

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING October 10th, 2023 ~ 7:00 P.M.

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

ATTENDEES: Paul Cwiklinski, David Enos, Art Gallop, Aurette Gates, Kirk Olson, Ben Seago and Chuck Woods and Joanna Eruin

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

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Treasurer Patricia Tremble made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Seago from Advanced Pest Management APM, our mosquito control company gave a presentation of the 2023 mosquito season. Seago stated that it was a longer season than past years, and over budget as a result (appx \$6500.00). Over the season they fogged 900 miles of roads, had 92 resident calls and serviced 210 off-road properties. Due to heavy rains there were times when they could not do more than a driveway fogging on these properties and if the temperature drops to 50 degrees they cannot spray at all. Rounding out the talk saying that he wants to know of any complaints or questions. (the APM 2023 report is attached to these minutes). Fielding questions, Aurette Gates asked about fogging on properties like hers with no trail. Seago replied that his workers would use the backpack sprayer to service such properties and work with the resident.

Paul Cwiklinski thanked the township board for getting the 'Seasonal Road' sign removed from his road Swenson south of Manor road). Supervisor Herzog asked about the end of Swenson and whether the GFL trucks could still turn around.

Kirk Olson spoke on his research for a possible 'bike/foot path' from Manor road and Green drive, north to Court Street and Au Gres city. Stating that he had free time and could check on a viability study and possible grants. Several attendees gave posing support to the idea.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Tremble pointed out two minor corrections to the draft minutes. Motion made by Kurchak to approve the (corrected) minutes of the September 12th, 2023 Board of Trustee meeting. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Tremble to approve the September 2023 book of bills. Motion supported by Clerk Michael Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Reporting that interest on the CD's to date have earned a total of \$10,723.17 (Huron Bank CD's =4558.52 + Horizon Bank CD's = 6164.65). Motion made by Kurchak to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Oxley. 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.

Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse and Brandimore met the deadline for a \$40,000 State grant for turnout gear equipment.

Chief Hummerickhouse reported 5 alarms this past month - a CO2 leak, a propane leak, a car accident in Sims Township, a jammed elevator at a residence and a call to the oil well on Court Street, Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 18th at the Whitney Fire Hall.

There have been concerns about MMR response times. Herzog pointed out that the MMR vehicles are not part of any fire authority, they just lease space at a fire hall. Tremble (having worked the 911 call

station) explained that there are three Ambulance locations, One at the Au Gres fire hall, one in Alger and the third one in Standish. If one MMR unit is called out, the other units will relocate to areas centrally located around the county in an attempt to be readily available.. Depending on where an ambulance is on the road and where the emergency is taking place, is why the response times can vary.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: This months meeting was not attended by the township representative due to conflicts. Kurchak reported that Depot Days was not as well attended as previous years, mainly due to weather in early October.

CEMETERY REPORT: Trustee Kurchak reported a large branch from one of the old pine trees broke off and was blocking the drive. Fortunately none of the tombstones and memorials were damaged. Jesse Gordon tree service was contacted to remove the debris and check on the condition of the tree (should it be removed?). Also that the wood pile (from the Amen Drain clean-out work) was almost all gone now.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop reported a new house to be built on Green Drive (south of the Marina) by local contractor (Leonard Svanberg). Today he had a call about building a home on Booth road. Gallop has two other zoning permit projects in the works, one being a double-wide on Lola Lane. Also he checked on two privacy fences (Point Au Gres and Bay Ridge drive) and a storage shed.

OLD BUSINESS: Shenfield road project: Herzog reported that the right-of-way properties were now in the hands of the township and the road commission has been informed that work can begin anytime on making the Shenfield road into a township/county road.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Motion was made to amend the previous months motion to purchase the 'right-of-way' properties to the east and west of the Shenfield extension. At the time of that motion a cap of \$12,000 was agreed upon to purchase the properties. The previous motion did not take into account the additional cost of processing those sales. Motion was made by Oxley to amend the previous motion to include the wording 'plus associated costs'. (i.e. "... not to exceed \$18,000 to purchase the properties plus associated costs..."). Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Previous motion amended
- b. Kurchak presented a document to the board related to energy companies attempting to get legislation passed which would remove local zoning authority for solar and wind energy projects. Basically taking away a townships right to regulate land uses in our own municipalities. The document contained a resolution. After discussion, and agreement that the board members were aware of the topic through MTA emails and articles. the following resolution was made:
RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR SOLAR AND WIND DEVELOPMENTS
 ... Therefore, be it resolved that Au Gres Township opposed preemption of local control in solar and wind siting and zoning. Roll Call Vote: Herzog ~ Yes, Tremble ~ Yes, Kurchak ~Yes, and Oxley ~ Yes. Four Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Resolution 2023-05 adopted. (text of entire resolution available for inspection).

Kurchak suggested publishing the townships resolution on pre-empting our authority in the local paper.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog reported on this years 'Clean-up your Township drive'. Referring to the overflowing 30 yard dumpster in the hall parking lot, he reported that this was dumpster number seven. Last year we had three total. And thanked residents for using the opportunity to remove junk from their yards. He spoke further on the finding of a loaded 22 rifle in the dumpster, handed over to the County Sheriff's department.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aurette Gates asked the cost of the Shenfield extension road project. \$61,550 to be paid for out of the marijuana fund (as was the acquisition of the right-of-way properties). Dave Enos asked if the work on Lentner road (gravel approved last month) had been done. Herzog stated that the work was done by Chuck Woods and under the amount estimated.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:17pm. 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 _____