

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
October 12, 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; and Michelle Doucette, Trustee. Absent: Kristy Cota, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 4 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 Doucette, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2015 Special Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Clerk Rogers, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAP, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered # 14984 through # 15005- Fire Fund Checks Numbered # 7536 through # 7553- Garbage Fund Checks Numbered # 1577 through # 1580.)

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

ACRC - Bob Lindbeck, Engineer/Manager of the Alger County Road Commission made a presentation to the Board regarding proposed projects for 2016 within the Township. In addition, revision were made to the 2015 plan to show actual work completed and funds expended. Additional discussion regarding the 2017 plan to continue work on the 16 Mile Lake Road, and extend the project from 1.0 miles to 1.5 miles, was made. The 2016 plan includes the paving of the roads within the Au Train River Estates. Completion of that project is consistent with the plan of improving assets within the Township. Discussion also included the possibility of improvements to Ridge Road. Mr. Lindbeck will prepare an Agreement for consideration.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to approve and enter into an agreement with the Alger County Road Commission for 2016 Road Improvements, which will consist of paving improvements of .66 miles in the Au Train River Estates, at a cost to the Township not to exceed \$110,000. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

ALGER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - Teri Grout of the Alger Conservation District presented information to the Board regarding activities within the Township during the past year. In addition she asked for a Contract for Services, and a Renewal of the existing Loan Agreement. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to convert \$1,000.00 from the Loan Agreement to Contract for Services with the Alger Conservation District. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Doucette, to extend and renew the Loan Agreement with the Alger Conservation District in the amount of \$2,000.00 interest free, for one year. BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Teri also noted that the Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Friday, November 6th for any Board members who would like to attend.

In addition, the ACD is working with Alger County Equalization on the possibility of a joint GIS Mapping Service offering.

*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 Zoning Compliance Application from Mike Reynolds has been approved and on file. In addition a complaint from the Alger County Building Department regarding Uncle Ducky's campground was investigated and determined to be unfounded. Also, a complaint regarding farm type animals in the Christmas area is being reviewed.

Trustee Doucette noted that the Planning Commissions next meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 7:00 pm. The Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 pm.

Assessor - Additional discussion regarding GIS mapping services was made. Supervisor Balmes will be requesting a bid from Coleman Engineering. These estimates will help the Board determine a plan when budgeting next February.

Cemetery - Sexton Moore noted that he has shut down the cemetery for the winter.

Recreation - Jeff Moore noted that he is working on shutting down the Heritage Center and securing the dock for winter storage.

Trustee Doucette noted that the Alger Parks and Recreation Department's next meeting is October 14th.

Community Building/Promotion - Clerk Rogers noted that the exterior of the storage building has been painted, along with trim accents on the Community Building.

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

Fire Department – The Department report has been received and is on file. Chief King noted there was 1 call for the month of September. Construction on the Christmas Storage Building continues. Clerk Rogers will check with the insurance company regarding individual liability insurance for the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. Chief King was informed at a recent meeting that they both could be held individually liable and/or responsible for actions while working in the capacity of Chief and Assistant Chief for the Department.

The MDOT certifications will be completed this week. Pump/Ladder Testing was completed and all passed.

County Commissioner Report - Trustee Doucette provided some information on behalf of Commissioner Doucette who was unable to attend. The County submitted a reimbursement request to the state for the DHS rent agreement. They have been moving offices within the courthouse to make room for the Sheriff Department and expansion project. Clerk Rogers provided information regarding a recent incident at Grand Island with residents stranded and their call to 911. The Sheriff Department was unable to provide assistance and they were rescued by a member of the Department and his brother-in-law via private boat.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - 8:09 pm - Rusty Atherton addressed the Board.

*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of September 30, 2015, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	74,353.04
Deposits		9,078.88
Interest		0.83
Disbursements		17,085.11
Ending Balance	\$	66,347.64

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	247,067.82
Deposits		15.01
Interest		2.94
Disbursements		32,768.98
Ending Balance	\$	214,316.79

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,149.70

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	134,237.61
Deposits		
Interest		1.60
Disbursements		10,521.37
Ending Balance	\$	123,717.84

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	220,547.10
Deposits		
Interest		2.26
Disbursements		125,509.05
Ending Balance	\$	95,040.31

*A Complete copy of the September 30, 2015 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Rogers noted that she has been working on preparation for the November 3, 2015 Election.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. He also noted that he met with Attorney Murphy regarding the Adam Carpenter Blight in Christmas. Just before he was officially served, the work on clean up of the burned out home has commenced. He will still be served to make sure the work gets completed. He also noted complaints received throughout the month and stated that he would be working with Handyman Moore on winter securing of the dock system.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - None

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

River Dredging Maintenance Project - Supervisor Balmes presented information to the Board regarding Maintenance Dredging at the Au Train River. We are still waiting for written permission from the State in order to proceed. Upon receipt, bids for the allowable work will be secured. Kristy Wilson, State DEQ noted that she had recently visited the site. If the letter comes and any bids require Board action, a Special Meeting will be called. Otherwise, it will be addressed at the November Regular Board Meeting.

Propane Pre-Purchase 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall - Clerk Rogers noted after review and discussion with both Supervisor Balmes and Fire Chief Perry, a decision to continue with Bowman Gas was made. 1,025 gallons were pre-purchased at a rate of \$1.49 for a total of \$1,527.25.

***NEW BUSINESS -**

16 Mile Lake Fire Hall Plowing - Clerk Rogers noted that bids for the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall need to be obtained and a request will be published in the Munising News.

CUPPAD - Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan - Clerk Rogers submitted copies of the Alger County Hazard Mitigation Plan for Board Member review. Action was tabled until the November Regular Board Meeting.

Charter Communications - Letter of support - Clerk Rogers presented information from Don Gladwell of Charter Communications and their request for a letter of support of their effort to merge with Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks. The merger will benefit residents of Au Train Township by expanding services and offering broadband to low income residents.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to provide a letter of support for Charter Communications to the FCC in their efforts to merge with Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks. Motion carried.

Lot Split Application - Clerk Rogers presented a lot split application for Tim and Gretchen Preston. They propose splitting one of their lots, located in the Brisson Au Train River Subdivision No. 1, with their neighbors, Daryl and Louise Kobie. After review of the application and supporting documentation,

MOTION by Trustee Doucette, second by Supervisor Balmes, to approve the Lot Split Application for Preston, Parcel No. 02-001-500-004-00, as presented. DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Insurance Review - Clerk Rogers presented the policy and invoice From Hannula Agency for renewal of the Township's Annual Insurance Policy. Discussion again regarding liability for members of the Fire Department and Township Board will be reviewed with our agent. MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to renew the Annual Insurance Policy for the Township with Hannula Agency, with changes as noted, at a cost of \$16,290, with \$8,303 billed to the General Fund and \$7,987 billed to the Fire Fund. BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

***PUBLIC COMMENT - 8:49 pm. No Comments**

***ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Treasurer Clapp, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:50 pm.

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