

**Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2026 6:00PM - 8:28PM**

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Tom Balmes, Clerk Mary Johnson, Trustee Jake Miller and Trustee John Carr. Members Absent: Treasurer Kristy Cota. There were 9 persons in the audience.

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

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Balmes to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried. (General Fund #17754-17781; Fire Fund #9511-9521; Garbage Fund #2165-2167).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the April, 2026 Financial Reports. The approved payroll adjustments for Board Members, effective April 1st are reflected in the payroll issued.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of April 30, 2026: General Fund \$319,123.24; Fire Fund \$614,170.32 + CD \$56,931.40; Garbage Fund \$349,205.41; Road Fund \$233,446.19.

Treasurer Cota noted upcoming hall rentals for May. Information was provided regarding the Proposal from KCI to prepare and send the Summer Tax Bills.

Clerk - Since the last meeting, several emails and FOIA requests were addressed. Administration of the May School Election was reported with low voting turnout, billing Munising Public Schools and results approving the Proposal. Information was provided regarding the County Clerk sponsored Election Security Training attended on May 6th. Mandatory Election Administration Con Ed will be held on May 29th at the Munising Township Hall. Election Inspector Training will be held the week of July 6th, with a morning and evening class being offered. Persons interested in attending should contact the Alger County Clerks Office. The Secretary of State will once again be on site for their Mobile Office at the Au Train Township Hall on Wednesday, June 24th from 10:00AM-3:00PM

Millage proposals were prepared for consideration on the renewal for the Garbage Fund and Road Fund accounts.

The SLFRF Report was completed on April 29, 2026 with a request to close out the grant. Anderson, Tackman & Co. was contacted to schedule the full year audit.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Planning Commission Meeting held on April 21st. There are upcoming meetings on May 14th (CUP Hearings) and May 28th (Regular Meeting).

Trustee Miller noted he continues to receive questions regarding the water levels of the river and lake and the flow from Forest Lake Dam/Basin. Concern over the amount of misinformation was discussed. He also noted erosion on Au Train Lake with the high water levels. Trustee Miller also noted he looked over the Heritage Trail dock and will discuss further with Ryan. It appears that at least two railings need to be repaired or replaced with something more heavy duty.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. He also reviewed the Lease Agreement with the State for the trailhead. The lease includes a fishing pier, and universal accessible docks, so those will need to be retained. The funding for the trestle bridge project has been held up. They are hoping to have confirmation by the end of June to put out a bid sheet. The 2nd quarter water testing will be sent in this month.

Supervisor Balmes noted he attended the April 24th meeting hosted by the Army Corp of Engineers, as well as other partners, to obtain information on the study being planned for the flow of the Au Train River at the mouth where it enters Lake Superior. He was also contacted by EGLE to check locally about notification of tiny styrofoam waste along Lake Superior beaches. It is appearing between Marquette and Grand Marais. EGLE indicates it was a spill of some sort and are working on a plan for cleanup.

EGLE will be meeting with Renewable World Energies on May 13th to discuss the Forest Lake Dam. RWE is in bankruptcy. After this meeting the Township Board will be informed of the next steps for the dam.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: None

Boards/Departments:

Maintenance Department: Ryan provided an update for the Board regarding upcoming maintenance plans, roof shingle repairs at the Heritage Trail Center, cemetery flag purchases, and playground updates. The Sound Cloud installation was completed. The estimate from Alger Electric for exterior lighting at the Zoning office will be provided upon receipt.

After review and discussion, Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **authorize up to \$1,500.00 for replacement of the pickleball net system**. Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding the Heritage Trail dock system was made. Ryan will get together with Jake and develop a plan moving forward.

Pricing on a new mower from Northland was reviewed. It was also suggested selling the old mower rather than doing a trade in. It will be put out on bids, with the minimum being the trade in value of \$2,000. Moved Johnson/seconded Balmes to **authorize up to \$12,000 for the purchase of a new John Deere Commercial Grade, zero turn mower with Northland Lawn, Sport and Equipment**. Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.

Moved Miller/seconded Johnson, to **put the old mower out on purchase bids**, with the minimum being the amount equal to a trade-in value. Motion carried.

Supervisor Balmes presented the maintenance contract renewal for services provided at the Heritage Trail Center. Moved Johnson/seconded Carr, to **renew the contract with Anthony Grady at \$20.00 per day for Summer Maintenance at the trailhead** (garbage pickup, disposal, and bathroom cleaning). Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.

Fire Department: A report was provided by Fire Chief Perry King. There was one call for the month. Mutual aid response to the City of Munising for a house fire. A fatality of one of the homes occupants was briefly discussed. Support was provided to all first responders on scene.

The motor pump was repaired on the Christmas Tanker/Pumper. Discussion regarding future replace of the 2008 tankers was made. The department Chief and Assistant were provided a hands on visit to Fouts Brothers plant in Georgia. Their products was exceptional, customer service top notch and the offer an amazing warranty. Additional information will be provided to the Board for consideration. The cost to build a new fire truck similar to our current tankers is about \$500,000 with up to a year build time. This will be a future Agenda item.

Community Building/Heritage Trail/Recreation - Supervisor Balmes presented information on the permit process from MDOT to obtain permission to place a life saving station at the Au Train River Beach, as well as a removable volleyball net. Also discussion about the yearly contract and placement of the porta jons at the overflow parking area off Au Train Forest Lake Road. Supervisor Balmes confirmed that Tri County Septic is able to supply them at a cost of \$200 each per month. Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **contract with Tri County Septic for the placement of two porta jons at the overflow parking area for summer, at a cost of \$400.00 per month**. Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried. Supervisor Balmes will contact them to secure a starting date.

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 May 14th CUP Hearings and a Regular Meeting scheduled for June 11th. Specific items within the report were discussed as needed.

Assessor/Board of Review - Assessor Fuess was present to give a report to the Board. Discussion and information about field work visits, BS&A online roll out and its future budget impact, and upcoming summer tax collection. The valuation process for the Forest Lake Basin acreage private purchase, which includes the Au Train Falls property and substation power house from the dam was also discussed.

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 reported that the Court of Appeals has not take any action as of this date.

3. Dust Control - Dates have been scheduled (weather permitting) for May 19th through the 21st for application.

4. Maple Grove Road dumpster - As briefly addressed during the Supervisor's report, a complaint was emailed to several agencies regarding the dumpster placement and garbage overflow by a resident on Maple Grove Road. The DNR followed up on that complaint with an onsite visit. They completed the inspection, noted it was a snow event that left a mess and unaccessible. They had no current issue with its placement or care. GFL replaced the dumpster with better lids and fasteners. Supervisor Balmes confirmed that the users are responsible for clean-up and access or they will risk its removal. The Township Board agreed to continue with the summer placement at this time.

New Business:

1. Correspondence - Correspondence was received from Munising 4th of July Committee and Mr. Newton. Moved Carr/seconded Miller to **donate \$1,000.00 to the Munising 4th of July Fireworks Fund.** Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Johnson, yes. Motion carried.

2. GFL Garbage Contract - Clerk Johnson forwarded a copy of the existing contract with GFL. The 5-Year agreement is up for renewal August 2026. After continued discussion, Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **Extend the existing contract with GFL for the additional 5 years offered, with a addendum to address a contingency on millage approval.** Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried. Clerk Johnson will reach out to make sure GFL.

3. Garbage Millage Request - Resolution No. 7 - See attachment No. 1

4. Road Millage Request - Resolution No. 8 = See attachment No. 2

5. KCI Summer Tax Proposal - Clerk Johnson presented the proposal from KCI for Summer Tax Services. Motion Johnson/seconded Balmes, to **contract with KCI for the prep and mailing of 2026 Summer Tax Bills, as presented, with estimated cost of \$1,685.00, and postage being paid in advance.** Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Public Comments were received from Donna Shields.

Board Member Comments: None

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for June 8th, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Adjournment: Moved Balmes/seconded Carr to **adjourn at 8:28PM.** Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: _____
Prepared: 05/18/2026 DRAFT
mwj