

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 ~ 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: Art Gallop, Aurette Gates, Duane Willett, Pam Stewart and Jim Osborne.

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

**BOARD COMMENT:** Trustee Jan Bullock asked if the board was planning to have the floors cleaned and the building power washed this year. Board members agreed it should be done, Bullock to call the cleaning companies.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Treasurer Pat Tremble made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group):** Duane Willett (Nearman Road) stated that not since 1966 has his road been under water. Thanking the township for the work done on his road (Perma-A-Zyme).

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Treasurer Pat Tremble made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10th, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting, the March 10th, 2026 Annual Meeting, and the March 25th, 2026 Budget Adoption Meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Three (3) meeting minutes approved.

**PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS:** Motion made by Tremble to approve the March 2026 Book of Bills as presented. Motion supported Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. March 2026 Book of Bills approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$185,504.45. The General Fund total including investments and accrued interest is \$944,610.46. The total of all funds is \$1,894,840.15 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Treasurers report approved.  
Clerk Michael Oxley pointed out that the fund totals of the Roads, Ditching and Mosquito funds was high, as these funds are collected from the winter tax bills. The amounts showing are monies we can spend on road/ditching projects and mosquito control during 2026.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

**AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY:** The March 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. Board members discussed the 2026-27 fiscal year budget, then voted to approve the budget. Brandimore stated that the Yeo & Yeo auditors had increased the cost of the yearly audit by \$1000.00 (to \$8,000.00). Dean Sadlik (Au Gres Twp resident on US-23) was invited to attend the meeting who, afterwards agreed to represent the township on the AGS fire authority (replacing Jeff Bullock who resigned last month).

Fire chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported 13 fire calls during the previous month: MMR assist in Au Gres Twp, structure fire in Au Gres City, water rescue in Au Gres Twp, grass fire in Sims Twp, structure fire assist in neighboring Turner Twp, Rousseau apartment fire, gas leak (City) and four different calls for downed power lines. The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - 7:00pm at the Whitney Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Bullock attended the Depot meeting on April 6th, finding the meeting much the same, as when she last attended in December. Loyalty Day parade is Saturday, April 25th in Standish - a flyer is in the agenda packet. The Veteran's Group is now in charge of the parade, Dennis Whitney can be contacted for more information, if you would like to join the parade. The rest of the meeting covered usual topics, Depot Days, Classic Car Show. Bullock ended by reporting that the Omer Courthouse Junque/Bake sale made \$619.00/\$618.00 plus \$150.00 in donations.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reported that all the contractors are busy now that spring has arrived. There is a new home being built on US-23 (Rollins Builders) and a garage going up on Rumsey Road. Gallop corrected last months minutes (a pole barn on Schwiderson's US-23 property) - no permit has yet to be written at this time, only discussion of the project. He has a discussion with a couple purchasing a parcel on Pt. Au Gres Road, planning to move to Au Gres Twp in the next five years, who asked about the junk in Parkers and Dewalds yards. Also spoke to a family on Booth Road. The husband is president of a business selling printing presses, and the wife makes a valve for the businesses (in their garage).

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Supervisor Jim Herzog reported spring clean-up in the cemetery. Jesse Gordon has been called to handle the large branches which have come down over the winter. Herzog discussed putting a dumpster in the cemetery for disposing of grave blankets and such. Cost would be \$131.00 per month. He, at first did not think that a GFL truck could make the turn through the gate (and certainly not under the archway). But speaking with a GFL drive, there was no problem. The board agreed to have the dumpster placed in the cemetery, and discussed the possible abuse by the public and whether it should be padlocked.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Kurchak asked the board about putting a Port-a-Potty at the Boardwalk Lookout Park, like they did last year. Herzog stated that he has one scheduled to be dropped off on May 1st.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Adoption of the Moratoriums for Data Centers, Solar Farms and Large Battery Facilities. Tremble stated that the Planning Commission had made a motion to place a five (5) year moratorium on these facilities at their last meeting and that the Township Board had approved a motion to do the same at a previous board meeting. Now Tremble had found an MTA format which she used to re-affirm these moratoriums (to be signed by each board member and then be published in a local paper. Oxley began to make a motion, however, as the moratoriums had already been adopted, only the paperwork (and publishing) needed to be done.
- b. c. and d. Approval of the milage proposal languages to be placed on the August 2026 Primary ballot. There was discussion on why we place the proposals every two year. The board members agreed to keep the milage rates the same (no increases). Oxley made a resolution to approve the three (3) milage proposals (Roads 2.5 Mils, Ditching 1 Mil and Mosquito Control 1 mil.) as presented. Tremble supported the resolution. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes. All Ayes, No Nays, Resolution(s) adopted. Oxley to send the proposal language (3) to the County Clerk Office.

Herzog presented a plan to dig a ditch along the West side of Swenson Road from US-23 to Noggle Road in advance of the paving project (approved at the March 10th Board of Trustees meeting). Only one bid out of two has been received as of yet (Chuck Woods Excavating at \$7,000.00) awaiting a bid from Killingbeck. This was to inform the board of the proposed project, no action taken at this time.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Kurchak asked about cleaning out the cattails (and such) at the intersection corners (ie Manor and Santiago), is the ditching fund used for those cleanouts. Herzog spoke on the annual 'Clean-up Your Township' which begins on Saturday, May 23rd this year. No Paint, No Tires, No appliances with refrigerant (unless tagged as removed). Last year we had a total of nine dumpsters (Spring and Fall Clean-ups).

There was discussion about putting a swing-set at the boardwalk park. Again, township liability for injuries came up. It was suggested to check with Deep River Township about liability as they have a large playground.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jim Osborne asked about the debris left in the ditches (Nearman, Noggle) from work Consumer's Energy did. Herzog said he checked it out recently and did not see any. Duane Willett asked if the township was going to have a tire drive this year. Oxley replied that Herzog put in an application for an EGLE Tire Cleanup grant. Have not heard from them yet, however it was generally agreed we should have a tire drive this year, even if the grant was denied. Projected cost for the township, if the grant is denied, is between \$2500.00 to \$30000.00

**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 \_\_\_\_\_