# MINUTES OF THE
# AU GRES TOWNSHIP
# BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
# SEPTEMBER 8th, 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: Joyce Hardy, James Hardy, Jess Young, Florence Young, Pam Stewart, Kirk Aurenhamer, Auretta Gates, Jim Osborne and Drain Commissioner Steve Andrejewski (Not signed in : Derek Porritt and Officer Tim Robbins and a fellow officer.)

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

**BOARD COMMENT:** Supervisor Jim Herzog stated that the Fall 'Clean Up the Township' event begins on September 19 with a 30-yard GFL dumpster being dropped on the North side of the hall, the Spring event had 7 30yd dumpsters collected.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Treasurer Pat Tremble 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):** Joyce Hardy (2085 Huron Road) asked why it takes so long to deposit a check for a water bill payment, often more than a month. There are four workers (treasurer and her deputy / clerk and his deputy), so why does it take so long. Requesting to have deposits done more regularly, a week or even two would be acceptable.
Derek Porritt (2211 Green Drive) reported being cut off at the public comment period at the end of last months board meeting. Public comment was requested by Herzog, and then in the next breath was a call for a motion to adjourn. Porrit also asked about the junk being strewn all over the township grounds and why, with having cameras and a local sheriff patrolling, there are no citations being written. Also, could the sheriff's department give a report on the months' activity in the township.
Auretta Gates (1966 Swenson) asked if there was a policy requiring a person to sign-in if they wanted to make a public comment. (There is no law requiring a person to sign-in or even give a name, in order to make a comment.)

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Tremble made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11th, 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 August 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 $148,851.53. The general fund total including investments and accrued interest is $917,455.74. The total of all funds is $1,757,827.26 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Accrued interest on investments is $15,730.14. Motion made by Clerk Michael Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Treasurers report approved.

**BOARD REPORTS:**
**AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY:** The August 20th, 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 and a motion was made and supported to pay the bills ($1.961.02). Brandimore handed out a letter from Yeo&Yeo regarding the audit.
Fire chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported that all trucks had been pump tested, and all passed. Badly needed, but expensive radios ($6,000 new) were located by Kurt for only $250.00 each (excess Michigan State Police stock). There were nine calls during the previous month: a personal injury in the City of Au Gres, and another in Whitney Twp, a down power line in Sims Twp, a trash burning complaint in Whitney Twp, a contractor hit a gas line in Au Gres City, a down power line by a county truck in Sims Twp, a house fire due to an air conditioning unit in Sims Twp and a personal injury (flipped riding mower) in Au Gres Twp.
The next meeting is on Thursday, September 17th, 2026 - 7:00pm at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Minutes of the August 3rd, 2026 Heritage Route meeting are in the agenda packet. The minutes can also be found on the HRA website https://standishdepot.org.
Bullock reported that the Omer Courthouse sale over the holiday weekend made a total of $1200.00, with $625.00 of that from just the bake sale. An unnamed donor gave a check to Brenda Matt for $56,000 to move the Lentz house/store from its original location on Pine River Road to the lot next to the Omer Courthouse. The plan is to have it moved by Ocotber, and open next spring as an 'olde-timey' country store.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
Art Gallop - not in attendance - no report filed.

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Kurchak had nothing to report - cemetery looks great. Hezog reported the pump has been working intermittingly. Oxley reported that last time it was the switch contacts, and would have it checked out.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a.** Herzog reported on the need to clean out the ditches along Swenson Road (South of US-23), both sides. The last time the ditches were dug out would have been when the road was first paved (2008?). Bids were requested from Chip Woods and Dennis Killingbeck. Woods' estimate was $43,500.00 and would cover spoils removal and lowering of the culverts if needed. Killingbeck's bid had not been received at time of the board meeting. The board agreed to go ahead with the project, pending the bid from Killingbeck. Auretta Gates was concerned about the flow of the water, would the ditch cleaning result in more water in the ditches in front of her and her mom's house.

**b.** Au Gres Township Video/Audio Recording Policy: Tremble explained the policy to the board. Oxley stated that there was an existing policy, from years past, when Donald Pawlaczyk was on the board, but he was unable to find a copy in time for the meeting. Resolution was made by Oxley to adopt the Video/Audio Recording Policy. Resolution supported by Bullock. Roll Call Vote: Kurchak ~ Yes, Herzog ~ Yes, Bullock ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Oxley ~ Yes. All Ayes. No Nays. Policy Adopted.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Herzog pointed out that our newsletter states the township hours are Monday and Wednesday with Friday by appointment. But in reality, board members are working at the hall all week (even Thursday, which is a considered a day off by the clerk). If there is a car in the lot, the side door is usually open. Kurchak said there was chicken dinner in the future, as her and Tremble cleaned the beds and trimmed the shrubs around the hall. Only to find the next morning, that the neighbor's roosters had spread the newly topped mulch all over the parking lot.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Auretta Gates: Our zoning policy states that trailers cannot be on a parcel without a septic tank, yet there is a camper trailer on the parcel next to Knowles Golf Course. Is this the direction the township is going, campers in place of houses?

Pamela Stewart (2659 Linwood Rd) asked what cemetery road was Killingbeck working on? Herzog explained that Killingbeck was contracted to spread gravel/rock on certain sections of the roads in the cemetery.

Derek Porrit read from a prepared statement on his phone concerning the recording of meetings, it not being disruptive and good for the public who may not be able to attend the meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 7:50pm. 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 _____