

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
May 18, 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 – None

\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

\*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 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; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16325 through #16337 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8394 through #8408 - Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2066.)

\*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of April 30, 2020

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	154,212.77
Deposits		16,432.00
Interest		89.72
Disbursements		24,116.79
Total Checks Not Cleared		595.65
Ending Balance	\$	146,022.05

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	486,944.07
Deposits		8,562.60
Interest		300.04
Disbursements		7,522.54
Total Checks Not Cleared		469.01
Ending Balance	\$	487,815.16

Certificate of Deposit \$ 51,158.72

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	207,159.86
Deposits		
Interest		124.09
Disbursements		11,719.25
Ending Balance	\$	195,564.70
ROAD FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	276,262.65
Deposits		
Interest		170.29
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	276,432.94

\*A Complete copy of the April 30, 2020 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that she is working with KCI on the Summer Tax billing preparations. Grand Island Township made payment in the amount of \$8,562.60 for the 2019 Fire Protection Service Contract. Summer Tax Season is upcoming starting June/July. In addition, Treasurer Cota noted that she received correspondence from Peoples State Bank indicating they will be reducing interest payout for checking accounts to a rate of .75 effective immediately.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson updated the Board on scheduling the Township audit with Anderson, Tackman & Company, preparing for the August Election and the implementation of safety guidelines, and noted that she is billing for the Presidential Primary Election and reviewing minutes to establish a Book of Procedures and past Resolutions for easy reference.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Carr noted that meetings were cancelled with the Covid-19 crisis, but did schedule to meet with Bob Lindbeck of the Alger County Road Commission and Supervisor Doucette. Trustee Miller had no report.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. She also noted she has been coordinating burials at the cemetery and placement of monuments. She spoke with Doug Miron of the ACRC who noted that they continue to apply for grant funds for the Orange Bridge on Woodland Avenue as an emergency route from the village of Au Train should Highway M28 be closed. It has been ongoing for 13+ years.

#### \*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. Clerk Rogers presented information regarding the necessary adjustments to Fund Balance to reflect actual balances as of March 31, 2020.

Au Train Township  
Budget Resolution  
Amendment No. 1  
May 18, 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: Johnson

Second offered by Board Member: Cota

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

"Nay": NONE

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson  
Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
<b>General Fund</b>			
Revenues			
Fund Balance	149370.00	154212.00	+4842.00
Ending Fund Equity	95852.00	100694.00	+4842.00

Authorization is requested to increase Revenues and Expenditures in the General Fund. As it relates to the General Fund: The Revenues are increased to reflect the actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2020.

	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
<b>Fire Fund</b>			
Revenues			
Fund Balance	590613.00	546664.00	-43949.00
Ending Fund Equity	174813.00	130864.00	-43949.00

Authorization is requested to increase Revenues and Expenditures in the Fire Fund. As it relates to the Fire Fund: The Revenues are decreased to reflect the actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2020.

	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
<b>Garbage Fund</b>			
Revenues			
Fund Balance	237580.00	207159.00	-30421.00
Ending Fund Equity	200485.00	170064.00	-30421.00

Authorization is requested to increase Revenues and Expenditures in the Garbage Fund. As it relates to the Garbage Fund: The Revenues are decreased to reflect the actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2020

	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Change
<b>Road Fund</b>			
Revenues			
Fund Balance	306042.00	276262.00	-29780.00
Ending Fund Equity	329447.00	299667.00	-29780.00

Authorization is requested to increase Revenues and Expenditures in the Road Fund. As it relates to the Road Fund: The Revenues are decreased to reflect the actual Fund Balance as of March 31, 2020.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy's Monthly Report has been received and is on file. Clerk Johnson presented information on the Kleeman FOIA response (originally presented to our Zoning Administrator). Mr. McCarthy noted that applications received is increasing and he is working with the Pictured Rocks RV and Campground who have applied for an expansion of sites. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther provided an update and noted he has been working on cemetery trees and limb clean up, and that he completed the flooring project trim. Once we have a reopen date the community building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

Discussion about the Heritage Trail opening was made. The bathrooms will be opened and David Walther Contracting will proceed with the installation of the kayak launch and dock.

Clerk Johnson noted that she was contacted by John Hinch of the USFS regarding the ballfield lease. Mr. Hinch wanted to visit on site to make sure the Township was in compliance with its lease terms. The idea of giving up the lease and planning for restoration and turnover was brought up. Trustee Carr took the reign on the project and also discussed our immediate plans with Mr. Hinch. They will make plans to meet at the site and discuss the procedure for closing out the Lease. Trustee Carr will notify the Board when he does hear from Kopecky Well Drilling regarding their availability to abandon the well on site.

Fire Department/First Responders – Monthly report has been received and on file. There were 4 calls for the month of April.

Clerk Johnson presented the Contract for Services with Tri County Volunteer Fire Department. They continue to provide a much needed coverage service in the outlying areas of the Township. Fire Chief Perry recommended that the Board continue with the Contract.

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Trustee Carr to enter into a Contract for Services with the Tri County Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$3,000.00. COTA, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize the purchase of an aluminum diamond plate cover and installation for one of the fire trucks in the amount of \$1,473.00. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CARR, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize up to \$2,400.00 for the purchase of 3 eductors (fast foam delivery). CARR, YES; COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

#### \*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Community Building Rentals - The Board agreed to the policy of the Community Building remained closed to Use or Rentals until June 8, 2020, when the Township Board meets for June. A decision will be made at that time whether to remain closed or open for public use.

Au Train Forest Lake Road Construction Project - Clerk Johnson provided time line information from Bob Lindbeck of the ACRC on the Au Train Forest Lake Road project. They expect the project to wrap up by the end of June with clean up to follow.

Accident Fund - Clerk Johnson noted that after several months of correspondence and documentation, the cancellation date for the Workers Comp coverage through Accident Fund was confirmed and the invoice was amended to reflect the October 23, 2020 cancellation date.

#### \*NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence - Clerk Johnson presented correspondence from USFS and Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding Covid-19 rules and guidelines, updated. In addition the letter sent to Friends of Valley Spur so that they may continue grooming and trail clean up during the Covid-19 crisis was provided.

Forest Lake Dam - Supervisor Doucette provided information to the Board regarding the intention of Renewable World Energies, who own the dam. Tom Berutti, President & CEO, stated that FERC has safety concerns with the dam and that it would cost them roughly \$3.7 million dollars to correct the concerns. After much discussion they have decided to surrender their FERC license, which means the dam will stop producing electricity.

With the dam not producing electricity they have 2 options:

- 1) Remove the dam entirely which would leave the Au Train Basin water totally uncontrolled.
- 2) Cut a hole in the dam to allow some water flow control and provide some protection to the village.

They decided to cut a hole in the cement spillway above the annual low water level which will be approximately 6 ft below the top. Then they will open a hole through the southern soil berm to allow drainage of water south. This project will begin sometime in August when the water level is at the lowest. They will be selling the land which is approximately 2500 acres. Included in this sale will be the camping sites and public access area at the basin.

Correspondence from Renewable World Energies was read to the Board and will be on file. Discussion regarding the matter, and process was made.

Grand Island Township Fire Protection Agreement - Clerk Johnson presented the renewal of the fire protection agreement with Grand Island Township for approval. The agreement is a duplicate of the previous agreement that expired December 31, 2019. They will pay an equivalent of 2 mills for protection and requested a 5 year agreement, rather than 3 years.

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to enter into an Agreement with Grand Island Township to provide Fire Protection Services. MOTION CARRIED.

Spring Cleanup - MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to authorize a Spring Cleanup drop off at the Wood Island Landfill on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00, with the cost associated with the disposal being expensed to the Garbage Fund Account. JOHNSON, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Tri County Septic - Supervisor Doucette presented costs from Tri County Septic to place porta jons at the Doucette Bridge to accommodate the river traffic. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette to authorize Tri County Septic to place 2 porta jons at the Doucette Bridge site from May 19<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$105.00 per month each. JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; CARR, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - (7:16) 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 Trustee Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk