

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
June 8, 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 Home/Stay Safe Order 2020-21, 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 – Bob Lindbeck, Becky Cain, Ryan Walther

*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 Trustee Carr, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16338 through #16348 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8409 through #8418 - Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2067.)

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	146,617.70
Deposits		9,184.99
Interest		91.25
Disbursements		15,184.38
Total Checks Not Cleared		
Ending Balance	\$	140,709.56

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	488,284.17
Deposits		16,412.96
Interest		311.82
Disbursements		3,027.96
Total Checks Not Cleared		
Ending Balance	\$	501,980.99

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51,158.72
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	195,564.70
Deposits		11,053.71
Interest		123.30
Disbursements		11,719.25
Ending Balance	\$	195,022.46

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	276,432.94
Deposits		11,053.71
Interest		177.22
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	287,663.87

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

Treasurer Cota noted that she received the quote for KCI for the Summer Tax Billing printing and mailing. The cost is estimated at \$894.70. The 100% Tax Fund for the Winter 2019 Taxes has been received from the Alger County Treasurer.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson updated the Board on scheduling the Township audit with Anderson, Tackman & Company and preparing for the August Election. Billing to the State for the Presidential Primary Election was completed in the amount of \$1,209.85. Clerk Johnson reminded the Board that review of the garbage contract with GAD should be held in July, with an invitation extended to North Country Disposal to attend in August. It was also noted that a thank card was received from fallen Forsyth Township Firefighter Ben Lauren's family thanking the Board and Fire Department.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Jake Miller noted that he had a conversation with a neighbor regarding the private road discussion of North Shore Rd. Bob Lindbeck from the ACRC noted that it is a County Maintained Road. 0.65 miles of paving for the road is scheduled for 2022.

Trustee Carr noted that he met with Bob Lindbeck of the ACRC, along with Supervisor Doucette to review the upcoming road project, discuss clarification and suggested overlay of St. Nicholas Ave. In addition, Trustee Carr met with UPPCO regarding the street light move request and assisted with the Spring Cleanup.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. She also noted she continues to coordinate burials at the cemetery and placement of monuments. She met with Maintenance worker Ryan Walther to discuss tree removal and cleanup at the cemetery. Supervisor Doucette noted that a recent conversation with the US Census Bureau local representative indicated that there is a only a 26% response rate so far for Au Train Township. They will be sending out followup teams as soon as they are allowed to proceed.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Bob Lindbeck of the Alger County Road Commission presented information to the Board on the 2020 Summer Road Project in the Township and a contract for services to the addition of overlay on St. Nicholas Avenue.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr to enter into an Agreement with the Alger County Road Commission providing 990' of overlay on St. Nicholas Avenue in the area of Christmas for an Township project obligation cost of \$15,480. This work will coincide with the Summer Paving Project already contracted for. JOHNSON, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Lindbeck also noted that the Au Train Forest Lake Road project will continue an additional 1.8 miles in 2021 with funding from the USFS and other sources. Mr. Lindbeck concluded by noting he would attend the October Regular Board Meeting to finalize projects for 2021 and continue review of the 5-Year Road Plan.

Becky Cain of the USFS presented an update and plans for the Au Train River Project. The project will begin with the installation of fascines as part of the riverbank stabilization project, in addition to the start of the Summer 2020 Timber Sale that will assist with the cost of the project. Additional funds will be needed as phases of the project are started and grants and assistance from the Township may be requested. Alternative funding sources will continue to be sought out. A detailed overview of the project is available by request prior to placing the information on the Townships website.

Special Presentation ended at 6:52 pm.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - The public comments call in period was opened. No public comments were received.

*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.

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 July 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Cameron Fuess's Monthly Report has been received and is on file. The July Board of Review has been scheduled for July 22nd at 6:00 pm.

Maintenance Department Report (Comm Bldg/Promotions - Cemetery) - Ryan Walther provided an update and noted he has been working on summer mowing projects. Lot 490 at the Cemetery needs additional fill. He will be picking up some topsoil from Gerou for \$23.00 a load.

Lengthy discussion regarding the Heritage Trail Center was made. Concerns about traffic, parking, lots of garbage or litter, restroom cleanings, sanitization and late night parties and vandalism was discussed. The DNR has been contacted and the Michigan State Police are doing additional drive-bys. A surveillance system was discussed along with auto locking systems for the bathrooms and cabin. Supervisor Doucette and Trustee Carr will meet with Ryan and also attempt to contact local providers regarding a surveillance system and autolocks. Also a plan for fast daily cleanings of the restrooms was discussed. Supervisor Doucette will make some calls to obtain information about possibly contracting out the restroom vault cleanings and garbage pickup. In the meantime, the doors to the restrooms and cabin should be locked at night. Ryan also noted that some gravel should be added to the road and parking areas.

Discussion about the ballfield lease and contact, if any from the USFS was made. There has been no additional conversation about the lease and/or abandonment and restoration.

Ryan concluded by noting that he will have Community Service workers for one day and will be assigning them projects to complete as needed.

Supervisor Doucette noted that the POW/MIA flag needs to be replaced at the cemetery.

MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Treasurer Cota to authorize and order a dumpster for the maintenance building clean out, along with the debris from the community building project. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Department/First Responders – Monthly report has been received and on file. There were 2 calls for the month of May. The Alger County Chiefs Meeting will be held at the Au Train Township Hall on June 15, 2020 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Social Distancing Practices will be followed.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Community Building Rentals/Use - The Board agreed to proceed opening the Community Building to Use and/or Rentals under the recommended guidelines from the State of Michigan effective June 10th with the Upper Peninsula (Region 8 under the Michigan Safe Start Plan) moving to Stage 5.

Dust Control Application - Supervisor Doucette provided information to the Board regarding the Dust Control Application that will be finishing up on June 9th within the Township. A 3rd load will be delivered and applied then. Estimated project cost is \$22,000.

Spring Cleanup - The Spring Cleanup was held on June 6th from 9:00-12:00 at the GAD Munising Transfer Station. It was slower than usual with approximately 46 residents using the service.

Forest Lake Dam Update - Supervisor Doucette noted that she has no updates regarding the Forest Lake Dam.

UPPCO Street Light Contract - Clerk Johnson presented the Street light placement contract for the movement of a street light in Christmas for review. There is no cost to the Township for the project.

***NEW BUSINESS**

MTA Dues/Invoice - Clerk Johnson presented the Invoice for membership with the Michigan Townships Association and the education options purchase add-ons that are available with online learning. After much discussion the Board opted out of additional education purchases. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to continue with yearly membership with the Michigan Townships Association at a cost of \$1,304.26. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; CARR, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Master Plan/Recreation Plan Proposals - Supervisor Doucette presented proposals for consideration from CUPPAD and Northwoods Planning and Zoning for updates to the Townships Master Plan and Recreation Plan. Because of the uncertainty relating to Covid-19 and the expected reduction of Revenue Sharing from the State, the Board tabled the proposals for consideration until 2021.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - (7:56) The public comment call in period opened. There were no public comments calls received.

***ADJOURNMENT**

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

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk