

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE ORV ORDINANCE
OF JULY 9, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Pullen with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen.

Jack Hubbard, Supervisor from Burt Township, said that he is in support of the ORV ordinance that the county presented. He said he would like to see the townships and counties work together. His feelings are if it's not broke, don't fix it.

The Sheriff said that it was the consensus of the townships and the county to go ahead the ORV ordinance and to have one ordinance instead of six.

Rusty Atherton from AuTrain Township said he is opposed to the ORV ordinance. He said they are used as off-road vehicles, not on-road vehicles. He also said Sec. 2 of the ordinance says that an ORV may be operated of the far right of the maintained portion of a road within the county. Sgt. Grahovac said they are to be as far right as they can on the roadway.

It was asked about the definition of the ORV and if there something to include golf carts or golf cars? He said they have had issues with this that the Prosecuting Attorney has had to deal with in the past. He said the definition does not fit at all with golf carts. Sgt. Grahovac said it has to do with how it is being operated. Sgt. Grahovac said if it's being operated on the side of a roadway, then it is considered an ORV and then they would have to have a helmet. There was much discussion about this issue. Sgt Grahovac is to ask Karen Bahrman specifically about golf carts. He said he will let the Board know what the Prosecutor says for Monday's regular board meeting. Rusty thinks it will be another non-enforceable ordinance. There is a grant for ORV patrols if there is a designated trail in the County. There is not a designated ORV trail in Alger County yet, but it is being worked on.

Doug Miron talked about the dust from ORVs and having trouble seeing while driving his own vehicle. He also discussed the deterioration of the side of the roads and the county not having money to fix them.

Millard Fillmore, Supervisor of AuTrain Township.

Sgt Grahovac said that once this ordinance goes into effect, he would like it to be ORV Ordinance No.14 (the same ordinance number as the old ORV ordinance number).

Commissioner Doucette said that the people in AuTrain are really impressed with the amount of support the Sheriff's Department has given them.

Sgt. Grahovac said whatever is under state law, he wrote it to be under the ORV ordinance. He also said whatever they write a ticket for, the Sheriff's Department would get one-half of the citation and the road commission would get the other half of the citation. Then the courts would still have their costs.

On a motion by Commissioner Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn this public meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.