

**Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2026 6:00PM - 8:05PM**

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Tom Balmes, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee John Carr. There were 6 persons in the audience.

Supervisor Balmes opened our meeting at 6:00PM leading us with the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda:

Moved Cota/seconded Carr to **approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Cota/seconded Johnson to **approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17730-17753; Fire Fund #9500-9510; Garbage Fund #2164).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the March, 2026 Financial Reports.

Budget Amendments:

Clerk Johnson presented Final Budget Amendments for 2025-2026 and Fund Balance Amendments for the 2026-2027 Budgets for consideration.

Au Train Township Budget Resolution

Amendment No. 3 - FY Budget 2025-2026 FINAL

See Attachment No. 1

The foregoing Resolution offered by Johnson, Second offered by Cota, to amend the Appropriations Act for FY 2025-2026 in accordance with budgetary information presented to the Board and the limitations defined within this Resolution.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted aye: Johnson, Cota, Miller, Balmes, Carr

The following voted nay: None

The Clerk declared the Resolution duly adopted on the 13th day of April, 2026.

**Au Train Township Budget Resolution
Amendment No. 1 - FY Budget 2026-2027**

See Attachment No. 2

The foregoing Resolution offered by Cota, Second offered by Johnson, to amend the Appropriations Act for FY 2026-2027 in accordance with budgetary information presented to the Board and the limitations defined within this Resolution.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted aye: Cota, Johnson, Balmes, Carr, Miller

The following voted nay: None

The Clerk declared the Resolution duly adopted on the 13th day of April, 2026.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of March 31, 2026: General Fund \$310,557.23; Fire Fund \$589,926.62 + CD \$56,931.40; Garbage Fund \$345,578.18; Road Fund \$210,810.77.

Treasurer Cota noted upcoming hall rentals for April. 2025 Winter Tax Collection completed, settlement is complete with the County. A new Tax Collection Policy will be required to note that the date received will be the only consideration as timely payment, as the County no longer recognizes the postmarked date. This will be presented at the June Regular Board Meeting. Treasurer Cota also reminded the Board she will be absent from the May Meeting.

Clerk - Since the last meeting, several emails and FOIA requests were addressed. Website updates, budget amendments and general correspondence were completed or addressed. Final preparation for the May 5th Munising Public School Election is underway, with the Public Accuracy Test being held on April 5th. Upcoming training will be held on May 6th (Election Security) and on May 29th (State BOE Election Administration).

The SLFRF Report Portal opened on April 1st. Filing will be completed this month to meet the deadline of April 30th. A request to close out the grant will also be confirmed.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Planning Commission Meetings held March 31st and the CUP Hearings on April 9th. Upcoming meetings include April 21st for continued edits to the Zoning Ordinance. Trustee Carr also indicated he met with Range Telecommunications to oversee the additional security cameras installation.

Trustee Miller noted he received many questions regarding the water levels of the river and lake and the flow from Forest Lake Dam/Basin. He is continuing to monitor the flow and following up with state regulators. There is quite a concern within the community that the Township isn't doing enough.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. At the Fire Department meeting they discussed concerns over the dam and other possible emergencies and reviewed emergency response from the department. EGLE Dam Safety and Alger County Emergency Services have also been contacted. Renewal World Energy (RWE) is still owner of the Forest Lake Dam. The State is sending the required notices for Due Process before they can proceed with complete control. FERC is no longer involved as the Dam Licensed was suspended. Pen Stock gate is open 100% .

The Train Trestle DNR Trail Bridge replacement is on track with a hopeful completion date being able to accommodate the next snowmobile season.

Information regarding the dumpster at the end of Maple Grove Road was discussed. With the last blizzard the snow and plowing blocked access for residents and GFL. Supervisor Balmes confirmed that residents utilizing the dumpster are required to maintain access and keep the area cleaned.

There will be a meeting hosted by the Army Corp of Engineers on April 24th at 1:00 at the Au Train Township Hall. 100% funding for the grant to do the research and seek solutions for the Au Train River mouth and flow has been received. All the partners related to a future project are expected to attend.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: Public Comments were received from Andy Sommer, Joan Potter-Sommer, Wyatt Seaberg and Duane Newton, via email (forwarded to Board Members prior to the meeting).

Boards/Departments:

Maintenance Department: Ryan provided an update for the Board regarding upcoming maintenance plans, minor repairs at the Heritage Trail Center, bringing electric back in to the cemetery and providing the Board with information to make a decision about the kayak launch/fishing dock. The amount of repairs required to the dock may deem it necessary to look at alternatives to provide this service as part of our Lease Agreement with the State of Michigan (DNR). Ryan also noted he will be getting pricing on the new mower purchase from Northland, and the estimate for the exterior lighting at the Zoning office for consideration by the Board at the June Board Meeting.

Fire Department: A report was provided by Fire Chief Perry King, with Assistant Justen Knuttila and Member Ryan Walther also present. There were 2 calls for the month. Pomsal was here to measure for the turn out gear order. Also pike poles were ordered for the Au Train pumper. The department is searching for a replacement motor for the pump on the 2008 Christmas Pumper Tanker.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals- Zoning Administrator Donna Shields was present and gave her report, which included the 2026 Cumulative report on permits and activities. Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission include April 21st Work Session.

It was also discussed, as part of an email request from Duane Newton that he be reimbursed for Planning online training as well (since the Board reimbursed the Zoning Administrator). Mr. Newton will be notified that the Township does not reimburse citizen expenses regarding any online training they may choose to attend and that his request was denied.

Assessor/Board of Review - No report this month from Assessor Fuess. Supervisor Balmes and Board of Review member Donna Shields updated the Board on the March Board of Review meetings.

Unfinished Business:

1. Board Action Items - None

2. UPDATE - Seaberg Properties, LLC vs Au Train Township. As previously noted there was an appeal filed by Seaberg Properties, LLC. Attorney Nordeen will be preparing the Townships response.

New Business:

1. Correspondence - Emails were received from Mr. Newton and forwarded to Board members prior to the meeting. Clerk Johnson, FOIA Coordinator will continue to make determinations on costs to the requestor. His additional request was addressed under the Zoning Report. Munising Bay Cruisers requested funding for their annual event, with no board action.

2. Spring Cleanup - The Spring Cleanup date offering was confirmed with GFL for June 6, 2026 from 8:00am to 11:30am at the GFL Wood Island Landfill in Wetmore. Customers will be required this year to unload their own dropoff. GFL will not have staff on hand to assist with this as they have in the past. Moved Carr, seconded Cota, to **approve the GFL Spring Cleanup at the Wood Island Landfill, with costs being paid from the Garbage Fund Account.** Carr, yes; Cota, yes; Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.

3. Dust Control - Supervisor Balmes noted that pricing has been confirmed with Liquid Calcium Chloride for this years Dust Control Application. Moved Johnson, seconded Carr, to **approve the Quote from Liquid Calcium Chloride Sales for dust control product and application at a rate of \$1.05 per gallon, 3-8,000 gallon loads, being paid from the Road Fund Account.** Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried.

4. Contract for Services UPSET - Clerk Johnson presented the Contract for Services from UPSET. Moved Cota, seconded Miller to enter into a **Contract for Services with UPSET for the amount of \$1,500.00, from the Fire Fund Account.** Cota, yes; Miller, yes; Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Public Comments were received from Wyatt Seaberg.

Board Member Comments: Supervisor Balmes provided additional information to the Board.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 11th, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Adjournment: Moved Balmes/seconded Carr to **adjourn at 8:05PM.** Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: _____

Prepared: 04/22/2026

mwj