

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING December 10th, 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: Bill Bullock, Pam Stewart, Art Gallop, Jeff Czymbor, Aurette Gates, Becky Woodward, Chuck and Kay Woods, and Derek Porritt. (plus, four residents who did not sign the sheet).

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

BOARD COMMENT: Treasurer Patricia Tremble reported that the December Board of Review went very well earlier this afternoon, with the new assessor Jessica Landry doing an excellent job.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by 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): Keith Dewald asked, since he had reported the issue months ago, what had been done to control the marijuana odor from the Pure Green/Glorious Canna facility (2497 E Huron). Tremble told how there was a meeting (in July) with John Bruech's team and carbon filtration was going into place. Dewald pointed out that carbon filtration was required in the ordinance, but the odor is so bad that he is going to the Au Gres City to complain. If the issue is not corrected, he plans to cancel next summers walleye tournament.

Derek Porritt Pure Green has been overflowing their septic system into the nearby marshland by 10,000 gallons a day for over two years. The facility is poisoning the land, and the air (with their generators, which were installed without a permit).

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Kurchak to approve the minutes of the November 12th, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting (with two corrections). Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Tremble to approve the November 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 \$1,495,203.96 with the accrued interest on investments at \$11,019.97. The CD investments are currently earning about 4% interest. 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: Meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Alan Pichan. Tom Brandimore gave the treasurer's report, monthly bills were reviewed and board members signed checks to pay those bills

Au Gres Township, partnered with the Fire Board, requesting 2% monies from the Saganing Chippewa Tribe for new air cylinders for the fire fighters. The Tribe granted \$5,000.00 towards the cost of the equipment
Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported 6 calls last month - (2) personal injury car accidents, (1) chimney fire, (2) calls for burning leaves and a fire which burned 2 acres in a wooded area.
Next meeting will be at 7:00pm on December 19th, 2024 at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Jan Bullock reporting: The Santa Parade on the day after Thanksgiving was a big success, such a good turnout! The Santa Train arrived last Saturday (December 7th 9:00am~10:30). There were 200 people (by counting the gift bags given out) and all the kids got to see Santa before the train had to leave. Bullock was near enough to Santa to hear the kids tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Santa was very good, with one child asking for a cell phone, Santa replied that a cell phone comes with a monthly bill so you had best ask his parents. Lastly Bullock said that the Annual Omer Courthouse 'Greens Sale' and bake sale was this was Friday, December 13th and Saturday the 14th (9:00am to 4:00pm).

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Two zoning permits issued on M-65 properties - one a modular home to be moved in, and the other a pole barn being built.

Art met with a man who is looking at property at the end of Swenson Road, discussing an existing septic field (from sometime in the 1990's) and about phragmites removal spraying. On Booth Road, a house which was recently build is not looking to put up a 3-bay garage. The pole barn on Pt Au Gres Lane is now being wired for electricity, and work at Atwaters' place on Santiago Road is moving along nicely.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Cemetery Board member Penny Kurchak told the board that the trash cans recently purchased (with tribal grant monies), did not come with the dome covers and so they were filling with rainwater. Supervisor Jim Herzog contacted Kirby Industries, and is getting a quote for lid covers. Otherwise, everything is peaceful and quiet at the cemetery.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Assessor Jessica Landry, whose pay schedule (per her contract) was approved at the November board meeting. However the pay for land divisions/combinations was not approved at that time. Oxley explained that he is now using Landry's Land Division/Combination forms, and that Landry agreed to keep the fee at \$150.00 per division or combination. Motion made by Oxley to approve paying Assessor Jessica Landry \$150.00 per land division or combination. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- b. Au Gres Township Board of Trustees - 2025 monthly meeting dates. Oxley confirmed that all board members agreed to meet, per usual, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. There was discussion on what to do, as the 2nd Tuesday in November (the 11th) was Veteran's Day. It was decided to meet on the following day - Wednesday November 12th. Resolution made by Oxley to approve holding the 2025 Board of Trustee meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except for November which will be on the 2nd Wednesday). Motion supported by Tremble. Roll Call Vote: Herzog ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Kurchak ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, and Oxley ~ Yes. Resolution approved. Clerk to post the dates in the hall and on the outside bulletin board.
- c. Budget Review - 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Oxley submitted general fund handouts to board members, with issues marked in yellow. And another handout showing details of the line items with issues. Reminding the board that we balance our budget by control group, not just by line item. Therefore, if a line item shows an expenditure over 100% of the budgeted amount, but the control group total percentage is under 100% then that item would not be discussed tonight. As the February budget workshop meeting is right around the corner. This in mind the only issue covered was the Cemetery Control Group. Expenditures here were way over budget, but resolved because the \$10,000 Tribal Grant monies came into play, and Dominic Ruiz's pay had been under estimated - a budget amendment was to be expected.

BOARD COMMENT: Merry Christmas was wished to all attendees and their families.

Tremble stated that at the December 2nd Planning Commission meeting, a blight ordinance and an abandoned vehicle ordinance was approved by the PC members, passed them onto the township board for consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pam Stewart (Linwood Road), a Board of Review member, commented that Assessor Jessica Landry was excellent. Absolutely made life easy for all the Board of Review members. Well worth whatever the township is paying her.

Derek Porritt asked about the zoning administrator contract details. Stating that he made a FOIA for this information, but didn't receive satisfactory information from Clerk Oxley. Disappointed at the lack of clarification of the ZO's duties. Reiterating statements, he made back at the July 2024 meeting about the parking lot and A-Frames next to his home. False facts are being presented and his issues are not being addressed.

Jim Herzog thanked everyone for coming and welcomed attendees to enjoy some punch and cookies.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:05pm. 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 _____