

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Treasurer Patricia Tremble, Trustee Jan Bullock and Trustee Penny Kurchak **ABSENT:** None

**ATTENDEES:** In order of signing in: Chuck and Gay Woods, Aurette Gates, Art Gallop, Pam Stewart, and Bill Bullock.

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

**BOARD COMMENT:** None.

**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 (2 minute limit per person/group):** Pam Steward stated she visited Linwood Cemetery and complemented the beautiful benches, and applauded the cemetery board for the work they do. Derek Porritt reported the MTA rules for public space privacy guidelines, stressing that recording audio and video at a public meeting (in a public meeting space) complies with the open meeting act. Chuck Woods said that the township board is doing a beautiful job.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the October 8th, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting (with one correction). Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

**PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS:** Motion made by Tremble to approve the October 2024 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Clerk Michael Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Pat Tremble. Total of all funds is \$1,568,426.60 with the accrued interest on investments at \$9676.14. The Mosquito Fund CD was redeemed and the Gypsy Moth CD (\$118,434.25) was rolled over for another 6 months at 5.0053%. 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:** Meeting held at the Whitney Fire Hall, called to order by Olen Swartz. Jim Herzog gave the treasurer's report (in Tom Brandimore's absence), Monthly bills reviewed and checks signed to pay those bills. Fire fighters had seven calls during the month - 4 personal injury (auto accident) calls, including a crash at M-65 and US-23. Plus a water rescue and a pet rescue. And there is a new firefighter recently certified on staff.

Herzog stated that a man who attended and was angry about fire dangers at Brown's Landing. The complaint was unresolved, having explained to the resident that the Fire Board does not have the authority to police private property. Next meeting is Thursday, November 21st at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Jan Bullock said she did not attend the meeting as it was the day before the general election. Reporting on the Omer Courthouse 'Christmas Junque Sale' on November 15th/16th. And the 'Christmas Greens Sale' is to be held on December 13th/14th. Minutes of the Heritage Route October 7th meeting is in the agenda package.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Construction on a Booth Road and property is proceeding, as well as the garage on Pt Au Gres Road. He has been in consultation with a property owner on M-65 who is going to put up a 40x50 pole barn. Atwater's place on Santiago is working on the sun room/mudroom/garage project and has put in all new windows on the house. Gallop met with Rick Horn, and toured the burned-out house on Bay Ridge Drive (formerly Coffey's place). It had already been inspected and given a building permit by Gary Johnson of Area Code Enforcement.

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Cemetery Board member Penny Kurchak was happy to reported that the benches now installed at the cemetery. The matching trash cans are awaiting the can liners to arrive, then they will be put in place on the circular slabs already poured. Cemetery maintenance man Dominic Ruiz is starting the fall cleanup work.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Assessor Jessica Landry was hired by Treasurer Tremble - contract already signed by board members. The assessors pay, per contract, is set at: Annual contract compensation: 1407 parcels @ 1.00 each=\$1407. Monthly employee compensation: 1407 parcels @ \$13.00 each =\$18,291.00/12 =\$1524.25 (monthly), and Inspection program option B: 281 parcels @ \$30.00 = \$8,430.00/4 = \$2,107.50 (quarterly). Motion made by Bullock to approve the pay scale, per contract. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Assessor pay scale approved.
- b. Land division - Urban/Hart: a 40-acre parcel (003-0-28-100-005-00) on the Southwest corner of David and Manor roads, being divided into two 20-acre parcels (North 20 to Urban - South 20 to Hart). Survey and application has been submitted to Assessor Landry, awaiting approval. Oxley expressed the need to have board approval in order to have the division finalized before the end of 2024 (else approval would not be recorded until January of 2026).  
Motion made by Oxley to approve the land division pending assessor approval of the split. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Land division approved (pending).
- c. Land division - Gary Bilacic: a 13.33 acre parcel (003-0-014-300-025-05) being split into two parcels (a 10.63 acre and a 2.70 acre parcel). Assessor Landry, having already received the paperwork, emailed Clerk Oxley with the request to have this put on the agenda for a motion to approve, pending her acceptance of the application and survey documents. Motion made by Tremble to approve the land division, pending the fully completed application and the guarantee of easement access to both divided parcels. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Land division approved (pending).
- d. December board of review date and time. Resolution made by Clerk Michael Oxley to hold the December Board of Review on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at 1:00pm. Resolution supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes. Resolution approved. Oxley to send the minutes approving said date and time to assessor Jessica Landry.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Herzog thanked all the veterans who served our country. Happy Veterans' Day! Oxley reported that the township had almost a 70% voter turnout (absentee voters included). 576 total voters cast ballots, including 229 absentee voters. One of which was a military/overseas (MOVE) ballot. Kurchak expressed her thanks for those who voted her back onto the board - another four years, yaaaa!. Herzog welcomed Aretta Gates as the new member of the Planning Commission, thanking her for her continued attendance at township board meetings and for agreeing to serve as a PC board member. Gates will replace Ross Maser who resigned from the board last month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joy Willis expressed her appreciation of the board members and the work that they have done. Then asked about what the township is planning on doing since mosquitoes positive for 'west Nile virus' were found in APM traps along Noggle Road. Also inquiring about blight letters being sent to a resident on Santiago.

Once again it was asked about zoning ordinance administrator Arthur Gallop retaining the position and not being a US citizen. Bullock sternly answered, quoting MTA, that as an appointed position citizenship is not a requirement.

Pam Stewart, Linwood Road, requested a streetlight at the corner of Linwood and Court Street as it is so dark there one cannot even see the road(s). Supervisor Herzog to contact Consumers Energy, does not see an issue with getting a streetlight installed.

Derek Porritt requested a zoning administrator contract and list of his duties as ZA. Questioning his confusing Lakeshore/Residential land class with Lakeside. Also concerned with a statement from Gallop 'not to be visiting job sites after a permit is issued'.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 7:51pm. 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 \_\_\_\_\_