

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
January 13, 2014  
7:00 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 7:00 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 9 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 Trustee Doucette, second by Clerk Rogers, to approve the Agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

\*MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

\*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14432 through #14456- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7182 through #7196- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1542).

\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Steve Webber and Todd Brock, of the Alger County Sheriff's Department presented information to the Board regarding their desire to continue a partnership with the Township by providing additional law enforcement services under contract. The previous contract, for up to \$5,600.00 expired March of 2012. Deputy Brock provided a report showing activity within the Township. Discussion continued regarding response times, which agencies would be responding (Sheriff vs. the Michigan State Police) and how much funding is available for road patrols. The Township Board noted that they would consider a partnership and would look at funding available when they begin the 2014-2015 budget process next month.

\*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.

*Assessor* - Supervisor Balmes reported that the Board of Review met on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion about the Disabled Veterans Exemption and its impact on the Township was made, along with information for filing the paperwork to receive a Personal Property Tax Exemption. The deadline for the Personal Property Exemption paperwork is February 10, 2014.

*Cemetery* - Clerk Rogers presented the Cemetery mapping from Geo Metric Services. Discussion regarding the need to form a Cemetery Committee this Spring was made. In addition, such committee could be charged with reviewing the Cemetery Ordinance.

*Recreation* - No report.

*Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee* - Minutes from the January, 2014. Meeting were provided. Trustee Doucette updated the Board on the grant application status. Liz Coyne decided not to apply for Coastal Zone Management Grant this time around as our needs were not competitive enough. Michigan Tech applied for the NOAA grant, which would allow for community based outreach.

The Committee plans to focus on signage, erosion, installation of a life guard station, lakeshore habitat and the removal of the gate at the road side park this spring.

*Community Building/Promotion* - Maintenance worker, Jeff Moore, provided information to the Board regarding a recall received for the pickup/plow truck. He will be making arrangements to get that taken care of. In addition, the insulation work will be scheduled soon. Jeff will be contacting K2 to find out when we can expect the work to be done.

*First Responders* – Treasurer Clapp noted that there was one call this past month, a car accident.

*Fire Department* – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were 2 calls this past month. Information regarding traffic control and calls to respond by the Sheriff Department was made. Information regarding an Ice Rescue Training that will be held in Delta County was provided. At this time, 7 Department members plan to attend.

Supervisor Balmes provided results to the Board on the vote that was held within the Department for Fire Chief. Perry King received 13 votes and Jeff Moore received 4.

*Grant Administration (MNRTF)* - Kathy Reynolds updated the Board regarding recent activities. Ms. Reynolds noted that she finally heard back from Hiawatha Log Homes who offered a discount on a log home package, however, the dimensions are not what was called for in the bid specs. A Pre-bid Meeting will be held at the Community Building on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm. Bids are being called for a January 31, 2014 due date with a bid opening that day. All bid activities are being handled through U.P. Engineers and Architects.

*County Commission Update* - Jerry Doucette provided information to the Board on activities of the County Commission for the past month. Discussion regarding a hiring freeze (to keep employees at under 50) , 911 Commission, Administrative leave, and also the Veterans Relief Fund. Also, at a State Level, concerns over the elimination of phone land lines was discussed. Companies don't want to maintain the lines any more. At a Federal Level, it was noted that the 2 year Budget Extension, did not include PILT money.

\*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

\**TREASURER'S REPORT* - For the Month of December 31, 2013, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 26,918.71
Deposits	48,953.41
Interest	2.37
Disbursements	15,806.65
Ending Balance	\$ 60,067.84
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 63,474.41
	31,195.03
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 94,669.44

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$229,866.03
Deposits	66,181.42
Interest	14.71
Disbursements	8,455.97
Ending Balance	\$288,128.19

#### GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 93,861.62
Deposits	44,558.38
Interest	6.06
Disbursements	10,692.97
Ending Balance	\$127,733.09

#### ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 69,386.22
Deposits	44,558.38
Interest	4.99
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$113,949.59

\*A Complete copy of the December 31, 2013 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

#### *CLERK'S REPORT*

Clerk Rogers noted that she would be preparing W2's and 1099's for mail out by January 31, 2014. In addition work on the Budget prep will begin for the February workshops.

#### *SUPERVISOR'S REPORT*

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended the December Board of Review. At this time, himself and Board member Jude Holloway would like to attend the Board of Review training by the Michigan Townships Association on February 12<sup>th</sup>, in Escanaba. They would also like to purchase new books.

#### *TRUSTEE'S REPORT*

Trustee Doucette indicated that she received a request to give a sign for Posio Drive to Nancy Kinnunen if not needed by the Board. In addition, concerns over the lack of guardrails on Au Train Forest Lake Road as it meets the Au Train Lake area was noted. She was told that guardrails would not be put up until there is an accident in the area. Because the recent road work was under budget, it would appear that during the reconstruction and paving of the area, guardrails should have been installed. At this time a petition is being distributed asking for their installation.

#### *\*UNFINISHED BUSINESS*

Appointment of Fire Chief - After much discussion, and review of results of the vote of the Department, concerns over lack of training and the process for appointing a Fire Chief were debated. Assistant Fire Chief AJ Schierschmidt indicated that he would take over the position, if appointed by the Board.

Treasurer Clapp presented a Letter of Resignation from Fire Chief Jeff Moore. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to accept Jeff Moore's Resignation effective January 13, 2014. MOTION CARRIED. Supervisor Balmes thanked Chief Moore for his years of service to the Township.

Continued discussion regarding the minimum training expected of a Fire Chief was made.

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to appoint Perry King as Fire Chief, for 2014, effective immediately, which will include the standard 6 month probation period, at the pay rate previously established for the position. COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, ABSTAIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to require that Chief King complete the Officer Training, ICS 12- 78, within the 6 month probation period. MOTION CARRIED.

Summary Disposition - Mirabella vs. Au Train Township. Supervisor Balmes presented information to the Board regarding the recent hearing on the matter. The judge struck down Mirabella's arguments and is expected to sign the order on January 14, 2014. Mr. Mirabella would then have 21 days to appeal. At this time, attorney Murphy doesn't expect an appeal, as the Attorney for Mr. Mirabella is not recommending it.

Tom Passinault Personal Property Tax - Treasurer Clapp noted that a settlement had been reached regarding the payment of Personal Property Tax and the penalties and interest with Mr. Tom Passinault of Alger Septic Systems. The taxes were paid in full and a flat fee of \$1,500.00 was accepted for the penalties and interest.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

Board of Review Training - Clerk Rogers noted that prior authorization is not needed for the 2 members of the Board of Review to attending training in Escanaba sponsored by the Michigan Townships Association on February 12<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$79.00 each plus books, because the expenditure would be less than \$250.00.

Postage Purchase - Clerk Rogers and Treasurer Clapp noted that postage will be increasing again this month to .49 cents. A prepurchase of the Forever Postage is recommended.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to pre-purchase \$4,600.00 worth of postage from the U.S. Postal Service, because of the increase in 1<sup>st</sup> Class postage. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Grant Administration - Kathy Reynolds, as Director of the Alger County Chamber of Commerce, presented a proposal to the Board to continue to provide grant administration services. The proposal requests \$8,000.00 for 2014. The previous contract for services, for 2013, was in the amount of \$10,000. Clerk Rogers noted that it was an unexpected expense and would have to be reviewed during the Budget Workshops for the next fiscal year. At this time, the Board noted that they felt the \$10,000 paid in 2013 should see the administration until the end of the project, and would expect that Ms. Reynolds continue to assist the Board as needed.

**\*PUBLIC COMMENT**

Start at 9:15. No comments were received.

**\*ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:16 pm.

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