

# MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING April 09<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ~ 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:** In order of signing in: Bill Bullock, Leona Dinnan, Alan Pichau, Norma and Roger Schwiderson, Richard Elly, Jared Hoffman, Art Gallop, Aurette Gates, Sandra Compau, Danell and Jerome Luptowski, Roger Hicks, Larry Davis, Steve Metzler, Lisa Salgat, Chuck and Kay Woods, Larry Williamson, Roger Gordon, Wayne Kinne, Wes Crumby, Lori Moyer, Cris Sihuko, Armand Becure, Chris Flowers, Nancy Selle, Amanda Richardson, Pahra Barrett, Joyous Willis. Also a couple of signatures I could not decipher and many, many attendees who did not sign in, or stood at the back of the hall (front door entrance).

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

Supervisor Jim Herzog began the meeting by reading a prepared statement with the intention of diffusing the upset of many attendees who had come to the meeting because of topics posted on social media.

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**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Motion made by Clerk Oxley to approve the agenda as amended. Motion supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Norma Schwiderson spoke, to dispel the misinformation about the housing of migrants across the street (1882 S Swenson Road) - the migrants are not illegal, they have social security numbers and pay taxes. There is no housing in the campers at this address, they are parked at the house temporarily. Norma ended by asking for those with questions to reach out to me for a truthful answer, rather than reading falsehoods online.

This was followed by comments, both against and for migrants living our community, by Aurette Gates, Larry Davis, Jeff Czymbor, Nancy Selle, Joyous Willis and Roger Schwiderson.

Nancy Selle spoke her concerns about the agenda item to allow for Kola Farms (Manor Road) to expand their Marijuana growing facility.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES:** Approval of the minutes of the March 12th, 2024 Board of Trustees Annual Meeting. Approval of the minutes of the March 12th, 2024 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. Approval of the minutes of the March 27th, 2024 Special Meeting (Budget Amendments) Meeting. Motion made by Treasurer Pat Tremble to approve all three sets of minutes as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Treasurer Patricia Tremble. Adding that there were two investments which were renewed but were not showing on the report. Total balance of all funds showing: \$1,638,538.49. Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Treasurer's report approved.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

**AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY:** Meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Olen Swartz. Treasurer's report was given by Tom Brandimore, reviewing the monthly bills, and discussing the budget adjustments and the cost of insurance for the fire department. The board discussed and approved the wording for the millage request to appear on the August 6th ballot. The department received a \$40,000 grant for turnout gear from the State of Michigan. An application was put in for a 2% grant from the Saganing Chippewa Tribe. The 110' Ladder Truck will be paid off this year with additional payments going to the new truck scheduled for delivery in 24-32 months.

Fire Chief Kurt Hummerickhouse reported there were zero fire calls the month. Next Fire Board meeting is on Thursday April 17th at the Whitney Township Fire Hall.

**HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY:** Reported by Jan Bullock: Meeting held on April 1st. Minutes for the meeting are in the agenda packets. May 7th is 'Give Local Bay' (online) there are various causes in need of donations. The sucker festival weekend 'Mini-Junque and Bake Sale' at the Omer Courthouse made \$800.00 in sales and \$1000.00 at the bake sale! On May 4th there is going to be a 'Stuff the Bus' drive for the county animal shelter. The Farm Market starts opening on Friday June 14th and runs through September 13th. Saturday May 27th this year. and there is going to be the annual County-Wide Garage Sale in June (dates?). Herzog chimed in to report the Standish Loyalty Day parade is on Saturday April 27th at 12 noon.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. A new permit has been issued for a house at the end of Swenson road. On Santiago road Mr. Atwater has gotten a zoning permit for a new garage, mudroom and Florida room. Derek Cantu's house on Booth road is proceeding well. Cantu has also inquired about a land division on Lola Lane with plans of building another house there. A lot on Booth road has sold with the new owner planning to build, with approval from EGLE.

**LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT:** Kurchak reported on a 2% Tribal Grant application being filed to put 4 metal benches with matching trash cans in the cemetery.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Credit card to replace our debit card. See Treasurer's report above (and previous months minutes for detailed explanation). Spring cleaning is going on now with Dominic Ruiz our cemetery maintenance worker. There was discussion by Larry Davis about cleaning out the Amen drain (by Killingbeck's Excavation). The Amen drain runs around the cemetery coming out around by the machine shop and then running underneath Court Street. Cost to be \$4,000, splitting the cost with the Township. No motion was made at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Eastern Dust Control - road brining submitted the annual cost per mile (1 pass and 2 passes). Prices up from last year by 1/2 cent per mile (23.5 cents per mile compared to 2023's 23 cents per mile). Brine cost went up \$5.00 per 1000 gallons as well. Price for 1 pass per mile is now \$235.00 (\$230.00 in 2023), and for 2 pass per mile is now \$470.00 (\$460 in 2023). Motion made by Oxley to approve using Eastern Dust Control for the road brining in 2024. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved
- b. Space Stone Inc. at 2466 East Huron Road, an indoor marijuana grow facility, seeks approval for Medical/Adult Use Processing permits. The Planning Commission approved the application pending determination of fire safety as a hazardous material (butane) was to be used in the processing. Au Gres Fire Chief scheduled a 'walk-through' and reported no issues at this time. Butane to be stored in a cage on the property line furthest from the Pier 23 gas station. The Fire Chief made the requirement for a copy of the floor plan and the numbering of the facility doors as shown on the drawing. Motion made by Oxley to approve a Medical and Adult-Use Processing permit for Space Stone inc. at 2466 East Huron road, Au Gres Township. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved \$10,000 permit fee to be deposited.
- c. Kola Farms expansion of their outdoor grow facility at 2285 Manor road, recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their March 25th, 2024 meeting. Kola farms is requesting to expand their facility to the west of its current location (drawings provided). Herzog questioned that this was a separate parcel and felt it should require a new application and thus be subject to the Marijuana Ordinance amendment of 'No New Outdoor Grows'. The board decided to send it back to the Planning Commission for further discussion on these points.
- d. Road projects packet: Oxley explained to the board members that the packet of potential road work orders for 2024 included with their agendas was for information only, so they could go over them. There was no planned consideration at this time.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Herzog thanked every one for attending and for being an orderly assembly

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joy Willis asked about the township having a tire drive. It is under consideration, and referenced the Arenac Conservation District tire drive coming being held on May 18th in Standish on M-61. Willis went on to ask about ditching along her road (M-65).

Lisa Salgat - County Commissioner wanted the residents to know that she was up for re-election on the August 6th and November 5th elections.

Steve Metzler (Manor Road and Green Drive) asked about the ditches along Manor road (East of Santiago) and the flooding on his property. Herzog replied that he has a work order to clean out the ditches on both sides of Manor rd. Wayne Kinne - Kola Farms respecting the boards decision but disagreed with the determination. Kola Farms is an existing facility who has expanded once (from one 10 acres to the 10 acres to the east) and that was allowed. Kola Farms is requesting an expansion and a review of the Zoning Ordinance and Marijuana Ordinances is in order.

Nancy Selle inquired if the township has a 3-year road project plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 8:30pm. 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 \_\_\_\_\_