

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~ 7:00 P.M.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Treasurer Patricia Tremble, Trustee Penny Kurchak and Trustee Jan Bullock

**ABSENT:** None

**ATTENDEES:** Bill Bullock, Paul Cwiklinski, David Enos, Art Gallop, Aurette Gates, Kirk Olson, Derek Porritt, Sheriff Officer Tim Robbins and Chuck and Kay Woods

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

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Treasurer Patricia Tremble amended the agenda to include discussion of 2nd roadside shoulder mowing. Motion made by Trustee Penny Kurchak to approve the agenda as amended. Supported by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Amended agenda approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Paul Cwiklinski reported that a GFL garbage truck got stuck at the end of Swenson road on 09-11-2023 trying to turn around. He was concerned that he would have to go back to trucking his trash to Manor road and suggested that the board members take a ride down to the end where he lives and check out the road conditions.

Derek Porritt reported that the Schwiderson's Marina/Campground (Green Dr.) was housing migrant workers, and that police had been called there. Officer Tim Robbins was in attendance and he was unaware that the Sheriffs office had been called. Further stating that working were able to stay at the campground like anyone else. .

Aurette Gates (Swenson Rd) was concerned by reckless drivers on Swenson and Manor road were burning rubber and tearing up the road. Officer Robbins said if she could get a car license number then he could follow up on it and ticket the, otherwise he is patrolling the township.

Dave Enos (Noggle and Shenfield Rds) stated he has a similar problem, workers running the stop sign at Noggle and tearing around the corner, as well as 4-Wheelers tearing up Shenfield.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Tremble pointed out a couple corrections to the draft minutes. Motion made by Tremble to approve the (corrected) minutes of the August 8th, 2023 Board of Trustee 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 August 2023 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Clerk Michael Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Supervisor Jim Herzog questioned the cemetery maintenance worker, Dominic Ruiz's pay of \$3750.00. Oxley checked and reported his last months pay was \$3500.00.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Pointing out that in the next day or two she would be closing the Road Ditching Savings and putting the monies back into the Ditching Fund Checking account. Also that between the Huron Bank CD's (\$3815.28) and the Horizon Bank CD's (4894.95) the total interest accrued to date totaled \$8710.23. Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

**AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY:** The meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall was called to order by Olen Swartz. Thomas Brandimore gave the treasurers report, reviewing the monthly bills. Reporting that Pure Green had paid the \$3250.00 owed in fines for false alarms at the 2497 E Huron marijuana facility. Also the fire board received a \$40,000.00 grant from the State of Michigan, however the close-date deadline of the required paperwork make it near impossible to get it completed in time. Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported 13 alarms this past month, two for downed power lines, a vehicle fire in Whitney twp and a fatal accident assist on M-65. Also an outside burning complaint and yet another Pure Green false alarm call on august 13th at 4:30am!  
Next meeting to be held on Thursday, September 21st at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** This months meeting was not attended by the township representative due to conflicts. Bullock referenced the attached minutes (in the agenda packet) for attendees if they had questions. Also reporting that the Omer Courthouse Bake Sale made \$500.00. Depot days are just around the corner on October 7th and 8th.

**CEMETERY REPORT:** Trustee Kurchak reported that she and Herzog had toured the cemetery, noting that a local was cutting up the woodpile (at last). Kurchak reported attending a historical meeting where Brenda Matt and local folks talked about their relatives who fought in the Civil War and are interred in county cemeteries.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop reported that he issued a couple of permits over the past month. Then spoke on the issue of lots which are for sale, and why realtors do not mow those lots, pointing out 3 on Point Au Gres road and others on Booth road.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Herzog reported on the progress with the Shenfield extension being turned into a township road. Closing on the right-of-way properties to the West and East of the extension (US-23 to Noggle) was nearly completed. Finally after all this time, once the properties were owned by the township, then work could begin. Dave Enos stated he spoke with Drain Commissioner Larry Davis who agreed that the necessary ditching work should be completed before the road gets surfaced.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Lentner road proposal to spread gravel north of the bridge. Herzog reported being petitioned by property owners north of the Lentner road bridge to get some gravel spread, as the road is in very rough shape and has never gotten attention. Enos asked if there were any permanent residents. No, there is only one property owner with a camper and the others are hunting camps, but all are assessed for the road and ditching millages. Herzog has an estimate from Woods Excavating for \$15,000 using asphalt chunks to fill the holes before laying gravel. Motion made by Oxley to approve the Lentner Road project not to exceed \$15,000. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.
- b. Second roadside mowing. Tremble, pointed out that with the frequent rains have made it necessary to mow the roadside shoulders again. Also many of the street corners are dangerous to see around, for example, Manor and Santiago, the cattails need to be cleaned out. Motion made by Oxley to mow the roadside ditches and clean out intersections. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice Vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved. Herzog to implement.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Tremble stated the 2nd pass of brining the roads was very nice, good work done.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dave Enos reiterated the need for the ditching work to be done before the Shenfield extension road work began.

Paul Cwiklinski pulled up a video of his road, and the stuck GFL truck, showing it to board members, and added that he hoped the 'Seasonal Road' sign would disappear soon.

Mr. Kirk Olson (Rumsey Rd) commenting on residents paying taxes (during discussion of Lentner road project) asked, as a taxpayer, if there were plans for water/sewer down Rumsey road and around Point Au Gres. Herzog reported previous township board projects (1990's) for just such services, and how they failed, basically due to cost burdens on township residents. Yet it is a vision of the township, but could only imagine it going forward if the state would support such a project. Agreeing that EGLE (formerly DEQ) would love to see all septic systems on lakeshore properties be banned. But even with state funded support the costs are staggering for a township.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 8:05pm. 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 \_\_\_\_\_