

**Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026 6:00PM - 8:30PM**

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 Johnson to **approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **approve the minutes of the May 11, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Carr to **pay bills**. Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes. Motion carried (General Fund #17782-17804; Fire Fund #9522-9533; Garbage Fund #2168).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the May, 2026 Financial Reports. The 1st Quarter Reports for 2026 (April/May/June) will be provided and reviewed at the July Regular Board Meeting. That review will determine whether any Budget Amendments will be recommended.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of May 31, 2026: General Fund \$289,117.92; Fire Fund \$609,944.88 + CD \$56,931.40; Garbage Fund \$331,183.44; Road Fund \$251,128.93.

Treasurer Cota noted one hall rental for July 5, 2026. Treasurer Cota is working on the export to KCI for the Summer Tax Bills. A \$17,483.03 disbursement was received for NFR that will go to the Road Fund. A check for \$300.00 was received from the Au Train Land Owner's Association for the Fire Fund and \$1,500.00 from the KBIC 2% Gaming Revenue distribution for the General Fund.

Moved Cota/seconded Balmes to **refund the rental fee of \$80.00 to Sheila Trisch**. Motion carried.

Clerk - Since the last meeting, several emails and FOIA requests were addressed. Website updates and cemetery mapping, lot sales and deeds have been updated as well. Attended Election Administration Training on May 29th. Upcoming Election Inspector Training will be the week of July 6th. Submitted millage requests to the County Clerk and approved the ballot for publication. There will be a total of six millage requests on the August Ballot. The County has 911, Altran, Senior Services and MSU Extension, the two Township renewals and Au Train Onota School Operating. Reminder that the Secretary of State Mobile Office will be onsite June 24th from 10:00-3:00.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Planning Commission Meeting held on May 14th for CUP Hearings and May 28th Regular Meeting to continue edits and review of the Zoning Ordinance.

Trustee Miller provided additional information regarding the Heritage Trail Kayak launch and dock and will discuss further with Ryan about getting it installed yet this season.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. Information was provided regarding the trestle bridge and noted the funding was approved, but held up. He contacted State Representative Bohnak asking for help in obtaining the release of funds. Au Train River level gages were provided via grant funds and need to be installed.

For the Spring Clean-up this year, there were only 35 participants. GFL is not happy with our numbers. The Township should consider holding the event earlier in May, rather than after Memorial Day. No Fall event is planned at this time.

Additional information was provided regarding MDOT Life Saving station, parking access to the river beach, and access to the privately owned Au Train Falls.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: Wyatt Seaberg offered public comments to the Board.

Boards/Departments:

Maintenance Department/Comm Bldg/Cemetery/Heritage Trail: Ryan provided an update for the Board regarding upcoming maintenance items. The new mower was picked up. Information regarding the cemetery, and the light installation at Zoning Office exterior door.

Discussion at length regarding the process for the installation of a new drain field and septic tank was made. Supervisor Balmes will reach out to the health department and report to the Board from there.

Clerk Johnson noted that Munising Memorial Hospital sent in a 60 day notice to vacate their Community Building rental agreement. Participation numbers have been low and they now have a mobile unit for their clinics.

Fire Department: A report was provided by Fire Chief Perry King. There was one call for the month. The hose and ladder testing was completed. New member Brad Steinhoff completed the FF Class and turnout gear has been ordered. The air brakes on the Christmas Tanker were repaired. Drawings for the Christmas Fire Hall are being completed so the project can go out on bids. The complete report is on file.

Chief King also presented information to the Board regarding a pumper purchase. After discussing during budgeting and at the May Board Meeting, additional information was provided that the 2026 Chassis stock is running low and when those are no longer available, the price will increase significantly.

Truck purchase proposals were presented from Axes and Irons/Vehicle Alliance Group, Fire Service Inc. and Pomasl. After lengthy review and discussion, Moved Miller/seconded Balmes to enter into a **contract with Axes and Irons/Vehicle Alliance Group, LLC for a FOUTS 2026-2,000 gallon tanker Fire Truck at a final contract price, with options, of \$462,000.** A \$230,000 down payment will be issued upon receipt of a fully executed agreement for sale. Miller, yes; Balmes, yes; Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Johnson, yes. Motion carried.

While the Board noted concern about the quick process, they appreciated the detailed information so that they could act in the best interest of the department, as well as be fiscally responsible.

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/meetings and actions. Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission include June 11th Regular Board Meeting and June 25th CUP Hearing. Specific items within the report were discussed as needed.

Assessor/Board of Review - No Assessor report received this month. July Board of Review, for any clerical corrections and mistakes in the current tax roll, is scheduled for July 22nd at 6:00PM.

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 there is still no movement from the Court on the Appeal.
3. Forest Lake Dam Updates - The Board recently received correspondence from the State regarding RWE and the Forest Lake Dam. The letter, which outlines the necessary steps moving forward by RWE or what the final consequences will be, with specific deadlines being applied. At this point the Board is sharing the information available, but are not partners or parties in any of the decisions made by the State regarding the dam and its future. A complete copy of the letter is on file and also available on the Township Website.
4. Au Train River - After information was provided by Supervisor Balmes, the Board Position and permit renewal application on any future dredging was tabled until July. The Township needs to provide a performance agreement before any renewal can begin.

New Business:

1. Correspondence - None
2. GFL Garbage Contract - Clerk Johnson noted that GFL has agreed to a 5 Year renewal with a contingency for millage approval.
3. Michigan Townships Association Membership/Dues - Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to **renew our one-year membership with Michigan Townships Association in the amount of \$1,687.53**. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Miller, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.
4. Tax Collection Policy - Clerk Johnson presented a Tax Collection policy for consideration by the Board. Moved Cota/seconded Balmes to **approve the Tax Collection Policy, Policy No. 2026-001** as presented. Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Johnson, yes; Miller, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer Compensation for Non-Statutory Duties - As previously discussed, Clerk Johnson presented information to the Board regarding additional payment to the Treasurer for non-statutory duties. Moved Johnson/seconded Balmes to **compensate Treasurer Cota a one-time yearly payment of \$1,500.00, for the non-statutory duty of school district Summer Tax Collection**, starting July 1, 2026. Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Cota, yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments: Trustee Carr regarding the cost of fire equipment, and Supervisor Balmes, who wanted to briefly update the Board on the Dust Control Application process. Clerk Johnson noted the total cost was \$25,720.80. Supervisor Balmes also indicated that 16 Mile Lake Road from the Fire Hall to Doe Lake Road will be applied by the Road Commission because of the current road construction project.

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

Adjournment: Moved Balmes/seconded Johnson to **adjourn at 8:30PM**. Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: _____
Prepared: 06/16/2026 DRAFT
mwj