

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
April 13, 2015
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 8 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 Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

***MINUTES**

MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 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; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14816 through #14841- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7444 through #7461- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1566).

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION - None**

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Clerk Rogers noted that the Zoning Administrators Report has been received and is on file. Discussion regarding the Conditional Use Permit for Wagener that was approved by the Planning Commission was made. Trustee Doucette noted that the next meeting of the Planning Commission will be June 11th at 7:00 pm.

Assessor - Correspondence from the Michigan Department of Treasury was presented to the Board. The Township Assessor has been chosen for an audit by the Department. Notification was sent to Assessor Maki so he can prepare.

Cemetery - Clerk Rogers noted that the Cemetery Committee met on March 23rd. The updated Ordinance, Rules and Regulations and software discussion will be presented under Old Business

Recreation - Discussion regarding the Dock Installation was made. Supervisor Balmes presented an estimate from Lakeside Services and Specialties to oversee and supervise the re-installation of the EZ Launch System at the Heritage Trail Project. The cost was estimated at \$1,500.00.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the estimate of \$1,500.00 from Lakeside Services and Specialties for the re-installation of the EZ Launch System. ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED. Supervisor Balmes will call them and make date arrangements.

Trustee Doucette presented information to the Board regarding activities of the Alger Parks and Recreation Department. A list of upcoming recreational opportunities was recently published in the Alger County Shopper. In addition, the current lease for the Central School Building was extended until 3/31/16. Two upcoming fundraisers include a Golf Tournament on July 18th and a Class Reunion Party that will be held on July 3rd. The Concert in the Park Series will resume on July 2nd. The next meeting of the APRD will be May 14th. Recreation Director, Deb Fulcher, requested to be placed on the May Agenda.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Committee Member Trustee Doucette noted an upcoming Great Lakes Water Safety Conference that will be held in Gaylord on Wednesday, May 6th, from 9:00-4:30 that she plans to attend.

Community Building/Promotion - Jeff Moore presented Tractor/Mower bids to the Board for consideration. 1. Michigan Sales - John Deere \$3,350.00. 2. Great Lakes Wood Products - Husqvarna \$3,399.95 3. Bergdahl's Sales and Equipment - Cub Cadet \$4,000.00.

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Treasurer Clapp, to accept the bid from Michigan Sales in the amount of \$3,350.00 for the purchase of a John Deere Tractor/Mower. CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion regarding the old mower was made. Clerk Rogers will place a notice accepting bids for it's sale in the Munising News. Bids will be accepted through May 11th.

Discussion regarding the interior painting at the Community Building. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to authorize Kristy Cota to paint the interior at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. The Township will purchase the paint and supplies. BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. Fire Chief King was not present as his mother just passed away. There were 3 fire calls for the month of March. The Altran Bus Garage fire on 3/4/15, a structure fire in Christmas on 3/12/15 and a chimney fire in Au Train on 3/22/15. Discussion regarding the updates to the old hall in Christmas was made. It was discussed replacing the building for storage rather than trying to bring it up to code. Additional information will be provided to the Board at the May Regular Board Meeting.

Grant Administration - Clerk Rogers noted that she is working on finalizing the project with UPEA and submitting for final approval and payment with the Department of Natural Resources.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Doucette updated the Board on recent happenings of the Alger County Board. Mr. Doucette noted that they are moving forward with the jail project. Bids have been received and will be reviewed. Discussion regarding the announcement of the closure of the Manistique Paper Mill was made. In addition, discussion regarding the Proposed Land Swap between the Michigan DNR and the Dam owned by Renewable World Energies at Forest Lake was made. The DNR hopes to acquire the land to create a 400 acre Game Preserve. Some of the land is located in Au Train Township. Additional information will be obtained before the Township Board can make any type of support recommendation.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of March 31, 2015, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	102,314.42
Deposits		63,120.17
Interest		2.49
Disbursements		60,951.81
Ending Balance	\$	104,677.73

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	310,854.06
Deposits		88,479.53
Interest		6.35
Disbursements		14,480.35
Ending Balance	\$	384,859.34

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,149.70

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	161,341.52
Deposits		20,425.52
Interest		3.33
Disbursements		11,064.97
Ending Balance	\$	170,705.40

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	157,678.11
Deposits		33,886.60
Interest		3.36
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	191,568.07

*A Complete copy of the March 31, 2015 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

*CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that she spent the past month working on the Cemetery Ordinance updates, reviewing software options, finalizing the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget and preparing for the May 5, 2015 Special Election.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he spoke with Attorney Greg Murphy and the hearing date for the matter of Mirabella vs. the Township Planning Commission before the Court of Appeals is May 12th at 10:00 am. Clerk Rogers noted she may try and attend.

Discussion regarding concerns from citizens about when the application of the Dust Control will be made. Supervisor Balmes noted that the Township provides a community wide application as soon as we are able. The Weight Restrictions on the Roads hasn't even been lifted yet by the Road Commission.

Discussion regarding the public access point to Lake Superior on the north side of North Pole Street in Christmas was made. A local property owner would like the Township to continue the blacktop through the access site and see the site improved. Supervisor Balmes noted that the Alger County Road Commission owns the property. The Board indicated that they would support the idea but offered no financial support for the project.

Discussion regarding the river access site on Au Train Forest Lake Road. Supervisor Balmes noted that he spoke with Charlie Marsh of the USFS and he noted that several departments would be involved in the project and that he didn't anticipate anything happening this year.

The street lights, as requested, on Highway M94 have been turned off.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Trustee Doucette noted that Teri Grout of the Alger Conservation District is looking for volunteers to help plant wildflower plugs at the Heritage site the week of May 9th.

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Au Train River Joint Permit Status - Supervisor Balmes noted that the Public Hearing Notice by the Army Corp of Engineers has been sent seeking online comments regarding the dredging project. Still waiting for the final approval.

Dust Control - After presentation and discussion regarding options for purchase for the Dust Control application, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to authorize up to \$20,000 through Liquid Calcium Chloride Sales, 38% at .726 per unit, for application of Dust Control. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*NEW BUSINESS

Old Town Hall Roof Project - Clerk Rogers noted that advertisement was placed in the Munising News and faxed bid solicitations were sent to local contractors.

One bid was received from Walther Construction in the amount of \$11,565.00 for the Old Town Hall Roof Project, as specified. MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to accept the bid in the amount of \$11,565.00 from Walther Construction for the Old Town Hall Roof Project. DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

16 Mile Lake Fire Hall Project - Clerk Rogers noted that one bid for the project was received from Walther Construction in the amount of \$3,454.00. MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to accept the bid in the amount of \$3,354.00 from Walther Construction for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall Project. COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Au Train Fire Hall Project - Clerk Rogers noted that one bid for the project was received from Walther Construction in the amount of \$23,377.00 for the Au Train Fire Hall Project, as specified. MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to accept the bid in the amount of \$23,377.00 from Walther Construction for the Au Train Fire Hall Project. COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Cemetery Ordinance - Clerk Rogers presented the updated Cemetery Ordinance as recommended by the Cemetery Committee for consideration. MOTION Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the Cemetery Ordinance revisions as presented. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Cemetery Software - Clerk Rogers presented information to the Board regarding Cemetery Management Software options. It was recommended that Crypt it online be used, on a trial basis, at a yearly rate of \$50.00.

MTA Spring Regional Meetings - Clerk Rogers noted that the Michigan Township Association Spring Regional Meeting for our District will be held in Harris (outside Escanaba) on May 21st if any Board Members are interested in attending.

Spring Clean up - After information was provided by Supervisor Balmes, the Spring Clean-up will be held on May 30th at the Wood Island Landfill from 8:00-12:00 pm.

Copier Purchase - Clerk Rogers presented options for replacement of the copier. Bids were received from UP Office Equipment Systems and Cooper Office Equipment. After review of the options (purchase vs. rental) MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to proceed with the purchase of a Kyocera Copier from UP Office Equipment Systems in the amount of \$1,179.00. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Funding Requests - Clerk Rogers presented the following funding requests:

Tri County Volunteer Fire Department - for contracted services and support to the Fire Department. MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Supervisor Balmes, to enter into a Contract for Services with the Tri County Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$3,000.00. COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Munising 4th of July Committee - A request from the Munising 4th of July Committee for support of the fireworks fund was received. MOTION by Treasurer Clapp, second by Supervisor Balmes, to approve \$750.00 for the Munising 4th of July Committee Fireworks Fund. CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Flood Plain Community Acknowledgment - Trustee Doucette presented information to the Board regarding a request from a resident to fill out and file a form with FEMA regarding amended high water marks of the Au Train River, thus revising the 100 Year Flood Plan. No Board Action as the Board felt it did not have the expertise to make such a revision. A resident requested the action to avoid having to purchase Flood Insurance with their lender.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - 9:20 pm. Comments were received from John Carr and Jerry Doucette, who indicated that bids for repair were sought for the culvert replacement reestablishing the flow of Scott Falls.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Treasurer Clapp, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:22 pm.

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