

MINUTES OF THE AUGRES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Quarterly Meeting

MARCH 2nd, 2026

DRAFT

9:00 A.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jesse Young, Patricia Tremble, Donna Wilson, Aurette Gates, Robert Cotter and Art Gallop (Zoning Administrator)

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Hartwick (Buds Auto Supply), Jim Herzog and Michael Oxley

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00am with the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by Patricia Tremble to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Donna Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Agenda approved.

BOARD COMMENT: Chairman Jesse Young welcomed all to the 1st quarterly planning commission meeting of 2026 saying 'Has it been a whole year already!' Aurette Gates requested a copy of the township Zoning Ordinance, as she did not receive one yet. Clerk Oxley to provide it.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the December 2nd, 2025 Planning Commission meeting and the minutes of the February 9th, 2026 Adult -Use Marijuana Retail Establishment Review Meeting. Motion supported by Donna Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Both minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Art Gallop, zoning administrator introduced Mr. Ed Hartwick, owner of Bud's Auto Repair, 2115 E Huron Road, Au Gres. He had come to Gallop in pursuit of permission to sell used cars at his business site. Oxley included the state form, to be completed by the jurisdiction, in the agenda packet. Gallop explained that there was no need of permission from the township planning commission or the township board. Hartwick already has a commercial business in the township, and plans to see the used cars on site. Gallop thanked Hartwick for checking first, and stated he would sign the form.

Clerk Oxley reported that the Blight Ordinance (2025-01) and Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance (2025-02) have been scheduled for publication in the Arenac Independent.

NEW BUSINESS:

a). Lawn mowing on residential properties: It was acknowledged that the township's zoning ordinance already has language for grass mowing on Lakeshore/Residential property. The concept was to apply these guidelines to residential properties as well.

Aurette Gates asked if the Lakeshore/Residential grass mowing was being enforced. Supervisor Jim Herzog replied that on a parcel such as Mr. Childs (seasonal home owner on Booth Road) all it took was a letter, and he mowed his lawn. Gallop put forth the idea that on parcels which are up for sale, it should be required that the realtors keep those properties mowed.

Discussion followed with a need to be able to specify which residential properties would be required to mow their lawns. Also one person's idea of a mowed lawn (how far and how much), was different from another resident's. And the fact that there are properties which are considered agriculture/residential, would such rules apply to those properties as well?

The consensus of the board members was that this is a tricky issue, and tabled the discussion for the next meeting. Having a map of residential properties at that time would be needed.

A motion was made by Tremble to table the discussion (grass mowing in residential areas) for a future meeting. Motion supported by Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.

A meeting was set for Monday, April 20th, 2026 at 9:00am.

b). Data Centers and Large Battery Storage Facilities: Oxley had prepared two handouts, one on "Data Centers" and another on "Renewable Energy Siting and Permitting" printed from the Michigan Township Association (MTA.org) website. This information was intended to aid in discussion of these topics and how they might affect the township, discussion of which was expected at a future meeting. Tremble explained that large data centers were an unlikely possibility in our township due to the land, power and water resources needed for a data center. Our electrical grid, though recently upgraded over the past year, would not be enough for a data center. Nor would the water requirements as we only have city water along a short stretch of US-23. Gates pointed out that she has read where these centers are beginning to generate their own power (solar, wind and such). Tremble suggested we adopt a moratorium not allowing such facilities, the same way we did for solar, and examine the topic in the future.

Motion was made by Tremble to recommend that the Township Board adopt a moratorium against Data Centers and Large Battery Facilities in Au Gres Township for a period of five (5) years, upon which the topic will be revisited. Motion supported by Gates. Roll Call Vote: Cotter ~ Yes, Young ~ Yes, Wilson ~ Yes, Gates ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes. All Ayes, No Nays. Motion adopted. Clerk Oxley to put the motion notice on the March 10th, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

BOARD COMMENT: Chairman Jesse Young thanked the board members for attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 9:50am. Motion made by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the Planning Commission Meeting _____

Jesse Young, Chairman _____

Michael Oxley, Clerk _____