

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
November 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 and Michelle Doucette, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 5 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 Trustee Cota, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 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; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14682 through #14717- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7333 through #7348- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1560 - Road Fund Check Numbered #1006.)

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Gabriel Zawadzki of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) was present and provided information to the Board regarding his duties with MAC. He works on grant preparation for Counties and Townships and wanted to introduce himself and offer his services.

*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 November 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Assessor - December Board of Review will be held on December 9, 2014 from 2:00-5:00 pm.

Cemetery - No report

Recreation - Clerk Rogers provided an update based on an email from Representative Frank Castiglione. Review of the Agenda of the APRD was also made. Clerk Rogers noted that an invoice from the APRD has been received for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Approval of a 3-Year plan was already made.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Trustee Doucette noted that she is still waiting to hear from Guy Meadows from Michigan Tech regarding a Special Meeting to go over the details of the NOAA Coastal Grant.

Supervisor Balmes noted that he met with MDOT and installed the Rip Current information signs at the lakeshore.

Community Building/Promotion - No report

First Responders – Treasurer Clapp noted that it was a quiet month.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were two calls this past month. A downed power line and a structure fire. Mutual aide was provided for the structure fire.

The Christmas Fire Hall roof replacement is complete.

Discussion regarding the possible donation of the Range pagers to the Rock River Township Fire Department was made. Chief King noted that they are not being used by our department. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to donate the Range pagers to the Rock River Township Fire Department, so they can utilize them, with the number donated to be determined. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion regarding the purchase and installation of generators at the Christmas and 16 Mile Lake Fire Halls was made. Only one price quote so far has been received from Superior Electric of Marquette. There will be an attempt to obtain additional bids and the matter will be tabled until the December Regular 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 split rail fence has been installed by Cross General Contracting and they also finished up a few minor changes. Discussion regarding the snowmobile trail groomer right of way and partial removal of the dock system was also made.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Doucette provided updates to the Board on happenings of the Alger County Board for the past month. Included were discussion regarding the new ambulance being back in service, jail project planning, and labor contracts. Lengthy discussion regarding electrical rate concerns and decisions from the EPA that affect everyone in the Upper Peninsula. Mr. Doucette noted that they are working with the State and Federal Legislators to come up with a solution and avoid what would be astronomical increases in electric costs to residents and businesses in the Upper Peninsula.

Mr. Doucette also noted that a Transportation Bill will be looked at by the Michigan Legislator in the next month, with an anticipated plan including an increase in gasoline tax to fund the road improvement projects throughout the state.

Mr. Doucette was congratulated by the Board on his reelection to the Alger County Board.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - Public Comment was received by John Carr.

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$192,613.61
Deposits	19,986.56
Interest	2.44
Disbursements	26,607.44
Ending Balance	\$185,995.17
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 63,569.36
	31,241.69
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$ 94,811.05

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 93,612.92
Deposits	2,902.64
Interest	1.21
Disbursements	3,873.64
Ending Balance	\$ 92,643.13
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 50,074.80

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$116,565.08
Deposits	1,954.24
Interest	1.53
Disbursements	11,296.97
Ending Balance	\$107,223.88

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$187,349.13
Deposits	1,954.09
Interest	2.45
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$189,305.67

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

Treasurer Clapp noted that disbursement of the 2013 CFR was made in October and included in the deposits for each fund account.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that the General Election has a good turnout at approximately 42% and all was well on election day. The General Fund millage request failed again 268 NO - 201 Yes.

The state will be auditing one of the Townships for their election procedures and it came out today that Grand Island Township was randomly chosen from Alger County.

A recent inquiry for a lot spilt in a Platted Subdivision was made. Clerk Rogers noted that we have an Ordinance from 2004 and any request would come through the Township Board. It isn't the same as a Parcel Division, which is handled by the Assessor.

Clerk Rogers also noted that she spoke with Bob Lindbeck of the Alger County Road Commission and the matching funds approved by the Board for the Au Train Forest Lake Road Project may not be required. The project funds have been secured and may not require matching.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended meetings during the past month. The Fire Protection Plan Group had a meeting and may only require one more to finalize the plan. He also attended the Fire Department meeting, met with David Walther regarding the installation of trees at the ATHTP project and had discussion regarding the trail groomer.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Doucette noted that she received a rescue board and life jackets for placement at the beach next summer.

Also, discussion regarding the possible establishment of a brush drop off site was made, either on a Township or County level.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS*

Au Train River Access site - Supervisor Balmes noted that he met with Charlie Marsh of the USFS - Hiawatha National Forest regarding the possible access site off Au Train Forest Lake Road. It would also provide much needed parking. The plan will be sent to USFS Engineering with a goal of Spring, 2015 for a primitive road, parking, toilets and river access. Thank you to Len Clapp and William Atherton for all their work on the project.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence - Clerk Rogers noted that correspondence was received from the Friends of Valley Spur, looking for sponsorship and the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, also looking for support of their Christmas project. No Board action.

USDA Forest Service - Ball Field Permit - Information was provided regarding a request to renew the Special Use Permit (SF299) for the ballfield within the Township. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Treasurer Clapp, to renew the Special Use Permit for the ballfield. Clerk Rogers will submit the paperwork for the renewal.

Alger Conservation District - Clerk Rogers presented information to the Board regarding a letter of support for the Alger Conservation District and their Michigan Invasive Species Grant application. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to provide a letter of support for the Michigan Invasive Species Grant application by the Alger Conservation District. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - None

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:26 pm.

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