

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OCTOBER 14th, 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: Ben Seago (APM), Art Gallop (Zoning Administrator), Lisa Salgat (County Commissioner), Jim Osburn, Becky Woodward, Officer Tim Robbins and Joyouce Willis.

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

BOARD COMMENT: Clerk Michael Oxley welcomed everyone for coming.

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): Ben Seago from Advanced Pest Management (APM) gave his report on mosquito activity in the township - Usually the season is from Memorial Day to Labor day but spring was exceptionally chilly (40's and 50's) so APM started spraying during the first week in June this year. Another factor for the season was the drought, then the rains came. Aerial Larviciding was completed by April 24th using 2,400 lbs - treating just over 800 acres of standing water. June was busy, and in July we saw a spike in cattail mosquitoes (one of 60 species of mosquitoes). Over the season APM received 86 calls to the field office (Manor Road), of which only 13 since the beginning of August. 650 miles of township roadways were sprayed over the season. Ground crews treated 60 standing water sites with 527lbs of VectoBac G. There were 207 off road sites and 14 shutoff sites this season. Overall, a mild mosquito season. Seago finished by noting that 2025 was the end of the 4-year contract and the new contract had been emailed. Even with increased costs this year, APM came in under budget. Increases: \$18 per acre for aerial spraying now cost \$20/acre. Spraying miles went from \$39.50 to \$45.00 per mile. The 4-year contract was \$60,950.00 per season and the new contract is \$69,440.00 per year (an increase of \$8,490.00). Seago finished by reporting that APM can now do drone work, such as surveying and phragmites/cattails spraying (APM is now approved by the state for aquatics). Seago then opened the floor for questions. Joyouce Willis (641 S M-65) questioned the side effects of the sprays that are being used, why isn't the public being notified of the dangers (by the township)? Lisa Salgat, our county commissioner, asked what townships in the county does APM service: Au Gres City, City of Standish, Au Gres, Deep River, Moffatt, Sims, and Whitney Townships (plus others).

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the September 9th, 2025 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 September 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 \$183,168.18. The total of all funds is \$1,570,118.65 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Tremble explained the CD investments which were maturing and the plans to reinvest those monies. 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 September 18th, 2025 meeting was held at the Au Gres Fire Hall. The meeting called to order by Keith Edmonds. Treasurer Tom Brandimore gave the treasurer's report. The board members signed checks to pay the bills.

Fire Chief Kurt Humerickhouse report 14 calls during the month, only speaking about a serious accident on Santiago where a vehicle left the road and jumped Chief Drain, all three persons in the car were ejected, all sustaining injuries. A road commission foreman and Herzog inspected the road that next day, concluding that the road was not fault, rather high speed of the driver.

Herzog then reported on the discussion to pay the volunteers more money per call. Currently a fireman answering a call gets only \$20.00, no matter day or night or length of time spent at a site. There is ongoing discussion to increase the per call rate. The next meeting is on Wednesday October 15th, 2025 at 7:00pm at Whitney Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Jan Bullock attended the October 6th AHRA meeting. Depot Days were not as busy as in the past, likely reason was other events in the area competing for attendees. The raffle for the deer blind donated by Vantage Plastics made \$800.00. The silent auction pulled in \$2,200.00 and the food truck (Mrs C's Gourmet Grilled Cheese) donated \$50.00. Upcoming event is the Santa Parade on November 28th. Other events can be found in the AHRA minutes (in the agenda packet).

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Another quiet month, being end of season for contractors. The pond being dug (2269 Santiago) has been stopped by EGLE (no permit). The ongoing projects (pole barn, deck addition) are coming along well, as reported last month. The new pole barn on US-23, now has the foundation in place.

Art spoke about the spraying of phragmites on Booth Road shoreline (drone spraying) and plans for burning if the ice comes and stays. Gallop asked Herzog about the Fire Authority doing a controlled burn.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Herzog reported that St. Johns Lutheran church inquired about donating the large cross in front of the church to the Linwood cemetery. The final service at St. Johns will be in December. The cross is huge, would take a crane to move it (at what cost). Currently it is a wait and see situation.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim Osburn inquired about the backhoe (for the cemetery). Oxley stated that a Tribal 2% Distribution grant application was submitted for \$19,400. There will not be any news until late November.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Oxley inquired if any board members were interested in watching the MTA 'Now You Know' seminar on Wednesday October 22nd. Oxley to sign up each board member and then it can be viewed as time allowed. No cost to the township (covered by our MTA subscription).
- b. No other business.

BOARD COMMENT: Pat informed the attendees that the winter taxes are set to be printed, should be in residents' mailbox towards the end of November.

Herzog reported that 3 30yard dumpsters were filled during the "Fall Clean Up Your Township" drive. Counting those in the spring - a total on 9 dumpsters of junk were taken to the landfill. Also, the Porta-Pottie will be removed from the Boardwalk Lookout Park at the end of October.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joyouce Willis asked why marijuana funds were not being used on projects like a new roof at the Au Gres Fire Hall. Use the monies to improve things in the township. And reiterated her concern about the chemicals being sprayed in the township - take a serious look at environmental studies. These chemicals are poisoning us all.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:47pm. Motion made by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No Nays. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____

James Herzog, Supervisor _____

Michael Oxley, Clerk _____