

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
February 10, 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; Kristy Cota, Trustee and Michelle Doucette, Trustee.

\*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 13 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 Clerk Rogers, to approve the Agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**\*MINUTES**

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**\*BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Treasurer Clapp, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14457 through #14478- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7197 through #7209- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1543 and #1544).

**\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Margo Kessel (Margo's Cove) presented information to the Board regarding a Sign Replacement Project the Christmas Civic Association would like funded. It would include the replacement of the two "Welcome to Christmas" signs along Highway M28. The Board explained that if they were to fund the Project it would be subject to bid requirements. The Board will be beginning the Budget process for the next fiscal year and would consider their request at that time

UP Engineers and Architects, Pat Coleman, presented information on the Bids that were opened this afternoon for the Heritage Trail Project. A total of four bids were received. The low bid of \$424,700.00, from Cross General Contracting, was still well over the projected costs. Mr. Coleman noted that should the Township agree, they would work with Cross General Contracting and see about bringing the bid within costs.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to authorize UP Engineers and Architects to work on behalf of the Township with Cross General Contracting to negotiate with and amend the contract to get it within budget. MOTION CARRIED. A meeting will be set to begin the process, a member of the Township Board will be present during negotiations, along with Kathy Reynolds.

**\*COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA* - Clerk Rogers indicated that the Zoning Administrators report has been received and is on file. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on February 13, 2014, at 7 pm.

Clerk Rogers noted that long time Zoning Board of Appeals member Bill Mercier passed away. Supervisor Balmes noted that he would contact ZBA Alternate, Patrick Syers, to see if he would be interested in an appointment.

*Assessor* - Supervisor Balmes reported that the meeting dates for the March Board of Review are March 4 from 2-5:00 pm., March 10 from 9-3:00 pm., and March 13 from 3-9:00 pm. It was noted that Mr. Mercier also served on the Board of Review. Supervisor Balmes will confirm that alternate member, Duke Fillmore, would be able to serve for March. In addition, Supervisor Balmes will see if Mr. Fillmore is interested in the position as a formal member appointment.

The Township Board also formally thanked Mr. Mercier and recognized his many years of service to the Township.

Clerk Rogers also presented information to the Board from Assessor Maki regarding a reimbursement request, a budget wish list and contracted services for assessor help.

*Cemetery* - Clerk Rogers presented an email from Geo Metric Services. The final map was sent down for professional printing. In addition, an invoice will be generated for the balance of contracted services.

*Recreation* - No report. Discussion regarding member representative Frank Castiglione was made. Supervisor Balmes will be contacting him regarding the position and to see if he wants to continue, with the stipulation that the Board will need to be informed on a monthly basis of all activity relating to the APRD.

*Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee* - Minutes from the February 2014 meeting were provided. Trustee Doucette updated the Board on the application status for the NOAA grant. They are looking for an invitation into the full proposal stage. In addition, Trustee Doucette presented a sample sign for consideration regarding rip current awareness. Supervisor Balmes will contact and attempt to obtain approval from MDOT for their placement. The signs will be provided by the Michigan Sea Grant Division. Trustee Doucette noted that the presentation by Ron Kinnunen, of the Michigan Sea Grant Division, was very helpful to the committee.

*Community Building/Promotion* - Maintenance worker, Jeff Moore, noted that the insulation project was completed by K2 Construction. They did a great job cleaning up after the project was complete. Final payment of \$1,886.75 will be made.

Treasurer Clapp noted that Liz Coyne will be making a presentation on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, using the community building.

*First Responders* – Treasurer Clapp noted that it was quiet this past month.

*Fire Department* – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were no calls for the month of January. 3 members attended the ice rescue training in Gladstone. There are currently 3 members attending the Fire Fighter I Training classes. The meth training classes presented by UPSET was very well attended. Chief King also noted that the Officers will remain the same at this time. Discussion regarding upcoming maintenance checks for vehicles in March, Officer Training classes in Iron Mountain, and the possibility of obtaining Trenary's old rescue rig was made.

*Grant Administration (MNRTF)* - Kathy Reynolds updated the Board regarding recent activities. She noted that she applied for another UPPCO Grant in the amount of \$5,000. In addition, discussion regarding the 2% Gaming Funds and allocation toward the project was made. She is looking at putting together a committee this spring to look at what types of documents, presentations, etc will be part of the Interpretative Center

*County Commission Update* - Jerry Doucette provided information to the Board on activities of the County Commission for the past month. The Budget has been finalized, being down \$68,000 from the previous year. Discussion regarding the County Wide paging system and bids from El Com and Anderson Communications was made. In addition, Mr. Doucette provided information regarding the Federal Officer in the area and the number of complaints received within the County. Concerns over the number of Meth Labs within the county was discussed, along with praise from UPSET in their handling of the matters. And finally, discussion regarding the Forest Lake Dam Project was made. With concerns over compliance, flooding and FERC's relationship was made.

\*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 60,067.84
Deposits	12,294.17
Interest	2.50
Disbursements	16,215.67
Ending Balance	\$ 56,148.89
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 63,474.41
	31,195.03
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 94,669.44

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$288,165.53
Deposits	38,806.37
Interest	12.64
Disbursements	33,587.53
Ending Balance	\$293,397.01

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$127,733.09
Deposits	26,410.37
Interest	5.76
Disbursements	10,692.97
Ending Balance	\$143,456.25

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$113,949.59
Deposits	25,776.16
Interest	5.29
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$139,731.04

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

*CLERK'S REPORT*

Clerk Rogers noted that she would finalized and sent out the W2's and 1099's for 2013. In addition, Budget prep work for all funds is just about complete to begin work on the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget at the upcoming scheduled workshops.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT*

Supervisor Balmes noted that he contacted the Alger County Sheriff Department regarding call outs on accidents. They noted that it is a judgement call as to when and if the Fire Department is called out. Supervisor Balmes also noted that Bob Lindbeck, of the ACRC, secured grant funds through the Federal Land Access Program to complete more road work on Au Train Forest Lake Road. They will be looking to the Township for assistance in the 20% matching funds required for the grant. They also reviewed and discussed the Township 5 Year Road Plan.

## TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Trustee Doucette noted that she attended the Meth Lab Presentation by UPSET and attended the Lake Shore/River Committee Meeting.

### \*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mirabella vs. Au Train Township - Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended the recent hearing and noted that the Township was successful in a Summary Disposition. However, Mr. Mirabella did file an appeal to of the decision with Court of Appeals. Attorney Murphy indicated that it would be approximately one year before the matter is heard.

### \*NEW BUSINESS

Tobacco Free Parks - Clerk Rogers noted that further discussion of a possible Ordinance regarding Tobacco Free Parks and Recreation Areas will be tabled until April or May. At that time the Board can consider such an Ordinance.

### \*PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments were received from Ken Clapp and Jerry Doucette, who mentioned that Bob Lindbeck, of the Alger County Road Commission, was named Engineer of the Year.

### \*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:40 pm.

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