

MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING September 10th, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Jim Herzog, Clerk Michael Oxley, Deputy Treasurer Tomas Brandimore, Trustee Penny Kurchak and Trustee Jan Bullock

ABSENT: Patricia Tremble

ATTENDEES: In order of signing in: Bill Bullock, Art and Jan Gallop (Zoning Administrator), Jesse Young, Jim Osburn, Aurette Gates, Dale Wiltse, Kirk Olson, Jeanna Crane, Jeff Czymbor, Joyous Willis.

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

BOARD COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by Trustee Penny Kurchak to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Jan Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minute limit per person/group): Aurette Gates expressed her thanks for the updated treasurers report, which shows the information she requested at a previous board meeting. Dale Wiltse, Au Gres City manager spoke about the 'Community Ball Fields' Tribal Grant application, asking our township to partner with the project (as well as surrounding townships, Sims, Turner, Whitney). The grant is asking for \$100,000, with no cost to the townships. Ball fields (6 acres) would be near the soccer fields on Court Street by the water tower. The city is putting up \$100,000 to match the funds requested from the Tribe. The existing ball fields by the city park are scheduled to become additional campsites.

Motion made by Oxley to support the Ball Field project by 'partnering' with the City of Au Gres on the SCIT 2% distribution website. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved.

Kirk Olson asked the board to keep the suggested Au Gres City/Township 'bike path' project in mind as well as the playground request.

Joy Willis complemented that the cemetery looks great (for first time this summer according to her). Willis also questioned the posted notice of West Nile Virus found in Noggle Road mosquito traps by APM testing facilities.

Derek Porritt expressed his concern for wastewater at the marijuana facilities in the township. Noting the issues with EGLE and the Pure Green facility (US-23 and Santiago). Quoting '40 pages of documents from EGLE, and questioning clean air act violations.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Kurchak to approve the minutes of the August 13th, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Minutes approved.

PAYMENT OF BOOK OF BILLS: Motion made by Clerk Oxley approve the August 2024 book of bills as presented. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Tom Brandimore (deputy treasurer), commenting on the various funds. No questions or comments from the public. Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: Meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Olen Swartz. Tom Brandimore gave the treasurer's report, reviewing the monthly bills. Noting budget changes needed to be made as the Fire Hall needed a new roof. A motion was made to make the final payment on the ladder truck early, saving interest monies in the process

Kurt Hummerickhouse reported that the fire fighters responded to a boat fire at the DNR boat launch, assisted with a car fire and logged some training with the ladder truck at the Saganing Eagle Casino.

The department now has a new Gator, with the old trailer being put up for sale.

Next Au Gres - Sims - Whitney Fire Board meeting will be on Thursday August 15th at the Au Gres Twp Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Jan Bullock reporting - attending the Tuesday meeting after Labor Day. Depot Days are next month, October 6th and 7th, with a horse drawn wagon, food concessions, silent auction and amusement rides. Proceeds from the silent auction will go to the Depot operating fund. The bake sale at the Omer Courthouse made \$680.00 over two days.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Working with the contractor and the property owner (Myziuk) to observe setbacks, a new garage is planned on Green Drive. The Myziuks plan to become permanent residents soon. The barn on Pt Au Gres Road (Wilson) has gotten the foundation started. Phone calls from a couple in Florida wanting to move back to the township, and other general questions. Gallop reported a blighted house (Parker) on Pt Au Gres is only getting worse and a letter should be sent.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Cemetery Board member Penny Kurchak reported to news that the cemetery benches the township ordered, that she reported on last month, were out of stock. Order cancelled after 3 weeks and a mailed check, on which the bank stopped payment (\$37 out cost). Kurchak showed catalog pictures for the (4) benches and (4) trash cans now on order from a different company. Benches to be bolted to cement slabs, all paid for my Tribal 2% grant monies. A meeting was planned at the cemetery for where they benches would be placed. Kurchak invited Aurette Gates and Joy Willis to join her and Barbara Manor to the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a). Streetlights on Manor/Dreyer and Manor/Davis Roads. Oxley reported that a mailing snafu by Consumers Energy has delayed the installation of the streetlights. The paperwork giving CE access to work on the property at Manor and Dreyer was made out to the wrong Badour, and had to be reissued.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. City Manager Dale Wiltse - Ball Field Community Project - see public comment above.
- b. Township Winter Tax L-4029 form. Oxley explained the form, establishing the tax levy rates for the upcoming winter tax bills. Motion made by Kurchak to approve the L-4029 as presented. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved. Oxley to send the signed form onto county equalization.
- c. Remove special assessment on parcel ID 003-0-023-200-005-00, per request by Kelly Rifenbark, township assessor. Oxley explained, referring to a printout of the property, that this property number had been retired after a land division, but never removed from the tax rolls. Oxley made a motion to remove said parcel (003-0-023-200-005-00) from the tax rolls per township assessor, Kelly Rifenbark. Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. One Absent. Motion approved
- d. Fall Clean Up Your Township: Supervisor Herzog stated the first of several 30-Yard dumpsters would be dropped at the north side of the hall on Monday, September 16th. Urging residents to us the dumpster to rid their yards of unwanted refuse (no tires or paint, flammable liquids and such). The plan is when one is full, it will be replaced by an empty dumpster. How many depends on how fast they are filled.
- e. Oxley reminded the residents that the Last Day to Pay Summer Taxes without penalty is Tuesday the 16th of September.

BOARD COMMENT: Herzog thanked Brandimore for the time he put into installing Skylink, upgrading the township internet access. And reported that cattails had been trimmed by the boardwalk, having gotten permission from Nicole King (EGLE). Cost estimated at \$500.00

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dale Wiltse stated a permanent electronic recycling location was in the process for the Au Gres area through County Conservation District (Dawn Hergott). Comments arose about batteries, and hazardous wastes, and that it should be posted on the website(s).

Joy Willis thanked Wiltse for all the work he has done for the city especially for the kids and the parks. Derek Porritt asked about the ditching on Jodway (north side) and culvert replacements. Then asked about moving the building permit process to the county (instead of using Area-Code Enforcement, Pinconning). Herzog replied that a survey of contractors, who have gotten township zoning permits, prefer Area Code over the County Building Dept because site inspection is more accessible - (5 out of 6 contractors preferred ACode, one had no preference). Amanda Derocher asked about paving of Manor Road. There are no current plans to pave it, due to the expense.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:55pm. Motion made by Kurchak to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Bullock. Voice vote: All yeas. No Nays. One Absent. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____
James Herzog, Supervisor _____
Michael Oxley, Clerk _____