

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 11th, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Meeting was rescheduled from 01-09-2024
due to snowstorm by Supervisor Jim Herzog

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

ATTENDEES: Bill Bullock, Art Gallop, and Chuck and Kay Woods.

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

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Trustee Jan Bullock made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Treasurer Pat Tremble after pointing out a typo in the minutes, made a motion to approve the minutes (with correction) of the December 12th, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved (with correction).

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Treasurer Tremble, reporting that the various CDs have earned \$17,000 for the year (2023). Motion made by Oxley 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 December 21st meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall was called to order by Olen Swartz. Thomas Brandimore gave the usual treasurers report, reviewing the usual monthly bills and board members signed paychecks. Brandimore spoke on the upcoming budget review and reported on renewal of the 1 mil Fire Department millage for the August 2024 ballot. The board voted to purchase two new computers for the fire chief and treasurer, as currently they are using their own equipment, which could be FOIA'd, exposing their personal/family information. Chief Hummerickhouse reported one call during the past month - a fatal accident on US-23 near Hammel Beach road. The Fire Department remained on the scene for 8-1/2 hours. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 17th at the Whitney Township Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Jan Bullock did not attend the January 2024th meeting, and referred to the minutes for details. Clerk Oxley apologized for not including the AHRA minutes in the agenda packets, stating copies would be made available.

CEMETERY REPORT: No report, all is quiet for the winter, as it should be. Kurchak reported that the branch which fell off the large pine, may have struck a couple of headstones, causing them to tip slightly. Or it could just be the unfrozen ground. Herzog to check on this.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop referred to the printed report in the agenda packet. Stating the house on Booth was coming along, and inquiring about the Dewald property on Santiago, and asked if the township might get volunteers to help clean up his blighted yard? Ending with discussion on Alisha Vansickle's 'garage' on Swenson road.

OLD BUSINESS: Tremble asked about the 'Assessor BS&A software' and whether Oxley had submitted the secure policy agreement, which was approved last month. Oxley to follow up on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Motion to rescind the December motion to invest monies into a CD at North Central Area Credit Union, Standish. Oxley did not see a need to rescind, as the investment plan was rejected by the credit union. Issues with the Marijuana Fund monies, and also the issue that Tremble had with only one signatory. Tremble presented a new investment approach, requesting board approval to move \$130,000 from the Commercial Marijuana Fund and putting it into a CD with Huntington Bank, Standish at 4.6% (9 month at 4.55%). Also taking moving \$50,000 from the Horizon bank general fund (thus reducing FDIC liability) into a Money Market account at 5% with Huntington bank.

Motion made by Oxley to move \$130,000.00 from the Commercial Marijuana Fund and putting it into a CD at 4.55% for 9 months at Huntington Bank, Standish. Motion supported by Kurchak. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Treasurer Tremble to process the paperwork, with 3 board signatures.

Motion made by Oxley to move monies (not to exceed \$50,000.00) from the Horizon bank general fund into a money market account with Huntington Bank, Standish at 5% with no fees. Motion supported by Bullock. Roll Call Vote: Bullock ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Kurchak ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Treasurer Tremble to process the paperwork, Tremble requested input from the board as a CD through Horizon Bank, Au Gres was maturing and suggested that we roll it over. Current rates for CDs at Horizon are 9 months at 4.72%, 6 months at 5% and 12 months at 4.49%. Tremble suggested a 9 month roll-over as the general fund was very healthy, and FDIC coverage had to be considered. Motion made by Oxley to roll over \$250,000 into a 9 month - 4.72% CD at Horizon Bank, Au Gres, per the Treasurer's suggestion. Motion supported by Kurchak. Roll Call Vote: Herzog ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Kurchak ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Treasurer Tremble to process the paperwork

- b. 40 acre Township property at Swenson and Noggle roads (parcel tax id# 003-0-015-100-005-00), which was put up for sale in MONTH through Arenac Realty had two offers: 1.) \$80,000 Wayne Bigelow, and 2.) \$81,000 Karl Edmonds with promise of payment in the spring. There was Board discussion and it was decided that taking to choose the offer which was cash now, compared to waiting for future payment. Motion made by Bullock to accept the Bigelow offer of \$80,000. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Herzog to contact the realtor.

Herzog reported receiving a letter(attached) from Mr. David Scott, a Booth Road resident suggesting that instead of selling off the property, it should be put into the public use, thus avoiding the land taxes, and giving township residents a place for a sports complex, baseball diamond, walking trails and such. There was board discussion asking if there were even enough young people in the township which would use such a facility, coupled with the fact we have the Boardwalk Lookout Park, and the city already has ball and soccer fields.

- c. Election Commission Meeting date/time: Oxley explained that the election commission was comprised of the Clerk, Supervisor and Treasurer. And that the meeting involved approving the names and party affiliations of the election worker, their pay, and the date and time for the Public Accuracy Testing of the voting equipment prior to the February 27th Presidential Primary election. Motion made to hold the EC meeting on Wednesday January 14th, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Voice Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.
- d. Budget Review Meeting date/time. The Township Fiscal Year is from April 1st through March 30th. Motion made to hold the budget review meeting on Saturday February 17th, 2024 at 9:00AM, in advance of our March Annual Meeting and Budget Adoption. Voice Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.
- e. Oxley asked the board to purchase a new (Windows 11) laptop computer for Assessor Barbara Jones, using the remaining ARPA funds, as the computer she was using has failed. Motion made by Oxley to purchase a new computer, with Deputy Treasurer Tom Brandimore to transfer the BS&A software. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.

BOARD COMMENT: Bullock asked when something was going to be done with the blighted properties, specifically the Santiago property she passes every day. There was discussion on the township providing a dumpster, but liability was a concern. Herzog to move on issuing citations, using Sheriff Tim Robbins as our Ordinance Enforcement Officer. Gallop suggested reducing the first offense fine to \$100 (from

\$500 which seemed high to him). Board members thought that the costly fine would produce quicker results, which is why it was in the Civil Infraction ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:13pm. 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 _____