

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MARCH 10th, 2026 ~ 7:00 P.M

DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Treasurer Patricia Tremble and Trustee Jan Bullock

ABSENT: Trustee Penny Kurchak

ATTENDEES: Art Gallop, Pam Stewart, Aurette Gates, Jim Osborne and Dave Malenfant.

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

BOARD COMMENT: Treasurer Pat Tremble reported that the tax rolls for 2025 are now in the hands of the County Treasurer with a majority of residents having paid their taxes (Summer and Winter 2025).

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Tremble reminded Clerk Michael Oxley that the Planning Commission had recommended to the board to place a moratorium on Data Centers and Large Battery Storage Facilities. The agenda was then amended to add Item C. Discuss moratorium recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion then made by Trustee Jan Bullock to approve the agenda as amended. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Amended agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Dave Malenfant, owner of the property on the NW corner of US-23 and Nearman Roads, asked if the board was going to discuss his request for land division(s) on the parcel. Oxley explained that he had spoken to our assessor, Jessica Landry, and she has not yet had time to review the divisions, as it was the Board of Review week (by law, the wee of the 2nd Tuesday in March) and she was too busy with all her assessing units. Malenfant understood and exited the meeting at this time.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Tremble pointed out two corrections to the February 10th, 2026 minutes - the lack of both parcel numbers being missing from Chase Mitrzyk's approval of a Retail Establishment at 2426 East Huron Road (only one of the two parcel numbers was shown), as well as the misspelling of his name. Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the February 10th, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting (with corrections) and of the February 9th, 2026 Planning Commission Marijuana Review (with same correction). Motion supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Minutes (2) approved (with corrections).

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Tremble pointed out that the GFL Trash Pickup payment was incorrect (as billed by GFL). Explaining that the number of pickups had increased over time, and even though she was in contact with GFL, they still do not seem to be billing correctly. The amount paid this month was showing as \$6,447.84 and it should be \$8461.20. Tremble to work with Olivia at GFL... again, to straighten out their billing. Additionally, Bullock pointed out that the VISA payment (125.00 for Starlink Internet) was not showing. Bullock/Oxley to correct. Motion made by Tremble to approve the February 2026 Book of Bills as presented. Motion supported Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. February 2026 Book of Bills approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$302,035.23. The General Fund total including investments and accrued interest is \$959472.67. The total of all funds is \$1,888,841.63 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Not showing on the report is \$100,000.00 general fund monies put into a Horizon Money Market instrument at 3.1% interest. Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: Read by Supervisor Jim Herzog. The February 19th, 2026 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, handing out copies of the proposed 2026 budget. Board members were given instructions to review the proposed budget and discuss any changes at the March meeting.

Keith Edmonds and Tom Brandimore met with the loan department at Huron Bank and discussed a 10-year \$500,000 loan for the new fire truck (which with the \$500,000 cash on hand would pay for the new truck). Chief Humerickhouse reported that in 2025 there were 106 fire calls. During the previous month there were 7 calls: a trailer fire, downed power line, a house fire on Noggle Road, an Oil Well gas odor on Court Street and the department did some ice rescue training.

The next meeting is on Thursday, March February 19th, 2026 - 7:00pm at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: See attached AHRA minutes in the agenda packet.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reported on the Politte modular home on Swenson - a work in progress, Schwidersons laying a cement pad for a pole barn, and moving a cabin closer to the highway. A resident asked about a pole barn on Noggle and how close could one be to a power line, Gallop referred then to Consumers Energy. Also working with Dave Malenfant for structures on Nearman and US-23, dependent on the assessor's approval of the land division requests. And in addition to the junk yard on Santiago, Gallop noted the equipment and trailers on Crumby's property on Lola Lane and Santiago. And there is the request from Bud's Auto (Ed Hartwick) to sell used cars at his current location (covered at the recent Planning Commission meeting).

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Sexton Ed Manor was thrilled to report using the tractor/backhoe to dig a grave at the cemetery. Stating that the frost line was 18" deep. Manor went to Richardson's Tractor in Standish to get his introductory training, rather than at the cemetery in the cold.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Eastern Dust Control (Matt Milan) sent a quote for the 2026 road brining season: price per 1000 gallons of chloride (1 pass) is \$245.00 (up \$5.00 from last year) and price for 2000 gallons is \$490.00 (up \$10) Last year he used 39,000 gallons on our roads. Motion made by Oxley to approve the costs and hire Milan to brine our roads (one pass - with two applications over the 2026 season). Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved. Oxley to contact Milan and confirm his hiring. It was asked if Paul Golembieski would be doing the road-side mowing this year - not contact from him as yet.
- b. Motion to approve and sign the 2026 road projects work orders to the Road Commission. At the Budget Workshop meeting, a motion was adopted to approve the 2026 road projects. Herzog now had the actual work orders from the ACRC which only needed to be signed, no motion was necessary for the projects. Thaut Road (gravel - Santiago to Court Street) \$10,080.00, Noggle Road (gravel/Perma-Zime - M-65 to Crawford Road) \$24,800.00, Noggle Road (asphalt paving - Nearman to Swenson Road) \$76,895.00, and Swenson Road (paving - US-23 to Noggle Road) \$139,775.00. Total cost for the Township \$251,550.00 (Total cost including the ACRC matching funds \$341,550.00)
- c. Planning commission, at its 1st Quarterly Meeting on March 2nd, 2026, recommended the Township Board adopt the following moratorium against Data Centers and Large Battery Facilities in the township:
"Motion for Au Gres Township to place a moratorium prohibiting Data Centers and Large Battery Facilities from being built in the Township, for a period of five (5) years, after which time the topic would be revisited."
 Tremble, our planning commission representative, spoke on the likelihood of these facilities coming into the Township was low, as they required, large areas of land, a higher power-grid than we have, and large amounts of water for cooling.
 Oxley made the motion, supported by Bullock. Roll Call Vote: Herzog ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Motion approved. Oxley to contact our attorney as ask if this should be posted in the local paper.

BOARD COMMENT: Thank you for everyone in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aurette Gates (Swenson Road) asked what the minimum square footage was required for a home in the township. Gallop replied 1020 square feet 'on the ground / foundation'.

Pam Stewart spoke on the flyer which Mr. Mark Gellen (Clayton Township resident) passed out promoting the **MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM**, Monday April 6th, 2026, 6:00pm at the Whittemore Prescott High School auditorium, 6001 Mills Road, Whittemore 48770. A nonpartisan presentation of the candidates running for the seat of US Representative for Michigan's 1st District (M-01). Four candidates attending (1 Republican, 2 Democrats and 1 Independent). Questions about the meeting can be addressed to Mark Gellen (989-654-4031).

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:55pm. Motion made by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No Nays. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____

James Herzog, Supervisor _____

Michael Oxley, Clerk _____