

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING NOVEMBER 12th, 2025 ~ 7:00 P.M.

NOTE: Meeting day was changed (back in December 2024) to Wednesday due to the second Tuesday of the month was the 11th - Veteran's Day.

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: Aretta Gates, Kirk Olson (and son Rigel), and Chuck and Kay Woods.

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

BOARD COMMENT: Supervisor Jim Herzog welcomed everyone for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Treasurer Pat Tremble amended the agenda to add the garbage collection special assessment to a parcel on Green Drive. Motion made by Tremble to approve the agenda as amended. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Amended agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Rigel Olson (Kirk Olsons son) asked to have more play places in the park. GIANT ones. Herzog said that the township is working putting up a swing set (children and adults) and a basketball hoop.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the October 14th, 2025 Board of Trustee meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. Lots of changes in the bank investments. Horizon bank is shedding CD's (offering too low an interest rate) so monies are being moved around. Interest rates are lower than the past year with Huntington bank only paying 3.25% on a 6-month CD and Huron bank only 3.75% on a 12-month CD. The current General Fund balance is \$183,168.18. The total of all funds is \$1,510,922.97 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). General fund balance is \$186,837.94. 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 October 15th, 2025 meeting was held at the Whitney Fire Hall. The meeting called to order by Keith Edmonds. Treasurer Tom Brandimore gave the treasurer's report and the board members signed checks to pay the monthly bills.

The Fire Board voted to raise the fire fighter's per-call pay to \$30.00 (formerly \$20). The discussion about the amount to pay noted that many fire fighters never even cash their checks - these are volunteers, not out for pay! There was discussion about the many board members missing too many meetings. The Authority Bylaws state that if a member misses more than 1/3 of the meetings in a year, the member should be replaced by the municipality which the member represents. There is a total of 29 fire fighters between Au Gres, Sims and Whitney.

There was no fire report from Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse as he had a scheduling conflict (CPR training at the Au Gres Fire Hall). Lastly the Au Gres Fire Hall has a new roof - free labor with many fire fighters doing to work. The next meeting is on Thursday November 20th, 2025 at 7:00pm at Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Jan Bullock attended the November 3rd AHRA meeting. As usual, items discussed were same as last month (see the October 6th meeting minutes in the agenda packet). Santa Parade and tree lighting is on Friday November 28th, day after Thanksgiving holiday. Floats and walkers in the parade are welcome, however no Santas or candy throwing (too dark and dangerous). The Santa Train (Lake State Railway) will pass through Standish and stop at the depot on Saturday, December 6th. Arriving at 9:00AM and leaving at 10:00am. The Depot is looking for volunteers to help test the lights before the big show.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator not in attendance due to a death in family.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Penny Kurchak reported on attending a funeral service at the columbarium (Ron Attwater) and how many compliments by outsiders for the columbarium and the cemetery in general. There was discussion about moving the standing cross at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (which is closing in December) to Linwood Cemetery. The cross is very tall, made of I-beams, and very heavy. Logistics of moving the cross (a crane is needed, transport on US-23 may require state permits, the expenses to move and install it) were discussed. The businesses moving into the church building do not want the cross left on the property. No progress made on this topic.

OLD BUSINESS: Clerk Michael Oxley reported on the months it has taken to update/finalize Blight and Abandoned Vehicle ordinance. The Township Board had adopted these two ordinances back in (AUGUST), when at the September 28th Planning Commission meeting, new text was recommended to be added (defining the rights of the township to clean up a property owners' blight/vehicles).

Motion made by Oxley to approve the Blight Ordinance 2025-01 and the Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance 2025-02 for adoption and publication. Motion seconded by Kurchak. Roll Call Vote: Bullock ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Kurchak ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes. All Ayes, No Nays. Motion approved. Oxley to proceed with publishing the ordinances in the local paper, to finalize adoption by the Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. APM Mosquito Control contract approval. Tremble presented the cost increase of the 2026-2029 contract renewal with APM. The cost of the current contract year was projected to be \$60,950.00, and with the increase the new contract would project to cost \$69,440.00. The increases attributed to increased fuel cost for aerial larviciding /road spraying and the cost of pesticide and worker pay. The actual cost for APM's 2025 season was \$57,738.65 (under the budgeted amount). The Treasurers report showed a surplus in the Mosquito Fund, which allows for keeping the mosquito millage at 1mil (instead of 1.5mils in past years). Motion made by Oxley to approve the APM 2026-2029 contract. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. APM contract approved. Herzog/Oxley to sign contract and email it to Ben Seago, APM.
- b. Land combination/division - Mark Downer. Parcels 003-0-015-100-010-00 and 003-1-D01-000-001-00 to be combined, then divided into five (5) 10-acre parcels (fronting US-23) with a remainder parcel of 60.56 acres. Documents and surveys have been approved by Jessica Landry the township assessor. Oxley questioned whether payment has been received, and that Downer was being charged for 1 combination and 5 divisions (\$150.00 each). Awaiting reply from Landry. Motion made by Oxley to approve the land combination/divisions pending receipt of payment (\$900.00). Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Oxley to report the *pending* approval to Landry.
- c. Garbage Assessments (1 request to remove fee, 1 to add the fee). Tremble presented a handout which shows a travel trailer on property on Crawford Road (003-0-006-400-005-00 - owners Christopher D & Sara M Mausolf Trust). The owners requested removal of the \$150.00 annual garbage assessment as they are not permanent residents). Tremble explained to the owners that the assessment is a shared burden by all township property owners who have a structure on their property. The board agreed that the 25'-foot camper trailer was permanent with an antenna (and rotor) etc. Motion made by Oxley to deny the request to remove the \$150.00 assessment. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved - \$150 assessment to remain.

Tremble presented another handout which shows a recently completed (last year) home on Green Drive which is not assessed for garbage collection. Property 003-2-G60-000-039-01, 2271 Green Drive, owner Elizabeth E. Myziuk. Motion made by Oxley to assess the property for garbage collection. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Tremble to apply the \$150.00 assessment on winter tax bill.
- d. Tremble explained the need to adopt a Resolution "**Authorizing the Use of a Computerized Database as the Tax Roll - (BS&A)**" required by the County Treasure Julie Hazeltine. Motion made by Oxley to adopt the resolution. Motion supported by Tremble. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes. All Ayes, No Nays. Resolution 2025-05 adopted. Oxley to email the resolution to the County Treasurer.
- e. Township assessor Jessica Landry 2025-26 contract approval. Board members were taken aback that Landry has been our assessor for a year! Contract only changed in the per parcel charge (\$2 per parcel - formerly \$1 per parcel) which added a mere \$1,408.00 to the total contact. All members agreed she was well worth it, shown by her performance with the many difficult land issues over the past year. Motion made by Tremble to approve the assessor contract for 2025-2026. Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Assessor contract approved. Herzog and Oxley to sign the contract and email to Landry.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog reported that all the road and ditching projects had been completed for this year. The road (ACRC) commission has 'fog-striped' Nearman Road because of the thick asphalt and low shoulder. Herzog thanked all veterans who served in the military. And Happy Thanksgiving to all.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kirk Olson asked when the next Emergency Management meeting, what day? Kurchak stated the 16th of December.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:43pm. 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 _____