

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
February 13, 2017
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 Michelle Doucette, with the following members present: Mary Rogers, Clerk; Ann Clapp, Treasurer; Kristy Cota, Trustee and John Carr, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 8 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 Treasurer Clapp, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

***MINUTES**

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Carr, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

***BILLS AND CLAIMS**

MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Supervisor Doucette, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. ROGERS, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; CARR, YES; COTA, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #15410 through #15441- Fire Fund Checks Numbered #7799 through #7816- Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2011).

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Deb Fulcher, Recreation Director for the Alger Parks and Recreation Department, presented information to the Board regarding the Township's Partnership including history, current funding, activities and updates on the Community Center. The funding request of \$11.00 per resident (based on the 2010 Census) has not increased. The Township is in the final year of a 3-Year Contract with APRD at a yearly contribution of \$12,518.00. The Board expressed their concern over funding shortfalls for the upcoming budget year and questioned whether or not the Partnership would be able to continue. The Board asked Ms. Fulcher to provide participation numbers of Township residents prior to the Budget Workshop Meeting scheduled for February 20th.

*PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator Jennifer Wagener was unable attend the meeting due to personal matters but Clerk Rogers presented her report to the Board for consideration. Discussion regarding the Kleeman matter was made. MOTION by Trustee Carr, second by Supervisor Doucette, to move forward with legal proceedings regarding the Kleeman matter if the Zoning Administrator determines that it is necessary. CARR, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; CLAPP, YES; COTA, YES; ROGERS, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Jacob Miller was present, was asked a few questions and noted he had attended the meeting to receive any updates on the matter. He is a neighbor who is directly affected by the actions of Mr. Kleeman.

The Planning Commission had their meeting last week. They are beginning the process of reviewing the Zoning Ordinance. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2017.

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not have a meeting in January. No additional meeting dates have been scheduled at this time.

Assessor - Assessor Maki will provide the Board with a written report on a regular basis, as requested. Clerk Rogers presented the January Report, that was received after last months meeting and emailed to Board Members. No report for February has been received.

Discussion about Personal Property Exemption Forms, updated minutes on the website and noting that the Board is still looking for an alternate for the Board of Review was made.

Donna Shields, an audience member and eligible resident, noted that she would serve. MOTION by Clerk Rogers, second by Trustee Carr, to appoint Donna Shields as the alternate for the Board of Review, effective immediately, replacing alternate member Pat Syers. MOTION CARRIED.

Cemetery - Discussion regarding Cemetery Sexton duties and Marcus Quarfoot as a grave digger was made. Supervisor Doucette will provide clarification the job duties of both.

Recreation - Supervisor Doucette noted that the next meeting of the Alger Parks and Recreation Department will be held later in the week. Additional discussion regarding the Townships Partnership was made.

Community Building/Promotion - It was noted that AA paid 2016 rent in the amount of \$200.00. Dan Weathers was congratulated for his newly obtained position as General Maintenance Worker.

Fire Department – Chief Perry King was not present, but member Dan Weathers presented his report. There were 2 calls this past month. The Department will be going over inventory for the 16 Mile Lake Hall and truck in the next week.

Discussion regarding the Au Train Hall floor drains was made. Chief King will be obtaining estimates for consideration. An updated roster and officer list will be provided to the Board at the March Board meeting.

Efforts for recruitment for new members is being made first by word of mouth, then making flyers to be placed at local businesses. They currently have 2 prospective applicants.

Discussion regarding the training regulations placed on Fire Department candidates was made. Trustee Carr noted that a Resolution was prepared addressing the situation and it was presented to the Board for consideration.

Au Train Township Board - Resolution No. 2017-004

Date: February 13, 2017

WHEREAS, Au Train Township maintains and operates a Volunteer Paid On-Call Fire Department that serves over 158 square miles and 1,148 residents; and

WHEREAS, like most other rural Townships in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Au Train Township relies solely on the members of our Fire Department to provide fire protection and life saving services; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the state mandated training hours for volunteer fireman have become burdensome to the point that it is extremely hard, and sometimes next to impossible, to recruit new members to an all-volunteer fire department;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Au Train Township Board requests that our State of Michigan legislators and it's governor, along with the Michigan Townships Association, investigate and substantially reduce the number of training hours needed for a Volunteer Fireman to become state certified.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Board Member: Trustee Carr
supported by Board Member: Clerk Rogers

Upon a Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Clapp, Carr, Cota, Rogers, Doucette

Nay: None

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.

Signed: Mary F Rogers, Clerk

*TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of January 31, 2017, as presented by Ann Clapp, Treasurer

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	98766.75
Deposits		10716.97
Interest		1.19
Disbursements		12630.26
Ending Balance	\$	96,854.15

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	362328.00
Deposits		197252.08
Interest		5.70
Disbursements		10100.03
Ending Balance	\$	549,485.76

Certificate of Deposit \$ 50,375.10

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	60981.54
Deposits		11716.04
Interest		0.73
Disbursements		10893.60
Ending Balance	\$	61,804.71

ROAD FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	137574.41
Deposits		23167.78
Interest		1.83
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	160,744.07

*A Complete copy of the January 31, 2017 Report is on file with Clerk Rogers.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Rogers noted that she has authorized and received the School Election Coordinating Committee Reports for administration of elections for Au Train-Onota, Munising and Superior Central Schools. The Coordinating Committee meets every four years.

The State is currently working with vendors to provide the election equipment/voting systems and a decision by the county and local townships will be made within the next couple of months. The County Clerk will be holding a demonstration in April to review the choices agreed upon by the State Election Commission. Grants Funds will be used to cover a portion of the cost of the replacement equipment.

Clerk Rogers will contact Charter Communications regarding the cost of cable/internet services for the Township. In addition Budget prep is underway and will be completed for the first Budget Workshop Meeting to be held on February 20, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent meetings attended. She also provided information to the Board regarding the MTA New Elected Officials Training that was attended recently. The next Regional Government Meeting will be held hosted by the City of Munising and held on February 22, 2017 at 5:00 pm. In addition, Supervisor Doucette noted that she will be attending the Court Hearing on the Sliter Matter February 22nd at 11:00 am., the March Board of Review dates, is working on the Census paperwork, updating the Emergency Contact List for the Board, met with Joe Cilc, County Building Administrator, had calls about camp fires, and spoke with Mike Sanderson regarding abandonment of Elm Street. Supervisor Doucette also updated the Board on the current river rising situation and the current no-permit status of the Township.

*TRUSTEES REPORT - Trustee Carr noted that in the past month he visited the 3 fire halls and the Heritage Kayak Launch. He also attended the MTA New Elected Officials Training in Harris.

*UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

General Maintenance Position - Discussion regarding the plan to prorate salary for the month of February was made. Payment for plowing from February 1st until February 6th will be paid. After that date, the salary for the position will be applied.

*NEW BUSINESS -

Clerk Rogers presented correspondence from Interim Director Kim Monette, of Alger County Transit, indicating their need to have a Board member representing the Township Association. If any member of the Au Train Township Board is interested in serving, they should submit a letter of interest for consideration.

Campground Fires - Supervisor Doucette noted that she received a call of concern regarding smoke from camp fires at a campground in Christmas. Discussion regarding the matter, regulation, enforcement and possible air pollution was made. There was no Board action.

*COUNTY COMMISSION UPDATE - County Board Chair, Jerry Doucette arrived and presented information to the Board regarding recent activities of the Alger County Board. Information regarding the County Budget was provided along with an update on the Community Corrections Program, which is available at \$4.00 per hour per person. An update on the Director position for ALTRAN was provided and the search process, contracted services for the Sheriff Department for Burt Township and Mr. Doucette noted that Chris Lindquist was appointed the new director for the Commission on Aging.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from Donna Shields, Jacob Miller and Dan Weathers.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Trustee Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:19 pm.

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