

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
March 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 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 as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***MINUTES**

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

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2014, Budget Workshop. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014, Budget Workshop. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Trustee Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14479 through #14502- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7210 through #7223- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1545).

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

UP Engineers and Architects, Pat Coleman, presented information on the Bids for the Heritage Trailhead Project. After discussions and meeting with Cross Construction, a revised bid amount was negotiated to \$302,300, which is still \$12,119 over original construction budget of \$290,181. After continued discussion, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to accept the bid from Cross General Contracting in the amount of \$302,300.00 for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project. ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Bob Lindbeck, of the Alger County Road Commission, presented information to the Board regarding the Federal Lands Access Program. 3 projects within Alger County were awarded grant funds. The project within Au Train Township is for additional work on the Au Train Forest Lake Road. Work will begin at Buck Bay Road and extend north to Martin Road. Construction is planned for the Summer of 2015. Mr. Lindbeck and the Alger County Road Commission are looking for a commitment of matching funds from the Township toward the project. Matching funds will not be required or billed until 2015.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to commit to a local match of \$62,000 for the FLAP Grant Proposal with the Alger County Road Commission for the Au Train Forest Lake Road Project. BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board then reviewed 2014 Projects with the ACRC (already contracted for \$128,000.00) for the 16 Mile Lake Road Project. In addition future projects were discussed, along with other Road Improvement Projects within the County.

It was also noted that Mr. Lindbeck was named Engineer of the Year for the State of Michigan.

MBTN (Munising Bay Trail Network) Secretary and Volunteer Rhonda Lassila presented information to the Board regarding the recent grant they received. The next step of their project is to begin work for 11 miles of trail at Valley Spur. Mike Verhamme, also a member presented additional information to the Board. The group is looking for funds from the Township to assist in their matching funds grant requirements. Clerk Rogers noted that \$18,000 is budgeted for Recreation. The Board will consider a donation at the April Board Meeting.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - The next Planning Commission meeting will be on April 17, 2014 at 7 pm. Trustee Doucette noted that at their February meeting they continued to address and review goals and recommendations of the Master Plan.

Assessor - Supervisor Balmes reported that the Board of Review have held two meetings with their final meeting scheduled for March 13th from 3-9:00 pm.

Cemetery - Treasurer Clapp noted that the irrigation equipment for the cemetery has been received and will be installed as weather permits.

Recreation - No report. A decision regarding our partnership with the Alger Parks and Recreation Department will be addressed at the April Board Meeting.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Trustee Doucette presented information to the Board regarding the grant application status from Liz Coyne. They were invited to submit a full proposal for the grant and are requesting a letter of support from the Board. The request for matching funds will be considered if the grant is awarded. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to submit a letter of support for the NOAA Coastal Storms grant application, submitted by Michigan Technological University on behalf of the Alger Conservation District and Au Train Township. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Doucette also noted that a pollination workshop will be held at the Township Hall on March 19th at 6 pm.

Community Building/Promotion - Maintenance worker, Jeff Moore, indicated that there was a recent generator test and all tested well.

First Responders – Treasurer Clapp noted that there was one call this past month. New Responders in the Community were recognized. Codey Grahovac, Dan Weathers and Alex Grahovac.

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

There will be a county wide training at the Christmas Firehall on March 17th at 7:00 pm. Chief King also noted that he is planning to attend training on March 15th and 17th in Iron Mountain. Mike Sanderson will begin the Maintenance work on the trucks this month.

It was noted that member Jeff Moore will remain as the FEMA Officer at this time.

County Commission Update - Jerry Doucette provided information to the Board on activities of the County Commission for the past month. He recently attended meetings in Washington DC. There have been Freeze-ups within the county and they are seeking Emergency (FEMA) funds to cover the costs. Additional information was provided regarding Defense Contracts, Veterans Training, the possible airport land transfer and the sale of Upper Peninsula Power Company.

***PUBLIC COMMENTS - 8:10 pm - None**

**TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of February 28, 2014, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer*

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 56,148.89
Deposits	26,446.46
Interest	2.54
Disbursements	15,829.59
Ending Balance	\$ 66,768.30

Certificates of Deposit	\$ 63,474.41
	31,195.03

Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 94,669.44
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FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$293,397.01
Deposits	34,934.87
Interest	14.12
Disbursements	5,319.01
Ending Balance	\$323,029.99

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$143,456.25
Deposits	23,520.73
Interest	6.80
Disbursements	11,236.57
Ending Balance	\$155,747.21

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$139,731.04
Deposits	23,520.73
Interest	6.95
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$163,258.72

*A Complete copy of the February 28, 2014 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that she spent the past month preparing for the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget workshops.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended meeting for the LS/R Committee, Board of Review, and Fire Department. A meeting with MDOT will be scheduled to discuss projects and sign placement as recommended by the LS/R Committee. Discussion regarding Spring Clean-up Dates was made. Proposing May 31st or June 7th as possible dates. Supervisor Balmes also noted that he continues to work on Blight Complaints within the Township.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

None

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

General Fund Millage - Discussion regarding a possible General Fund Millage Proposal was made. The deadline to submit approved language to be placed on the August Primary Ballot is May 13th. In addition, discussion regarding the Fire Millage and the expiration date was made. It could be requested as a renewal of the millage. Clerk Rogers will prepare information for consideration at the April Regular Board Meeting.

County Commissioner Doucette noted that the County is looking at ½ mill request to fund 911 for the August Primary.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Appointment Board of Review Member - MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to appoint Millard "Duke" Fillmore, to full-time member of the Board of Review, effective immediately. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Treasurer Clapp, to appoint Patrick Syers, as the alternate member of the Board of Review. MOTION CARRIED.

Appointment Zoning Board of Appeals Member - MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to appoint Patrick Syers to the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Rogers noted that the Board is looking for an alternate member for the Zoning Board of Appeals if anyone is interested.

Budget Review/Approval - Clerk Rogers indicated that no public comments were received at the Budget Public Hearing.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to accept the Road Fund Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget as proposed, and authorize the collection of all allowable millage to support the fund. BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Treasurer Clapp, to accept the Garbage Fund Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget as proposed, and authorize the collection of all allowable millage to support the fund. BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to accept the Fire Fund Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget as proposed, and authorize the collection of all allowable millage to support the fund. BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to accept the General Fund Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget as proposed, and authorize the collection of all allowable millage to support the fund. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Future funding consideration from the General Fund will be given to the Munising Bay Trail Network, Christmas Civic Association, Alger County Sheriff Department and the Au Train Township Heritage Trailhead Project.

***PUBLIC COMMENT - 8:35 - None**

***ADJOURNMENT**

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

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