding the Au Train Beach camp fires, sand grass trampling and garage being left behind. Brice Burge provided comment through the call in option.

*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.

Also, to reflect the passage of the Fire Fund Millage, the Fire Fund budget was amended as follows:

Au Train Township
Budget Resolution
Amendment No. 2
August 10, 2020

Re: FY Budget 2020-2021

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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 in accordance with budgetary information presented to the Board and the limitations defined within this Resolution.

The foregoing Resolution offered by Board Member: Cota

Second offered by Board Member: Carr

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

"Nay": NONE

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson

Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Fire Fund			
Revenues- Current Tax 206-403.000	0	215857.00	215857.00
Total Revenues	553964.00	769821.00	215857.00
Expenditures - Capital Improvement	275000.00	400000.00	125000.00
Ending Fund Equity	174813.00	221721.00	46908.00

Authorization is requested to increase Revenues and Expenditures in the Fire Fund. As it relates to the Fire Fund: The Revenues are increased to reflect the millage voted in and approved August 4, 2020. The Expenditures are increased to reflect a change in Capital Improvement to allow for consideration of the purchase of a fire truck.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy's Monthly Report has been received and is on file. The next scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission is August 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm (please note time change).

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Cameron Fuess's Monthly Report has been received and is on file.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther provided a department report. Now that flooring has been completed, a thorough cleaning of the building should be scheduled. Clerk Johnson noted that a Drop Box for Elections will be delivered this week. Clerk Johnson will work with Ryan to find a suitable, temporary location.

Fire Department/First Responders – Monthly report has been received and on file. There were 3 calls for the month. 3 Fire Department response and 1 First Responders response.

Supervisor Doucette wanted to recognize Fire Department Member John Clapp for his dedication and response to the department. He is very much appreciated.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Heritage Trail - Discussion regarding the installation of auto door locks for the cabin and restrooms was made. It would be the best option to control access. MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize the purchase of one automatic door lock for installation at the Heritage Trail Center at a cost of up to \$500.00. CARR, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Speed Limit/M-28 Corridor - Discussion regarding the speed limit along the M28 Corridor from Sunset Road through the Au Train Forest Lake Road intersection was made. Two recent traffic accidents in the area brought new light to a problem that has existed for years. During the summer months the traffic is heavy and the pedestrian usage along the bridge to the beach area is packed. The State of Michigan MDOT, State Police, Sheriff Department and Alger County Emergency Management are working together to achieve protections in the area. The end goal is enforcement of existing speed limits and safety for the pedestrian traffic in the area. There were several suggestions for a solution to the problem, including relocation of the beach access point, installation of a stop light, building of a roundabout, or even a covered bridge for foot traffic. In addition concerns about the jumping from the bridge with its very close proximity to the vehicle traffic was discussed.

Garbage Contract - Discussion about the current contract with Great American Disposal for curbside pickup was made. The agreement expired on June 30, 2020, so we are currently under a month to month contract. The Board would like additional information from GAD including the number of stops, tonnage, and the possibility of purchasing tipping cans. Once this information is provided, a more in depth discussion with GAD, along with the possibility of placing the contract out for bids, can be made.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence - Clerk Rogers presented correspondence for the month. MML sent correspondence regarding the recent loss control meeting on July 29, 2020, discussing the various issues affecting our risk management efforts. They included loss control recommendations to add a smoke detector in the kitchen of the community building, which should be tested monthly.

Reindeer Run/Paradise Point - As previously noted during public comment, concerns regarding the speed limit on Reindeer Run, and the excessive traffic and visitors to Paradise Point, have caused an issue to local residents. A meeting is scheduled with the USFS, who manage the point and camping area, and residents to discuss the concerns in detail and possibly develop a plan. This is not a Township Board meeting, only facilitated by Supervisor Doucette to allow the parties to come together. The Board can request a speed study for the road to determine if a speed limit reduction can be implemented.

Au Train Township Board Resolution No. 2020-002
Reindeer Run Speed Study Request
August 10, 2020

WHEREAS, the current traffic speeds and increased traffic on Reindeer Run from State Highway M28 to the end of the road (Paradise Point), in Au Train Township, Alger County, Michigan, are believed to be hazardous to pedestrians and bicyclists, and;

WHEREAS, Paradise Point has increased the number of tourists traveling down to the end of Reindeer Run, causing an increase in traffic congestion, and;

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult for residents to move in and out of the flow of traffic safely due to said increased traffic volumes;

WHEREAS, the Au Train Township Board has the authority to request that the State of Michigan Department of Transportation or the Alger County Road Commission conduct a speed study on said road;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Au Train Township Board is formally requesting that the Alger County Road Commission or the Michigan Department of Transportation conduct a speed study on Reindeer Run from State Highway M28 to the end of the road.

The foregoing resolution offered by the Au Train Township Board Member Doucette

and supported by the Au Train Township Board Member Carr

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": Doucette, Carr, Miller, Cota, Johnson

"Nay": None

The Au Train Township Supervisor declared the Resolution ADOPTED.

Mary Walther Johnson
Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Fall Clean Up - Fall Cleanup dates were discussed for the drop off at Wood Island Waste Management.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize and schedule a Fall Clean Up with Wood Island Waste Management, with costs associated with it being funded by the Garbage Fund Account, being held on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 9:00-11:30 am. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CARR, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - (7:58) The public comment call in period opened. There were no public comments calls received.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Treasurer Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:02 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk