

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING June 10th, 2025 ~ 7:00 P.M.

DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Treasurer Patricia Tremble and Trustee Penny Kurchak

ABSENT: Trustee Jan Bullock

ATTENDEES: In order of signing in: Art Gallop, Matt Dewyer, Chuck and Kay Woods, Aurette Gates, Paul Cwiklinski, Connie Qualls and George Estabrook, Robert Cotter II, Duane Willett and Jim Osburn (Not signed in Derek Porritt).

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

BOARD COMMENT: Clerk Michael Oxley reported to the board that Jan Bullock would not be attending.

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. One Absent. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Connie Qualls 1758 Manor Road presented a letter of complaint with photos of the marijuana facility at 3050 Dreyer Road (Pharmaco/RWB LLC) across the street. She considered it blight as the fences are broken down, no one live there and she is trying to sell her home.

Matt Dewyer spoke on the Au Gres Sims school district upcoming bond proposal (special election on August 5th). He presented handouts to attendees, and invited residents to attend the public Q&A meeting to be held Thursday, June 12th, 7:00pm.

Aurette Gates asked if the 'dome facility' would be open for use by the public.

Derek Porritt asked everyone to vote no on the issue, stating that the 13 million cost did not include operating costs over the 20 years of the bond. Estimating that the dome facility would have to generate \$500,000 per year in revenue in operating expenses, as the bond only covered construction costs.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the May 13th, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting (with 1 correction). Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Tremble to approve the May 20205 Book of Bills as presented. Motion supported Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$342,537.44. The total of all funds is \$1,757,670.77 (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. One Absent. Motion approved

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: The May 15th, 2025 meeting was held at the Au Gres Fire Hall. Meeting called to order by Jim Herzog. Treasurer Tom Brandimore went over the monthly bills and reported the upcoming annual audit, by Yeo & Yeo, was scheduled for the week of June 2nd.

Fire Chief Kurt Humerickhouse reported a busy month with 15 calls: Au Gres Township for five, Whitney township for five and on April 29th there were four calls for downed power lines. Also, a house fire on Hale Road, a carbon monoxide call, a car accident and a structure fire. On May 4th there was a garage fire on Riverside Drive. On May 7th the fire department assisted East Tawas fire department.

The department held the annual steak dinner on June 4th which was well attended. Olen Swartz was recognized for 44 years of service to the Au Gres - Sims - Whitney Fire Department.

The next meeting is at the Au Gres Fire Hall on June 19th, 2025 at 7pm at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Oxley pointed out the AHRA minutes for the June 2nd meeting was in the agenda packet. (Trustee Bullock being absent).

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. A pole barn going up at the end of Lola Lane (Derek Cantu construction). The blighted property on Santiago was finally being cleaned up, with new siding and windows delivered there. A few phone calls fielded. Spoke to a new family from Texas moving into the house on 2796 Booth Road (the former Podany home).

Oxley added that he had met with residents who bought the house on US-23 which has been empty since a house fire in three years ago Oxley. Gallop asked about the abandoned home with vehicles on US-23 (Versdusco, just west of Boench's homestead).

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Penny Kurchak deferred to Supervisor Jim Herzog to report: Herzog spoke about the two garage structures in the cemetery, new metal roofing (black), painting of the buildings (white) and replacement of the rotted wooden doors on the cinderblock storage shed.

Kurchak added that the work by maintenance man Dominic Ruiz did on the columbarium beds was completed and looked very nice.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ditching projects - tabled at last months meeting: Crawford Road (US-23 to Noggle), Jose Road (Crawford to Big Creek Drain) and Stover Road (Hale to eastern end). Herzog explained the bids received. Motion made by Oxley to award the Crawford Road ditching project to Killingbeck's Excavating (\$19,000.00), the Jose Road ditching project to C. Woods Trucking (\$11,580.00) and the Stover Road ditching project to Ruse's Trucking (\$18,000.00). Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved.
- b. Boardwalk Outlook Park (Santiago) paving of the parking lot and paving of the Au Gres Township Hall parking lot project. Herzog explained that the original quote for the hall parking lot was \$40,000 (which the tribe granted \$10,000 in 2023). A 2% Tribal Distribution grant (Spring 2025) was applied for to do the Boardwalk Park parking lot and was granted \$5,000. A bid from LM Satkowiak (Linwood) was received to do the boardwalk parking lot for \$62,000, and to do the hall parking lot for \$23,000 (if the boardwalk lot was approved). \$85,000 for both lots, minus \$15,000 grant monies totaled \$70,000 for which the marijuana fund would cover the hall parking lot (as administration use) and the remainder from the marijuana excise tax monies (\$116,457.32). Tremble suggested that we use only the excise tax monies (leaving the marijuana fund for the road paving projects). Motion made by Tremble to approve both paving projects \$62,000.00 + \$23,000.00, using Tribal grant monies (\$15,000) and the marijuana excise tax monies received. Motion supported by Kurchak. All Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Motion approved to pave both parking lots.
- c. Blight ordinance and Abandoned Vehicle ordinance: Tremble, representing the Planning Commission, gave a overview of the lengthy process of working on and finalizing these two police power ordinances. Oxley gave his report of the township board's rejection of the first drafts, sending it back to the planning commission. At the June 2nd planning commission meeting, the issues were worked out between the two boards and these final documents were now being considered by the township board for approval/adoption. Motion made by Kurchak to approve the Blight Ordinance 2025-01 and Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance 2025-02. Motion supported by Oxley. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Motion approved. Tremble thanked the board for working with the planning commission on these.
- d. Au Gres City Water Contract: Oxley related the history of the 28 year water contract which expired last year, the number of customers, costs, billing and the City of Au Gres' plan to install a water meter at the city/township line (which never happened). Oxley's only issue with the contract was the limit being put on yearly amount of water available, specified in the new contract vs. the old contract. "60 residents using a maximum of 100,000 gallons per year or six million gallons annually". Using totals from the past two (2 month) cycles, the yearly total usage would rarely be close to 1/2 to contract amount allowed. Tremble asked if the individual 100,000 gallons customer amount specified in the contract was going to be an issue (i.e. the Pure Green marijuana facility). Oxley agreed that it was not clear, and he would follow up with Dale Wiltse, Au Gres City manager for clarification. Approval of the 2025 Au Gres City Water Contract was tabled for the next township board meeting.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog reported the placement of a porta-potty at the Santiago Boardwalk Park, with instructions to Daniels Septic Services to yank it if there were issues like last year. Kurchak chimed in that there are a lot of visitors to the park and it is nice to have a toilet on site. Adding, if you see something, report it to the township.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Art Gallop asked about the odor issue with Pure Green (across from Pier 23 gas station). Herzog told of the letter sent out by our attorney, to correct the odor escaping from the building, or get shut down. Tremble stated that a meeting with Mike from Pure Green was being scheduled. 30 days had passed since the last meeting.

Auretta Gates asked questions about the water customers, saying that the township residents were Au Gres customers, since it the city supplying the water.

Paul Cwiklinski ask questions about the overages specified in the contract, considering growth in the township (additional housing hooking up to city water).

Robert Cotter asked about the piles of wood chips and debris left on the roadsides after the US-23 right-of-way tree clearing done by Consumers Energy (Santiago Substation project). Pointing out Les Schwiderson's homestead to the east of his place. The drain along US-223 is being clogged by the debris making lowlands like his property worse off. Asking when Crawford Road gets ditched could that project be extended to the US-23 ditches into which Crawford Road drains.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:13pm. 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 _____