

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
August 10, 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 6 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 Supervisor Balmes, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; COTA YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14934 through #14958- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7499 through #7515- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1575.

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Greg Pond presented information to the Board about possible use of the ballfield for two upcoming slow pitch tournaments, the weekend of August 22nd and August 29th. Use would involve the need for the Township to rent an additional porta jon. Mr. Pond will contact Treasurer Clapp and make arrangements with Jeff Moore if use is needed.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Clerk Rogers noted that the Zoning Administrators Report has been received and is on file. Zoning Administrator Rogers noted that he will be presenting some concerns to the Planning Commission regarding properties bisected by different zoning districts. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for August 13, 2015.

Supervisor Balmes noted the he will again be contacting Pat Syers as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to make arrangements to schedule a Yearly Organizational Meeting. Clerk Rogers will make sure that new member Kathy Reynolds has the information she needs.

Assessor - Clerk Rogers noted that Assessor Maki requested that a copy of the minutes, after approved tonight, with the Resolution Regarding Assessment Records be emailed to the state. Supervisor Balmes presented information to the Board regarding discussions with Coleman Engineering on providing GIS Mapping Services to the Township. He requested a price for the service so we can plan for the future project that will need to be completed.

The July Board of Review met for 3 hours.

Cemetery - Treasurer Clapp noted that two lots have been sold and there have been additional inquiries. Clerk Rogers noted that she prepared a Cemetery Deed, but is going to ask Attorney Murphy to review it first before sending it out. Then it will be on an approved template for future Deeds to be issued.

Recreation - Treasurer Clapp presented information to the Board regarding new pricing for swing replacement with Swing Warehouse. The cost for replacement is reasonable and well within what has already been approved by the Board.

Trustee Doucette and APRD Board member presented information to the Board regarding recent happenings of the Alger Parks and Recreation Department. They recently invested \$22,000 into the Fitness Center and held fundraisers during the month of July.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Trustee Doucette noted that they have not had a recent meeting. No additional information regarding the Senate Bill to protect local governments in relation to life saving devices has been received. Discussion regarding whether the Township needs to consider a Dune Protection Ordinance was made. At this time, any action was tabled. Discussion about the continued "jumping off the bridge" was made. There is a sign, but the lack of law enforcement involvement makes it the responsibility of the parents.

Community Building/Promotion - Jeff noted that he would be getting the exterior of the storage building painted over the next month. Treasurer Clapp noted that no one attended a recent Invasive Species event put on by the Alger Conversation District, held at the Community Building.

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

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. Chief King noted there were 2 calls this past month. The Au Train Pumper repair is complete at a cost of \$12,000 plus parts. It was suggested that additional training be held to make sure these type of operator errors do not happen again. It was a very costly mistake.

Chief King also noted that they have scheduled upcoming work sessions for demolition of the storage building. Also, having the existing gas line moved may be an additional expense.

He will be asking signs unlimited to take care of the Decal work on the Rescue Rig.

Grant Administration - Clerk Rogers noted that the final payment from the State in the amount of \$24,670.00 has been received for the project. Discussion about the possibility of an Open House for the park was made. Treasurer Clapp noted that the park is getting a lot of use.

County Commissioner Report - Commissioner Doucette updated the Board on current happenings of the Alger County Board of Commissioners. The Alger County Jail project was delayed due to a Zoning Issue, however, the County is not subject to the City of Munising's Zoning Code. They should be breaking ground soon and are still hoping for the 1st of year for a completion of the project.

Commissioner Doucette confirmed that the State of Michigan Department of Human Services is leaving the Alger County building. Discussion regarding the recent tax tribunal decisions regarding Big Box Stores, Correction budget cuts from the state, Michigan Works Regionalization and correspondence regarding the Koski Family concerns.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - 7:54 pm - none

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	67,224.04
Deposits		27,750.79
Interest		0.79
Disbursements		27,742.57
Ending Balance	\$	67,232.26

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	283,086.31
Deposits		
Interest		3.45
Disbursements		22,971.72
Ending Balance	\$	260,118.04

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,149.70

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	152,563.14
Deposits		
Interest		1.96
Disbursements		10,521.37
Ending Balance	\$	142,043.71

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	218,990.96
Deposits		
Interest		2.79
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	218,993.75

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

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Rogers noted that she was contacted by the County Clerk's Office and that Superior Central Schools will be holding a November 3rd Election, District wide - which encompasses a very small portion of Au Train Township. They are the only district holding one. Clerk Rogers also noted that she is working with the state on QVF updates. In addition, Grand Island Township would like to review and renew the Agreement between the Townships whereas we provide Fire Protection Services for the voted Fire Department millage for their Township. If there is a copy of the agreement in the Fire Department records, or with the Alger County Sheriff, she would appreciate a copy of it.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. In addition, information was provided about Coleman Engineering and GIS Mapping Services, possible cost savings from Charter Communications, and an update on the possible boat launch improvement in Christmas.

A copy of the preliminary approval from the Army Corp of Engineers for the river dredging project has been received. The final permit has been sent to Detroit for final approval. Upon receipt, the Township Board can discuss the possibility of scheduling a maintenance project before this winter.

***TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

Trustee Doucette presented information to the Board regarding the Heritage Center Park and Kayak Launch and her observations regarding use. She also noted that Ron Kinnunen provided more life jackets for Township use in setting up a rescue station.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

***NEW BUSINESS -**

Correspondence Koski Family - Clerk Rogers presented correspondence to the Board from the Koski Family who own a seasonal dwelling on Curtis Drive and their concerns related to the canoe/kayak rental business operating next door to their camp. Additional concerns regarding the volume of use, parking, and congestion in the area was discussed. Clerk Rogers will send a response from the Board noting that we are aware of their concerns and are working with the USFS - Munising Ranger District on a future parking lot and launch site. A copy of their letter and our response will be forwarded to the USFS and the Alger County Road Commission.

Supervisor Balmes asked if the business owner, Mr. Reynolds, has a Zoning Compliance Permit on file. Clerk Rogers will present that to the Zoning Administrator and Trustee Doucette noted it would be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting.

L4029 Tax Rate Request - Clerk Rogers noted that the Tax Rate Request from the County has been received. The Township must establish which rates will be collected for the Winter Tax Bill. After review of the Budget and further discussion,

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Clerk Rogers, to authorize the collection of the millage rates for the 2015 Winter Tax Collection: General Fund Account - 0.7142 (Allocate); Road Fund Account - 2.0000 (Voted); Fire Fund Account - 3.0000 (Voted) ; Garbage Fund Account - 1.0000 (Voted). COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Budget Amendments - Clerk Rogers noted that the General Fund Account and Fire Fund Account both need review and that appropriate and necessary amendments to the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget need to be made.

Treasurer Clapp noted that the Taxable Valuation for the Township has increased to \$67,826,880 and should be reflected in the Current Tax Amount Totals for all Township Fund Accounts.

After review of the Township Fund Accounts for General and Fire, Budget Amendments were made and noted. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the Budget Amendments for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year as presented. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - 9:00 pm. Public Comments were received by William Atherton AND Jerry Doucette. After completion of comments, discussion regarding the burned out residence in Christmas was made. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to notify the property owner of the blighted property that a plan for removal must be presented to the Board by September 14, 2015, or we will taken further action. MOTION CARRIED.

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:11 pm.

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