

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SEPTEMBER 9th, 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: Chuck and Kay Woods, Jesse Young, Art Gallop (Zoning Administrator), Aurette Gates, Paul Cwiklinski, Jim Osburn and Officer Tim Robbins.

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

BOARD COMMENT: Clerk Michael Oxley pointed out the Consumers Energy documents in the Agenda packet which covered recent online and in person scams. Coming to your door claiming to be CE workers, asking for personal information or access to ones home. Supervisor Jim Herzog talked about recent improvements in the township - paving of the Boardwalk Lookout Park parking lot, and restoration of the Linwood Cemetery out buildings.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Aurette Gates asked if the Consumers Energy notices were being mailed to residents. Art Gallop said he got one. Clerk Oxley to check with Bob Balzer our CE rep.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the August 12th Board of Trustee meeting. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Tremble to approve the August 2025 Book of Bills as presented. Motion supported Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$318,773.45. The total of all funds is \$1,754,551.28 (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: The August 21st, 2025 meeting was held at the Au Gres Fire Hall. There were not enough board members in attendance for a quorum so the meeting lasted about 20 minutes. Checks were signed to pay bills and the meeting ended. The next meeting is at the Au Gres Fire Hall on September 18th at 7:00pm.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Jan Bullock could not attend the September 2nd Depot meeting. Bullock reported the upcoming Depot Days on October 4th/5th weekend, where there will be rides, a food trucks, a silent auction and tours of the depot. Bullock attended the special concert sponsored by the North Central Credit Union in support of the 'House for Kids'. The father/son duo (NAMES) performed as Frank Sinatra and Elvis. It was very attended and a lot of fun. Officer Tim Robbins explained the 'House of Kids' mission: Rather than remove a child from their home (due to violence or sexual abuse) and question them in a police station - the 'House' is staffed by trained medical personnel in a comfortable environment. Bullock said that the Omer Courthouse Jungue Sale on Labor Day weekend earned 1500.00 (bake sale) and that the funds generated by these sales helps keep the heat on.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Quiet month, being end of season for contractors. There is a new driveway going in on US-23 on the west side of the Red Barn hill. Seeing a new culvert was put in, he has stopped and chatted with the property owners, who want to put in a tree farm and are busy cleaning up all the junk at the back of the property. Gallop was concerned about a garage only structure on Lola Lane (Cantu's property). and is also concerned about another shed showing up on Cantu's property just east of Elmer's at M-65 and US-23.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Penny Kurchak said the topics were covered already, reporting “All is quiet!”, as it should be. Herzog added that he will be sending the Jesse Gordon to the cemetery before winter, to give a quote on trees needing attention.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Woods Trucking and Excavating was contracted to put rock/gravel around the perimeter of the newly asphalted Boardwalk Park and the Township Hall parking lots. Preventing slip/trip and falls. Estimate cost to be 250.00/load plus 6 hours work (total cost dependant on number of loads). Motion made by Oxley to have the work done. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved
- b. Tribal Fall 2% distribution grant deadline is September 30th. Herzog suggested applying for a tractor/backhoe for digging graves at Linwood Cemetery. He presented brochures from Nagy's Tractor Sales and Richardsons Kubota Tractors. Having spoken with Sheriff Jim Mosciski who digs graves for Sims-Whitney and Mason townships, Herzog reported Nagy's price at \$19,500.00 and Richardsons at \$27,935.00. Oxley spoke on whether we should also ask the tribe for \$4,000.00 for the BS&A Cash Receipting module, and/or a swing set for the Boardwalk Park. Tremble suggested we only apply for the tractor, giving the tribe only that option when supporting the townships needs. Motion made by Oxley to put in a Tribal 2% Fall Distribution application for the Nagy's Tractor at \$19,500.00. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- c. No other business.

BOARD COMMENT: Kurchak thanked everyone for coming. Jan Bullock asked about the Planning Commission meeting on September 29th. Oxley explained, and Pat Tremble elaborated. The reason for the special meeting was to consider adding a paragraph (garnered from MTA suggestions) which would give more weight to the Township's ability to clean up someone's property, who did not respond to violations of the blight ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aretta Gates asked how long Sexton Ed Manor had been doing the job. Oxley estimated 30+ years. He replaced Chet Cummings, who lived in the house on the Southwest corner of US-23 and Swenson Roads. He ran a lawn mower repair service at the home. Ed Manor is now in his 60's and still digs graves by hand, summer and winter. In the winter he uses a couple of 100lb propane tanks and heaters to thaw the ground! Chuck Woods commented on the bad job Ruse's Trucking did digging the ditches on Stover Road, East. Oxley pointed out that his payment, showing on the book of bills was being held back.

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 _____