

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING JULY 14th, 2026 ~ 7:00 P.M.

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, Aretta Gates, Michelle and Shawn Abrams, Kurt Aurenhamer, Jesse Young, Pam Stewart, Donna Wilson, Jim Osborne, Rick and Andrea Hoffmann and Bernie Retelle.

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

BOARD COMMENT: Supervisor Jim Herzog welcomed all those attending.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Trustee Jan Bullock made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): None at this time.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Treasurer Pat Tremble made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9th, 2026 Board of Trustees 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 June 2026 Book of Bills with one (1) correction: the GFL "Clean Up the Township" dumpsters need to be paid out of the General Fund, not the Marijuana Fund. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. June 2026 Book of Bills approved (with correction).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. The current General Fund balance is \$196,471.76. The General Fund total including investments and accrued interest is \$961,237.72. The total of all funds is \$1,685,521.30 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Accrued interest on investments is \$11,084.24. 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 June 18th, 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, reporting that there were no issues with the annual audit (Yeo & Yeo). The fire board received \$22,000 from the Maser Fund. The board voted to pay the bills with totaled \$30,532.34 (fire fighters get paid twice a year). The bi-annual steak dinner was very well attended.

Fire chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported 11 calls during the previous month: One he talked about was a trailer fire in Northport Campground. Others were: Fire alarm Sims Twp, fire alarm Au Gres Twp, CO alarm Au Gres City, brush fire Sims Twp, tree down in road Whitney Twp, fire alarm Au Gres City, Fire alarm Sims Twp, power line down Au Gres Twp The next meeting is on Thursday, July 16th, 2026 - 7:00pm at the Whitney Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Jan Bullock reported on the Vintage Car Show on July 3rd at the Depot with 29 cars showing. Thankful for the good weather, it was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all. Read the Minutes of the June 1st, 2026 meeting in the agenda packet.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Art Gallop Zoning, things are really picking up in the Township. House on Rumsey coming along, as well as the pole barn. Mr. Knopp who plans to build a 50x90ft barndominium on his Santiago 80 acres is working with EGLE on clearing some of the woods on the property. The couple who lives at 1491 Santiago wants to build an 80 x 42ft pole barn. And Mr. John Scott Booth Road wants to put a 54 x 20ft addition to his existing garage. Harold Lentz on Noggle Road plans to build a 2nd pole barn on his property well away from the power lines. And the Hoffman couple, Andrea and Richard on Booth Road plans to put up a new pole barn

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Kurchak noted that she had not visited the cemetery this month, however she had traveled to other cemeteries, and ours looks very nice compared to some she visited. Our maintenance man Dominic Ruiz has been cleaning up fallen branches dropped in the past wind storms. Herzog has contacted Jesse Gordon to remove an entire tree. Jan Bullock asked about progress on the cross. Herzog explained to the attendees that St. Paul's Church on Tonkey Road, which closed, was bought by the Clothing Exchange (non-profit) and since it receives government funding, must have the church's cross removed. It is made of steel beams, very heavy and tall. Dennis Killingbeck quoted a price of \$500 to move the cross to Linwood Cemetery. Killingbeck is currently very busy, so it may be fall before it gets moved. The cost is only to move the cross not to install it in the cemetery. Aretta Gates questioned the need to pay Killingbeck twice, to move the cross and not install it, then to pay him next year to install it. Herzog noted that Chip Woods said he has new equipment with which he could do both at the same time. Herzog requested a quote.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Gallop introduced Shawn and Michele Abrams of CMR Construction Services who has been in business for 51 years and lived in the area for 17 years. They have purchased the 60 acres (ID#003-0-017-200-015-02) parcel on US-23 who showed plans on building 40 duplex units on the property. The initial build would be for four of the units. Each unit would be two dwellings (single bed, single bath, 520sqft plus closet storage) built together to meet our zoning footprint requirement. All electric, no gas and each duplex unit with its own septic tank/field. The tan building on the property (formerly Coats Sports) is being converted into offices. Entrances to the site would be off of US-23 with another driveway off of Crawford. Their forever home is to be built on the eastern-most 20 acres. There were many questions asked: Septic fields - Abrams commented that after building 10-12, may have to go with a combined septic field and lift station. Water - adding to the existing well - there is to be a backup well. Our representative Mike Hoadley is working on state/federal funding and the first four units is almost funded. The funding is not Section 8 related so there is no limiting the tenancy to certain age groups - (There are already 16 people on a waiting list). Property management will be by 1-2 staff on site. At this point Clerk Oxley spoke to end the discussion with the bottom line, no matter how many units, in order to proceed Abram's plan will have to go through a public hearing. And that is after detailed plans are presented to the planning commission.
- b. Tire Drive 2026: Herzog reported that we have been granted \$3000.00 from EGLE to hold a tire drive. Oxley asked for a date to publish a notice in the paper, and also questioned the need for younger workers to load the tires. There was discussion of using high school honor society applicants and/or asking the Sheriff's department about community service workers. The date was set for August 15th at 9:00am.
- c. Public Accuracy Test: The accuracy test is scheduled for July 16th at 9:00am. Two members of the Election Commission perform the test which checks the accuracy of the voting equipment in advance of the August 4th Michigan Primary election. Clerk Oxley and Supervisor Herzog do the test and public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog reported that the 'Spring Clean-up the Township' event started on the weekend of May 19th, with an expected count of five 30-yard dumpsters. By the time the event was over township residents had actually filled seven dumpsters.

Kurchak spoke on the new rock/gravel foundation where the GFL Recycling Dumpster is stationed. Now when the rain/snow falls, people will not have to trod through the mud to recycle.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aretta Gates asked Abrams about a startup date of the duplex units.

Jim Osborn asked about the roadside mowing, and were we going to be cleaning out the corners where the cattails and phragmites grow so tall it is a traffic hazard.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:07pm. 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 _____