

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
October 12, 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 Health Department Order of 2020, 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 8 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 Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Supervisor Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; CARR, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16407 through #16423 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8461 through #8474 - Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2072 through #2074).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 137, 021.26
Deposits	7, 889.19
Interest	16. 38
Disbursements	18, 297.08
Total Checks Not Cleared	664. 93
Ending Balance	\$ 125, 964.82

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 491, 566.99
Deposits	
Interest	60. 34
Disbursements	3, 007.48
Total Checks Not Cleared	
Ending Balance	\$ 488, 619.85

Certificate of Deposit	\$ 51, 158.72
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 159, 134.77
Deposits	
Interest	19. 18
Disbursements	11, 719.25
Ending Balance	\$ 147, 434.70
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 284, 371.91
Deposits	
Interest	35. 06
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$ 284, 406.97

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

Treasurer Cota noted that she is still collecting 2020 Summer taxes. A proposal for Winter Tax Bill preparation is expected from KCI. A prepayment for the postage portion will need to be made prior to printing. Winter Taxes will be billed and mailed December 1, 2020.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson noted that she spent the last month preparing and sending Absentee Ballots for the General Election. Though today, 312 ballots have been mailed. Clerk Johnson noted that if this is any indication on turnout, it should be a very busy election day.

The audit was finalized with Anderson, Tackman and Co., with the F65 being prepared and sent and copies of the audit being delivered to Board members for review. Senior Auditor Mike will meet with Clerk Johnson and Treasurer Cota to update some files, include the T&A account on Quickbooks and assist with streamlining some processes at some point in the near future.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Carr noted that he and Planning Commission member Matt Lang, met with Joe Cllc from the Alger County Building Department to review some Zoning Ordinance items. He also assisted with the Fall Cleanup, attended Planning Commission meetings and a CUP Hearing that was approved. He also attended the Fire Department meeting and met with Fire Chief King to review the insurance coverage proposal for the department.

Trustee Miller investigated the Forest Lake Dam and spoke with the President of Northern Hydro. He also continued to monitor and review the USFS logging operations along the river.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. In addition, Supervisor Doucette attended the Fall Cleanup, discussed the concerns of Koski Road condition and requested that it be graded. Supervisor Doucette also contacted the Sheriff Department regarding a truck parked and blocking a portion of Woodland Avenue. The owner indicated they are working on getting it moved. Finally, the response from the Michigan State Police regarding the request for a Speed Study on Reindeer Run was forwarded via email to the property owners who requested it.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Bob Lindbeck, Engineer/Manager of the Alger County Road Commission, presented the Contract for the 2021 Road Improvement project. In addition, the 5-Year Road Plan was reviewed and discussed. The Board discussed the condition of Koski Road and the last portion of Ridge Road and their current conditions. Mr Lindbeck noted that the last portion of Ridge Road is a seasonal road and that he will look at sending the grader. The Board then requested that an estimate be provided for placing gravel on the beginning 1/4 mile of Koski Road in 2021.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr, to approve the Contract with the Alger County Road Commission, as presented for 2021 Road Construction on portions of Woodland, Spruce, and Liberty overlay paving 0.22 miles and Au Train Lake Subdivision paving 0.55 miles,, with the Townships obligation of \$118,000. JOHNSON, YES; CARR, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion continued with mention of the reflector placement along State Highway M28, 16 Mile Lake Road improvements, completion of Au Train Forest Lake Road in 2021, and the Forest Lake Basin Road.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - The public comment period opened.

Brain Rahilly, Candidate for 11th Circuit Court Judge introduced himself to the Board and answered any questions about his candidacy.

Scott Lucking, representing the property owners on Reindeer Run requested permission to place a sign at the beginning of the Road indicating that Paradise is closed. The USFS is not opposed to its placement, but noted that Paradise is not closed, but the access road to it is. The Alger County Road Commission noted they could place it on the existing Dead End Road sign. He noted they would be responsible for the cost but are just looking for Township approval for its placement.

Ben Reffeschini and Robert Little addressed the Board regarding concerns that their access to their property from the end of Reindeer Run has now been cut off by the actions of closing off Paradise Point. The Board noted that this was a personal matter that will need to be addressed by the parties involved.

*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 November 5th, which will include a CUP Hearing. The Planning Commission continues to review the Zoning Ordinance, and will then schedule a Public Hearing and then send it to the Township for review and approval. The Township Board may also hold a Public Hearing, send it back to the Planning Commission for changes or approve as presented. Current Secretary of the Planning Commission, Matt Lang was thanked for his extraordinary job of working on the amendments and preparing them for review by the commission. Supervisor Doucette, along with Zoning Administrator McCarthy will be reviewing the format and will provide copies to the members for review prior to their next scheduled meeting.

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. The pickup truck had the oil changed and maintenance review. Everything checked out good. The smoke alarm was installed in the Community Building kitchen area, and the Heritage Trail dock was removed. The end rail will need repair or replacement in the Spring. David Walther Contracting submitted their invoice for payment.

Tri County Septic will schedule the final pump out of the restrooms for the winter maintenance. Ryan was reminded to do the water shut off at the cemetery. Trustee Carr and Chief King will look into securing plowing services for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall.

Fire Department/First Responders – Monthly reports have been received and are on file. There were 3 calls for the month. Chief King noted that Sanderson is working on the DOT's and the Au Train Pumper repair continues. There was a work session in Christmas on 9/26 and the Firehall and Storage building use was swapped.

Clerk Johnson noted that she never received an invitation from Superiorland Gas Company for propane prepayment purchase for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall. She will be contacting them as soon as possible to see if that option is still available.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Forest Lake Dam - Supervisor Doucette provided information to the Board on updates regarding the Forest Lake Dam license surrender. The Township Board will continue to update the process on the Townships website and Facebook page.

A Summary will be posted, with information on how to obtain access to the documents.

Bridge Jumping Ordinance 2020-001 After review and recommendations by Attorney Greg Murphy, the Ordinance was presented to the Board by Clerk Johnson.

It should be noted that the Michigan Department of Transportation requested the Ordinance so that they may place proper signage and apply for funding to insert safety measures at the Au Train River/State Highway M28 Bridge.

**AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP, ALGER COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE 2020-001**

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING FISHING, GATHERING, LOITERING, PARKING, CLIMBING, STANDING, DIVING, AND ANY OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY FROM OR ON THE BRIDGE LOCATED UPON STATE HIGHWAY M28 AT AU TRAIN RIVER, RAILROAD TRESTLE UPON STATE HIGHWAY M28 AT AU TRAIN RIVER, DOUCETTE BRIDGE ON AU TRAIN FOREST LAKE ROAD AND CAMERON BRIDGE ON AU TRAIN FOREST LAKE ROAD, AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP, ALGER COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

Motion made for approval by: Trustee Carr

Second: Trustee Miller

Ayes: Carr, Miller, Doucette, Cota, Johnson

Nays: None

Motion declared passed by the Au Train Township Supervisor.

By: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk

Date: October 12, 2020

Will appear for publication on: October 21, 2020 In the Munising News.

Speed Study Response - On August 10, 2020 the Township requested a Speed Study from the Michigan State Police on Reindeer Run. It was sent to the Alger County Road Commission, State of Michigan, MDOT, the Alger County Sheriff and USFS.

An official response was received by Sgt. Daniel Verlin from the Michigan State Police indicating that no speed studies are done on gravel/dirt roads as they are excluded from the Traffic Control Order Process and are covered under Michigan's Basic Speed Law, which is a 55 mph speed limit on gravel/dirt roads, which are generally self regulating based on the condition of the road.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Sign Placement Request - As presented under public comment, a request was received to place a sign at the beginning of Reindeer Run indicating that Paradise Point is closed. The USFS said they couldn't support the sign because Paradise Point is not closed, but road access is. They had no problem with indicating that the access road is closed. The Alger County Road Commission noted that they had no problem with it and that it could be placed on the Dead End sign. The Board took no action and referred them back to the Alger County Road Commission as the Township has no authority.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Audit Receipt - Clerk Johnson presented the final audit report to the Board for review prior to the Board meeting. Any recommendations from the report will be implemented by Treasurer Cota and Clerk Johnson.

MML Insurance Quote - Clerk Johnson presented the Insurance Proposal from the Michigan Municipal League providing coverage for the Township for the period of 10/22/20 through 10/21/21. The proposal covering the Township, including Fire Department, was \$20,042.00 with an additional \$200.00 membership fee. The cost for Worker's Compensation coverage will be billed separately. The cost breakdown for each fund will be provided upon approval of the Proposal.

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the Proposal from the Michigan Municipal League to provide insurance coverage for the Township for a one year period in the amount of \$20,242.00, which includes the \$200.00 membership fee. COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; CARR, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Quarterly Financial Review - Clerk Johnson presented Quarterly Financial Reports for all funds to be reviewed. Adjustments to the Budget will be presented in November and will include changes to the interest received from all checking accounts. Peoples State Bank reduced the percentage significantly that will affect the amount budgeted for each fund. In addition, any other necessary amendments will be presented at that time. The period will cover April 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

***PUBLIC COMMENT** - (8:00) The public comment call in period opened. There were public comments received regarding Reindeer Run. The public was reminded that the Township Board had no authority regarding the closure of the access road to Paradise Point.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:03 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk