

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING May 13th, 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: Art Gallop, Jesse Young, Chuck and Kay Woods, Aurette Gates. Kirk Olson, Paul Cwiklinski, Jim Osburn, Wes Crumby, Rachel and Ryan Ziomkowski, Derek Cantu, Duane Willett (Not signed in Derek Porritt and Joyouce Willis).

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

BOARD COMMENT: Trustee Penny Kurchak noted that the 'rock snake' at the boardwalk park was growing. Treasurer Patricia Tremble reported on attending the Au Gres Sims school board meeting, where the proposed dome project was not on the agenda. Many residents attended and had questions on the project. It was a good meeting with some people for the dome and some against. Project handouts, from the school, were on the board table for those interested in reading about it.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by Tremble to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Art Gallop said that visitors to Linwood Cemetery said more benches were needed. Jim Herzog noted that the cemetery was not cleaned up for Mother's Day as it should have been (late spring). Jim Osborn questioned the potholes in the middle of Green Drive. Derek Cantu asked what the board can do about the beaver lodges in the Hemenway drain. They have to be trapped (cannot be shot). Three have been nabbed to date. The lodges need to be removed. Drain flow is a problem which has been going on for too long, beavers aside, the drain needs to be cleaned as the water on the north side of Lola Lane does not flow out to the bay. Water in the canal on the north side of Lola Lane is 3 feet high.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the April 8th, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting (with 2 corrections). Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Clerk Michael Oxley noted that an EFT (\$125.58 electronic fund transfer) was not being shown on the April 2025 Book of Bills. Motion made by Oxley to approve the April 2025 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$326, 633.93. The total of all funds is \$1,772,933.07 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Tremble discussed the various CD's and money market investments, detailing those being reinvested. 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: The April 17th, 2025 meeting we held at the Whitney Fire Hall. Meeting called to order by Jim Herzog. Treasurer Tom Brandimore discussed the usual monthly bills and reported on the \$5,000.00 Tribal 2% distribution being transferred to the AGS Fire Authority. The grant was applied for by Au Gres Township to purchase new air tanks.

Fire Chief Kurt Humerickhouse reported five to which the fire fighters responded in the past month. A house fire in Sims Township, a dryer fire, a wood fire (woodpile burning got out of control), a gas leak and assistance to the Twining Fire Department. The next meeting is at the Au Gres Fire Hall on May 15th, 2025 at 6pm.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Jan Bullock reporting. The agenda is much the same as past months. The Omer Courthouse came in 2nd on the 'Give Local Bay' fund raiser with \$12,000.00 being donated. Camp Fish Tales came in number one, as it does each cycle. The AHRA Depot got \$5,000.00. Bullock reported a resident (Don Schoenberger) who volunteered to help take down the christmas lights at the depot. Brenda Matt sent her thanks for the help. The Loyalty Day Parade had a good turnout, both those in the parade and those who came to watch.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Two zoning permits issued this past month - a two-story house on Rumsey and A 1300 square foot home and pole barn on Lola Lane. On Booth Road he spoke with a potential resident putting in an 1800 square foot modular, with further plans for build on the property (no paperwork as of yet). The pole barn on Pt. Au Gres Road is coming along nicely with the floor just now completed. That is all for now. Gallop ended with a comment on some cleanup on the Santiago property. Kurchak added that, following a letter sent out by Herzog, to a resident on Bay Ridge drive, they are cleaning up with lot.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Penny Kurchak reported complaints that the cemetery was not cleaned up in time for Mother's Day visitors. And that she had a call from a local Girl Scouts troop who plans to put flowers at the cemetery Veteran's memorial, something Barbara Manor has done in past years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Land division on M-65 (Tarek Sobh) A 20.86 parcel being divided into a 5 acre and a 15.86 parcel. Oxley spoke with Mr. Sobh, doubtful that a 'U' shaped parcel would be allowed. But Assessor Jessica Landry approved the split, as it met all the requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act. Oxley left the meeting to print a GIS image of where the property was on M-65. Motion made by Tremble to approve the land division. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- b. Motion made by Bullock to add the \$150.00 garbage assessment to six (6) township parcels Gaier Family Trust #003-1-001-400-005-00, Ranck, Lee #003-0-023-400-005-22, Badour, Lyle Hodge Glenda #003-0-27-300-005-00, Thompson Mark/Cindy #003-0-018-200-027-01, Turner, Brenda Lee #003-1-001-400-010-10, Goodson, Bryan/Amanda #003-0-014-300-045-04 and to remove the assessment from one parcel Luberda Wood Products #003-0-016-200-025-15. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Assessments to be added to the winter tax rolls (1 removed).
- c. Metal roofing and painting of the cinderblock building at Linwood Cemetery. Quote by J & G Contracting to install metal roofs to the two out buildings for \$4,000.00 was discussed. The cost was for labor, materials, and dumpster fee. Tremble asked if the shingles were being removed (No). Motion made by Oxley to approve the roof installations for \$4,000.00 by Josh Gordon. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. roofing work approved
- d. Discussion about painting the cinder block building, followed the motion to roof the out buildings. Dominic Ruiz submitted a quote for \$1000.00 including paint, materials and labor. Noting that if any color but white would increase the total. Motion made by Tremble to have Dominic Ruiz (cemetery maintenance contractor) paint the building. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. The cemetery board to decide on color for the building. Motion made by Kurchak to approve the \$630.98 bid by Ruiz to replace the flower beds leading to the columbarium, replacing the weed barrier and staking it down against the cement walkway. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- e. Ditching Projects - Crawford Road (US-23 to Noggle Road, ditching both sides with tree removal), Stover Road, North side from Hale Road to the end with tree removal) and Jose Road, North side from Crawford Road to the end). Herzog presented each project, referring to the bids from Killingbeck's Excavating and C. Woods Trucking and Excavating. It was noted that the Stover Road quote from Woods was too low as to have understood the scope of the project. Also, no quote was submitted by Woods for the Jose Road ditching. Herzog suggested we table any decision on these projects for a future meeting. Plenty of time to decide.
- f. Au Gres City Water Contract. Oxley related the history of the city water installation in 1998 and the expiration of the original 28-year contract. Handing out the contract that the city presented to replace the expired one, Oxley noted that it was for board members to review. No approval or signing to be considered at this time.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog told the attendees that the 'Spring Cleanup You Township' starts next weekend. NO Batteries ~ NO Paint ~ NO Tires ~ NO appliances with refrigerants.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Derek Cantu (Lola Lane) inquired about the township applying for a 2% grant from the tribe to make Lola Lane passable. Oxley was not sure if a 2% grant could be spent on a private drive.

Kirk Olsen (Rumsey Road) asked if residents of Lola Lane could give the road to the township, allowing township residents to fish in the canal, thus making it possible for the township to spend money on the road. Olsen also asked how the donations to the Au Gres Historical Society were spent. The board has never followed up on the donations, but was a good question.

Duane Willett (Nearman Road) asked about the paving of Nearman (to Noggle) and also when was Gordon Road going to be 'perma-zymed'. Herzog replies, pointing out that Nearman north of Noggle to the end was also going to be 'perma-zymed'.

Paul Czwilinski (Swenson Road South) stated that if there is any extra rock, he could use it on his road. Noting it is in good shape now, but can always use upkeep.

Jim Osburn (Green Drive) asked about blight control. Herzog explained a friendly letter first, follow up, and eventually day in court.

Auretta Gates (Swenson Road) asked if Peggy Walkers house was condemned or declared unlivable.

Derek Porritt asked why the planning commission meeting keeps getting moved out (postponed twice now due to PC board member health issues). Pointing out that a Planning Commission board can have nine members, which would make a having a quorum easier to meet. Also changing the meeting date with very little notice is inconvenient as two weeks' notice needs be given to take a Monday off work. This is taking time out of his life.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:23pm. 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 _____