

Au Train Township Special Board Meeting
January 7, 2015
10:00 o'clock a.m.

The Au Train Township Board convened on an emergency basis, in the Community Building, AuTrain, Michigan, on the above date at 10:00 a.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tom Balmes with the following members present: Mary Rogers, Clerk; Ann Clapp, Treasurer; Kristy Albro, Trustee and Michelle Doucette, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 20 persons attended the meeting, including Jerry Doucette, Alger County Commissioner and resident, Lt. Don Brown of the Michigan State Police EMHSP, Alger County Emergency Coordinator Steve Webber and Deputy Sheila Graves.

It was reported that as of late Sunday, January 5th, water has been rapidly rising in the Au Train River. It appears as though an ice jam is the cause. Calls into the Supervisor were unanswered, so Clerk Rogers, began action on the Emergency Plan. Calls were made to Ron Rushton of MDOT, Jean Battles of the COE, and Kristi Wilson of the DEQ, along with Alger County Emergency Coordinator Steve Webber. Discussion regarding the status of our permits with MDOT and DEQ were made and extensions provided, when necessary. The COE was critical to the Township for allowing the permit to expire and specifically noted that any work done to alleviate the problem would be without a permit and unauthorized, however, if the conditions of the previous permit were followed, additional enforcement action was unlikely and may not include a fine.

Once Supervisor Balmes became aware of the situation he took over and met at the site, following up with all departments and agencies involved. Also, calls to citizens affected were made.

Deputy Webber and Lt. Don Brown explained the process to the Board and audience regarding the steps needed in order for the State to get involved. The Township must exhaust all local resources trying to resolve the problem. The number of persons affected was also discussed. At this time, the flooding is affecting homes, basements and property, but is not a life or death situation.

After continued discussion regarding the safety concerns trying to open the flow and much debate, Clerk Rogers suggested contact big excavation companies out of Marquette to see if they would be willing to try and open up the river. By contracting with them directly, the liability shifts to the Contractor who agrees to do the work.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to investigate the possibility of hiring a Contractor to open up the mouth of the river. Supervisor Balmes should make phone calls to contractors out of Marquette, to see if they can open up the mouth and what would be the associated costs involved. (Smith Construction, Oberstar, Associated Contractors, and A.Lindberg). MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment - A call for Public Comment was made. Comments were received by Carol Sipila, Connie Albro, Jesse Cadwell, Lou Eiseman, Lou Kustin and Jerry Doucette.

It was noted that if the flooding starts closing roads, it would amplify the situation.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to adjourn the workshop. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:19 a.m.

Submitted by:

Mary F. Rogers, AuTrain Township Clerk