

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING February 13th, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

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

ATTENDEES: Bill Bullock, Jeff Czymbor, Dave Enos, Art Gallop, Norma and Roger Schwiderson, and Chuck and Kay Woods.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting began at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance. Followed by a moment of silence, remembering the passing of Barbara Luberta, long time Planning Commission member.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Treasurer Pat Tremble 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: Dave Enos asked about Shenfield road, the project to turn the extension into a township/county road. Also about upgrading the streetlight on the corner of US-23 and Shenfield. Art Gallop asked about Consumers Energy re-routing the power poles on East Gordon road, a project begun a couple year ago, now at a standstill. Gallop has had to use his generator for a total of 50 hours. Roger Schwiderson asked if the township was going to hold a tire drive this year.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Trustee Jan Bullock made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11th, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

Pat Tremble motioned to approve the minutes of the January 24th, 2024 Election Commission meeting. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Tremble to approve the January 2024 book of bills. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Treasurer Tremble, reporting that the Huntington Bank Money Market interest rate was not 5% as reported in last months minutes, but was 3% (5% if a CD). Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: The January 18th meeting held at the Whitney Township Fire Hall was called to order by Olen Swartz. Thomas Brandimore gave the treasurers report, reviewing the monthly bills. The Whitney Twp annual hall rental bill was paid (\$8934.92). Brandimore passed out 2024-2025 fiscal year budget worksheets with proposed adjustments to the Contingency Fund. The Fire Chief and Treasurer now have new laptop computers (replacing the use of personal home computers).

Kinde Hummerickhouse (reporting for the Fire Chief): There were four fire calls in the past month, three were minor traffic accidents and one downed power line.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 15th at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Jan Bullock reporting - the Loyalty Day Parade will be on Saturday April 27th. The County-Wide Garage Sale is scheduled for June 7th and 8th (Friday/Saturday). The 13th Annual Vintage Car Show - Saturday July 6th, 2024. Farmers Market will begin Friday June 14th and end September 13th. The Give Local Bay fund drive is on Tuesday, May 7th (\$4000 was raised last year!). Next AHRA meeting to be held on March 4th 2024, 7:00pm at the Standish Depot.

CEMETERY REPORT: All is quiet, awaiting spring. Kurchak reported some leaning headstones. Kurchak and Herzog to check on them, reporting to Sexton Edward Manor.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop reported on recent phone conversations/inquiries. One about purchasing 2 lots at the end of Swenson Road, to build a 1200sqft home with septic system. Another about lots on Green Drive wanting to build a small storage building and moving in a travel trailer - to which the footprint minimum was stressed, and the trailer-stay zoning rules in lakeshore residential. The two houses in the works (Green Drive and Booth Road) are coming along nicely.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Motion to remove garbage assessment (\$150.00) from Jennifer and Kevin Venner property on Shenfield road (ID# 003-0-010-300-010-10) an adjoining parcel to their home parcel already charge for trash pickup. Motion made by Oxley to remove the duplicate garbage assessment on said parcel, motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- b. Resolution to adopt the Federal Poverty Guidelines prior to the 2024 Board of Review meetings. Clerk Oxley explained this is something we do each year, updating the income guidelines on the poverty exemption form. Figures being supplied by Assessor Barbara Jones. Motion made by Oxley to adopt the resolution for poverty exemption using the 2024 federal guidelines. Motion supported by Tremble. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Resolution 2024-03 adopted. A signed copy to be filed with the assessor. Oxley pointed out that a poverty exemption request can be filed anytime during the year, not just at the March Board of Review.
- c. Budget workshop date: After board discussion and comparing calendars, it was decided to hold the Budget Review Meeting on Saturday February 24th, 2024 beginning at 9:00am - Public Welcome!
- d. March Board of Review Dates: These dates, supplied by the assessor, can vary in order that an assessor with multiple jurisdictions can service each one. Provided that the meeting dates are during the second week in March.
Motion made by Oxley to establish Wednesday, March 13th (3pm~9pm), 2024 and Thursday March 14th (9am~3pm), 2024 as the March Board of Review meeting dates. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Oxley to post the dates on the hall bulletin board.
- e. Township credit card to replace the existing debit card. Oxley explained the need for a credit card in order to pay for website hosting. There was discussion on why the debit card was not suitable. Oxley elaborated about 'use charges', which led to more discussion. The topic was tabled until Deputy Treasurer Tom Brandimore could explain the costs, as he is handling the website project.

BOARD COMMENT: Bullock again asked if there was any movement with respect to the Santiago blighted property she passes every day.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Art Gallop requested Herzog and Oxley sit down and review the lakeshore zoning setbacks, as they are confusing.

Norma Schwiderson spoke on her work with housing migrant workers (green carders). Stating that in their country they might make \$6 a day, here they can earn \$16/hour. Adding that the rules of behavior are strict. These workers know if they do not follow the rules, get out of line for any reason, they can be sent back home, which happened last year, not just to a worker (whistling at a woman) but to his entire group. Dave Enos chimed in about abuse of the stop sign (and Shenfield road in general) by a white van transporting migrants. Norma got on the phone immediately and reported it to the service (West Branch) bringing them into this country.

Roger Schwiderson, on the topic of rumors spreading, could not understand the fuss over migrant workers, since the agriculture workers are so needed around here. These are not unregulated border crossers, these are registered green carded workers.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:00pm. Motion made by Kurchak to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No Nays. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____

James Herzog, Supervisor _____

Michael Oxley, Clerk _____