MINUTES OF THE
AU GRES TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 13th, 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: Joyce Hardy, David Bartlett, Jim Osborne, Arthur Gallop, Chris Ming, Andrea Hoffman and Pam Stewart, (Not signed in: Derek Porritt, Julie and George Hill).

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

BOARD COMMENT: Supervisor Jim Herzog welcomed the folks attending the meeting.

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): Chris Ming, Au Gres Sims School District Superintendent spoke on the AGS School 'Sinking Fund' Millage proposal on the November 3rd ballot. Explaining what a sinking fund is, that the purpose was to pay for maintenance of the schools (the elementary school was built in 1958 and the High School in 1968). The 10-year, 1.18 mil requested (appx $59 per $50,000 taxable value of a home) could also, in certain circumstances, be used for technology and transportation. Ming left a quick fact sheet (with QR code) or go to the school website (ags-schools.org) to view details. There is a calculator which will figure the levy on a home/property.

Advanced Pest Management representative Casey, gave the annual wrap-up presentation to the board. This past summer was the wettest season in Michigan; there were lots or mosquitoes. Ground larviciding crews applied 557 lbs. of BTI to 63 sites. Aerial spraying treated 822 acres of standing water. 54 resident calls during June/July months, with 15 properties backpacked sprayed. 167.2 road miles sprayed in June and 201.2 miles in July. Resident calls in August September totaled 24, most were special events requests. 94 Road miles sprayed in August and 51 miles in September. Phragmites drone application on September 10th used 280lbs of Vectolex FG.

Derek Porritt read from a prepared statement urging the township to post upcoming meetings as soon as they are known. Perhaps more people would attend the meetings if residents were notified sooner than the required (18hours prior). Adding that all meetings should be posted on the website.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Tremble made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8th, 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 September 2026 Book of Bills. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. September 2026 Book of Bills approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. As of September 30th, the general fund balance is $125,936.15. The general fund total including investments and accrued interest is $896,397.57. The total of all funds is $2,095,549.09 (bank accounts, investments and interest accrued). Accrued interest on investments is $17,978.17. 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 September 17th, 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 the bills ($6327.52) were paid. A loan has been secured through Huron Bank for $518,164.00 to pay for the new fire truck. Brandimore reported that the auditors (Yeo&Yeo) stated the authority needed a Chief Administrative Officer, to which Tom Brandimore agreed to serve.
Fire chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported that there were only two calls during the past month, a personal injury (accident) and an outdoor fire (citizen's complaint). The new fire truck was expected to be ready in November, but the date has again been pushed out, to December 28th.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Reported by Jan Bullock, who attended the October 5th meeting. Depot Days (October 3rd and 4th) was not as well attended as in the past. This may have been because there were no rides, which always draw attention to the festival when driving past the Depot. The 'Silent Auction' made about $2200.00 - with the Deer Blind, donated by Vantage Plastics brought in $570.00 in raffle ticket sales. It was a nice day and thanks go out to all who attended.
Minutes of the September 8th, 2026 Heritage Route Authority meeting is in the agenda packet. The minutes can also be found on the HRA website https://standishdepot.org.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop - still a lot going on in the township, weather has been in favor of the contractors. The pole barn on US-23 (next to Knollview Golf Course) has the cement pad poured and the camper has been moved further back from the road, the owners have plans to build a house. The folks at 3317 Pt. Au Gres Lane (Mr. & Mrs. Petouhoff) are demolishing the old barn and getting ready to build a larger structure, with a loft, in its place.
Property on Booth Road has put in a driveway (new culvert) and plan to build a pole barn there. On Lola Lane where a barn was built, wants to move the site plan of the house but there are setback problems. A property owner on Swenson called asking questions about a pole barn going on the property, required setbacks were given - no reply since then. The barnaminium on Santiago (80 acres) is going ahead as well.
Gallop then spoke about Mr. Doug Rood who plans to build a storage facility on US-23, just east of Elmers Cement business. The units would be custom build containers with doors in the sides. That project has yet to come up with a site plan and EGLE permits.
Lastly the folks on Booth Road with a shared well which went bad got a new well (also shared) which cost $24,000.00 to drill.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Kurchak reported visiting the cemetery and it looks great. She noted that there are a couple new engraved niches at the columbarium. Next project is the fall cemetery clean-up (by Dominic Ruiz).

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Chris Ming - Au Gres Sims School Superintendent - November 3rd ballot proposal. (see public comment above)
b. APM annual report - Advanced Pest Management – Ben Seago - (see Casey's public comment above).
c. Dominic Ruiz - Cemetery Maintenance worker - bid proposal to snowplow the Cemetery/Boardwalk Park: It was discussed by the board with a general consensus to stay with Lake Huron Landscaping who has done the snow plowing for years. Kurchak put forth that Ruiz being one person, was an issue (illness, vehicle breakdown), compared with Lake Huron Landscaping, who had a team of workers. Tremble asked what are the bid figures? Clerk Oxley failed to include the figures in the agenda packet, so this was tabled for the November meeting.
d. Tremble asked how many ice fisherman were parking in the Boardwalk parking lot (20+ at times) and asked the board to consider keeping the Porta-Potty at the park, rather than removing it until spring. Herzog to call Daniels Septic Service and confirm.

BOARD COMMENT: Treasurer Tremble stated that the Winter tax bills were ready to be sent out, enveloped addressed and stamped, awaiting the printing of the bills. Should be in the mail by end of November.
Clerk Oxley spoke on the November 3rd, 2026 general election - Polls open at 7:00am and close at 8:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Porritt stated that MTA suggests corrections on minutes, use a strike-through method, leaving the original text, and then replacing with corrected wording.

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 _____