

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
January 11, 2021
6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Au Train Township Board convened via Zoom, a digital media platform on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michelle Doucette, with the following members present: Mary Johnson, Clerk; Kristy Cota, Treasurer; Jake Miller, Trustee; and Tom Balmes, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – No less than 6 persons logged on during the meeting period. The public was given the opportunity to join the meeting. Also present was Fire Chief Perry King, Assessor Cameron Fuess and Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

*MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16467 through #16483 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8526 through #8534 - Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2077.)

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	112741.51
Deposits		38066.12
Interest		14.89
Disbursements		13325.78
Total Checks Not Cleared		489.52
Ending Balance	\$	137007.22

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	465266.88
Deposits		47743.20
Interest		60.79
Disbursements		8915.03
Total Checks Not Cleared		4238.25
Ending Balance	\$	499917.59

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51299.02
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 125467.13
Deposits	31828.36
Interest	16.94
Disbursements	11719.25
Ending Balance	\$ 145593.18
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$ 286588.28
Deposits	31828.36
Interest	36.76
Disbursements	96065.84
Ending Balance	\$ 222387.56

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

Treasurer Cota noted that the 2020 Winter Tax payments are coming in steady. The next Treasurer in person office hours are scheduled for January 23, 2021 from 11:00-2:00.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided the Board with updated activities over the past month, which include trying once again to cancel the Credit Card issued through Peoples State Bank that was never activated once we opted to go with Debit Cards instead. An unauthorized charge from Microsoft was allowed for the previous Treasurer. Ballot language for the Garbage Fund and Road Fund accounts was prepared for consideration and W2 and 1099 supplies have been ordered to be issued by the end of the month.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted that he had some constituent questions on vacation rentals, shipping containers and the vacation rental CUP moratorium authorized by the Board last month. Trustee Balmes noted he has concerns from a property owner regarding the CUP that was scheduled on their property, since withdrawn, without the property owner's acknowledgment. He wanted to make sure the process was addressed that included notification of any CUP Hearings to the property owner as well.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. She also noted that 3 residents have responded with electronic comments on the FERC Application for the Au Train River Basin. She plans to attend a ZOOM meeting on recycling in Alger County on January 19th at 6:00 pm, and a Safety Task Force Meeting hosted by the State, on January 13th at 10:00 am. Supervisor Doucette also noted she was approached about considering the installation of an ice rink at the playground and reported on the Zoom Meeting she attended with Attorney Murphy and Zoning Administrator McCarthy to discuss shipping containers. Correspondence was then prepared by Attorney Murphy providing his opinion on the matter.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

*COMMITTEE REPORTS - *Assessor/Board of Review* - (to accommodate Assessor Fuess additional meeting obligations, the agenda was amended to move up this portion of Committee Reports.)

A January Report has been received and is on file.

Designated Assessor Agreement with Alger County - Clerk Rogers received a request from the Alger County Clerk to review and commit to a Interlocal Agreement for Alger County to Approve the Designated Assessor for the period 1/1/21 through 12/31/26. Upon receipt it was forwarded to Board Members and Assessor Fuess for review.

The Agreement would propose that Dulcee Ranta would serve as the Designated Assessor the assessing districts within the County. The agreement is required by law. If the Designated Assessor process is invoked, the parties would agree that Ms. Ranta would perform the duties as assessor of record for an assessing district. Assessor Fuess noted that the agreement language was standard and that Ms. Ranta is trustworthy, capable and pays attention to detail. The Township is in good standing with the State, but if this service was needed, he would have no problem with Ms. Ranta serving as assessor of record for Au Train Township. Additional details of the agreement, including compensation, is on file with Clerk Johnson and the Alger County Clerk.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to approve and enter into the Interlocal Agreement for Alger County to Approve the Designated Assessor for the period 1/1/21 through 12/31/26 as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion regarding Headlee Rollbacks in relation to Township millage proposals was made and explained to the Board as we will consider whether to include ballot questions for millage proposals for the Garbage Fund and Road Fund as part of the May, 2021 Election.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - None

*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 provided his report to the Board prior to the meeting. He was also present and provided additional information regarding the shipping containers located within the Township after meeting with Attorney Murphy. Attorney Murphy's opinion was provided to the Board prior to the meeting by Supervisor Doucette. After much discussion, the Board requested that action on enforcement be delayed as the Planning Commission will further review the matter as they finalize the Zoning Ordinance Amendments.

Discussion regarding upcoming Planning Commission and ZBA Meetings was made. The Planning Commission planned to meet on January 21st and will establish a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2021. The Zoning Board of Appeals should have one organization meeting scheduled.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther provided a department report via text during the meeting.

Fire Department/First Responders – Clerk Johnson noted that there needs to be an appointment of the Fire Chief for 2021. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Balmes to appoint Perry King as Fire Chief for 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

The Fire Department report is on file and orally given by Chief King. In addition, information on the Fire Truck purchase was provided to the Board for consideration. Chief King indicated he and members of the Department have been working on specifications for months and is now confident in the design, manufacturer and specifications. Three quotes were received as follows: Pomasal/Pierce \$395,239.00; Jerry C Lee Co. \$399,895.00; McQueen Emergency Services, \$405,622.00.

Chief King noted it was a clone of the Peterbuilt Truck in Christmas with a cab change and cascade system added to better suit their needs. There will be a 11 to 12 month delivery date estimate and payment due in full upon delivery. A entire specification binder with photos just arrived from Pomasal for Chief King to review and confirm.

After continued discussion and review, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to proceed with the Fire Truck purchase with Fire Apparatus & Equipment, Inc. (Pomasal) and enter into a purchase agreement in the amount of \$395,239.00, with a \$100,000.00 down payment upon execution of the agreement. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

*NEW BUSINESS

Millage Proposals - Clerk Rogers presented proposals for the Garbage Fund and Road Fund millage for consideration and placement on the May Election Ballot. Both Fund millages expire after the December, 2021 Tax Collection. Renewal of the millages prior to their expiration would allow them to be subject to Headlee Rollbacks. However, as indicated by Assessor Fuess during the earlier discussion, that would most likely have minimal affect on the revenue, as that would mean the Township's Taxable Valuation increased. The County is having an election and by placing the proposals now it would allow cost share of the election, but not absolutely necessary as there will be an election in May of 2021 regardless. As discussion continued, there was no Board action as it was decided there was no advantage to placing the renewals now rather than just waiting until the Primary Election in 2022.

Appoint Board Members to the Board of Review -After recommendation by Supervisor Doucette, MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Trustee Miller to appoint the following to continue as members of the Board of Review, Millard "Duke" Fillmore, Donna Shields, and Kristy Drake through December 31, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

Resignation Planning Commission Member - Supervisor Doucette indicated that she received a letter of resignation from Planning Commission Member and Chair Scott LaCombe. MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Clerk Johnson to accept the Resignation of Planning Commission Member Scott LaCombe and thank him for his long term service as a member. MOTION CARRIED.

Appointment Planning Commission Member - Supervisor Doucette noted that she contacted previous Board Member Representative on the Planning Commission to see if he was interested in the opening. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to appoint John Carr to the Planning Commission, serving a two year term. It was discussed that Mr. Carr's previous experience on the commission and work on the current Zoning Ordinance amendments was valuable and so important for the process to continue. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Perry King, Jerry Doucette County Commissioner/Chair who provided a brief update on County Board activities, Tom Balmes, John Carr, and Michelle Doucette.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:38 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk