

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MAY 12<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, Pam Stewart, Paul Cwiklinski and Ron Bilbrey.

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

**BOARD COMMENT:** Supervisor Jim Herzog welcomed the attendees - Thanks for coming out in the rain. Treasurer Pat Tremble made an addition to the agenda - Farm Development Rights Application (Garrett Powell - Dreyer and Gordon Roads)

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group):** Pam Stewart (Linwood Road) asked about a proposal in the legislature, for which MTA was asking townships to contact their representatives urging them to vote against it. Herzog compared it to the time that MTA did the same, weighing in on Mining Rights taking away local control.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Treasurer Pat Tremble made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14th, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. Motion supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$181,694.83. The General Fund total including investments and accrued interest is \$942,691.25. The total of all funds is \$1,675,826.72 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Treasurers report approved.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

**AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY:** The April 15th, 2026 meeting was held at the Whitney Township Fire Hall. The meeting called to order by Keith Edmonds. Treasurer Tom Brandimore gave the treasurer's report. The board voted to pay the bills which totaled \$3048.59. The board welcomed a new fire fighter - Nick Doucette. Fire chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported 9 calls during the previous month: Personal injury Au Gres Township, a vehicle fire Au Gres Township, two grass fires in Sims Township, house fire assist in Twining, two grass fires in Whitney Township, a downed power line. and an assisted MMR in Whitney Township. The next meeting is on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 - 7:00pm at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Bullock was unable to attend the May 4th Depot meeting this month. She reported that the Omer Courthouse came in number one (\$17,000) during the 'Give Local Bay' fund drive. Camp Fishtails came in number two at \$10,000. Herzog added that the Standish Loyalty Day Parade, Saturday, April 25th was well attended, he walked the #36 position and there were many more behind him.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reported that many construction projects in the works were moving ahead - the Rollins house on US-23, Schwiderson's (US-23) pole barn slab was finished and materials have been delivered, the garage on Rumsey was coming along, and a Mr. Jeff Knopp had gotten a zoning permit for a house and garage on Santiago (80-acre parcel). Gallop had received a phone call about the rusty culverts on US-23 to which Herzog explained that MDOT has yet to complete the project.

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Herzog stated that the GFL dumpster placed on the cemetery grounds (finally after three tries, is now in the right place) was for people cleaning up gravesites (and for the maintenance man).

Kurchak reported herself, working with Barbara and Ed Manor, had placed flags at the veterans' gravesites and planted flowers in the Vets' Memorial. Memorial day is early this year on May 25th. Herzog spoke about the progress, if any, of relocating the cross from the former St Paul's Lutheran Church on Tonkey Road. Amanda Goodson has moved her Closet Exchange into the building, and since her store receives government funding, the cross has to be removed from the site. Mr. Don Englehardt has been trying to get the Township to move the cross, which is very large and heavy (made of steel beams), into Linwood cemetery.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Early Voting for the August 4th, 2026 and November 3rd, 2026 elections: Clerk Michael Oxley had previously signed off (via Penny Kurchak) to have the required nine (9) days of early voting at the County Courthouse. This is less costly than having it at the township hall. A motion is required by the township board to finalize the contract with the county clerk. Oxley made a motion to approve having the August 4th, 2026 and November 3rd, 2026 early voting held at the County Courthouse. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Oxley to send a copy of the minutes, verifying the approved motion, to Nancy Selle.
- b. Santiago Boardwalk Lookout Park Swing Set Project. This project having been discussed at previous board meetings, Herzog presented a final quote (\$6,631.95 from SwingSet Mall (Bremerton, Washington)). There were specifics asked about using sand or rubber bits on the ground. The size and how far into the ground did the poles extend, the cost of cement foundations, the location of where the swing set would be placed and liability coverage. Motion was made by Tremble to purchase the Swing Set, have Humpert Builders do the cement foundations, and whoever supplied the sand would be contracted to spread it around the site. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice Vote: Four (4) Ayes, One (1) Nay. Motion approved. Herzog to move forward on the project.
- c. Marijuana Permit renewals - consideration of reducing the \$5,000 renewal cost, in order to help businesses in Au Gres Township. Oxley explained being contacted by Brian Farah, Hello Farms (Shenfield Road - \$50,000 annual renewal) who asked if the township would consider lowering our fee structure. Oxley presented the chart used during our budget meetings, showing the loss of \$60,000 from 2025 to 2026, as three marijuana facilities did not renew (closed up shop). Oxley pointed out that our main income, which we can spend without restriction, comes from the excise tax earnings on the two retail outlets in the township. Tremble added that we use the permit fees to pave township roads (including planned 2026 budgeted projects - Swenson/Noggle roads). Oxley asked if the township would consider cutting our renewal fee in half (to \$2500.00 or \$3000.00) noting that this would be [a one-time reduction] and renewals only. This would have to be applied to all the facilities (in 2027 if they already renewed in 2026). Tremble requested to table the topic for a special meeting, and check with Turner/Lincoln and other townships (Pinconning, Bay City, etc) to see what they are charging for permits. Board members agreed, no meeting date was set at this time.
- d. Date(s) for having the building power-washed, and the floors cleaned: Bullock has already contacted Clean Sweep, and Clear View companies, making tentative plans. Having been discussed and approved at a previous meeting, Bullock came up with the 26th or 28th of May and the 2nd or 4th of June.
- e. Farm Development Rights Application - Garrett Powell, 2540 Dreyer Road (003-0-034-200-005-00). Tremble explained the nature of the FDRA, putting section(s) of a parcel into an agreement not to be farmed or built upon for a number of years. At this time there is no monies, or tax abatement for doing so. Tremble had already processed Powell's request, completing his application, having it signed and witnessed in April. After filing the forms, it was noted that the township board had to motion to approve the application, though there was nothing in the documentation to state such. Motion made by Oxley to approve the Farm Development Rights Application - Garrett Powell, 2540 Dreyer Road (003-0-034-200-005-00). Motion supported by Bullock. Voice Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Application approved.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Herzog stated that the 'Spring Clean Up Your Township' will begin on Saturday May 23rd (with a 30 yard dumpster being dropped off by GFL on Friday. NO PAINT, NO TIRES and no FREON! Tremble asked Bullock to tell those at the Standish Depot (AHRA) that the flower look beautiful. Bullock stated the Omer Courthouse was having a Junque/Bake Sale on May 22nd and 23rd (Friday/Saturday).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Paul Cwiklinski said that his road (Swenson south of Manor) looks good, some more gravel in places would be appreciated, otherwise nearly the best it has even been.

Pam Stewart (Linwood Road) asked if the Powell Farm application implied any changes with respect to board of review, which she should know about? None.

Oxley asked in Mr. Bilbrey (Shenfield Road) had any comments. None.

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