

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2025 6:00 pm - 7:52 pm

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Tom Balmes, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee John Carr. (Treasurer Cota arrived at 6:15). Others present: Donna Shields, Cameron Fuess, Ryan Walther, Emily Molnar, Matt Lang, Tom Beauchaine, Peggy and Scott Smith, Mary Tiernan and other persons who did not sign in.

Supervisor Balmes opened our June 10, 2025 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

Moved Balmes/seconded Johnson to **approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17476-17504; Fire Fund #9360-9370; Garbage Fund #2151; Road Fund #3018).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the May, 2025 Financial Reports. Reports are provided to Board Members prior to the meeting. No Budget Amendments recommended.

Board Member Reports:

Clerk - Since the May Meeting several emails, and FOIA requests were responded to. Information regarding Hansen Creek Estates was provided and the development of a Site Condominium Association. Assessor Fuess provided information. Clerk Johnson will follow up with Attorney Nordeen regarding the notification requirements to the Township.

The off-year Audit with Anderson, Tackman and Company is being scheduled for July and preparation will begin for that.

Treasurer - Balance as of May 31, 2025: General Fund \$321,725.82; Fire Fund \$442,196.09 + CD \$55,130.10; Garbage Fund \$175,387.29; Road Fund \$350,262.97.

There is an upcoming hall rental on July 7, 2025 for a Memorial Service.

Treasurer Cota noted that work continues for the Summer Tax Collection, with bills expected to be mailed July 1st. Information will be provided for website updates that include credit card tax payment processing through BS&A directly, along with other helpful information.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Joint Board/Planning Commission Meeting on May 5, 2025 and there will be a PC Meeting on June 14, 2025 to hear 3 CUP Applications. He also met with Jeff's Glass regarding the proposal for door replacement at the hall. Both the Proposal from The Windows Store and Jeff's Glass will be presented at the July meeting for consideration. Also responded to individual requests for information regarding zoning and garage issues.

Trustee Miller noted he also received many calls regarding the delays in garbage pickup and the reasons from GFL. Garbage Monday was delayed until Wednesday because a driver was ill.

Trustee Miller also provided information on the Au Train River levels and concerns about the release currently from the Forest Lake Dam. Linda at EGLE Marquette was contacted and provided the Dam Safety Engineers contact information. No return call was yet received. Questions about the pumping of the dam down and the continue overflow. She also continues to work with FEMA on modeling for the expected updated Flood Plain Maps. Information was provided regarding the closure of the Forest Lake Campground. The State Department of Natural Resources had only leased the land from the previous owners which allowed them to offer camping. The current owner, through foreclosure, won't honor the lease or allow camping to continue.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes indicated he continues to discuss the Woodland Avenue (Orange) bridge with Bob Lindbeck at the Alger County Road Commission. Would like to seek funding for a Restoration Project that could offer recreation to the area. The Community Building May water testing was completed and passed. 38 persons participated in the Spring Clean-up at Woodland Landfill.

Dust Control application was completed. Delays were experienced because of truck breakdowns and a 2-3 day project turned into 5. 3 total loads were applied and complaints and concerns were addressed and resolved.

The Alger Conservation District once again secured a grant for a tire disposal collection drop-off event for Au Train and Onota Townships. Additional information will be provided. There is no cost to the Townships for this program.

Additional information was provided regarding garbage collection issues. The dumpster at the end of Maple Grove Road has no lock and it seems that more than authorized persons are using the dumpster. It also services Mirror Lake Road residents. There were garbage truck turnaround issues on St. Nicholas Ave. that were resolved.

Additional calls were received regarding blight concerns, previous zoning violations and agreements for correction and development of a platted parcel that is non-conforming under the current Zoning Ordinance and an inquiry about when the Township Board Meetings will be going live again. Supervisor Balmes will work with the Zoning Administrator on any zoning matters.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: Carl Berhend addressed the Board regarding the dumpster at the end of Maple Grove Road. Concerns about the increase in traffic and other unauthorized persons using it. Road residents would like to have it removed. Supervisor Balmes will look at additional options which may include a lock on the dumpster with key distribution and signage.

Boards/Departments:

Maintenance Department: Ryan provided an update to the Board on recent maintenance issues and projects. The Heritage Trail Center bathrooms are open to the public, but as decided previously, the dock was not placed this summer due to the ongoing bridge repair. The summer will consist of mowing and regular maintenance items. Discussion about additional updates to the playground was made. Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **authorize up to \$1,000.00 for playground updates.** Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.

Also discussion about a commercial floor cleaner for use at the Community Building was made. Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **authorize up to \$2,000.00 on the purchase of a floor cleaning machine for the Community Building.** Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.

Cemetery - Discussion regarding the policy for placement in the old section of the Cemetery was made. Tom Beauchaine inquired about the family plot area and Ryan confirmed there was still plenty of room for additional burials. The plot is in the NE corner. Permission was granted as it falls within the established policy.

Fire Department: The June Fire Department report has been received and is on file. As discussed, Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **enter into a Cooperative Mutual Aid Fire Control Agreement with the State of Michigan DNR-Forest Resources Division.** Motion carried.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Fuess was present and provided an update to the Board. He indicated that summer tax prep was completed for the July 1st mailing, will be holding the July Board of Review on the 23rd at 6:00 pm, and is scheduling onsite reviews for existing properties and new construction.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals- Zoning Administrator Donna Shields was present and provided her report. Additional information was provided, along with upcoming meetings and hearings, as well as an update on the Master Plan approval steps forthcoming and updates to the Zoning Ordinance. Detailed discussion regarding the Nimee Zoning Violation in Christmas, the upcoming deadline day of July 1st for compliance and the fact that the shipping container remains on site.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

1. Correspondence - None
2. Civil Infraction Enforcement Ordinance (Review/Approval) - Clerk Johnson provided the Draft of the Civil Infraction Enforcement Ordinance for review. The Draft language came from CUPPAD. Clerk Johnson recommended it be reviewed by Attorney Nordeen prior to further consideration.
3. Michigan Townships Association - Clerk Johnson presented the Invoice and educational add on options offered. As approved under Bills Payable, the Board opted out of any additional education add ons and pay the for Membership Only at a cost of \$1,614.13 for the year.
4. Audit - Clerk Johnson noted this is an off year audit and that will be scheduled with Anderson, Tackman and Co. at a cost of \$3,500.00. (As previously quoted and approved)

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments: None

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion Balmes/seconded Cota to **adjourn at 8:36 pm.** Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: _____

DRAFT DATE: 06/23/2025

mwj