

# MINUTES OF THE AUGRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~ 7:00 P.M.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Treasurer Patricia Tremble, Jan Bullock and Trustee Penny Kurchak

**ATTENDEES:** Bill Bullock, Art Gallop, Aurette Gates, Janelle Shipley (for Rep Mike Hoadley) and Chuck and Kay Woods.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting began at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Clerk Michael Oxley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Janelle Shipley introduced herself as representing Mike Hoadley (our state Representative) who planned to attend in person but had meetings elsewhere. Shipley stated that Hoadley is always available to discuss issues with the township board. Call or email to him in person. She left contact handouts and then departed the meeting (not looking forward to the long drive home).

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Trustee Janice Bullock made correction to the minutes, that she was at last months meeting (minutes show her absent). Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the November 14th, 2023 Board of Trustee meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved (as corrected).

**PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS:** Motion made by Oxley to approve the November 2023 book of bills. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Treasurer Tremble. Motion made by Bullock to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

**AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY:** The November 16th meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall was called to order by Olen Swartz. Thomas Brandimore gave the treasurers report, reviewing the usual monthly bills and checks were signed to pay the bills. During meeting it was discussed to add \$50,000 to the fire ladder truck payment (\$25,000). After which of the original \$800,000 cost of the truck, only \$24,000 would be owed. Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reports six calls during the past month: aid in searching for a lost hunter, 2 EMS assists, a combine fire and a grass fire. A class was attended by members covering what to do about electrical vehicle accidents and fire, where it was advised, that if no jaws of life was required - just let the car burn, avoiding the dangers of water and electric batteries. Next meeting to be held on Thursday, November 21st at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Trustee Jan Bullock was unable to attend the December 4th meeting, but did attend the November holiday parade and the Santa Train on December 2nd. Reporting how much fun it was to see excited kids lining up to visit Santa. Characters who accompanied Santa on the train were the Grinch, A Minion, Sky from Paw Patrol Sky and Minnie and Mickey Mouse.

**CEMETERY REPORT:** No report, all is quiet for the winter, as it should be.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop reported the building activity in the township over the past month. House going up on Green Drive has been shingled and has windows in place. A deck on a Booth Road residence, A shed (on skids) also on Booth Road. And a new permit just written today. Gallop further added about several blighted homes which need to be addressed. At which Bullock asked when something was going to be done on Santiago road (Dewald), stating that she would sign a complaint if that was what was needed.

Gallop ended by pointing out that the stakes going up along US-23 were marking the right-of-way for the Consumers Power substation project.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Township 2024 monthly board meeting dates. Oxley asked the board members if there were any thoughts on changing our 2nd Tuesday of the month meeting day. All agreed, no changes. Oxley referenced the handout to be posted with the meeting dates (and time 7:00pm). Motion made by Oxley to approve the Township Board of Trustees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month during 2024. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- b. Treasurer Tremble proposed moving \$100,000 from the Commercial Marijuana Fund into a CD (at 4.25% interest) through the North Central Area Credit Union. Pointing out that the monies were not planning to be spent until at least the end of 2024 or spring of 2025. Discussion followed and it was decided to put \$130,000 into the CD.  
Motion made by Oxley to put \$130,000.00 from the Commercial Marijuana Fund into said CD at North Central Area Credit Union (for 7 months at \$4.25%). Motion supported by Tremble. Roll Call Vote: Herzog ~ Yes, Kurchak ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Tremble to handle the details with at least one other board member signing.
- c. Oxley reported to those in attendance the requirement by the State of Michigan to have assessing/tax records online for the public viewing. Explaining that currently the assessing records are a laptop which Barbara Jones our assessor uses. BS&A has a software package which is intended to meet the state requirements for an first year cost of \$7025.00. The township has received a 2% Tribal Distribution Grant for \$10,000 to pay the cost, with the remaining monies being put to future years costs. Motion made by Tremble to sign the BS&A service contract, purchasing the software package. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- d. Garbage levy removal petition from Mr. Dennis Kocot, Sr (2166 S. Dreyer road) from parcel #003-0-027-200-040-00 (1758 S. Dreyer road). Kocot owns the adjacent parcel and is already paying the \$150.00 for trash pickup. There is no on living on the parcel in question due to a house fire, though there is a standing garage on the property. Tremble questioned the removal, stating there are other residents who have multiple properties and have to pay if there is a structure on additional parcels. Oxley pointed out that Kocot's parcels are contiguous properties (sharing a common border). Tremble agreed that there is precedence for removal in such a case. Motion made by Oxley to remove the garbage collection levy from said parcel. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Kocot to be issued an updated tax bill.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Merry Christmas, please stay for cookies, cupcakes and egg-nog. Kurchak reported that the Michigan legislature voting on bills 5120/5121 had passed. The bills gave energy companies exemption from local zoning rules with respect to wind and solar projects. Thanking all those who had contacted their state representatives on these bills, as the board had urged last month. There is an amendment to the bill, which gives some control, but only so far as state zoning rules apply, not local control.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Aretta Gates (Swenson road) asked for clarification on the Blight Ordinance, specifically about a signed complaint. Herzog explained that the ordinance has a requirement that in order to take any action, a resident has to sign a complaint form noting who/what/where the blight is located. Herzog continued, musing that there are circumstances where a resident may not be able to afford cleanup (such as Mrs. John Smith on Noggle Road

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 8:15pm. Motion made by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No Nays. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

James Herzog, Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Oxley, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_