

# MINUTES OF THE AUGRES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

July 1st, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Jesse Young, Robert Cotter, Patricia Tremble and Donna Wilson.

**ABSENT:** Ross Maser

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** (in order of sign in sheet) Aurette Gates, Troy Gerding, Nick Moore, Jim Herzog and Michael Oxley. Joy Willis.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:05am with the Pledge of Allegiance. At this time

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:** Motion made by Patricia Tremble to approve the agenda. Motion supported by Robert Cotter. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Agenda approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairman Young stated 2 minute limit per person or group. No interruptions while another person is speaking.  
No public comment at this time.

**BOARD COMMENT:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**a)** Mr. Troy Gerding (2735 Rumsey Road) presenting a request for a variance to put up a garage on his property (restricted due to the existing maximum of 3 structures already on his property). Variance application fee of \$150.00 has been paid. Gerding pointed out that the third structure is a small (historic) ice house near the water, which he does not use, but does not want to demolish in favor of a garage. Documents were presented from his neighbors to the North and South of his home, who waived and issue with the added building. Chairman Young asked the age of the ice house (100 years). Young further discussed that granting a variance adds precedent to township zoning. The planning commission agreed. After more discussion by the board a motion was made by Tremble to approve the request to build garage at 2735 Rumsey Road. Motion supported by Donna Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Variance approved (zoning permit to be issued).

**b)** Blight Ordinance (#17 adopted March 16, 1992). Tremble explained that she had reviewed the 1992 blight ordinance and handed out copies of a revised version. Addressing changes/updates to definitions, abandoned cars, noting that:  
Sections 2,3 and 4 are the same, a new section 5 was added, which made section 6 (now section 7) all the way through section 10 (is now section 11). After that there were additions (section 12 and up). And the fine amount was changed from \$500 to \$100 (before a violation would become a civil infraction). Cotter questioned the timelines, concerning (section 7 part B) building materials, what was acceptable for ongoing projects (or just future use)?  
Tremble, having read other ordinances (Saginaw, Iosco County and Ogemaw County), cautioned the board about liability (and liens), when going onto a residents property to clean up or remove blight. Donna Wilson asked about the use of 'Public Nuisance' laws or rules.  
No action was taken by the board. Tremble asked the PC members to review changes/additions she had made, as only suggestion - to be on the agenda at the next planning commission meeting in September).

Aurette Gates asks about fines and misdemeanor use for violations. Covered in section 7. Tremble, in response, will check with Officer Tim Robbins (our OEO). Cotter added that each situation is different, people get sick, children move away and cannot always help elderly parents.

**c)** Clerk Oxley asked the board to officially designate a Ordinance Enforcement Officer (per chapter 10 of the township zoning ordinance). Office Tim Robbins, our local patrol officer had agreed to serve as the OEO. Motion made by Wilson to appoint Office Tim Robbins as the Au Gres Township ordinance enforcement officer. Motion supported by Cotter. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.

c) Time and date to be made with John Bruech from Pure Green/Glorious Canna (2670 US-23) to address the ongoing odor issue from their marijuana grow facility. Tremble to call Bruech and set up a round-table style discussion at the township hall with Patricia Tremble, Robert Cotter and Michael Oxley.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Oxley asked if the September 9th meeting scheduled, was conflicting with any board member. This would be the regular 3rd quarterly meeting for 2024. No conflicts.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joy Willis asked about ordinances concerning chickens and ducks. Cotter responded with mention of Michigan's 'Right to Farm' act, especially in our rural setting. Herzog related the issue the township faced with a chickens on a Lakeshore/Residential property. Aurette Gates made mention of a Swenson Road resident who regularly has her chickens out in the road - a safety hazzard. Gates further added that the pole barn approval on Rumsey should be noted that it was approved due to an historic structure on the property. Joy Willis spoke about the safety issues with the neighbors who were allowed to have raise dogs on the property, just north of where she lives.

**ADJOURNMENT:** TIME – 9:50am. Motion made by Tremble to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the Planning Commission Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Jesse Young, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Oxley, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_