

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
October 13, 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 7 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 Cota, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14660 through #14681- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7317 through #7332- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1557 through #1559).

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Teri Grout of the Alger Conservation District presented information to the Board regarding services within the Township and to request a loan renewal and a contract for services.

Additional discussion was made regarding the River Mouth, management of the NOAA Coastal Management Grant and the Dune Restoration Project at the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to reduce the loan amount with the Alger Conservation District from \$4,000.00 to \$3,000.00, by converting \$1,000.00 of the loan to a Contract for Services, with an additional cash out payment of \$500.00. For a total amount of \$1,500.00 for the Contract for Services. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*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 - Discussion regarding upcoming December Board of Review was made.

Cemetery - The next meeting of the Cemetery Committee will be in January, 2015.

Recreation - Clerk Rogers provided an update based on an email from Representative Frank Castiglione. Review of the Agenda of the APRD was also made.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Trustee Doucette noted that the committee hasn't had a recent meeting, however, Guy Meadows of Michigan Tech, would like to attend a special meeting to go over the details of the recently award NOAA Coastal Grant.

Community Building/Promotion - No report

First Responders – Treasurer Clapp noted that had a couple of runs this past month.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There was one call this past month. Chief Perry noted that the repairs at the Christmas Fire Hall are almost complete. A pump test was recently conducted and both trucks passed. Turn out gear for Fire Fighter Syers has finally been received in the amount of \$1,382.84.

Presentation of a proposal from Trudell Plumbing and Heating was presented for the replacement of the hot water heater at the 16 Mile Lake Firehall. After review and discussion, MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to accept and proceed with the proposal from Trudell Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$2,150.00 for the 16 Mile Lake Firehall hot water heater, as presented, and authorize a down payment of \$1,290.00. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Only one bid for 16 Mile Lake Firehall plowing was received from Wilderness Recovery & Towing, in the amount of \$30.00 per time. MOTION by Clerk Rogers second by Trustee Doucette, to accept the proposal from Wilderness Recovery & Towing for plowing 2014-2015 Season at the 16 Mile Lake Firehall in the amount of \$30.00 per time. ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Grant Administration - Clerk Rogers noted a few final projects that need to be completed. Supervisor Balmes provided additional information and discussion regarding the split rail fence was made. Cross General Contracting did a fantastic job and everyone is very happy with the project. Clerk Rogers also presented a payment request from Cross requesting that the retainage of 10% be reduced to 5%, with so few items left to be done. Clerk Rogers noted the UP Engineers approved that reduction as well. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to reduce the retainage for Cross General Contracting to 5% for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project, as requested. ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - John Carr made recommendation regarding future bid solicitations so we might get a better response.

*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of September 30, 2014, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 49,634.81
Deposits	227,392.93
Interest	1.27
Disbursements	84,415.40
Ending Balance	\$192,613.61

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	\$151,277.56
Deposits	
Interest	1.81
Disbursements	57,666.45
Ending Balance	\$ 93,612.92

Certificate of Deposit	\$ 50,074.80
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GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$127,361.97
Deposits	
Interest	2.23
Disbursements	10,799.12
Ending Balance	\$116,565.08

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$187,451.97
Deposits	
Interest	3.31
Disbursements	106.15
Ending Balance	\$187,349.13

*A Complete copy of the September 30, 2014 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to cash in the CD's for the General Fund Account on their maturity dates, for a total amount of approximately \$94,811.05. MOTION CARRIED.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that over the past month she is preparing for the General Election of November 4, 2014, and continues the administration of the grant for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Project.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended meetings during the past month. The Fire Protection Plan meetings should be starting up again. Supervisor Balmes also noted that there are no blight issues at this time, including UP Pickers in Christmas, who continue to clean up their area.

Supervisor Balmes noted that the Alger County Road Commission meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 4:00 pm.

A meeting with Charlie Marsh, District Ranger, will be held on October 20 to discuss the possibility of an additional river access point and parking, near the second bridge, off Au Train Forest Lake Road.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - No report

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alger County Road Commission Contract - Clerk Rogers presented the Agreement with the ACRC for the Township 2015 Projects as discussed at the September Regular Board Meeting. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to accept the ACRC Agreement in the amount of \$176,050.00, with the Township share not to exceed \$140,025.00, as presented. ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

The project includes paving in Au Train Village, Christmas Village and gravel for Koski Road.

Planning Commission Bylaws - Trustee Doucette presented the proposed Bylaws from the Planning Commission to the Board for consideration. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to accept and approve the updated Planning Commission Bylaws, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Security System for the ATHTP - Information was provided to the Board regarding the costs related to a security system for the Au Train Township Heritage Trail. The costs will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Board action will be delayed until Spring, when a system could be properly installed.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Audit Report Presentation - Clerk Rogers presented the audit report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as prepared by Anderson, Tackman and Company. The Board noted its receipt and Clerk Rogers noted that if any members have questions after complete review, please contact her.

UIA - Discussion regarding recent changes in filing and fees related to the Unemployment Insurance Agency for the State of Michigan.

Internet Security - Discussion regarding the Network Security System for the internet at the Township Hall was made. Supervisor Balmes had wondered why a password was added, and that residents no longer had access. Clerk Rogers noted that a breach in the system would cause much concern for the Township, that the State requires secure access when working with the QVF (Qualified Voter File) and Treasurer Clapp noted that children were accessing the internet while at the playground, possibly gaining access to unacceptable sites. The password is available to Township Board members, and those requesting it while conducting Official Township business.

UPSET Funding Request - Clerk Rogers presented a funding request from UPSET. No Board action.

Insurance Review - Clerk Rogers presented the Insurance Review from Hannula Agency for the period October, 2014 thru October, 2015. The total cost, including the addition of the Heritage Trail Project, is \$15,914.00. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to accept the Insurance Proposal from Hannula Agency in the amount of \$15,914 (GF \$8,303 FF \$7,611) for the Michigan Par Plan Coverage for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, which does not include Worker's Comp. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

***PUBLIC COMMENT** - (9:15) - Comments from Margo Kessel of the Christmas Civic Association regarding their sign replacement project.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Doucette arrived and provided updates to the Board on happenings of the Alger County Board for the past month. Included were discussion regarding the Proposed EPA increased electrical costs, moving forward with the Alger County Jail Project, and general concerns on a county level.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:26 pm.

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