

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting  
November 14, 2016  
6:00 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 6:00 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 7 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 as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

**\*MINUTES**

MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Clerk Rogers, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Special 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; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #15331 through #15361- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7731 through #7747- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2004 through #2007).

**\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Greg Pond representing Munising Hockey Association presented information to the Board regarding their plan to upgrade the boards and glass at the Alger Centennial Arena. The total cost would be \$100,000 to \$150,000. They were requesting a donation from the Township up to \$5,000. After further discussion, the Board noted that they are very interested in the project, but that we couldn't commit any funds at this time. The Board requested that Mr. Pond come back to a meeting after April 1<sup>st</sup> and that funding would be consider during the 2017-2018 budget process.

**\*COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jennifer Wagener presented her report to the Board, which was reviewed and discussed. Specific details of the report were provided, which followed discussion by the Board on the Sisco matter, hobby farms, animals at AJ Schierschmidts property and concerns about activities at the Kleeman property on Au Train Forest Lake Road.

It was noted that a Conditional Use Permit will be held on November 21, 2016 at 7 pm. In addition, 2017 Meeting Dates were established. February 9, May 11, August 10, and November 9, 2017. Meetings will be held on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. Appointment of the Township Board Member to the Planning Commission will need to be made at the December Board Meeting.

The Zoning Board Appeals will be holding a regular meeting in December.

Assessor - The December Board of Review has been scheduled for December 13, 2016 from 2:00-5:00 pm. The members of the Board of Review will need to be reappointed at the December Board Meeting.

Cemetery - It was noted there was one burial and plot purchase this month.

Recreation - Trustee Doucette noted that the next meeting of the Alger Parks and Recreation Department will be held later this week. No additional updates were provided.

Community Building/Promotion - Trustee Doucette noted that the Regional Government Meeting will be hosted by the Township on November 30, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Clerk Rogers presented a request from Friends of Valley Spur requesting Sponsorship from the Township for the Valley Spur Trail System for the 2016-2017 winter ski season. The ski trail is located in Au Train Township. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Cota, to offer a \$250.00 Partnership to the Friends of Valley Spur, who provides recreational services to the residents of Au Train Township. ROGERS, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Department – Chief Perry King presented his monthly report to the Board. There were two calls this past month.

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Treasurer Clapp, to authorize up to \$2,000.00 for signage, fittings and valves for the Gladstone Fire Truck. COTA, YES; CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Chief King updated the Board on the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall project. It was noted that the south side of the concrete apron, to the woods line requires fill sand and gravel to bring it up to grade and level the area for plowing and parking. MOTION by Treasurer Clapp, second by Trustee Cota, to authorize up to \$3,000 for a change order to provide fill sand and gravel at the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall. CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; ROGERS, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Chief King noted that Jerry Fitzgibbon will plow the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall this season for 1 hour of fireman pay per time.

Discussion regarding the new Fire Truck purchase was made. The Pomasl Option #3 was approved at the October Regular Board Meeting.

Clerk Rogers noted that as previously discussed Fire Chief King spent several hours dealing with the management of the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall fire with the insurance company, suppliers, auditors and new construction that went above and beyond what is expected of a Fire Chief and that additional pay should be provided.

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Balmes, to authorize a \$1,500.00 payment bonus to Fire Chief Perry King for the additional hours and services related to the management of the 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall insurance claim. ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

County Commission Update - Commissioner Jerry Doucette presented information to the Board about happenings of the Alger County Board over the past month. The 2017 Budget has been balanced and approved, negotiations for labor contracts continue, the final stages of the jail addition construction project are being completed. An open house and dedication is being planned. The construction of the Altran building is near completion with moving expected after Thanksgiving. Commissioner Doucette also noted that an investigation continues into the Director of Altran, who has been placed on paid administration leave. In addition, it was noted that the GIS mapping project is moving forward and the Township participation is appreciated.

Commissioner Doucette noted that working with the Townships in the County is vital for survival and noted attendance into the Regional Governmental Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> by Board members is appreciated.

\*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

\*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of October 31, 2016, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	69181.02
Deposits		30549.65
Interest		0.92
Disbursements		11459.40
Ending Balance	\$	88,272.19

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	336133.57
Deposits		66244.59
Interest		4.56
Disbursements		60247.04
Ending Balance	\$	342,135.71

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,375.10

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	61339.43
Deposits		951.62
Interest		0.70
Disbursements		10860.00
Ending Balance	\$	51,431.75

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	217267.35
Deposits		1903.34
Interest		2.44
Disbursements		143930.91
Ending Balance	\$	75,242.12

\*A Complete copy of the October 31, 2016 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

\*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Rogers updated the Board on recent activities. Discussion regarding the November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election was made. It was noted that 641 voters turned out, which is approximately a 60% turnout rate. The General Fund Millage request once again failed to pass with a final vote of 242 YES and 332 No. The Election Inspectors were thanked for their service to the Township.

Clerk Rogers also presented correspondence, a grant application from CUPPAD, discussion regarding US Census workers and that appointments of a Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer will be made at the December Regular Board Meeting.

\*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. He also provided information regarding the removal and winter maintenance of the Heritage Trail dock system, and the flag pole at the Veterans Memorial.

\*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Doucette noted that she attended the Zoning Court Hearing on November 7<sup>th</sup>, is planning for the Regional Government Meeting, attended the Recreation Meeting and the Planning Commission meeting as she prepares for taking over as Supervisor on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Doucette also expressed appreciation for being elected Supervisor, and offered congratulations to the new Board members.

\*UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Litigation Update - Seitz vs Au Train Township - Supervisor Balmes noted that the Hearing was held in Alger County Circuit Court on November 7, 2016, before Judge William Carmody. The judge requested additional information from Attorney Murphy regarding the publication of the Notice in The Mining Journal vs. The Munising News. He is expected to make a ruling some time in December.

\*NEW BUSINESS -

5 Year Road Plan ACRC - Supervisor Balmes presented the 5 Year Road Plan prepared in cooperation with Bob Lindbeck of the Alger County Road Commission. The Board will review and then will discuss and/or approve of the plan at the December Regular Board Meeting.

Final Report - Great Lakes Research Center regarding the Au Train River - The final report as provided by the Great Lakes Research Center was presented to the Board for review. The in depth report makes recommendations that the Board needs to consider. Further action and discussion will be made at the December Regular Board Meeting.

Fire Protection Agreement - Clerk Rogers presented a Fire Protection Agreement to be approved and forwarded to Grand Island Township for their approval. The Agreement is to confirm the millage and fire protection services relationship the Au Train Township Fire Department has with Grand Island Township. Clerk Rogers noted that the agreement was prepared by Attorney Greg Murphy at her request.

MOTION by Trustee Cota, second by Trustee Doucette, to approve of and enter into a formal agreement with Grand Island Township to provide Fire Protection Services and collect an amount for those services equal to and concurrent with the approved millage rate, as voted and approved by the electors of Au Train Township and Grand Island Township. COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; BALMES, YES; ROGERS, YES.

Fire Fund Budget Amendment - Clerk Rogers noted that the Fire Fund Budget needs to be amended to cover the additional cost of the insurance policy. MOTION by Treasurer Clapp, second by Clerk Rogers to move \$8,000.00 from the Ending Fund Equity to the Insurance Budget to cover the increased cost. CLAPP, YES; ROGERS, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

\*PUBLIC COMMENT - (8:53) - Comments were received from Perry King, Jerry Doucette, and John Carr.

\*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Balmes, second by Trustee Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:01 pm.

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