

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING March 12th, 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, Jeff Czymbor, Aurette Gates, Art Gallop, Nancy Selle and Chuck and Kay Woods, Jesse Young

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting began at 7:05pm with the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: A request was made by Treasurer Patricia Tremble to add to the agenda: Correcting the Winter L-4029. Motion made by Clerk Oxley to approve the agenda as amended. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda (amended) approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aurette Gates (Swenson Road) commented on blighted properties on Santiago, and other roads in the township (Swenson Road included). Suggesting to invite our attorney take a ride down these roads. Gates had no problem in signing a complaint form, if that is what it takes to get these properties cleaned up. Jeff Czymbor agreed, especially a property near his rental units. Suggesting a committee could be formed to police the township. Supervisor Jim Herzog reported that a citation was being printed, with our Zoning Enforcement Officer already agreeing to deliver the citations (per the Civil Infraction procedure). Nancy Selle asked about the removal of one or more of the trailers at the Mckenzie property on Swenson (now that they are in their new home). Herzog mentioned the hardship (financial) with some residents being a factor on cleanup. Zoning Administrator Art Gallop chimed in with the idea that designating a property as 'condemned', as he had seen done in larger cities, would encourage/force a land-owner to clean up said property.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the February 13th, 2024 Board of Trustee meeting minutes (with corrections). Motion supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Oxley to approve the February 2024 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Tremble requested board approval to invest \$100,000.00 into a CD, and \$100,000.00 into a Money Market instrument (both General Fund monies). Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved.

Tremble reported on getting a township credit card, to replace the current debit card. Necessary for the web-hosting company. Paperwork has been completed, awaiting approval (Horizon bank).

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: Meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Olen Swartz. The February 15th meeting was rescheduled due to bad weather, to February 22nd. Treasurer's report was given by Tom Brandimore who reported the follow-up on the Michigan \$40,000 grant application. The annual audit was scheduled for the 1st week in May.

Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported on the 8 calls for the month. A fire at the Pure Green Marijuana facility (2497 E Huron) due to a fallen light fixture, put out with a hand extinguisher. Additionally, there were 3 car accidents and a brown-out on Santiago. There was interest by Consumers Energy to buy/lease the property on US-23 and Hammel Beach roads (formerly planned as the location of a new fire hall). Next Fire Board meeting is on Thursday March 21st at the Au Gres Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Reported by Jan Bullock: Meeting held on March 4th. Reporting that the women's bathroom at the depot had been vandalized (\$3,000 damage - \$1,000 deductible). Security cameras were discussed and Richardson (Chevrolet dealership) offered to give and install a camera system. The Omer Courthouse plans for a junque and bake sale on the weekend of the annual Omer Sucker Festival (April 5th/6th).

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Mr. Atwater plans to add a deck and sun room to his home on Santiago, previously it was to be free-standing. Michael Urban (Bay Ridge drive) is planning on building a house/garage. Gallop asked about the ditch culvert on Santiago near Pat Schwiderson's house, as water is always standing, not draining away. Similar problem on Gordon Road, the lake level is down but the ditch is always full - a mosquito factory. Herzog noted that he was aware of these issues and had been consulting with Dale Dittenber, ACRC foreman and resident.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Credit card to replace our debit card. See Treasurer's report above (and previous months minutes for detailed explanation).

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Manor Road Boring work order – Snyder & Staley Engineering PLC. Herzog explained the need for the boring testing work in advance of any plan to pave Manor Road from Hale to Davis Road. A past work order through the Road Commission (\$5,000.00) was approved at a previous meeting. This current estimate, through boring the company itself has an increased cost of \$1000. Motion made by Oxley to approve the boring testing not to exceed \$6500.00. Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Herzog to contact Michael Staley and give the go-ahead.
- b. Spring 'Clean Up Your Township' drive. Explained by Herzog, that the fall cleanup (7 total 30 yard dumpsters full) was so successful, that spring cleanup was discussed, (to be paid for using marijuana excise tax funds). A motion was made by Oxley to hold a 'Spring Clean Up your Township Drive', starting on May 17th, at a cost of \$725.00 per dumpster (number of units to be determined). Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Kurchak suggested advertising the drive in the Arenac Independent, and also in the future to apply for a 2% Tribal distribution grant to pay for it.
- c. Spring tire drive. Oxley reported that it had been two years since we had the last tire drive. Reporting that he had been asked by a few residents (by phone and emails) if the township was having a tire collection drive this year. There was discussion about the Arenac Conservation District having their drives, and also applying for a 2% Tribal Distribution grant for monies. Bullock brought up the fact that last time we had a drive, the company we used said they were no longer interested, but allowed us a trailer truck one last time. Topic was tabled to gather needed information (company, cost, etc).
- d. BS&A accounting package. A quote was presented to the board for \$25,580.00 to purchase BS&A to replace the Quickbooks software currently used in the clerk's office. A one-time installation cost, with an annual \$5,000.00 cost. Motion was made by Oxley to purchase the software, dependent on Deputy Clerk Jan Bullock's approval, after seeing the software in operation (especially the payroll module). Motion supported by Tremble. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved. Oxley to set up a visit with another township clerk who already uses the BS&A software.
- e. It was discovered by County Clerk Nancy Selle that the 2023 Fall/Winter L-4029 (Winter Tax Rate Request form) total was incorrect (comma typo). Motion made by Tremble accept the corrected L-4029 filed by the township assessor. Supported by Oxley. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

BOARD COMMENT: Penny Kurchak, Cemetery Board member reported more benches down in Linwood cemetery. Gordon Tree service to do the removal work. There was discussion on who's responsibility it is to fix a monument or headstone when damaged by fallen branches, or tilting due to soggy ground and time. Oxley stated that we are insured, but will check on the amount and extent of coverage. Herzog reported discussion of adding benches around the cemetery, and suggested requesting funds from the tribe, and they have granted many past cemetery improvement projects.

Kurchak suggested trash containers as well as the benches, such as you see on US-23 in Omer.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jeff Czymbor asked about the trash on the property on Gordon Road east of Rumsey. That is such a eyesore, it is a wonder local residents had not already complained.

Auretta Gates asked who was responsible for controlling the odor coming from the marijuana facility across from the Pier 23 gas station. (Pure Green/Glorious Canna - 2497 E Huron).

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 8:35pm. 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 _____