

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
December 8, 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 Kristy Cota, Trustee. Absent: Michelle Doucette, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 12 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 Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14718 through #14740 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7349 through #7382- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1561).

*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. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is December 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm, which is a rescheduled meeting from November. Discussion regarding conditional use permits, vacation rental and subdivision covenants was made.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold an organizational meeting in 2015, to appoint a chair and review procedures.

Assessor - December Board of Review will be held on December 9, 2014 from 2:00-5:00 pm. It will address corrections, qualified errors, and the veterans and poverty exemptions.

Cemetery - Discussion regarding the reoccurring electric bill even though the light is off was made. It was determined to be a customer charge.

Recreation - Clerk Rogers provided an update based on an email from Representative Frank Castiglione and APRD Director Deb Fulcher. Frank has resigned from his position as Township Representative on the APRD Board, due to health reasons. Mr. Castiglione's resignation was accepted by the Township Board, who thanked him for his years of service.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - No report

Community Building/Promotion - Clerk Rogers noted that the "free" cable service to the Community Building was discontinued by Charter and it doesn't appear to be necessary to continue at the this for a fee.

First Responders – Treasurer Clapp noted that it was a quiet month. New batteries and pads were purchased for the AED.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were two calls this past month. A downed power line and traffic support for the Alger County Sheriff Department.

Chief King noted that there have been 23 incident calls, year to date.

The donated Rescue Rig is here and in the hall. They plan to wait until spring to get it set up. Discussion regarding the installation of repeaters at the Au Train Fire Hall and 16 Mile Lake Hall were made. The total cost would be approximately \$3,500, as previously quoted by EI-Com.

Discussion regarding The Fire Chief position and whether there is a need for elections this year was made. No other member of the department has stepped forward asking to be considered for the position. The Township Board will need to make a formal appointment at the January Board Meeting.

Grant Administration - Clerk Rogers provided an update on the project and grant applications that have been submitted on behalf of the Township by Kathy Reynolds. The \$25,000 grant request to the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians was denied again. Ms. Reynolds will continue to apply for grants on behalf of the Township. Clerk Rogers is preparing the final submission for payment from the State on the project. The only thing left to do at this point is the installation of the signs. \$3,000.00 was withheld from final payment for that.

Discussion regarding the snowmobile trail and grooming concerns was made.

County Commission Update - No update provided as Mr. Doucette is out of town. Clerk Rogers did note that the electric rate increase proposed by UPPCO is on hold until at least March 1st, 2015.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

**TREASURER'S REPORT* - For the Month of November 30, 2014, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$185,995.17
Deposits	3,600.00
Interest	2.82
Disbursements	64,516.68
Ending Balance	\$125,081.20

Certificates of Deposit	\$ 63,569.36
	31,241.69

Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 94,811.05
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FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 92,643.13
Deposits	
Interest	1.54
Disbursements	15,835.16
Ending Balance	\$ 76,809.51

Certificate of Deposit	\$ 50,074.80
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$107,223.88
Deposits	
Interest	2.04
Disbursements	

Ending Balance	\$107,225.92
ROAD FUND CHECKING	
Beginning Balance	\$189,305.67
Deposits	
Interest	3.13
Disbursements	128,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 61,308.80

*A Complete copy of the November 30, 2014 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

Treasurer Clapp noted that the Certificates of Deposit for the General Fund Account will be cashed in and deposited on their respective maturity dates.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers also noted that she will begin work on the year end reports for tax purposes, W2's and 1099 for employees. In addition, discussion regarding issues with the IRS and Michigan UIA was made.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended meetings during the past month. There have been no blight complaints. The Emergency information for the New World Energies (UP Hydro) have been updated.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Generator Purchase - 16 Mile Lake and Christmas Fire Halls. An additional bid for the generator project has been received. Superior Electric bid \$7,400 for Christmas and \$7,650 for 16 Mile Lake. Code Electric bid \$7,900 for each hall. After further review and discussion, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota to contract with Superior Electric for the purchase and installation of generators for the Christmas Fire Hall and 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall, at a cost of \$7,400.00 and \$7,650.00 respectively. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*NEW BUSINESS

Board of Review Appointments - Supervisor Balmes noted that appointment of members to the Board of Review is required. They would be 2 year appointments. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers to appoint Judith Holloway, Millard "Duke" Fillmore and Lonny Church to the Board of Review. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to appoint Patrick Syers as an alternate member to the Board of Review. MOTION CARRIED.

MTA Board of Review Training - Supervisor Balmes presented information to the Board regarding upcoming training being offered by the MTA for Board of Review members. He will check to see who might want to attend and report back to the Board at the January meeting for approval.

2015 Meeting Dates - MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, that the Au Train Township Board will meeting on the following dates which are Mondays, at 6:30 pm for 2015. *January 12, February 9, February 16 and February 23, as Budget Workshops, which will start at 6:00 pm., March 9, which will include the Budget Public Hearing, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9 and December 14.* MOTION CARRIED.

Member Appointment to the Alger Parks and Recreation Department Board - Clerk Rogers noted that because of the resignation of Frank Castiglione from the APRD Board, the Board will need to make an appointment as their member representative. Clerk Rogers noted that Trustee Doucette started that she would serve, and Trustee Cota noted she would be an alternate if needed.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to appointment Trustee Michelle Doucette as the Township Representative on the Alger Parks and Recreation Department Board. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to pay \$25.00 per meeting to the APRD Member Representative. COTA, YES; BALMES, YES, CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Summer Tax Collection - Contracted Services - It was noted that the Au Train Township Treasurer has offered tax collection services to MRESA and Munising Public Schools, in the past as a contracted service and would like to continue in that capacity. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, that the Board hereby authorizes the Township Treasurer to provide Summer Tax Collection Services for MRESA and Munising Public Schools and receive additional compensation for the contracted services, billed to the agencies. MOTION CARRIED.

2% Funding Receipt - Clerk Rogers noted that the 2% Funding, in the amount of \$3,500.00 has been received for the quarter from the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to deposit the funding in the General Fund Account. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - AJ Schierschmidt pointed out that the Fire Department wages, as approved tonight, did not include any meetings pay. Chief King apologized for his error and will provide the needed information to the Clerk within the week. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to authorize payment for Fire Department Meetings for 2014. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:53 pm.

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