

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
February 9, 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 9 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 Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Trustee Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14769 through #14793- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7412 through #7424- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1563).

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Sheriff Hughes was invited to discuss with the Board recent traffic control call outs of the Fire Department. The Board noted that they felt that the county was shifting personnel and costs to the Townships. Sheriff Hughes noted that The Alger County Fire Fighters Association requested the change and was provided a copy of Standard Operating Procedures that calls for it. Discussion continued on the matter. Chief King noted that he would check to see if other Townships in the Upper Peninsula provided Road Closure services for their Sheriff Departments. It was noted that the decisions are always made that serve the best interest of the citizens in our County.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Clerk Rogers noted that the Zoning Administrators Report has been received and is on file. Discussion regarding recreational rentals, subdivisions and restrictive covenants. Trustee Doucette noted that the Planning Commission met on February 5th, with their next meeting scheduled for April.

Supervisor Balmes noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold an organizational meeting in April or May. New member Kathy Reynolds will need copies of the Zoning Ordinance, Master Plan, and Zoning Enabling Act. The Board will appoint a chairperson and update the by-laws.

Assessor - The March Board of Review will be scheduled. Assessor Maki makes arrangements for publication. Members of the Board of Review will be attending the MTA Training Session in Escanaba on February 11th.

Cemetery - Discussion regarding the need for a design and sign to be placed at the Cemetery was made. The Committee plans to meet on March 23rd at 7:00 pm. At that time the Ordinance will be approved for submission to the Township Board for approval. In addition, the Committee will be looking at software options and other final steps to go live with the transfer and sale of sites.

Recreation - Member Representative Trustee Doucette noted that the next meeting of the APRD is February 17th at 4:00 pm.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Committee Member Trustee Doucette presented information to the Board regarding a recent teleconference she attended regarding DNR required safety features along the beaches in Michigan. Reference to MCL333.12542 - Sec. 12542 was addressed. Concerns about rescue equipment, permits required for public beach designation and how these enforcements might affect our beaches along the Lake Superior shoreline were discussed. What role, if any will the Township play? Will there be any governmental immunity? Trustee Doucette will provide the Board with more information as it becomes available.

Community Building/Promotion - No report.

First Responders – Treasurer Clapp noted that she is in the process of completing the required training for her license renewal.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There were 2 calls this past month. Chief King noted that the 16 Mile Lake paging calls are clear now with the addition of the tower system. Truck repairs have started due to freezing pumps. In addition March MDOT inspection are due and will cost approximately \$3,500.00.

The Department will be hosting the Alger Chiefs Meeting on March 16th. The date will be confirmed with Treasurer Clapp.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to authorize the MDOT required maintenance inspections with Sanderson & son with a cost up to \$3,500.00. ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Grant Administration - Kathy Reynolds was present and updated the Board on the progress of current grant applications. The Reeve Foundation grant was not funded. Still waiting to hear back on a few others. Clerk Rogers noted that a payment request was submitted to the state. The final request must include an "as built" drawing from UP Engineers and Architects, signage (which was ordered) and photos. The final request must be submitted by the end of March.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Doucette updated the Board on recent happenings of the Alger County Board. The Michigan Department of Human Services is staying in the building, but reducing their square footage, which will reduce their rent. Plans are continuing regarding the Jail Expansion Project, remaining in it's current location and building up and connecting to the Alger County Courthouse Building. Contracts for Courthouse staff are being finalized and concerns regarding the issues relating to the ambulance and it's continuous repairs were voiced.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - 7:50 pm start

John Carr offered comments regarding closure assistance of State Highway M28 with our Fire Department.

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

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	249,552.57
Deposits		12,329.22
Interest		4.77
Disbursements		172,432.48
Ending Balance	\$	89,453.88

FIRE FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	143,270.22
Deposits		194,925.03
Interest		4.72
Disbursements		46,856.77
Ending Balance	\$	291,343.28
Certificate of Deposit	\$	50,074.80
GARBAGE FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	107,225.92
Deposits		25,888.71
Interest		3.53
Disbursements		10,521.27
Ending Balance	\$	150,611.61
ROAD FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	110,535.40
Deposits		25,880.71
Interest		2.98
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	136,427.09

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

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers noted that the W2's and 1099's have all been sent out and also submitted to the IRS for 2014 payroll. The MESC issue has been resolved and elected and appointed employees are not reportable and the Township is recognized as a Reimbursing Employer. The account has been updated and any past due amounts and late fees have been removed. The status of "End of Business" was submitted and approved. All fees required to be paid to the IRS for 2011 and 2012 have been paid.

The upcoming workshop dates are February 16th and February 23rd. Trustee Doucette will not be attending the meeting on the 23rd. Treasurer Clapp suggested that we first address the General Fund Account on the 16th, when Trustee Doucette will be in attendance. The meeting on the 23rd will address the remaining accounts, Fire, Garbage and Road Funds.

Also, the General Fund Millage request will need to be addressed tonight and the language approved in order to have it placed on the May 5, 2015 Election ballot.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he is working with Ron Rushton of MDOT in order to secure the permit. Once that permit is secured, final application can be made on the Joint Permit request with the DNR and Army Corp of Engineers. Clerk Rogers noted that a message was left today from the DNR and they are requesting additional information and a fee adjustment of \$100.00, for a total application fee of \$200.00.

Supervisor Balmes also noted that he spoke with Attorney Greg Murphy for an update regarding the Township Planning Commission vs. Mirabella. He expects the matter to be placed with the court sometime this spring or fall.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alger County Chamber of Commerce - Information was provided to the Board regarding the renewal of Contract for Services with the Chamber for 2015. Kathy Reynolds will continue to pursue grant opportunities for the Township. Payment will be 15% of Grant proceeds and 15% of any coordinated fundraising efforts. MOTION Trustee Doucette, second by Supervisor Balmes to enter into a Contract for Services Agreement with the Alger County Chamber of Commerce for fundraising and grant awards for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, and pay 15% of any grant proceed receipts and 15% of any coordinated fundraising efforts. DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Par Plan Risk Management Report - Clerk Rogers presented the results of the recommendations from Par Plan after their completion of their Risk Management Report. Just a few recommendations were made that can easily be implemented by the Board.

Au Train River Flooding Update - Clerk Rogers noted that the Joint Permit Application was delivered to the DEQ office in Marquette for consideration, along with the \$100.00 application fee. Today a message and email was received requesting additional information along with an additional \$100.00 application fee. Supervisor Balmes will follow up with the DEQ, as well as work with MDOT in completing their required application.

Additional concerns regarding a blockage last week as discussed. The blockage was able to work itself out and the threat diminished.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Lot Division Application - Clerk Rogers presented an application to the Board to consider a Lot Split Request in a Platted Subdivision from Homeowners Terry LaLonde and Raelene Reilly. They are requesting the approval to split Lot 10, Block 4, Village of Au Train, a 50 foot lot - creating a strip of land 10' wide to join Lot 9, and property owner Richard Bonevelle.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the Lot Split Application for 02-001-354-010-00, Lot 10, Block 4, Village of Au Train, LaLonde/Reilly, creating a 40' wide parcel and 10' wide parcel. MOTION CARRIED.

General Fund Millage Request

**AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MILLAGE BALLOT LANGUAGE**

Au Train Township, Alger County
Resolution Number 15-001
February 9, 2015

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Au Train Township wishes to provide general services to the residents;
and

WHEREAS, townships may provide general services, as authorized by the Michigan Constitution of 1963;
and

WHEREAS, townships may impose and levy ad valorem property taxes to finance lawful public services, as authorized by Article 9, Section 6, Michigan Constitution of 1963 and other laws; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Au Train Township wishes to levy 1.0 mills, for Five (5) years to finance general operations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Au Train Township, Alger County, approves the following millage ballot question language and directs the Clerk to submit it to be placed on the May 5, 2015, Election ballot:

GENERAL SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF AU TRAIN,
COUNTY OF ALGER.

"Shall Au Train Township impose an increase of up to 1 mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for Five (5) years, 2015 to 2019, inclusive, for general operating services, which 1-mill increase will raise an estimated \$65,210.52 in the year 2015, the first year the millage is levied".

The foregoing Resolution offered by Board Member: CLERK ROGERS

Second offered by Board Member: SUPERVISOR BALMES

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": ROGERS, BALMES, COTA, DOUCETTE, CLAPP

"Nay": NONE

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Mary F Rogers
Mary F. Rogers, Au Train Township Clerk

Funding Request - Clerk Rogers presented a funding request from the Friends of Valley Spur. No Board action.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Raelene Reilley, and Sharon Tesch.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:40 pm.

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