

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026 6:00PM - 7:36PM

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Tom Balmes, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee John Carr. There were 2 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 Johnson/seconded Cota to **approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Moved Carr/seconded Johnson to **approve the minutes of the February 16, 2026 Special Board Meeting/Budget Workshop**. 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 #17708-17729; Fire Fund #9482-9499; Garbage Fund #2163).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the February, 2026 Financial Reports. Final Budget Amendments for 2025-2026 will be presented, as well as Fund Balance Amendments for the 2026-2027 Budgets to reflect actual account balances as of March 31, 2026, at the April Board Meeting.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of February 28, 2026: General Fund \$301,718.52; Fire Fund \$534,866.78 + CD \$56,023.52; Garbage Fund \$337,904.15; Road Fund \$170,710.95.

Treasurer Cota also noted in her report there are no upcoming hall rentals. The 2025 Winter Tax collection wrapped up and was sent into the County, who will be responsible for the past due collections. Just waiting on settlement confirmation.

Clerk - Since the February 9th meeting, several emails and FOIA requests were addressed. Website updates, final budget prep for the public hearing were completed as well. The Election Commission will need to meet prior to the Regular March meeting on March 13, 2026 for the May School Election. The Public Accuracy Test will be held on April 4th at 10:00AM.

The SLFRF Report Portal opens on April 1st - I am very hopeful this will be the last required report and our grant will be closed. The 2025 State of Michigan Asset Forfeiture Report was filed as required.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Planning Commission Meetings and the CUP Hearing for the Kroupa STR. He stopped into Range Telecommunications to discuss our surveillance camera situation and requested a meeting and possible proposal for the additional cameras needed.

Trustee Miller noted he is still getting lots of questions regarding the water levels and the Forest Lake Dam/Basin. Residents want to know what the Township is going to do. At this time the Township is aware of the current status and remain in contact with the State for updates. There was also concerns presented about accessing Au Train Falls - which is under private ownership who closed off public access. Supervisor Balmes noted he would attempt to reach out to the owner to discuss the matter.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes also provided updates on the Forest Lake Dam, noted that EGLE Dam Safety is contacted monthly, at a minimum, for any updates. There were no additional updates at this time. As noted, the penstock is open 100% and the gates could be removed if necessary for proper flow. The State of Michigan will be discussing to see if the dam will be removed or continue monitoring.

Supervisor Balmes indicated that he spoke with the DNR regarding the Trestle Bridge. There was a meeting scheduled to review the design and set a plan to move forward. The funding for the project was approved.

Tom also noted that he received a call from Bob Leibinger regarding the January appointment of a Planning Commission member and the appointment process, and whether he was considered, but not notified of the new position availability. The Fire Department, Board of Review and Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings were attended.

Special Presentation: Joan Potter-Sommer (was originally planned to be a Public Comment, however, based on the nature of her attendance, was considered a Special Presentation, with all Board Members in agreement, in order for the Township Board to interact and ask questions). Ms. Potter-Sommer who works for Alger Co. Renewable Energy Solutions, requested use of the Township Hall for an Earth Day Celebration. This Special Event would be held on April 20th from 5:30-7:00PM. They have presentations, food and socialization planned. It is an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate our Earth. Treasurer Cota confirmed that the Township Building is available. The Township Board agreed to the event, with no rental fee, but with no monetary sponsorship provided.

Public Comment: Public Comment was received from Duane Newton, via email.

Boards/Departments:

Maintenance Department: Ryan provided an update for the Board prior to the meeting, which includes continued snow removal. He left a message for the electrician for a cost estimate to install an exterior light at the Zoning Administrator office entrance. Installation of the sound clouds, spring cleaning and maintenance will begin as soon as winter is done! A repair on the plow truck under carriage was scheduled with Christmas Auto.

Fire Department: A report was provided prior to the meeting. There were 2 calls this past month. Three members attended the smoke reading class and the DOT's are complete on the trucks.

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. Donna continues to digitize documents, adding any notes, Tax ID's etc. Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission are March 19th Work Session and Special Presentation for a possible PUD Project on Perch Lake Road, March 31st a Work Session and April 9th CUP Public Hearings for two STR applications. The ZBA heard an appeal on March 5th from Duane Newton on the expiration of his Zoning Compliance permit. The ZBA upheld the permit and ruled in favor of Mr. Newton.

Continuing Education for the Master Citizen Planner is offering 6 online sessions at a total cost of \$60.00. ZA Shields is asking for a reimbursement on this cost. Moved Cota/seconded Balmes to **authorize \$60.00 for the Zoning Administrator Continuing Education costs**. Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Johnson, yes; Miller, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.

Assessor/Board of Review - The March Board of Review will continue this month, as scheduled, on Tuesday March 10th and Thursday March 12th.

Budget Public Hearing

Supervisor Balmes **opened the Public Hearing at 7:10PM** for the presentation and comment period of the Proposed 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget.

Proposed Budgets for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for the General Fund Account, Fire Fund Account, Garbage Fund Account and Road Fund Account were presented and reviewed for accuracy.

Clerk Johnson updated the Board on any additional resources of monies for the upcoming Fiscal Year, as well as expenditures that may have been overlooked during the Budget Workshop Meeting.

The General Fund Budget, based on the fund balance and allocated millage was reviewed and discussed.

The Fire Fund Budget, based on the fund balance and voted millage was reviewed and discussed.

The Garbage Fund Budget, based on the fund balance and voted millage was reviewed and discussed.

The Road Fund Budget, based on the fund balance and voted millage was reviewed and discussed.

The total millage levied and authorized to be collected is 7.6583 for the Winter 2026 Tax Period.

Clerk Johnson noted that the Fund Balance for all accounts, effective March 31, 2026 will be amended to reflect actual reconciled balances at the April Regular Board Meeting.

Public Comments: Public comments were received from Duane Newton, via email.

Being no further comments or discussion, Supervisor Balmes noted the **Public Hearing Closed at 7:16PM**.

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Cota, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.
Upon roll call vote, the following voted aye: Johnson, Cota, Miller, Balmes, Carr

The following voted nay: None

The Supervisor declared the Motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted on the 9th day of March, 2026.

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Board Action Items - None
- 2. UPDATE - Seaberg Properties, LLC vs Au Train Township. The Township received Notification that Seaberg Properties, LLC did file an appeal on February 19, 2026. Additional information regarding dates, review and briefs and the Townships response will be forthcoming from Attorney Nordeen.

New Business:

- 1. Correspondence - Emails were received from Mr. Newton and forwarded to Board members prior to the meeting.
- 2. Proposal Range Telecommunications - Trustee Carr noted that he met with a Range representative, who reviewed our current system and made recommendations for an upgrade. Upon review and discussion of the proposal, Moved Johnson/seconded Cota, to **approve up to \$2,500.00 to contract with Range Telecommunications to update the surveillance system and add cameras as necessary.** Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.

The Board thanked Trustee Carr for the work getting this upgrade to proposal as needed.

- 3. Spring Cleanup - Discussion about scheduling a Spring Cleanup Day was made. Supervisor Balmes will verify with GFL on Open Dates and secure either May 30th or June 6th. This will be an April Agenda Item for the expenditure approval.
- 4. Dust Control Application - Supervisor Balmes will contact Liquid Calcium Chloride Sales to check on current pricing and possible application dates. This will be an April Agenda Item for the expenditure approval.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments: No additional comments were made by Board Members.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Adjournment: Moved Balmes/seconded Cota to **adjourn at 8:22PM.** Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk



Mary Walther Johnson

General Appropriations Act
RESOLUTION No. 2026-006
Au Train Township, Alger County, Michigan

A resolution to establish a general appropriations act for Au Train Township; to define the powers and duties of the Au Train Township officers in relation to the administration of the budget; and to provide remedies for refusal or neglect to comply with the requirements of this resolution.

The Board of Trustees of Au Train Township resolves:

Section 1: Title

This resolution shall be known as the Au Train Township General Appropriations Act.

Section 2: Chief Administrative Officer

The Supervisor shall be the Chief Administrative Officer and shall perform the duties of the Chief Administrative Officer enumerated in this act.

Section 3: Fiscal Officer

The Clerk shall be the Fiscal Officer and shall perform the duties of the Fiscal Officer enumerated in this act.

Section 4: Public Hearings on the Budget

For general law townships: Pursuant to MCLA 141.412, notice of a public hearing on the proposed budget was published in a newspaper of general circulation on January 7, 2026 and published on the autraintownship.gov website on January 9, 2026 and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget was held on March 9, 2026.

Section 5: Estimated Revenues

Estimated Township General Fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, including an allocated millage of 0.6758 mills; and various miscellaneous revenues shall total \$546,456.00 for the General Fund, which includes a 2/28/2026 approximate Fund Balance of \$309,331.00.

Estimated Township Fire Fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, including a voted millage of 2.9895 (Exp 12/31/29) and various miscellaneous revenues shall total \$984,194.50, for the Fire Fund, which includes a 2/28/2026 approximate Fund Balance of \$684,852.50.

Estimated Township Garbage Fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, including a voted millage of 2.000, (3.0000 available)(Exp 12/31/26) and various miscellaneous revenues shall total \$559,542.00, for the Garbage Fund, which includes a 2/28/2026 approximate Fund Balance of \$364,963.75.

Estimated Township Road Fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, including a voted millage of 1.9930 (Exp 12/31/26) and various miscellaneous revenues shall total \$441,208.00, for the Road Fund, which includes a 2/28/2026 approximate Fund Balance of \$230,294.00.

Section 6: Millage Levy

The Au Train Township Board shall cause to be levied and collected the general property tax on all real and personal property within the township upon the current tax roll an amount equal to total 7.6583 mills as set forth by the Tax Allocation Board (or as authorized under state law and approved by the electorate).

Section 7: Estimated Expenditures

Estimated township general fund expenditures for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the various township activities (cost centers) are as follows: See attached Exhibit A, B, C, D.

Section 8: Adoption of Budget by Reference

The General Fund, Fire Fund, Garbage Fund and Road Fund Budgets of Au Train Township are hereby adopted by reference, with revenues and activity expenditures as indicated in Sections 5 and 7 of this act.

Section 9: Adoption of Budget by Cost Center

The Board of Trustees of Au Train Township adopts the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year General Fund Budget, Fire Fund Budget, Garbage Fund Budget and Road Fund Budget by cost center. Township officials responsible for the expenditures authorized in the budget may expend township funds up to, but not to exceed, the total appropriation authorized for each cost center, and may make transfers among the various line items contained in the cost center appropriation. However, no transfers of appropriations for line items related to personnel or capital outlays may be made without prior board approval by budget amendment. In addition, those activities with single line item budgets, shall be subject to prior board approval by budget amendment prior to any transfers.

Section 10: Appropriation not a Mandate to Spend

Appropriations will be deemed maximum authorizations to incur expenditures. The fiscal officer shall exercise supervision and control to ensure that expenditures are within appropriations, and shall not issue any town order for expenditures that exceed appropriations.

Section 11: Transfer Authority

No Officer shall have the authority to make transfers among the various cost centers (or line items) without prior board approval. Under no circumstances may the total general fund budget be changed without prior board approval.

Section 12: Periodic Fiscal Reports

The fiscal officer shall transmit to the board at the end of each of the first three quarters, and at the end of each month occurring during the fourth quarter, a report of financial operations, including, but not limited to:

- a. a summary statement of the actual financial condition of the General Fund at the end of the previous quarter;
- b. a summary statement showing the receipts and expenditures and encumbrances for the previous quarter and for the current fiscal year to the end of the previous quarter;

c. a detailed list of:

- i. expected revenues by major source as estimated in the budget; actual receipts to date for the current fiscal year, and any revisions in revenue estimates resulting from collection experience to date.
- ii. for each cost center: the amount appropriated; the amount charged to each appropriation in the previous quarter for the current fiscal year and as compared with the same period in the prior fiscal year; the unencumbered balance of appropriations; and any revisions in the estimate of expenditures.

Section 13: Limit on Obligations and Payments

No obligation shall be incurred against, and no payment shall be made from any appropriation account unless there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriation and sufficient funds are or will be available to meet the obligation.

Section 14: Budget Monitoring

Whenever it appears to the Fiscal Officer or the Township Board that the actual and probable revenues in any fund will be less than the estimated revenues upon which appropriations from such fund were based, and when it appears that expenditures shall exceed an appropriation, the Fiscal Officer shall present to the township board recommendations to prevent expenditures from exceeding available revenues or appropriations for the current fiscal year. Such recommendations shall include proposals for reducing appropriations, increasing revenues, or both.

Section 15: Violations of This Act

Any obligation incurred or payment authorized in violation of this resolution shall be void and shall subject any responsible official(s) or employee(s) to disciplinary action as outlined in Public Act 621 of 1978) and written policies of the Au Train Township Board.

Section 17: Board Adoption

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Cota, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

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

The following voted nay: None

The Supervisor declared the Motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted on the 9th day of March, 2026.



Signed: *Mary Walther Johnson*, Township Clerk

Approved: 03/09/2026

Au Train Township

General Fund Budget Fund 101

Budget Year 2026/2027

Proposed

Revenues

101 390.000	Fund Balance	309,331.00
101 398.000	Change Fund Balance	0
101 400.000	Revenue Control	0
101 403.000	Current Tax	63,881.00
101 412.000	Delinquent Tax	0
101 425.000	Swamp Tax	50.00
101 429.000	Commercial Forest Res	750.00
101 441.000	LCSA	5,000.00
101 447.000	Administration Fees	36,144.00
101 574.000	Revenue Sharing State Sales Tax	110,000.00
101 588.000	Grants/Gaming	5,000.00
101 626.000	Charges for Services	10,000.00
101 665.000	Interest Checking	3,000.00
101 668.000	Rents	1,500.00
101 694.000	Other Receipts	1,800.00
Total Revenues		546,456.00

Expenditures

101 326.000	First Responder Unit	0
101 701.000	Catastrophic Fund	0
101 715.000	Payroll Taxes	7,875.00
101 750.000	Recreation	30,000.00
101 804.000	Contracted Services	10,000.00
101 805.000	Membership/Dues	2,500.00
101 880.000	Community Promotions	1,000.00
101 911.000	Insurance	13,000.00
101 920.000	Street Lights	5,000.00
101 956.000	Misc. Expense	250.00
101 970.000	Capital Improvement	15,000.00
101 850.000	Grant Administration	0
101 101.000	Department: Trustees	10,000.00
101 171.000	Supervisor	19,600.00
101 191.000	Elections	9,700.00
101 209.000	Assessor	34,156.00
101 215.000	Clerk	37,350.00
101 247.000	Board of Review	1,850.00
101 253.000	Treasurer	29,400.00
101 265.000	Township Buildings	85,400.00
101 276.000	Cemetery	5,400.00
101 801.000	Zoning	63,984.00
Total Expenditures		381,465.00

Ending Fund Equity 164,991.00

TOTAL FUNDS SUPPORTING GENERAL FUND 546,456.00

Total Allocated Millage Supporting General Fund Account is 0.6758

Created 2/25/2026

mwj

Final Approved Date: 03/09/2026

Amendment No. 1 Date:

Au Train Township

Fire Fund Budget Fund 206

Budget Year 2026/2027

Proposed

Revenues

206 390.000	Fund Balance	684,852.50
206 398.000	Change Fund Balance	0
206 400.000	Revenue Control	0
206 403.000	Current Tax	282,625.00
206 412.000	Delinquent Tax	
206 429.000	Commercial Forest Res	3,000.00
206 588.000	Grants/Gaming	0.00
206 626.000	Charges for Services	9,717.00
206 665.000	Interest Checking	3,500.00
206 694.000	Other Receipts	500.00
Total Revenues		984,194.50

Expenditures

206 701.000	Salary Fire Chief/Asst FC	24,000.00
206 702.000	Add'l Support Wages	30,000.00
206 715.000	Payroll Taxes	4,200.00
206 728.000	Postage	150.00
206 741.000	Telephone Expense	2,000.00
206 777.000	Equipment Purchases	50,000.00
206 804.000	Contracted Services	5,000.00
206 805.000	Memberships/Dues	1,000.00
206 880.000	Member Training	5,000.00
206 911.000	Insurance	20,000.00
206 956.000	Misc. Expense	500.00
206 970.000	Capital Improvement	300,000.00
206 265.000	Dept: Township Buildings	119,000.00
206 860.000	Dept: Transportation	50,000.00
Total Expenditures		610,850.00
Ending Fund Equity		373,344.50
TOTAL FUNDS SUPPORTING FIRE FUND		984,194.50

Total Millage Supporting Fire Fund Account is 2.9895 Expires 12/31/2029

Charges for Services includes funds from Grand Island Township for Fire Protection Agreement

Created 2/25/2026

mwj

Final Approved Date: 03/09/2026

Amendment No. 1 Date:

Au Train Township

Garbage Fund Budget Fund 226

Budget Year 2026/2027

Proposed

Revenues

226 390.000	Fund Balance	364,963.75
226 398.000	Change Fund Balance	0
226 400.000	Revenue Control	0
226 403.000	Current Tax	189,078.32
226 412.000	Delinquent Tax	0
226 429.000	Commercial Forest Res	2,500.00
226 665.000	Interest Checking	3,000.00
226 694.000	Other Receipts	0
Total Revenues		559,542.00
Expenditures		
226 521.000	General Operations	216,000.00
226 804.000	Contracted Services	4,000.00
226 956.000	Misc. Expense	0
Total Expenditures		220,000.00
Ending Fund Equity		339,542.00
TOTAL FUNDS SUPPORTING GARBAGE FUND		559,542.00

Total Millage Supporting Garbage Fund Account is 2.00 (3.00 mills voted). Expires 12/31/2026

Created 2/25/2026

mwj

Final Approved Date: 03/09/2026

Amendment No. 1 Date:

Au Train Township

Road Fund Budget Fund 204

Budget Year 2026/2027

Proposed

Revenues

204 390.000	Fund Balance	230,294.00
204 398.000	Change Fund Balance	0
204 400.000	Revenue Control	0
204 403.000	Current Tax	188,414.00
204 412.000	Delinquent Tax	0
204 429.000	Commercial Forest Res	2,000.00
204 528.000	National Forest Res	15,000.00
204 539.000	Metro Act	4,000.00
204 665.000	Interest Checking	1,500.00
204 694.000	Other Receipts	
Total Revenues		441,208.00
Expenditures		
204 521.000	General Operations	0.00
204 804.000	Contracted Services	265,000.00
204 956.000	Misc. Expense	0.00
Total Expenditures		265,000.00
Ending Fund Equity		176,208.00
TOTAL FUNDS SUPPORTING ROAD FUND		441,208.00

Total Millage Supporting Road Fund Account is 1.9930 mills. Expires 12/31/2026

Created 2/26/2025

mwj

Final Approved Date: 03/09/2026

Amendment No. 1 Date: