

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AUGUST 11th, 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: Penny Thomas, Pam Stewart, Art Gallop, Jim Osborne and Drain Commissioner Steve Andrejewski (Not signed in: Derek Porritt and Officer Tim Robbins.)

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

BOARD COMMENT: Treasurer Patricia Tremble instructed Derek Porritt that his camera could not be placed on the board table and if he wanted to record the meeting, he would have to do it from the back of the room. Porritt stated that he could not hear from the back and positioned himself in the front row holding his camera. Trustee Penny Kurchak was excited to report that the Swing-Set and Basketball Hoop were now in place at the Santiago Boardwalk Park and being used.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Penny Thomas (438 Shenfield) asked when Shenfield Road would be paved. Supervisor Jim Herzog said that there was no plan to pave her road (due to asphalt costs skyrocketing) but would consider the Permazime road treatment which has been used successfully on Nearman (North of Noggle) and Gordon (West of Santiago). Thomas then asked why the road-side mower skipped her property when Shenfield was mowed. Derek Porritt (2211 Green Drive) asked what criteria is used to improve township roads as it seems to be done willy-nilly. Porritt also asked when the corner intersections such as Santiago and Manor would be cleaned out, as it and others is a safety hazard.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Treasurer Pat Tremble made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14th, 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 July 2026 Book of Bills. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. July 2026 Book of Bills approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. The current general fund balance is \$175,916.33. The general fund total including investments and accrued interest is \$942,601.42. The total of all funds is \$1,770,870.03 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Accrued interest on investments is \$13,407.20. 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 July 16th, 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 and a motion was made and supported to pay the bills (\$14,983.86) Fire chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported on the eight calls during the previous month: Two downed power lines in Au Gres Township, as well as a gas leak, MMR assist, and outside fire. A boat fire and downed power line in Au Gres City and a gas leak in Whitney Township. The next meeting is on Thursday, August 20th, 2026 - 7:00pm at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Minutes of the July 6th, 2026 Heritage Route meeting are in the agenda packet. The minutes can also be found on the HRA website <https://standishdepot.org>.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Art Gallop reported that Goodson's (Santiago, North of Proulx Road) building is ready to pour the footings, Schwidersons' pole barn (US-23) is finished, looks great. The Hoffmans (Booth Road) have gotten a zoning permit for a pole barn to be built by the Amish. A resident (Pt Au Gres Road) is adding a 16ft extension on their existing garage, which is 2ft off of the property line (how zoning rules have changed over time).

Gallop also reported on the trailer, with a partially built deck, on the 10 acres just east of Knowles golf course. Having spoken with the owner, informing him that it is in violation (US-23 commercial property). It can stay if he moves it back 330 feet which would put him in agricultural property. Gallop has spoken with Mr. Abrams about the planned development on US-23 about four times on the phone. A Planning Commission review meeting is set for Monday, August 24th, at 9:00am for Abrams to present the project. Lastly Jeffrey Knopp (40 acres on Santiago) is finalizing plans for 3-sided Pole Barn with plans to train British Labrador dogs (no more than 6 at once) on the property.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Kurchak had visited the cemetery over the past month and it looks great. The large dead pine tree has been removed (Jesse Gordon Tree Service). Kurchak then asked Herzog to give an update on St. Paul's Church large iron-beam cross. Josh Gordon (the contractor who installed the new roof on the hall) is to move the cross, and next year Chip Woods will mount it in the cemetery. Placement details to be finalized by the Cemetery Board (Barbara Manor, Auretta Gates and Penny Kurchak).

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Drain Commissioner Steve Andrejewski (who spoke at the public comment portion of the meeting) discussed the Hemenway Drain and the 'DAY of REVIEW of DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES and REVIEW of APPORTIONMENTS' on Wednesday, August 19th, 2026 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Held at the drain commissioner's office in the County Building. Andrejewski explained that the drainage district is overstated in some areas (Bay Ridge subdivision) and understated in others (Swenson and Manor roads, Section 26). A few questions were asked after which Andrejewski departed the meeting.
- b. Oxley spoke on the Tire Drive this Saturday the 15th (9:00am until filled), asking the attendees to bring in their tires, any size, with or without metal rims, and to spread the word. The tire company is Entech Inc. (formerly First Class Tire Shredders) of Flint and paid for with grant monies from EGLE.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog pointed out the new metal roof on the township hall, funded by a Tribal 2% Distribution grant. Installed by JG Construction and completed in one day. Oxley said that, even during the heavy downpours last week, one could not hear the rain on the roof. Oxley reported that the election went well, with 312 ballots cast (including absentee voters). The hall was busy all day (7am to 8pm) with a steady flow of residents - but 312 out of 800 or so, registered voters is less than 40% turnout. November 3rd should be much busier. Results of the August 4th election (a scan of the tabulator tape) was on the board table.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:45pm. 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 _____