

MINUTES OF THE AUGRES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET ADOPTION March 11th, 2025 ~ 6:00 P.M.

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

ATTENDEES: (in order of the Sign-In sheet) Art Gallop, Pam Stewart, Bill Bullock, Wayne Kinne, Donna and Marty Wilson, Robert and Darlene Mowatt, Derek Cantu, Carl and Tina Creech, Wesley Crumby, Gail Wait, Lisa Reichart and Duane Willett. (Others not on the sheet – Kyle and Savannah Swartz, Joy Willis, Derek Porritt .

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion by Trustee Penny Kurchak to approve the agenda. Supported by Treasurer Pat Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Several residents of Lola Lane asked for help from the township to improve their road (a private drive). Citing safety issues (ambulances/fire trucks/medical personnel will not come down Lola Lane even in an emergency), and the fact that they pay road millage on their taxes. There was discussion on the prior history of this request, work which had been done in the past, attempts to make Lola into township road with the ACRC. Township auditors reporting that it was illegal to spend taxpayer funds on a private drive.

Derek Porritt questioned the requirement of the 30-day notice by the township board for salary increase request being only 29 days (February 11th to March 11th).

Derek Cantu asked about increased police patrol on Booth Road (and other roads in the township). Cars having been broken into, and one car stolen recently. The township needs more patrols and help. Residents feel unsafe in their homes and the Sheriff road patrols are never even seen, especially at night. The county sheriff officer attending the meeting stated that there is usually only one night patrol for the county, and would bring these concerns to the county sheriff.

STATE of the TOWNSHIP: Supervisor James Herzog giving a 2024 recap, another productive year in Au Gres Township. Thanks to the township treasurer, Pat Tremble for investing township funds (CDs and Money Markets), there is a healthy General Fund balance at this time.

Last year the township held the August Primary and November Presidential elections with higher than usual voter turnout.

A road project which had been in the works for years has finally been completed, making the Shenfield Road 'extension' into a township road. As well as many other road and ditching projects in the township. The ditching along the North side of Jodway Road, both sides of Manor Road (Santiago to Green Drive) and Santiago Road from Bay Ridge Drive north are providing better drainage in those areas.

The total cost of these 2024 road projects was \$314,527.55 (net amount after subtracting Road Commission matching funds - \$271,527.55). The Shenfield Road project and the Swenson Road chip and seal work was paid for using marijuana monies.

The spring and fall 'Clean up your Township' events, held in May and September, resulted in 10 - 30-yard dumpsters of trash being hauled out of the township (paid for with marijuana monies). The board plans to hold these events in 2025 beginning this May.

The residents of Au Gres Township should feel very comfortable with the township board, now and in the future. Thanks was expressed to fellow board members for all the work that they do during the year.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the March 1st, 2025 Budget Review meeting (with correction). Motions supported Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

BUDGET ADOPTION: Clerk Oxley explained the process the township goes through to adopt the budgets for the upcoming fiscal year (2025-26). Treasurer Tremble having had to leave the budget workshop meeting held on March 1st, had four corrections. Trustee Bullock thus had not reconciled the budget with remaining 2024-25FY funds. Therefore, the adoption of the budget was tabled. Motion made by Tremble to table budget adoption and schedule a special meeting towards the end of the month. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

BUDGET AMMENDMENTS: Clerk Oxley reported that he was unable to finalize the FY 2024-25 budget amendments as potentially some March 2025 bills may not have been received/paid at the time of this annual meeting. Typically, these amendments are finalized towards the end of the month (the township fiscal year runs from April 1st through March 31st). A special meeting was scheduled for March 26th, at 11:00am to adopt the finalized FY 2025-26 budget and approve the FY 2024-2025 budget amendments.

TRUTH IN TAXATION: Oxley stated, as has been the case for the past two years, the taxable valuations of property owners' homes will go up in 2025. State law sets a maximum taxable value increase of 5.0 if the inflation rate is higher than 5%. This year the tax increment factor is 3.1. By multiplying your property's taxable value for 2024 by 1.031, that will be your taxable value for 2025 summer and winter taxes.

SALARY INCREASES ~ Board Members: Oxley informed the attendees that a salary request for a general law township may be made at the annual meeting. Typically, the board makes this request of the electors every 4 years after being re-elected (an elector is a township resident 18 years or older who attends the Annual Meeting). The last increase was in 2020. Motion made by Oxley to increase salaries for Township Board elected officials: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two (2) Trustees by \$150.00 per month (\$1800.00/year). Motion seconded by Tremble. Show of hands vote by electors in attendance. Ayes - 20. Nays - 3. Motion approved. Salary increase to take affect with the May 2025 book of bills.

BOARD COMMENT: Thanks to the board of trustee members for jobs well done!

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joy Willis asked the hours that board members worked. Oxley replied that the stated hours (stated in the township newsletter) was Monday and Wednesday 9:30 to 1:00 and on Friday by appointment (during tax collection season). Tremble added that, though these are stated hours, board members are often in the hall every day, and work is regularly done at home by herself, and other board members. Wayne Kinne (Green Giant Farms, Manor Road) said that he deals with a lot of townships and the board members of this township are more dedicated to serving their community than other townships. A raise is well deserved by these folks.

ADJOURNMENT: Time 6:41pm. Motion by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____

James T Herzog, Supervisor _____

Michael H, Oxley, Clerk _____