

MINUTES OF THE AUGRES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET ADOPTION March 12th, 2024 ~ 6:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Treasurer Pat Tremble, Trustee Penny Kurchak and Trustee Jan Bullock. **ABSENT:** None

ATTENDEES: Jeffrey Czymbor and Nancy Selle

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion by Clerk Oxley to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

STATE of the TOWNSHIP: Supervisor James Herzog presenting, 'Another productive year for Au Gres township'. (Bullet points of his speech)..

Shenfield Road 'extension' project, having been discussed and worked on for years is finally headed for competition. Needed right-of-way properties have been purchased to turn the extension (Noggle to Us-23) into a township road. The project will be completed this year by the ACRC - Arenac County Road Commission. The entire cost for the project will be paid for my marijuana funds.

One of the many 2023 road projects was the resurfacing of Booth Road, completed later in the year than expected, but appreciated by the residents just the same.

After many years since it was first built, the boardwalk at our Santiago Lookout Park had become tilted and questionable to walk upon due to years of ground freezing and thawing. Along with leveling the boardwalk we added a port-a-potty was for visitors to use. The pavilion at the park has also seen a lot of use during the summer months. Almost every day there were people using the pavilion. Our cemetery maintenance man Dominic Ruiz has been doing a fine job and keeping the boardwalk park area clean and mowed.

The 'Clean Up The Township' event in September was very successful, with seven 30 yard dumpsters filled and hauled away. In 2024 we plan to have two of these events - one in Spring and one in the Fall.

During 2023 it was decided to sell the 40 acres on Swenson and Noggle roads - the old township dump property. In listing the property it was clearly revealed that it was a prior dump. EGLE had inspected it and had no issues. Listed for \$99,000, had multiple bids, ending with a sale of \$81,000 (\$73,600 total).

The 5 acre township property on US-23 and Swenson roads has been leased by Consumers Energy to be used as a way-station during construction of the power Sub-Station on Santiago(West) street, behind the Pure Green facility. The 2.5 acres being leased for two years Consumers Energy paid us \$24,000.00.

The treasurer's report shows a healthy fund balance at this time. I feel that citizens of Au Gres Township should feel very comfortable with the this township board, now and in the future.

The year ahead (2024) I have eleven tentative road projects to be considered by the township board. Including cleaning out the ditches, roadside mowing, several roads in need of gravel, and the usual brining (dust control). Lastly, my thanks to all my fellow board members for all that they do!

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Trustee Bullock to approve the minutes of the February 24th Budget Review meeting (with corrections). Motions supported Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

BUDGET REVIEW:

GENERAL and OTHER FUNDS: Supervisor Herzog inquired of the board members if there were any updates, questions or concerns with the General Fund 2023-2025 fiscal year budget or any of the other fund budgets (Commercial Marijuana, Garbage, Gypsy (Spongy) Moth, Mosquito, Road, Road Ditching, and Water). Acknowledging that the entire board worked together on each fund budget at the 'Budget Review Workshop Meeting' two weeks ago. No questions or concerns by board members.

Nancy Selle inquired if she could ask questions, or had to wait for public comment? Board encouraged questions, as it was the annual meeting.

Selle questioned the Water Fund balance, about the relatively low budgeted amount last year compared to this year. Oxley (water clerk) explained that Pure Green had finished up the construction inside the facility which increased the amount of growing areas and this increased water usage. Selle then inquired of the Marijuana Fund, was there any plans of hiring a Marijuana Administrator, taking the workload off the township clerk.

Clerk Oxley made a motion to accept the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year budgets as presented. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Oxley presented the budget amendments he had made to the General Fund, but paused, explaining that he could not proceed because of the method that accounting had used to move funds which were being invested in CD's and Money Market instruments. Blaming the Quickbooks software, Oxley stated that he could not amend the budget for an entry of \$100,000! Having discussed the problem with Tom Brandimore, deputy treasurer, it was decided to table approval of the budget amendments until the Quickbooks issue was solved. A nod to the fact that budget amendments had to be adopted/approved before the end of the townships 2023-2023 fiscal year, a special meeting was set for Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 at 10:00am.

SALARY INCREASES ~ Board Members: Oxley stated that he put this item on the agenda. Reminding the board (and attendees) that a raise in any board of trustees member, had to be done at the Annual Meeting. No increases were on the agenda, as the rule of law requires any board member seeking a salary increase, had to petition for 30 days prior to the annual meeting (at the board of trustee regular meeting in February). As there were no requests for any increases at the February meeting, this agenda item was mute.

BOARD COMMENT: Thanks all around to the board of trustee members for jobs well done!

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nancy Selle asked about the Mosquito fund balance compared to the annual cost of APM's program. Tremble reported to Selle that we had reduced the millage being levied from 1 mil to 1/2 mil last year.

ADJOURNMENT: Time 7:00pm. Motion by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____

James T Herzog, Supervisor _____

Michael H, Oxley, Clerk _____