

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
September 14, 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 3 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 August 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

\*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Trustee Carr, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. COTA, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16393 through #16406 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8446 through #8460 - Garbage Fund Checks Numbered #2071.)

\*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	133, 948.55
Deposits		17, 181.20
Interest		50. 91
Disbursements		13, 679.40
Total Checks Not Cleared		480. 00
Ending Balance	\$	137, 021.26

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	494, 029.79
Deposits		
Interest		192. 52
Disbursements		2, 424.44
Total Checks Not Cleared		230. 88
Ending Balance	\$	491, 566.99

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51, 158.72
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	170, 788.02
Deposits		
Interest		66. 00
Disbursements		11, 719.25
Ending Balance	\$	159, 134.77
ROAD FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	267, 552.66
Deposits		16, 711.73
Interest		107. 52
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	284, 371.91

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

Treasurer Cota noted that the 2020 Summer taxes are coming in regularly, and the last day to pay taxes is September 15, 2020, she will be holding office hours from 9:00-5:00 for in-person payments.

Treasurer Cota presented correspondence from a taxpayer requesting that the Township waive interest charged on their 2018 non-payment/past due taxes. They indicated that they never received a tax bill and that even though the County does send delinquent notices, they claim they didn't realize they were late. Because the County sends notices and the Board feels there is a personal responsibility to make sure taxes are paid on time, their request for waiver of penalties and interest was denied. It would set a precedence that the Board did not think was a good idea. Treasurer Cota will respond with the Boards decision.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson noted that she met with the Auditors on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. They were on site for 4 days. Things went well, they are now working on the report and will file our F65 Report with the state.

She met with the MML Worker's Comp Auditor on August 29<sup>th</sup> to go over payroll figures for the period 10/19/19 through 6/30/20. In addition, the application for the MML Insurance quote was completed and sent for a Proposal. The proposal will be available for review at the October Regular Board Meeting.

Clerk Johnson noted that prep for the November General Election has already begun. The State will be reimbursing the Township .55 cents per AV Return Envelope with funds obtained through the Federal CARES ACT. The Election Commission will need to meet prior to the October Board meeting for the appoint of Election Inspectors and establish dates for the Public Accuracy Test. Supplies are being ordered as needed. In addition to the .70 cents postage required for each outgoing Absent Voter Ballot, It was also noted that general Township postage is needed as well.

Three Cemetery lots were purchased and corresponding Deeds were prepared and mailed.

In conclusion, work with the assistance of Supervisor Doucette, was done for the Preliminary Bridge Ordinance and completion of a Hold Harmless Addendum for the Fire Protection Agreement was prepared.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize up to \$1,000.00 for postage purchase. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; CARR, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted that he visited the Highbanks Area along the Au Train River to check on the logging area, in addition to Perry Road. The logging is being administered by the USFS. Trustee Carr noted that he attended the August and September Planning Commission Meetings, contacted Trudell Plumbing and Heating to arrange for Winter Furnace checks and maintenance and attended the Fire Department Meeting on September 13, 2020.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. John MacIntyre contacted her regarding Reindeer Run and the closure of Paradise Point. He was referred to Charlie Marsh of the USFS. Kevin Lopez inquired about Reindeer Run. Also there was a report that 4-Wheelers are driving in the baseball field area. There hasn't been any destruction and it was of no concern at this time.

\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - The public comment period opened at 6:27 pm. Bonnies Syers noted that as a resident on Koski Road her vehicle is suffering damage because of the road condition. She is located approximately ½ mile down. Message have been left with the Road Commission as well and she would appreciate any assistance with getting the road upgraded. Supervisor Doucette will contact Bob Lindbeck and ask for grading. The current 5 Year Road Plan does not include any additional work on Koski Road at this time. Supervisor Doucette indicated that 4" of gravel was added to the road in 2018. It would cost approximately \$500,000 to pave the road, at a minimum, which is not in the current budget or plan.

#### \*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.

Quarterly review and Budget Amendments will be reviewed and made, if necessary, at the October Regular Board Meeting.

*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 September 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

*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. He noted that leaning trees have been taken down at the cemetery. The gates restricting access to the dune area behind the cemetery have been installed after being moved from the ballfield. In the Spring, gravel should be added to maintain the road access and help with weed control. The plow truck will be dropped off for an oil change and any additional routine maintenance. The Heritage Trail restrooms will be closed on September 26<sup>th</sup> and the dock removed shortly thereafter. A canoe race is being held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, so anytime after that is acceptable. Discussion regarding the replacement of the ceiling fans in the Community Building was made. They are old and inefficient.

*Fire Department/First Responders* – Monthly reports have been received and are on file. There were 2 calls for the month. Chief King noted that he is working with Pomasal on new truck specifications for future bids. Chief King also noted that the investment of the side by side was great as it has been used for handling calls on Grand Island.

The Alger County Sheriff Department donated their old water craft to the Department and it is very much appreciated.

Clerk Johnson presented a Hold Harmless Agreement as an Amendment to the Intergovernmental Fire Protection Agreement Dated January 1, 2020 between Au Train Township and Grand Island Township. It was recommended through MML that a Hold Harmless Agreement be added to the previously approved Fire Protection Agreement with Grand Island Township.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Carr to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement as an amendment to the Intergovernmental Fire Protection Agreement Dated January 1, 2020 between Au Train Township and Grand Island Township, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**\*UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Garbage Contract* - Discussion regarding the current Waste Contract with Great American Disposal was made. It is currently a month to month contract after the expiration of the current contract on June 30, 2020. The current millage runs through the Winter 2021 collection. Clerk Rogers will contact them noting that we would like additional information before a decision is made as to whether or not we will put the contract out on bids. That would include monthly tonnage and weekly number of stops for both Summer and Winter (as these vary), dumpsters, if any the Township is being charged for, and the Cost of adding tipper cans for all residents.

*Fall Clean up* - The Fall Clean up is confirmed for September 26, 2020 at Wood Island Waste Management from 9:00-11:30 am.

*Blight Complaint* - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board and presented a time line for the Curtis Drive Blight Complaint, originated in 2017. Initially it was being address by the County Building Codes Department as under building codes it was deemed uninhabitable. However, the Alger County Prosecuting Attorney noted that they will not enforce the complaint under the Townships Blight Ordinance. After discussion, Supervisor Doucette will turn the file over to our Zoning Administrator to start the notification of blight process from the Township.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

*Correspondence* - Clerk Johnson presented a permit application through the EGLE for the installation of a dock on Reindeer Run. This is for information purposes only as the State processes all applications and does not require Board approval.

*CUPPAD Membership* - Clerk Johnson presented the membership invoice from CUPPAD for Fiscal Year 10/1/20 through 9/30/21. They are a valuable resource for the Township.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Carr to continue with the CUPPAD membership, at a yearly cost of \$228.00. JOHNSON, YES; CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*L-4029 Tax Rate Request* - Clerk Johnson presented the Winter 2020 Tax Rate Request form from the Alger County Equalization Department for review and approval. With reference to and review of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budgets for each Department:

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize the collection of Winter 2020 taxes at the following rates as authorized for each Fund: General Fund .7069; Road Fund 2.0000; Fire Fund 3.0000; Waste (Garbage) Fund 2.0000. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; CARR, YES; MILLER, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Johnson will complete the form and submit to the Alger County Clerk and Equalization Departments. In addition, the completed form will be provided to each Board member to insert with their Budget file and Assessor Fuess.

*Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Audit* - Clerk Rogers presented Engagement Letters from Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC for review, approval and signatures. *Responsibilities Under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Understanding Services*. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to approve and sign the letters required for the completion of the 2019-2020 Audit through Anderson, Tackman and Company, PLC. MOTION CARRIED.

*Bridge Ordinance* - Clerk Johnson presented a draft Jumping from the Bridge Ordinance for review and discussion by the Board. After review and discussion, with recommended changes, it was decided that Clerk Johnson will submit to Attorney Murphy for review and present to the Board for consideration at the October Regular Board Meeting.

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - (7:51) 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 7:52 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk