

**Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 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 5 persons in the audience.

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

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Carr/seconded Cota to **approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Cota/seconded Carr to **pay bills**. Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Miller, yes; Johnson, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried (General Fund #17805-17832; Fire Fund #9534-9546; Garbage Fund #2169-2170).

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of June 30, 2026: General Fund \$298,052.62; Fire Fund \$603,911.42 + CD \$56,931.40; Garbage Fund \$316,769.39; Road Fund \$227,594.22.

Treasurer Cota noted one hall rental on July 25, 2026. She also noted Summer Tax Bills went out July 1st. A \$230,000.00 disbursement wire was scheduled for the deposit on the Fire Truck purchase.

Clerk -Since the June Meeting, emails and FOIA requests were responded to. Website updates, parcel division inquiries and processing cemetery lot purchases continue. There is a cremains burial scheduled for July 20th.

Correspondence from the State regarding the SLFRF Final Reports was received. The Dept of Treasury is sending out invitations to those who are eligible to close out their grant. We are still waiting for that invitation. SLFRF Report 2026 was completed and accepted.

MML Insurance has an appraiser meeting with Supervisor Balmes on site to conduct appraisals on Township properties valued over \$100,000. Received application documents for our policy, that is up for renewal October 2026. Received payment from Munising Public Schools for the May Election Administration. Payment was initially incorrect, but an email confirmed it was an error on their part and additional payment would be sent.

We are moving onto to full administration mode for the August 4th Primary. There was Election Inspector Training the week of July 6th and we had many interested persons attend. We will conduct our Public Accuracy Test on July 11th. The weekend prior to the Election office hours will be 9-1:00 Saturday and Sunday, August 1st and 2nd. Early Voting will be held at the County Complex, with cost sharing.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that he attended the Planning Commission Meeting held on June 11th and the CUP Hearing on June 25th. He also addressed calls about garbage pickup.

Trustee Miller addressed concerns about the chip and seal on Au Train Forest Lake Road, and continues to monitor water levels of the lake and river. Water levels are higher now than they were in late spring. The monitors Supervisor Balmes received have yet to be installed.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. The quarterly water testing passed. Provided information on the vacant lot at the Christmas Fire Hall and the need for a cleanup, was contacted by the DNR regarding excessive dust conditions on 16 Mile Lake Road in the construction area and referred them to the ACRC. Visited the progress of the USFS canoe/Kayak launch at Highbanks Project. This will be a day use only area. The EGLE Dam Safety Division indicated they were contracting to bring in a consulting firm to give recommendations on the Forest Lake Dam. Supervisor Balmes will reach out to Linda Hansen at EGLE requesting a FEMA update on the Flood Map update.

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: None

Boards/Departments:

Maintenance Department/Comm Bldg/Cemetery/Heritage Trail: Ryan provided an update for the Board regarding upcoming maintenance items. The old mower will be used at Christmas and 16 Mile Lake area because of conditions and avoid damaging the new mower. The test hole for the drainfield replacement was completed.

Fire Department: A report was provided by Fire Chief Perry King prior to the meeting. There were 5 calls for the month. Tyler Penrod is a new member of the Department and will be responding from the Au Train hall. Brad Steinhoff passed his Fire I Class. Discussion about the need for First Responders in Alger County. There is an upcoming class beginning this fall. The Township Fire Department should consider covering the costs of training for Au Train Township Residents to maybe bring in more interest.

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 July 16th Regular Board Meeting and July 23rd CUP Hearings. 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 the Court of Appeals has yet to accept it.

3. Septic Drainfield/Tank update - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on the progress of the drainfield replacement project. He is waiting to hear back from the health department and their sizing requirements. An additional hole may need to be made for alternate location. Supervisor Balmes will keep the Board updated and schedule a Special Board Meeting if necessary.

New Business:

1. Correspondence - MBTN requested Sponsorship for the 2026/27 Season. A sponsorship directly fuels the growth of the trail system, bringing in more bikers to experience what the area offers. No Board action.

2. Seaberg Claim of Appeal - Clerk Johnson provided information to the Board regarding an appeal of a decision by the Planning Commission on the Wyatt & Kirsten Seaberg Conditional Use Permit to operate a Resort located at N7840 Ridge Road, Munising, MI 49862, Parcel ID# 001-325-020-00 on May 14, 2026. Their CUP request was denied. This was a rehearing resulting from a previous appeal and decision by Alger County Circuit Court Judge Rehilly. Attorney Nordeen will respond to the appeal as necessary.

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the June 2026 Financial Reports and the 1st Quarter Reports for 2026 (April/May/June) for review and discussion. The review didn't indicate any areas of concern or need for budget amendments at this time.

Public Comment: Tyler Penrod presented a Resolution to the Board for consideration. The request is a Data Center Development Moratorium Resolution. The Board will review, provide a copy to the Planning Commission and place on an upcoming agenda for continued discussion and consideration.

Board Member Comments: ZA Shields noted that an extension with CUPPAD for their Zoning Ordinance Services and possibly mapping needs to be considered. It will be placed on the August agenda. Supervisor Balmes provided additional information on the drainfield replacement process and communications with the health department.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for August 10th, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Adjournment: Moved Balmes/seconded Carr to **adjourn at 7:50PM**. Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: _____
Prepared: 07/24/2026 DRAFT
mwj