

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
June 9, 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 10 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 Trustee Cota, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

***MINUTES**

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 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; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14546 through #14575- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7257 through #7270- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1548 THROUGH #1550 - Road Fund Check Numbered #1004).

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Bob Nelson- 20 year resident of Christmas presented information to the Board regarding issues with their road. The recent ditching did not resolve the water coming into their driveway. Mr. Nelson wondered when could the project be done. An estimate was received from the Alger County Road Commission that would involve paving portions of North Pine and Pine Streets. The project cost would be \$58,210.00, with the Township share portion of \$50,705.00. Discussion regarding the Township 5 Year Road Plan and whether this project could be added, either this year or next. The Board made no commitment to the project, but plan to review it again at the July Board meeting.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Clerk Rogers noted that the Zoning Administrators Report has been received and is on file. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on June 12, 2014 at 7 pm. An update on the dog kennel located on Perch Lake Road was provided. A residential lease allowing the rental and the dog kennel was provided. It was dated 9/29/2002. It is the opinion of the Zoning Administrator that the use was allowed prior to current zoning by the Township. The Board discussed allowing the kennel to continue under a Non-Confirming Use Designation. This is not required of the property owner, however, the Board recommends that the Zoning Administrator request that they come in and apply for a non-forming use designation.

Supervisor Balmes noted that he spoke with the MTA regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals and they do recommend that the ZBA meet at least once per year, to review By-Laws and establish procedures of the Board. Supervisor Balmes will contact members of the ZBA and provide them with this information.

Assessor - Clerk Rogers presented a request for additional sub-contractor approval for the Assessor. As long as they remain in the budgeted amount, who the Assessor contracts with is of no concern to the Board. The July Board of Review has been scheduled for July 22nd from 2:00-5:00 pm.

Cemetery - It was noted that the new light has been installed. Also, there was one burial this past month.

Recreation - Supervisor Balmes noted the he received a report of graffiti damage at the tot lot in Christmas. The asphalt surface was painted with obscene language. Fire Chief King volunteered to seal coat the surface as soon as possible to cover up the graffiti.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Trustee Doucette provided information to the Board regarding their recent meeting with MDOT. They met on May 28th for 2-1/2 hours. Discussed goals and objectives of the committee, gate at the scenic turnout, pedestrian crossing signage, and bank erosion.

The NOAA Coastal Storm Grant was accepted in the amount of \$49,976.00. It will provide enhancement to the area. The Sea Grant will provide life saving equipment and rip current information signage.

Community Building/Promotion - The Township pickup truck repair was completed with Fox Negaunee in the amount of \$1,895.31.

Teri Grout of the Alger Conservation District will be holding an Invasive Species Workshop on June 11th.

First Responders – Discussion regarding the fact that the local First Responders are not being paged was discussed. County Commission Chair Jerry Doucette said he would discuss the matter with the Alger County Sheriff Department.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were 3 mutual aid calls this past month.

Clerk Rogers noted that no bids were received for the Christmas Fire Hall roof project. Will advertise again and extend the deadline until the July 14, 2014 Board Meeting. It was also noted that the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall hot water heater needs to be repaired or replaced.

Chief King noted that 6 face shields have surface cracks and should be replaced. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes to authorize up to \$400.00 for replace 6 face shields. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Turn out gear for Pat Syers needs to be replaced. MOTION by Treasurer Clapp, second by Supervisor Balmes, to authorize up to \$500.00 for the replacement of turn out gear. CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

The Rescue Rig from Trenary is available to the Township for use. The department was thinking it would be good to store the ice rescue equipment.

The Fire Chief noted that he continues to work on the Fire Chief classes and training and hopes to be complete by July 1, 2014. Clerk Rogers noted that his probation period runs through July 31, 2014.

Grant Administration - Kathy Reynolds was present. Color decisions for the cabin and pavilion were discussed and made. In the future, Clerk Rogers and Supervisor Balmes will make all decisions relating to the project regarding color options, materials, etc.

County Commission Update - Jerry Doucette provided information to the Board on activities of the County Commission for the past month. Mr. Doucette noted that the new generator has been installed and it is a much larger unit. It was provided from a grant. The County is starting the application process to obtain funds to build a new jail. They are seeking a 3.8 million dollar grant. They are considering the Industrial Park location in Munising Township.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - It was noted that the storage building in Christmas needs to be repaired. It should be utilized by the department but needs some repairs and upgrades first.

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 82,390.72
Deposits	13,514.17
Interest	1.78
Disbursements	9,642.33
Ending Balance	\$ 86,264.34

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	\$299,192.20
Deposits	24,611.22
Interest	6.56
Disbursements	3,150.45
Ending Balance	\$320,659.51

Certificate of Deposit	\$ 50,000.00
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$154,493.20
Deposits	16,211.27
Interest	3.33
Disbursements	10,692.97
Ending Balance	\$160,014.83

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$166,276.03
Deposits	38,334.01
Interest	4.10
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$204,614.14

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

Treasurer Clapp noted that the 100% Tax Fund monies have been received from the County for the 2013 Taxes and are reflected in the deposits noted above.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that the Audit for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 will begin the week of July 7th. Anderson, Tackman and Company will have auditors on site. In addition, the ballot for the August 5th Primary Election has been received and proofed.

The Election Commission (Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer) will need to meet in July. The meeting was scheduled for July 14th at 6:00 pm.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended the following meetings: LAPC Hazard Plan meeting, Fire Department, Wild Fire Protection Plan meeting, MDOT meeting and he also met with Alger County Road Commission Engineer/Manager Bob Lindbeck. Supervisor Balmes also noted that the Road Commission has their meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 4:00 pm. Information was provided regarding Sarisan 2nd Bridge River Access. Mr. Sarisan is apparently putting up a permanent fence barrier. Access to the river in that area will be lost.

The county list of foreclosed properties in the Township has been reviewed and the Supervisor is not making any recommendations to the Board to consider acquisition of the properties.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mirabella vs. Au Train Township - Information was provided to the Board regarding the appeal, time table and process. Supervisor Balmes will continue to meet with Attorney Murphy on the matter.

*NEW BUSINESS

Funding Request - ATHTP

Clerk Rogers presented a funding request from Cross General Contracting for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project (ATHTP) in the amount of \$9,900.00. Clerk Rogers noted that funding requests will continue to come in regularly and that the authorization cannot be put on hold until the next regular Board Meeting. Clerk Rogers is recommending that authorization for payments related to the project be approved as they come in.

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to authorize payment for funding requests for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project (ATHTP), with application for payment and certification as received after approval for payment is recommended by UP Engineers and Architects. COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Rogers noted that once we have met our match, the process for funding reimbursement can be made to the State.

MTA Regional Workshop in Marquette

Clerk Rogers noted that the Michigan Townships Association will be holding a Regional Education Workshop in Marquette on June 24th. Any Board member who would like to attend should let Clerk Rogers know so registration can be made.

Membership Approval - Michigan Townships Association

Clerk Rogers presented information to the Board regarding membership renewal with the Michigan Townships Association. They provide a valuable service and resource for the Township. MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Supervisor Balmes, to continue membership with the Michigan Townships Association, with annual dues being \$1,154.40. DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

ACRC North Pole/Pine Streets Proposal -

Discussion regarding the proposal from the Alger County Road Commission was made. No board action.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Comments were received from Pat Sanderson.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:40 pm.

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