

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026 6:00PM - 8:02PM

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Tom Balmes, Clerk Mary Johnson, Treasurer Kristy Cota, and Trustee John Carr. Absent: Trustee Jake Miller. 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 Balmes/seconded Carr to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Cota/seconded Johnson to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Moved Johnson/seconded Cota to pay bills. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried (General Fund #17833-17865; Fire Fund #9547-9558; Garbage Fund #2171).

Financial Reports:

Clerk Johnson presented the July 2026 Financial Reports. Reports were emailed to Board members prior to the Meeting.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer - Balance as of July 31, 2026: General Fund \$287,451.60; Fire Fund \$359,961.38 + CD \$56,931.40; Garbage Fund \$299,870.65; Road Fund \$227,787.52.

Treasurer Cota provided an update on Summer Tax Collection. Treasurer Office Hours are scheduled for September 15th from 9:00-5:00 pm for the last day of Summer Tax Collection without penalty/interest.

Clerk - Since the last meeting, several emails and FOIA requests were addressed. Website updates and sending cemetery Deeds continue with additional sales. Audit is scheduled onsite for August 31st. The balance of the month involved Primary Election Administration with 176 AV ballots sent, 127 returned. There were a total of 406 voters. The Road Fund Millage request (unofficially) passed 252 Yes/152 No and Garbage Fund Millage request (unofficially) passed 293 Yes/112 No. GFL has been contacted with the results, per our 5 Year Contract Extension. All the County millage requests passed, as well as Au Train Onoto Schools. The Alger County Board of Canvassers are expected to certify the results at their meeting this week. Additional supplies for the November General Election were ordered and administration will begin mid-September.

Trustee's - Trustee Carr noted that the Planning Commission Meeting for July 16th was cancelled and he attended the July 23rd CUP Hearing. He continues to work with contractors on obtaining bids for the replacement upgrade of the Township Hall HVAC System.

Supervisor - Supervisor Balmes updated the Board on recent meetings attended. Information was provided regarding the dumpster at Woodland Ave and placement issues. White, the fiberoptic contractors in the area, moved it for installation and Supervisor Balmes got them to go back and place it properly for access by GFL. The health department are scheduled to inspect the well/water supply for the Community Building. Because of use reduction, the Township may be able to go to a Annual Testing schedule rather than quarterly.

Supervisor Balmes noted that he met with EGLE, State and MDOT officials on site at the Forest Lake Dam. GI Consulting-Marquette has been contracted on the matter, with results presented on the future of the Dam next Spring.

There was a Blight Complaint filed for an Anne Road/Old Plank Road property. Tom spoke with the owner who agreed to come up before winter and take care of it.

Supervisor Balmes also attended the recent Fire Department Meeting, where current pay scale was discussed and compared to both Munising Township and Munising City Fire Departments. The Funding for the Trestle Bridge installation was released, the EGLE Permit was issued and bids are due October 1st. It may be possible for the project to be completed this year.

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. Trustee Carr reminded the Board that the generators need yearly maintenance and will follow up on getting that scheduled.

Fire Department: A report was provided by Assistant Fire Chief Justen Knuttila. There were 7 calls for the month. They added 4 additional members. Boots and additional turnout gear (size appropriate) will be ordered as necessary. Pump testing has been completed and all trucks passed. Review of active members will be completed by the end of the year to prepare an more accurate roster.

Justen presented a request to the Board for the purchase of Department hats for the members. Moved Cota/second Carr to allow up to \$1,000.00 for the purchase of Fire Department Member hats. Cota, yes; Carr, yes; Balmes, yes; Johnson, yes. Motion carried.

Recreation: Clerk Johnson noted that the roadside parks at the Au Train River Beach and Shelter Bay have been closed for the installation of the new toilet vaults. The Au Train River temporarily reopened as the contractor has been delayed. Both projects will be completed this fall. With the Au Train River closure, there was a lot of congestion at the Heritage Trail parking area, but it is a temporary situation.

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. Specific items within the report were discussed as needed.

Assessor/Board of Review - No Assessor report received this month. July Board of Review was held on July 22, 2026.

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. Septic System Replacement - Supervisor Balmes noted he met with the LMAS Health Department Sanitarian who came out, and is requesting a second test hole and then will prepare the required specifications and location for the replacement. Upon receipt, the Township will be able to request bids for consideration.
4. UPDATE - Seaberg Claim of Appeal of Planning Commission decision on CUP Application for a Resort on Ridge Road. The appeal has been filed and the Township will be filing a response to the appeal. The Court will schedule a hearing date.

New Business:

1. Correspondence - Correspondence was received from the Alger County Treasurer regarding upcoming Rural Funding Workshops for fire hall projects. Memorial Hospital sent a request for advertising in their Exceptional Seniors calendar/fundraiser.
2. Moratorium Data Centers - Clerk Johnson presented information regarding the request for the Township to consider a moratorium on Data Center approval within the Township. Upon discussion with Attorney Nordeen and CUPPAD, it was determined that a Resolution regarding Data Centers should come from the Planning Commission. The Data Centers cannot be stopped, but the Township can determine specific Industrial Districts within the Township through the Zoning Ordinance.
3. CUPPAD Contract Extension - Clerk Johnson presented the contract amendment from CUPPAD to continue Zoning Ordinance updates, including mapping. Work is expected to be completed within 12 months of the previous contract end date of October 16, 2026. After review of the Options - Moved Johnson/second Cota to approve Option No. 2 to amend the Project Description and Scope of Work with CUPPAD for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Johnson, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes; Carr, yes. Motion carried.
4. Zoning Board of Appeals - Clerk Johnson noted that is has been discussed by members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to expand the Board from 3 to 5 members. After review and discussion, the Board took no action.
5. Zoning Administrator Education Opportunity - Zoning Administrator Donna Shields requested approval to attend a Parcel Division Class being offered. It will allow more understanding on the requirements and possibly taking on this review/approval as Zoning Administrator, which is now being sent to Attorney Nordeen. Moved Johnson/second Carr to approve the \$65 fee for the Zoning Administrator to attend a Parcel Division class offered by MSUE. Johnson, yes; Carr, yes; Cota, yes; Balmes, yes. Motion carried.

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

Board Member Comments: None

Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 14th, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Adjournment: Moved Balmes/seconded Johnson to adjourn at 8:02PM. Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Walther Johnson, Clerk

Mary Walther Johnson

APPROVED DATE: _____
Prepared: 08/18/2026
mwj