

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
August 11, 2014
6:30 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 6:30 p.m.

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

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 6 persons attended the Board Meeting. A complete sign up sheet is on file with Clerk Rogers.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions and Changes to the Agenda were made as necessary. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Clerk Rogers, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14604 through #14636- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7286 through #7299- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1553 AND #1554).

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None

*COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Clerk Rogers noted that the Zoning Administrators Report has been received and is on file. It was noted that Verizon will be doing some upgrades to the existing cell tower located on the top of Ridge Rd. Hill on State Highway M28. Supervisor Balmes also noted that they are considering a tower in the 16 Mile Lake area. It was suggested that the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall property might be a location to explore.

Discussion regarding a possible trailer park or campground in the Christmas area was made. Administrator Rogers had noted that it does meet Zoning requirements, but that County and State permits may also be required.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be August 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Assessor - The July Board of Review changes have been submitted and resolved.

Cemetery - Sexton Moore noted that there was one burial this past month. The Cemetery Committee will be holding their organization meeting on August 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m

Recreation - Clerk Rogers provided an update based on an email from Representative Frank Castiglione.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Trustee Doucette noted that the committee hasn't had a recent meeting. They did receive an adult rescue board and adult life jacket. Clerk Rogers will pick up a storage box at Menards this month for installation next Spring.

Discussion regarding Au Train River access and a possible solution to the personal property dispute at the second bridge was made. A location just north of the current site that has been used for access was discussed. It is located on Forestry Land about a 1/4 of a mile further down the river. Supervisor Balmes will start the discussion process with the Forestry.

Community Building/Promotion - The painting of the North wall of the storage building will be done by a Community Service worker. Discussion regarding trash cans and dock removal for the Heritage Trail Project was also made. In addition, concerns regarding the porta potty at the playground were discussed. It is being trashed by someone and required extensive cleaning.

First Responders – Concerns again regarding call outs for our First Responders were reported to Commissioner Doucette. He called right away and it appears that our radios were set on the wrong frequency. The calls are working now over the fire radios.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were two calls this past month. Chief King noted that he completed his education courses and provided the Completion Certificates to Clerk Rogers.

On August 18, 2014, the Department will be hosting the Alger County Chiefs Association Meeting at the Christmas Fire Hall.

Clerk Rogers noted that the Fire Millage that was requested on the August Primary Election ballot was approved by voters 138 Yes to 63 No.

Grant Administration - Clerk Rogers noted that Kathy Reynolds would not be attending the meeting tonight, but updated the Board on recent grant applications. One of the grants, with the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians requires a Motion.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to apply for a 2% Funding Grant with the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, through the Alger County Chamber of Commerce, for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion regarding a possible visit to the site by the Department of Natural Resources, the need for security cameras on site, current uses and abuses of the dock system and a grand opening, ribbon cutting ceremony was made.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Doucette provided updates to the Board on happenings of the Alger County Board for the past month. They are working on their Administrative Leave Policy, Ordinance Review, establishment of Veterans Court, an increase in Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance rates, and the completion of a 2 year propane supply contract with Bowman Gas Company.

Commissioner Doucette also discussed the possibility of Regional Government Meetings. This would give local elected officials the opportunity to get together to discuss concerns and cooperative opportunities. Clerk Rogers suggested that Au Train Township would be happy to host such a meeting.

Finally, Commission Doucette provided an update regarding the Alger Jail Project, and the loss of the Department of Human Services as a tenant at the courthouse. The 911 Millage Question, however, did pass Countywide.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

**TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of July 31, 2014, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer*

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 80,715.38
Deposits	3,130.00
Interest	1.89
Disbursements	37,259.17
Ending Balance	\$ 46,588.10

Certificates of Deposit	\$ 63,569.36
	31,241.69

Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 94,811.05
-------------------------------	--------------

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$316,045.10
Deposits	
Interest	10.45
Disbursements	6,771.55
Ending Balance	\$309,824.00

Certificate of Deposit	\$ 50,000.00
------------------------	--------------

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$149,266.39
Deposits	
Interest	4.77
Disbursements	11,212.97
Ending Balance	\$138,058.19

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$187,439.39
Deposits	
Interest	6.21
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$187,445.60

*A Complete copy of the July 31, 2014 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that the turnout for the Primary Election was very low and at approximately 18%. Everything, however, went well with the Election Inspectors and equipment. Clerk Rogers noted as well, that the millage request for the General Fund did not pass, 94 Yes to 103 No.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended meeting during the past month and wondered if Commissioner Doucette had heard of the next meeting date for the Wildfire Protection Plan. The blight area in Christmas continues to make progress on clean up. Supervisor Balmes also noted that he will be meeting with MDOT to confirm the location of the Rip Current Warning signs along the beach.

Supervisor Balmes presented information to the Board regarding a recent selection as a Community of Destination program. They would like to come into the area and film and then distribute the footage to media outlets. They are asking for a \$19,800 contribution from the Township for the project. Supervisor Balmes might suggest to Alger County as a community and look for funding through the Alger County Chamber of Commerce.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Review 5 Year Road Plan - Additional review and discussion regarding the 5 Year Road Plan was made. Supervisor Balmes will invite Alger County Road Commission Engineer/Manager Bob Lindbeck to the September Board meeting to discuss and plan for the 2015 Road Projects.

General Fund Millage Resolution -

**AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MILLAGE BALLOT LANGUAGE**

Au Train Township, Alger County
Resolution Number 14-007
August 11, 2014

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Au Train Township wishes to provide general services to the residents; and

WHEREAS, townships may provide general services, as authorized by the Michigan Constitution of 1963; and

WHEREAS, townships may impose and levy ad valorem property taxes to finance lawful public services, as authorized by Article 9, Section 6, Michigan Constitution of 1963 and other laws; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Au Train Township wishes to levy 1.0 mills, for Ten (10) years to finance general operations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Au Train Township, Alger County, approves the following millage ballot question language and directs the Clerk to submit it to be placed on the November 4, 2014 General Election ballot:

GENERAL SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF AU TRAIN,
COUNTY OF ALGER.

"Shall Au Train Township impose an increase of up to 1 mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for Five (5) years, 2014 to 2018, inclusive, for general operating services, which 1-mill increase will raise an estimated \$65,210.52 in the year 2014, the first year the millage is levied".

The foregoing Resolution offered by Board Member: Clerk Rogers

Second offered by Board Member: Treasurer Clapp

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": Rogers, Clapp, Doucette, Balmes

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. _____

Mary F. Rogers, Au Train Township Clerk

***NEW BUSINESS**

Bowman Gas Pre-purchase

Clerk Rogers presented information to the Board regarding a pre-purchase opportunity for propane gas for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall with Bowman Gas Company at a rate of \$2.08. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Doucette, to prepurchase the maximum allowable amount of propane from Bowman Gas Company at a rate of \$2.08 per gallon. BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Additional Comments were received from Michelle Doucette.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:51 pm.

Submitted by: Mary F. Rogers, Au Train Township Clerk