

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 8th, 2025 ~ 7:00 P.M. **DRAFT**

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: Pam Stewart, Kirk Olson, Chuck Woods, Tom Reif, Art Gallop, Duane Willett, Angela Mason, Derek Cantu, Ray Scherzer, Wes Crumby, Jessica Leinaar, Joe and Gina Short, Jim Osborn, Keith Dewald, and Don Schoenberger (with 5 people not signing the sheet).

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

BOARD COMMENT: Supervisor Jim Herzog thanked the people for attending the meeting. Spring came and went this year - rumor has it that Summer will be on a Wednesday this year.

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 Pam Stewart, Linwood (cemetery) Road reported that the long-awaited streetlight in up and running. No more turning in the dark to get to her home. Wes Crumby speaking for residents on Lola Lane, asked for help from the township to maintain/fix their road. There was much discussion back and forth - township attorney said we could not spend money on a private drive. A while back the township helped residents meet with the Arenac County Road Commission to come up with a plan to make Lola Lane into a township road. (One of more residents would not give up the required property frontage, and the plan, was too costly. Keith Dewald pointed out that, even if such a plan was completed, the ACRC would not necessarily make a road into a township/county road. (of the 21 streets off of Crescent Avenue (Sims Township) only 3 have ever become designated county/township roads). Appeals were made just to have the road graded and put down some gravel. Currently even an ambulance will not go down Lola Lane, so there is a safety issue the township should address. Patrol Officer Tim Robbins spoke: He lives on Hull Road in Arenac Township, and his attempts to get his road improved (a private road) failed as it isn't just that taxpayer funds cannot be spent on a private road - it is illegal to spend taxpayer dollars on a private road. Tom Reif asked about the marijuana permit renewal approval for Hello Farms of Michigan (Shenfield Road). Clerk Michael Oxley (marijuana administrator) stated that renewals are a formality (as long as permit payment is received and all land taxes are paid up).

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Kurchak to approve all three sets of minutes as presented:

Minutes of the March 11th, 2025 Annual Meeting and Budget Adoption,
Minutes of the March 11th, 2025 Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting,
and Minutes of the March 26th, 2025 Budget Amendments/Road Project Special Meeting.

Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Oxley to approve the March 2025 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. Total of all funds is \$1,866,044.66 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Two CDs - the Gypsy Moth CD is being rolled over for another 12-month period and the \$20,906.95 General Fund CD is being reinvested for another 6months, at an interest rate of 4.06% (down from the previous 4.15%). 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: A quiet meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Keith Edmonds. Treasurer Tom Brandimore went over the monthly bills and presented the 2025-2026 budget, which was approved. The most discussed item of the evening was the need for fire truck #21 in need of a new clutch. Chief Kurt Humerickhouse reported a fatal accident on Bessinger Road. The next meeting is at the Whitney Township Hall on April 15th, 2025 at 6pm. Consider attending a meeting to see what happens at fire meetings.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Jan Bullock reporting. The agenda is much the same as last month, with discussion of the farmer's market, county-wide garage sale, and car shows (July 12th). The year of the car show has been lowered to include vehicles from as far back as 1934. Loyalty day parade is fast approaching - Saturday April 26th. The theme is 'Liberty, Sweet Liberty!' Check the AHRA website at infostandishdepot.com for details. Volunteers are needed to take down the depot holiday lights.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Two zoning permits issued this past month - a lean-to on a Lola Lane barn, a demolition of a 2-car garage and a renovation of a home on Rumsey Road to expand the kitchen and add a sun-room. Had a long phone conversation with a person wanting to build (1200 sq feet) on two lots (Rumsey Road). Gallop advised to build with respect to the individual lot setbacks, on the chance the person might want to sell one of the lots in the future. Lastly was a resident on Linwood Road, last house before the cemetery, wanting to put up a split rail fence.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Cemetery Board member Penny Kurchak had little to report. Spring cleaning of the cemetery is about to start. Plans have been made to remove the old mulch (and base cloth) around the columbarium. Then replace with new landscaping. Who will be doing the work is as yet undecided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Herzog reported that the 'Clean up Your Township' annual event begins on May 19th. A 30-yard dumpster will be placed on the north side of the hall parking area. Residents are encouraged to clean up their yards. Anything can be dumped except for paint, tires, yard waste or any device which contains freon in it (i.e. refrigerators - air conditioners). When one dumpster fills, another takes its place. Last year, spring and fall, we went through nine (9) dumpsters, paid for using marijuana fund monies.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Motion made to approve the Crumby land division (property tax ID #003-0-035-300-021-01) already approved by the township assessor, Jessica Landry, on March 28th, 2025. Motion made by Oxley to approve the land division as approved by Assessor Landry. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Land Division Motion approved.
- b. No other business.

BOARD COMMENT: Kurchak spoke on attending the Saganing Eagles Landing 'Round Table'. Held each spring in advance of the 2% Tribal Grant Distribution in May. Sitting at the 'safety table' with fire chiefs of various jurisdictions, one of the main concerns was how to handle the 'Michigan Sick Time' laws now in place (30 hours of work equals 1 hour of sick time).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Duane Willett (Nearman Road) asked if the township was going to hold a tire drive this year. Oxley replied, that we hold one every other year, but the Arenac County Conservation District is planning to hold a tire recycling event this year (where it cost to drop off tires, prices depending on the size of the tires). Kirk Olson asked about the CDs and investments, which Tremble explained. Derek Cantu asked about the progress in cleaning up peoples yards, blight making it hard to sell a property with a neighbor whose home looks like a junkyard.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:55pm. 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 _____