

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING June 11th, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None

ATTENDEES: In order of signing in: Jeff Czymbor, Sherlyn Burkhardt, Bill Bullock, Julie Hazeltine, Aretta Gates, Wayne Kinne, Wes and Julie Crumby, Art Gallop (Zoning Administrator), Nancy Selle, Chris Ming, Joy Willis, Josh Estabrook, Bernie Rotelle, Terry and Amy Lynch, Keith Dewald, George and Julie Hill, Carol Sessler,

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

BOARD COMMENT: Trustee Jan Bullock stated that training certification for election workers was June 27th 1-4pm. A worker could also be certified by taking the training in another county.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by Treasurer Patricia Tremble to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sherlyn Burkhardt, running for Arenac County Treasurer (August 6th primary election), spoke on her qualifications and history working in the county building, and in the treasurer's office for the past 3 years.

Superintendent Doug Ming spoke on the school millage request on the August 6th ballot. This is not a new millage, but a renewal, and voters with a primary residence in the township do not pay this millage (17.78 mils).

Julie Hazeltine running for Arenac County Treasurer on the August 6th primary election, spoke on her qualifications. Treasurer of Sterling Village and owned an insurance office for years.

Joshua Estabrook (1638 S Swenson) complimented the township on the ditching work done on the south side of Jodway Road, and asked about getting the north side cleaned out. Herzog replied that one bid for that job was already received and he is waiting on another bid.

Nancy Selle, requested a further review of the Kola Farms renewal request (expansion) on Manor Road to the west of the current facility. Preservation of the neighborhood, as stated in the Medical Marijuana Ordinance does not work with another 3/4 of a mile of junkyard fences. Approval should be considered by the township board.

Keith Dewald asked about getting gravel on Gordon Road West of Santiago. There has been no work on his road for years.

Supervisor Herzog thanked the residents for their input.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the May 14th, 2024 Board of trustees meeting (with corrections). Motion supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Total of all funds (including CD, money market investments and \$13,970.70 in accrued interest on investments) is now \$1,721,403.54. Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report. Supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: Meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Olen Swartz. Treasurer's report was given by Tom Brandimore, reviewing the usual monthly bills, and discussed the

budget audit and the issues presented by the auditors. One issue is the fire fighters who do not cash their paychecks in a timely manner, presenting a problem for Brandimore during an audit.

Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported that the fire fighters did some pumping training during the month. Michigan Medical Response (MMR) made 453 runs in Arenac County in 2023. MMR has three full time rigs and one backup. The annual firefighter steak fry was held on June 5th. Two large grass fires, one at Wigwam Bay and the other at the end of Santiago Road near the boardwalk. Both fires were intentionally started and tickets were issued by the DNR to the offenders. The Wigwam Bay was fought all night, and our fire fighters then had to turn around for the Santiago boardwalk fire. Next Fire Board meeting is on Thursday June 20th the Au Gres Township Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Jan Bullock did not attend the June meeting. Bullock did report that the Omer Courthouse Junque sale made \$2000.00 and the bake sale made \$700.00. The Farmer's market is now open at the Standish Depot from June 13th through September 14th. For more, the May 6th minutes are in the agenda packet with dates on scheduled activities.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Been quiet with phone calls but no zoning permits. One zoning permit for a barn on Pt Au Gres Road (Kelly). Mr. Crumby with a possible pole barn is in need of a visit from Nicole King (EGLE). Gallop asked about lawns in lakeshore residential, and reported that the property on Gordon and Rumsey Roads was all cleaned up. Sometimes just a warning letter is all it takes. Due to calls late and night, Gallop, is changing his phone messages and will only answer between 8:00am and 5:00pm weekdays (no weekends), otherwise leave a voice mail.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Kurchak reported that the Chippewa Tribe granted our request to put four (4) benches and matching trash cans in Linwood cemetery (\$12,000). Sexton Ed Manor to pour cement slabs and bolt them down. Benches to be ordered. Herzog added that Dominic Ruiz (cemetery maintenance) reported someone leaving live bullets on a tombstone. Thoughts were expressed that this was an honor thing by a visitor, but not wise.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a). Tire drive. First Class Tire Shredders would drop a trailer off, as done in the past. Or GFL our trash collection company would leave open dumpsters (a choice of sizes/ with a range of prices), and take away the tires when full. Board decided to go with First Class Tire Shredders and schedule the tire drive for Saturday, August 10th (with the trailer to be dropped off on the 9th). Workers are still being sought. Tire Drive notice to appear in the newsletter.
- b). Street Lights on Manor/Dreyer and Manor/Davis corners. Consumers Energy has the specs and is to get back with us on costs.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Kola Farms 2025 Permit Renewal allowing grows on adjacent parcel 003-0-023-300-00-51. Patricia Tremble Planning Commission member spoke on the topic (from the recent review by the PC board). Kola Farms has 4 Medical Marijuana Permits, one of which is unused due to the lack of space. Renewal on December 1st will come with an application and site plan for approval by the board expanding onto their adjacent parcel. Renewal may be made 90 days ahead of time (when requesting a change of location). See attached June 3rd, 2024 Planning Commission minutes for details on the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve. Motion made by Oxley to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to allow Kola Farms' medical grow change of location, with application and site plan, 90 days prior to renewal of the existing medical permits. Motion supported by Bullock. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.
- b. Barbara Jones resigning after the July Board of Review. The board discussed options about where to find a replacement. Sherlyn Burkhardt chimed in that her son was just about the complete his assessor training and would be available come first of the year. Oxley to check with the City of Au Gres, as their assessor works for a group.
- c. Starlink Internet - 30-day trial (3wk delivery appx \$600.00 startup cost and \$140.00 a month). The entire board agreed that Brightspeed's internet service (formerly Centurylink) was too slow for our needs, especially speeds needed for the township website. Oxley reported signing up for the Starlink package only to be stalled because they would have charged taxes. Awaiting a reply from Starlink.com on an email inquiry about tax exempt status.
- d. Stephenson Inc, our auditors are requesting a date be set for the township's 2022-2023 audit. The week of July 22nd was agreed upon. Oxley to contact Nathan Miller on specific days of that week.

BOARD COMMENT: Oxley invited residents to attend a SBCISMA Frog Bit Invasive Species lecture on Friday June 21st at 7:00pm at the township hall. This to be followed by a Frog Bit pull in the Au Gres River Saturday morning.

Herzog presented the Manor Road Boring results, which the Road Commission requested in order to give us a cost projection on paving Manor road. Basically, the entire road is about 3" of rock and below that mud and peat.

There is no plan at the time to move ahead on paving Manor Road, as the cost vs benefit is way out of line. Regular maintenance, as needed, like many of our township roads is planned for the future.

Kurchak had a negative thing to bring up - the fact that the porta-potty which has been available at the boardwalk lookout park since May (at 150.00 a month). It had to be removed because Daniels Septic reported that three of the four past weeks, someone had smeared feces all over the inside of the unit. His worker cleaned it up the first times but Daniels said he would not tolerate any more and hauled the unit away.

Treasurer Tremble asked when the roads were going to be brined. Herzog to contact Eastern Dust Control (Matt Milan). Trustee Kurchak thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aurette Gates asked about the \$42,000.00 spent on building up Dreyer Road, Herzog pointed out that the marijuana fund was used to pay for it, not road fund monied

Keith Dewald (Gordon Road) talked about the kids fishing weekend where 100 kids got poles and lures. Aurette Gates wondered if the township could help support the cause. Oxley replied that there were strict guidelines on how taxpayer monies could be spent. And how the auditors pointed out that even though the marijuana application and permit fees were not 'taxpayer dollars' those rules applied to marijuana funds as well.

Dewald went on to ask about the odor in the center of town (across from the shell station). Marijuana ordinance states that odor should be controlled (carbon filtration). Dewald said that fisherman who would come to a tournament in Au Gres, have said they wouldn't participate because of the stink in town. Tremble replied that this issue will be addressed.

Nancy Selle agreed that odor at Pure Green/Glorious Canna was an issue and also the wastewater, as EGLE had shut down the septic system at the site (2497 E Huron). It is the townships job to maintain that these facilities are operating according to our ordinances and state laws.

Selle also inquired on the line-of-sight issue between Derek Porrit and the Mr. Czymbor's rental units on Green Drive.

And asked whether the master plan had a 5-year road plan in it. Herzog replied that we have a 10-year road plan.

Wes Crumby chimed in to say that the line-of-sight issue might be resolved by a 3rd party, a company in Tawas could be hired. Crumby also complimented on the ditching on Santiago (south of Gordon).

Joy Willis asked about moving the time for Planning Commission meetings from 9:00am on a Monday morning to 7:00pm at night when working residents would be able to attend. Also asking about damage to her sister's gravesite, with irreplaceable items on her grave which had been smashed. Herzog to follow up on the damage.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:23pm. 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 _____