

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AU GRES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING January 14th, 2025 ~ 7:00 P.M.

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

ATTENDEES: In order of signing in: Bill Bullock, Pam Stewart, Chuck and Kay Woods, Becky Woodward, Art Gallop, Kirk Olson. Also attending (not signed in): Keith Dewald, Jim Osborn, Jeff Czymbor

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

BOARD COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by Treasurer Pat Tremble to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Trustee Penny Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2-minute limit per person/group): Kurt Olson commented on the endless chatter (at past meetings he has attended) about Air B&B/Short Term Rentals. Olson feels a homeowner should be allowed to rent out his residence (3-day weekend or a whole year), not allowing rentals devalues the township. Some decision should be made by the board and put the issue to rest.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the December 10th, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting. Motion supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Minutes approved.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Pat Tremble. Total of all funds is \$1,782,538.96 with the accrued interest on investments at \$13,508.82 (an increase of \$2488.85 over last month). The General Fund balance is currently \$820,341.60. Motion made by Oxley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Supported by Kurchak. Voice vote: All yeas. No nays. Motion approved

BOARD REPORTS:

AUGRES-SIMS-WHITNEY FIRE AUTHORITY: Meeting held at the Au Gres Fire Hall, called to order by Olen Swartz who reported that due to health issues, he is resigning his position as chairman of the Au Gres-Sims-Whitney Fire Board (after having been with the fire department for 44 years). An election was held for a replacement and Keith Edmonds was elected as the new chairman. Vice chairman is James Herzog. Chief Kurt Humerickhouse reported that there were 76 calls in 2024, with eight in December: 3 personal injury auto accident assists, 2 hours fires, 1 carbon monoxide alarms and one smoke alarm run in Au Gres City. Next meeting will be at 7:00pm on January 15th, 2025 at the Whitney Township Fire Hall.

HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Jan Bullock reporting: Bullock attended the meeting on January 6th, and usual topics were discussed: The Santa Parade and the Santa Train were a great success with many, many people attending. The Omer Courthouse 'Holiday Greens Sale' made \$1100.00 and \$900.00 on the bake sale. Thanks for all the volunteers who put together the greens arrangements. There are plans to have a 'Junque sale/Bake sale' during the spring sucker festival. The Farmers' Market will start up in June, and car show in July. Performers for the summer concert series are mostly lined up. Kudos to those putting up the depot Christmas lights - they looked fabulous.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Art Gallop Zoning Administrator reporting. Quite month, no zoning permits issued. Been having phone calls about the 2 lots for sale on Booth Road. Person interested in building a home on one and a rental unit on the other (that project is on hold due to zoning). Gallop heard of reports of a 125-acre solar farm unit to be built in Sims Township.

LINWOOD CEMETERY REPORT: Cemetery Board member Penny Kurchak told the board that the lids for the trash cans had arrived. Expecting the dome-type with a push-in swing door to keep the rain/snow from filling the

cans with water. What arrived was a style with a raised bonnet covering the top opening. Dominic Ruiz, cemetery maintenance, will install them, and we will see how well they work. Have been receiving compliments on how nice the cemetery looks, even a handwritten note from the sister of a resident, who liked the addition of the benches.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tremble requested that the Blight Ordinance and Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance, approved by the Planning Commission and sent to the board for adoption, be addressed at the next board meeting. Oxley reported that the long-awaited street lights on Manor/Dreyer and Manor/Davis Roads are up and working.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Garbage assessment changes: Tremble explained the reasons for adding/removing garbage assessments on the four township properties. The board members did not have any questions
 - a.) Parcel 003-0-035-400-006-20 Cantu - garbage assessment added
 - b.) Parcel 003-0-027-200-040-00 Kocot - garbage assessment removed
 - c.) Parcel 003-0-015-300-020-00 Beck - garbage assessment added
 - d.) Parcel 003-0-030-100-005-00 Mehrman/Bauldry - garbage assessment added.

Motion made by Oxley to add/remove garbage assessments from said four (4) parcels.

Motion supported by Bullock. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion approved.

Assessor Jessica Landry to update the property records.

- b. Set a date for the 2025-26 budget workshop meeting in advance of the March 11th, 2025 Annual Meeting. After discussion amongst the board members, it was decided to meet on Saturday, February 22nd at 9:00am.

BOARD COMMENT: Supervisor Jim Herzog thanks the residents for coming to the meeting. Herzog then reported on Brad Stauffer, Dale Dittenber and Jim Hazeltine from the Arenac County Road Commission coming to the hall to discuss the road projects for 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 7:35pm. 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 _____