

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 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 Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy, Assessor Cameron Fuess, and Zoning Board Members Matt Lang and John Carr.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

*MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Clerk Johnson, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 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; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16484 through #16494 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8535 through #8545 - Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2078 and #2079).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of January 31, 2021

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	137007.22
Deposits		20491.73
Interest		17.29
Disbursements		15021.94
Total Checks Not Cleared		240.00
Ending Balance	\$	142254.30

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	499917.59
Deposits		63634.39
Interest		62.56
Disbursements		105103.45
Total Checks Not Cleared		129.30
Ending Balance	\$	458381.79

Certificate of Deposit	\$	51299.02
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	145593.18
Deposits		42422.47
Interest		18.95
Disbursements		11719.25
Ending Balance	\$	176315.35

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	222387.56
Deposits		42422.47
Interest		29.56
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	264839.59

*A Complete copy of the January 31, 2021 Report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that she continues to receive Winter Tax payments steadily. On March 1st she will be at the office from 9:00-5:00 to accept payments in person. An additional grant was received from the American Endowment Foundation and a rent check for 2021 from AA.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided the Board with updates on two FOIA requests, completed and mailed w2's and 1099's, finishing required Continuing Education with the State Elections Bureau, and completed the required Election Random Audit for the Township. The next few weeks will be spent preparing for Budget Workshop meetings on February 15th and 22nd.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted that he had inquiries regarding vacation rentals, did some firehall cleanup preparing for the Health Department walk through, and plans on attending the February 18th Planning Commission meeting, which is scheduled via Zoom.

Trustee Balmes noted that he had received inquiries regarding roads in the Township and discussion regarding state roads, county roads, local roads and undeveloped roads within the Township. In addition a brief discussion regarding GAD (our sanitation services contractor), tipper cans and collection services was made.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. She also noted that she met with LMAS Health Department and the Township passed their 5-year plumbing inspection. Updates on planning for March Board of Review meetings and all the mandated training requirements for members was made.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Matt Lang had comments regarding the Zoning Ordinance and previous discussions, and questioned enforcement policy regarding shipping containers.

This comment lead to a brief conversation regarding the Planning Commission revisiting the proposed amendments in the Zoning Ordinance to address shipping containers, vacation rentals, tiny homes and food trucks. Modern and newly defined terms will need to be considered.

John Carr also presented comments regarding enforcement of the current Zoning Ordinance.

***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. Strict monitoring of the funds will be made over the next 6 weeks as we finalize the current Fiscal Year.

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 on specific items within his report. The February 18, 2021 Planning Commission meeting will include a Public Hearing on a CUP request for a campground on Perch Lake Road.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Cameron Fuess provided an update to the board on recent activities, as this is a busy time for Assessing. Land Values were completed, Personal Property Statements, VA Exemptions, Qualified Exemptions and Notice of Assessment are all being addressed. The March Board of Review Meetings will have a "virtual" component that is being discussed with the State Tax Commission and the Michigan Townships Association.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther provided a department report via speaker phone call with Clerk Johnson during the meeting. The new ceiling fans in the Community Building have been installed. Also, discussion regarding the roof peak at the Clerk/Treasurer entrance was made. Ryan noted that the roof angle would need to be corrected to prevent the dangerous ice issues that are present on the sidewalk. Clerk Johnson noted that she posted a Caution Sign on the entrance door.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to authorize up to \$1,000.00 for building materials to correct the roof peak issue at the Clerk/Treasurer Office Entrance. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES; JOHNSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Department/First Responders – Fire Chief King presented his report to the Board noting that there were no calls for the past month. A leaf blower was purchased to assist in Forest Fires and the signed contract for the Fire Truck purchase with Pomasal was received.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Budget Workshop Meeting schedule was confirmed, and held via Zoom if necessary. February 15th at 5:00 pm for Road and Garbage Funds and February 22nd at 5:00 pm for Fire and Garbage Fund Accounts.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence - None

Amendment to Resolution 2019-001 (Rvsd) - Guidelines for Poverty Exemption

Guidelines Resolution for Poverty Exemption

The following are the 2020/2021 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions

FAMILY SIZE	FPL FOR 2020	FPL FOR 2021
1	\$12,490.00	\$12,760
2	\$16,910.00	\$17,240
3	\$21,330.00	\$21,720
4	\$25,750.00	\$26,200
5	\$30,170.00	\$31,800
6	\$34,590.00	\$37,400
Each Additional Person	add \$4,420 each	add \$5,600 each

The foregoing amendment to Resolution 2019-001 (Rvsd) offered by the Au Train Township Board Member Supervisor Doucette

and supported by the Au Train Township Board Member Treasurer Cota

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“Aye”: Doucette, Cota, Johnson, Miller, Balmes

“Nay”: None

The Au Train Township Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson 2/8/2021
Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk / Date

Resolution 2021-001

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PROTEST TO BOARD OF REVIEW IN WRITING

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, MCL 211.30(4) states that, when appealing to the Board of Review, “a nonresident taxpayer may file his or her appearance, protest, and papers in support of the protest by letter, and his or her personal appearance is not required”; and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.30(8) states that “The governing body of the township or city may authorize, by adoption of an ordinance or resolution, a resident taxpayer to file his or her protest before the board of review by letter without a personal appearance by the taxpayer or his or her agent. If that ordinance or resolution is adopted, the township or city shall include a statement notifying taxpayers of this option in each assessment notice under section 24c and on each notice or publication of the meeting of the board of review”; and

WHEREAS, under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.263a, a meeting of a public body may be held electronically through March 30, 2021, and “a public body may use technology to facilitate typed public comments during the meeting submitted by members of the public participating in the meeting that may be read to or shared with members of the public body and other participants to satisfy the requirement under this subsection that members of the public be heard by others during the electronic meeting and the requirement under section 3(5) that members of the public be permitted to address the electronic meeting”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to ease the burden on taxpayers, the assessor and the Board of Review, and to ensure that all taxpayers have an equal opportunity to be heard by the Board of Review, the Au Train Township Board hereby resolves, according to provisions of MCL 211.30(8) of the General Property Tax Act, that the Board of Review shall receive letters of protest regarding assessments from resident taxpayers from the first Tuesday in March until it adjourns from the public hearings for which it meets to hear such protests.

Letters from both residents and nonresidents may include those submitted by handwriting, typewriting, fax, email, text, and in a chat option provided by the Board of Review in an electronic meeting service.

All notices of assessment change and all advertisements of board of review meetings must include a statement that the resident taxpayers may protest by letter to the board.

The foregoing resolution offered by the Au Train Township Board Member Clerk Johnson

and supported by the Au Train Township Board Member Supervisor Doucette

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“Aye”: JOHNSON, DOUCETTE, BALMES, MILLER, COTA

“Nay”: NONE

The Au Train Township Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mary Walther Johnson 02/08/2021
Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk / Date

Appointment of Alternate to Board of Review - MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota to appoint Jerry Doucette as an Alternate Member of the Board of Review. MOTION CARRIED.

Comprehensive List Vacation Rentals - As discussed previously and as part of the Moratorium on Vacation Rentals approved by the Board on December 14, 2020 the following MOTION was offered.

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette, to authorize up to \$1,000.00 in costs to gather the information needed to prepare a comprehensive list of vacation rentals in the Township as called for in Resolution 2020-004 Moratorium on Vacation Rentals dated December 14, 2020. JOHNSON, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from John Carr, Mary Johnson, Jake Miller, Michelle Doucette and Tom Balmes.

*ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk