

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
January 12, 2105
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; Michelle Doucette, Trustee and Kristy Cota, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 12 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 Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2014, 10 am, Special Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2014, 8 pm, Special Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Treasurer Clapp, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #14741 through #14768 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7383 through #7411- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #1562).

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Renewable World Energies (UP Hydro) was present to discuss their actions with the dam during the flooding event. They were able to reduce the flow, which assisted in reducing the rate of the water rise. Information was provided about expected water levels, spring runoff, and the water level of Lake Superior. They are regulated and monitored by FERC, which authorizes their license. In the future, any concerns regarding flooding should be directed to them, and they will assist if possible.

DNR Trail Groomers were present to discuss the concerns of the trail grooming in front of the Au Train Township Heritage Trail Center. Because of the tight fit coming right off the protected surface area of Arbutus, they are going straight through the Center. Concerns about the setup, location of the buildings, damage to the amenities was discussed. Clerk Rogers reminded Board members that the property is leased from the Department of Natural Resources so a solution regarding the trail will need to be discussed and agreed upon with them for the future. In the meantime, additional signage will be prepared for the area, requesting that riders stay on the trail. Supervisor Balmes will be in contact with the DNR regarding the matter.

*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 February 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Future meetings will be the second Thursday of the month. Susan Bovan was appointed Chairperson and Kim Rolfe is the Secretary.

Kathy Church has resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to accept the Resignation of Kathy Church from the Zoning Board of Appeals. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to appoint Kathy Reynolds to the Zoning Board of Appeals. MOTION CARRIED.

Assessor - No report

Cemetery - Discussion regarding the next Cemetery Committee meeting was made. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 16th at 6:30 pm. The purchase application will be developed, the ordinance reviewed for submission to the Township Board for approval, and a PDF map of the sites will be uploaded to the Township website. The Committee has projected a May 1st launch of site for sales and reservations.

Recreation - Michelle Doucette, APRD Board Representative provided information to the Board regarding activities of the Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Au Train River/Lakeshore Committee - Michelle Doucette, Committee Member, noted that they have not had a meeting yet, but worked together regarding the recent flooding. In addition, she still expects to hear from Guy Meadows regarding the NOAA Grant.

Community Building/Promotion - No report

First Responders – Treasurer Clapp noted that it was a quiet month. She is working on her license renewal for the coming year.

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. There was one call this past month to an accident of Au Train Forest Lake Road. The generator installation is complete at the Christmas and 16 Mile Lake fire halls.

Discussion regarding the installation of a repeater (Regen system) on the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall to assist with accuracy of paging notifications was made. There are limited certified companies able to complete the work. One bid, from Elcom, was received, who quoted \$2,238.00 for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall, and an additional \$800.00 to include the Au Train Fire Hall. Discussion regarding the budget and availability of funds for the project was made.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to proceed with the purchase of paging regenerators for the 16 Mile Lake and Au Train Fire halls with Elcom Services, at a cost up to \$3,500.00, contingent upon the review of the Fire Fund Budget and availability of Funds. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Rogers noted that she was informed by Munising Township that the departments were being called out for Traffic Control Assist by the Alger County Sheriff Department. Chief King noted that if they are paged by dispatch they have to respond. Recent activities were assisting in the closures of State Highway M28 because of white out conditions. It appears that the Sheriff Department is shifting cost and staffing for traffic control to the local fire departments, without discussion or informing the Township Board, who are bearing the costs associated with the call-outs. The Board would like the Sheriff Department to confirm the process and requested that Supervisor Balmes invite Sheriff Hughes to attend the next Board meeting to discuss the matter with the Board.

Grant Administration - Clerk Rogers provided an update on the project and grant applications that have been submitted on behalf of the Township by Kathy Reynolds. There are still two big grant applications we are waiting to hear about. In addition, additional grant applications will be sought for 2015 to help secure additional funds in the final stages of the project. A new Contract for Services with the Alger County Chamber will be reviewed at the February Board Meeting.

County Commission Update - Information was provided to the Board regarding contract negotiations and Budget review.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of December 31, 2014, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$125,081.20
Deposits	135,547.26
Interest	6.05
Disbursements	11,082.14
Ending Balance	\$249,552.37

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 76,809.51
Deposits	73,114.57
Interest	2.75
Disbursements	6,656.61
Ending Balance	\$143,270.22

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,074.80

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$107,225.92
Deposits	49,226.11
Interest	3.05
Disbursements	21,214.34
Ending Balance	\$135,240.74

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 61,308.80
Deposits	49,224.41
Interest	2.19
Disbursements	
Ending Balance	\$110,535.40

*A Complete copy of the December 31, 2014 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

Treasurer Clapp noted that the 4th Winter Tax Collection Dispersal is not included in the totals noted above. The General Fund will begin the process of transferring funds back into the Fire Fund Account that were borrowed for the Grant Administration.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Rogers also noted that she will begin work on the year end reports for tax purposes, and the W2's and 1099 for employees. In addition the Budget Prep process will begin for the February workshops. Also it was noted that there will be a May Election, as called for by the State, to vote on the proposed Sales Tax Increase for Road Funding. The Board might want to consider the General Fund Millage request again. Clerk Rogers will review the May Election Calendar and call a Special Board Meeting if ballot language deadlines are prior to our Regular February Board Meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Balmes noted that he attended the Board of Review and Planning Commission meetings in December. In addition, he met with the trail groomers, and our insurance Risk Management company. They will provide a response to the Township with any recommendations on reducing our insurance risk and liability.

Discussion regarding the need for a new Joint Application and permit from the DEQ/COE for river dredging maintenance was made. A letter of reprimand from the DEQ and COE were received regarding the river flooding event and actions by the Board.

Supervisor Balmes also noted that he would be contacting our attorney asking for an update on the appeal on the matter related to our Planning Commission and the Zoning Ordinance lawsuit.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Au Train River Flood Event - January 8th - An update on the flood event and actions by the Township Board was provided. On Thursday, January 9th, Oberstar of Marquette and its operator Kerby Albro, successfully opened up the ice/sand jam that was blocking the flow. The Au Train Township Fire Department and Alger County Sheriff's Department provided Emergency Support Services. The costs to Oberstar are estimated to be in the \$2,500.00 range. The Township Board will be applying for an ATF (After the Fact) and Routine Maintenance Joint Permit with the DEQ and COE. A future plan of action for routine maintenance will need to be developed. The Board thanked everyone involved with working together to help solve this event.

MTA Board of Review Training - Supervisor Balmes noted that the Michigan Townships Association will be holding a Board of Review Training in Escanaba on February 11th. Current members of the Board of Review, along with Alternate Sarah Mannisto and Supervisor Balmes will be attending. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to authorize the costs associated with attendance of the MTA Board of Review Training in Escanaba on February 11, 2015, including books for members as needed, and mileage reimbursement, up to \$600.00. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

*NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Fire Chief - MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to appoint Perry King as the Au Train Township Fire Department Fire Chief for 2015. MOTION CARRIED.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received by Toni Mann of the Munising News

*ADJOURNMENT

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

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