

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ~ 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, Art Gallop, Pam Stewart, Donna and Marty Wilson, Kirk Olson, Aurette Gates and Bill Bullock.

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

**BOARD COMMENT:** Trustee Jan reported on the new BS&A accounting package that she was learning to use, pointing out the new look of the Book of Bills in the agenda packet. Clerk Oxley added that now instead of nine different funds, and having to switch from one to another, all are together under one company.

**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):** Keith Dewald, Gordon Road asked who was in charge of the Marijuana enforcement. Clerk Oxley is designated Marijuana Administrator. Marty Wilson asked about ditching along Jose Road to Big Creek, as his property is flooding each spring. Herzog replied that he is working on it with the Road Commission. Oxley inquired if the Jose Road culverts which were replaced in 2016 we still holding up.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the February 5th, 2025 Special meeting (ordinance review) and the February 11th, 2025 Board of Trustees 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 February 2025 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Pat Tremble. Total of all funds is \$1,844,685.66 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). 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 Keith Edmonds. Treasurer Tom Brandimore gave the treasurer's report and presented the 2025-26 budget, which was approved by the board. A new fire truck has been ordered (cost \$1 million to be delivered in 2026. A \$50,000 down payment was made. It was decided not to make any further payments, instead invest the funds and pay when the truck is delivered. The new truck will replace the existing 25yr old truck in order to maintain their insurance rating. Chief Kurt Humerickhouse to find a buyer for the old truck. He reported 9 calls this month. Most were personal injury accidents, and a sprinkler at 2497 E Huron (marijuana facility) which froze and popped, setting off the alarm. There had been a new fire fighter application, from outside the county - approved by the Fire Chief. Next meeting is at the Au Gres Fire Hall on March 20th, 7:00pm.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** No report this month - see minutes in the agenda packet.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Still pretty quiet, waiting for spring arrive. A couple in Texas called, interested in buying the 80 acres on Dreyer and Gordon (prior Dryer homestead). A house sold on Booth Road. The barn on M-65 is completed. There have been calls about 'Community Co-Op Solar Farms' which would be 5 megawatt or smaller. Gallop suggested the township planning commission discuss this community approach to solar farms. Acknowledging that the state has allowed large scale solar farms, with little or no township control. These smaller (5Mw) sites is something that can be regulated within Au Gres township.

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Cemetery Board member Penny Kurchak said the township was going to ask the Tribe for monies to redo the landscaping around the columbarium and for markers for flags where Veterans are buried. There are plans to paint the cemetery outbuildings (by sexton Ed Manor or cemetery maintenance Dominic Ruiz). It has been decided by the board to keep Ruiz as cemetery groundskeeper.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Motion made to use Eastern Dust Control for road brining again this year by Oxley. Motion supported by Tremble (specifying double pass application). Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Prices went up 5cents a gallon on the brine (23.5 cents last year to 24.0 cents/gallon this year). \$5.00 increase per mile/single pass (\$240.00 up from \$235.00 last year) and \$10.00 per mile/double pass (\$480.00 up from \$470.00 last year) Motion
- b. Motion made by Tremble to use Paul Golimbieski for roadside mowing at the same rate as 2024. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- c. A special meeting was scheduled on March 26th, 2025 at 11:00AM to adopt the 2025-26 FY budget, to approve the budget amendments to the 2024-25 FY budget and to review/approve the 2025 township road projects.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD COMMENT:** Supervisor Herzog reminded the attendees that the March Board of Review second session would be on Thursday March 13th from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Public welcome.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Marty Wilson - Crawford road asked to be sure that Eastern Dust Control does a better job than last year on Crawford. Seems like he ignored Crawford all together. Donna Wilson chimed in that if you were behind a car going south on Crawford, you couldn't even see the road for the dust clouds. Herzog responded that Matt Milan had to be sent out a couple of times last year, and to keep us posted about Crawford road.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 7:36 pm. 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 \_\_\_\_\_