

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AUGUST 12<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: Bill Bullock, Pam, Stewart, Art Gallop (Zoning Administrator), Aurette Gates, Paul Cwiklinski, Jim Osburn and Marsha Fortner.

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

**BOARD COMMENT:** Supervisor Jim Herzog reported on a very productive month for the township: the parking lot at the Boardwalk Park (end of Santiago Road) was paved, Nearman Road from US-23 to Noggle, and Noggle to Santiago was paved, new metal roofing on the two Linwood Cemetery sheds and three ditch cleaning projects were begun: Crawford Road (East and West ditches), Jose Road from Crawford to Big Creek and Stover Road (Hale Road to the end).

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Motion made by Treasurer Pat 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):** Art Gallop asked about the lack of activity at the Holland Farms marijuana facility (560 E Huron). Clerk Michael Oxley stated that the facility has closed (did not renew their permits) - as well as Dutch Delight, Holland Farms' retail outlet. Aurette Gates asked if they were shut down by the state. No it was the high cost of the state permit fees affecting their business plan.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Tremble noted two corrections to the July 8th Board of Trustee minutes. Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the July 8th Election Commission Meeting minutes and the July 8th Board of Trustee minutes (with corrections). Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

**PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS:** Tremble requested that checks written from the Marijuana Fund (to Advisor Sherlyn Burkhardt and BS&A Software) be voided and paid out of the General Fund. The auditors questioned the legitimacy of using marijuana permit monies to pay such bills. Motion made by Tremble to approve the July 2025 Book of Bills, with specified payment changes. Motion supported Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$327,082.02. The total of all funds is \$1,792,271.28 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Tremble reported that one of the CD's was not performing as contracted, would be closed and moved to another investment. 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:** The May July 16th, 2025 meeting was held at the Whitney Fire Hall. Meeting called to order by Keith Edmonds. Treasurer Tom Brandimore was on vacation so no treasurer's report given. Fire Chief Kurt Humerickhouse reported 10 calls (3 downed power lines, carbon monoxide check, a welfare check, a false alarm at the Pure Green/Glorious Canna marijuana facility, a house fire on Mackinaw Road and an assist to the Omer Fire Department with a house fire on Jose Road (west) The next meeting Au Gres-Sims-Whitney Fire Board meeting is at the Au Gres Fire Hall on August 21st at 7:00pm.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Jan Bullock attended the August 4th AHRA Depot meeting. Bullock referred attendees to the AHRA minutes in the agenda packet, as not much new to report. Depot Days are scheduled for October 6th & 7th with rides, food court and a silent auction. The Omer Courthouse is having a Junque Sale and Bake Sale on Labor Day weekend.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. The two construction projects on Rumsey Road are coming along nicely, and the Pole Barn on Booth Road is finished, with decks being added. A phone call was received complaining on the Pt Au Gres home, which looks like he is adding more junk to his collection. Herzog reported a conversation with the offender, who was not happy about it. Gallop commented on Child's house (2794 Booth Rd), and the two lots next door, a supposed 'signed' purchase agreement in the works. There is a porta-pottie next to a shed on Lola Lane, with reports of a \$120,000 home to be moved in by December. Lastly there is an issue on Gordon Road (west of Santiago) where a property owner is selling the home on 1 acre, but survey shows less than an acre and the half to house on Pam Dewald's property. This is not the townships business to solve, the assessor has been contacted by the seller and the issue is ongoing.

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Penny Kurchak reported the contractor activity at the cemetery - metal roofing being installed on the two sheds, repairing/replacing the soffits as well as a new roll up door and painting of the cider block shed. Pam Stewart (Linwood Road resident) asked about the digging at the cemetery (perceived digging due to the trucks coming and going).

**AGS SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL ELECTION REPORT:** Oxley stated that the special election, held at the township hall on August 5th, 2025, had 424 votes cast per the tabulator: YES votes were 51, NO votes was 372 (one vote tabulated was uncountable due to stray marks).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Resident Marsha Fortner (Point Lane) requested the township board consider changing the 7:00pm monthly meeting time to 6:00pm so that more people might attend and participate (especially in the winter as it gets darker earlier). Discussion by the board concluded that the 7:00pm time was to accommodate workers who work until 5 and 6pm and also 6pm is dinner time for many.
- b. BS&A Software 'Cash Receipting' module. Oxley explained how the Treasurers office had changed over to BS&A Tax Collecting software last year, and this year the Clerks office had changed from QuickBooks to BS&A Accounting software (with the 'receipting light' module included). As time has passed it is needed to have purchased the full cash receipting module, as now we are limited in 'sharing' with the treasurer's office, with respect to monies received (water bills, franchise fees, excise tax and revenue sharing payments from the state). Cost of the software is \$3999.95 up front with an annual fee of \$1245.00 per year afterwards. Motion made by Oxley to purchase the BS&A Cash Receipting module. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice Vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Oxley to sign the contract and return to BS&A. A suggestion was made to put in a Tribal 2% Distribution request to pay for the software.
- c. Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) needs a representative from Au Gres Township, and Kirk Olson's (Rumsey Road) name came up due to past dialog at board meetings. However, Kirk was not in attendance. Plans made to get in contact with Olson.
- d. Au Gres City water contract. Oxley explained that the 28-year-old contract had expired months ago. The City of Au Gres presented a new contract to the township earlier this year, only to be tabled by the board because of concerns on the limits of water usage. Those issues being settled, at last months meeting it was questioned how the city addressed large water leaks. Oxley reported talking to the City Clerk and was assured that leaks were covered by the city. Motion made by Oxley to approve and sign the contract as written. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice Vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Herzog to sign the contract and send to the city.
- e. Annual donation to the Au Gres Historical Society. Oxley was asked by Kirk Olson at a previous meeting, how said donation monies were being spent. Not having a clear answer, Oxley contacted Greg Dittenbir, AGHS treasurer. He stated that the donations were greatly appreciated and used for general expenditures. Adding that no one is paid, all time is volunteered, and monies are used for general expenses to keep the museum running. Motion made by Oxley to donate \$1000.00 to the AGHS. Motion supported by Bullock Voice Vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Check to be issued and sent to Dittenber, with letter that monies were intended for use by the Au Gres Historical Museum.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Herzog thanked Pamela Stewart for all her service on the Board of Review over past years, as she is moving away. She will me missed! Herzog asked opinion about putting a basketball hoop at the boardwalk park. Residents suggested swings as well.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jim Osborne requested that the corner grasses at Nearman and Noggle Roads be cut.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 8:15pm. 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 \_\_\_\_\_