

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Supervisor Ruzick called the board meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Gary Stock- Trustee, Bruce Cutting- Trustee

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Five guests

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the agenda as submitted. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Andrea Walker – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- Deputy Walker provided an update of activity within the Township for the month. There were 92 calls for service in Antwerp Township.

Kip Kerby – Property Owner in Antwerp Township

- Kip Kerby addressed the Board regarding recreational marihuana being permitted in Derhammer Parkway. He would like to know if the Township plans to permit recreational usage in the future. Supervisor Ruzick informed Mr. Kerby that the Planning Commission is conducting a survey pertaining to the public thoughts on permitting recreational in specific areas of the Township. Once the results have been compiled, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Township Board.

Marilyn Murphy – Property Owner in Antwerp Township

- Marilyn Murphy addressed the Board regarding recreational marihuana being permitted in Derhammer Parkway. Currently the Township permits medical marihuana licensing only, Marilyn would like to know if the Township plans to permit recreational licensing. Again, Supervisor Ruzick addressed the survey with Ms. Murphy.

Vic – Property Owner in Antwerp Township

- Vic addressed the Board regarding recreational marihuana being permitted in the Township. Vic is interested in selling some of his property to recreational facilities and would like to know if the Township has plans to permit recreational in the future.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve previous minutes from August 10th, 2021, Regular Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

None

New Business:

- A. RFP for clean up property located 29624 Jewells Drive Lawton, MI 49065

Clerk Reyna received one bid for clean up from Lantz Excavating in the amount of \$11,350. The daughter of the property owner has again requested additional time to clean the property up. There has been minimal clean up done and the Board feels they have had ample time to complete the cleanup. It was discussed that Supervisor Ruzick ask Lantz Excavating to schedule a cleanup with date beginning November 1, 2021, which would give the property owner time to secure a contractor of her own to complete the job.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to give the Supervisor Ruzick authority to sign the contract with Lantz Excavating with a November 1, 2021, begin date allowing for the property owners to continue to hire a contractor of their own. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

B. Fire Department – Shannon White

The Fire Board has had discussion on a wage increase for Shannon White as she approaches ten years of employment with them. It was determined that Shannon is a Township employee, and all wage and benefit issues will be recommended from the wage and benefit committee for approval from the Township Board. Chief Brooks will supply the committee with hours worked, job description, current pay rates and minutes from the Fire Board with a recommendation of wages and benefits. From there the committee will make their recommendation for approval from the Township Board.

C. Senior Millage and Lawton Village

The Antwerp Township Senior Services millage will be up for renewal in August of 2022. There has been discussion regarding the Village of Lawton choosing to opt out of Antwerp Township’s program and participate in the Van Buren County Senior Services. Currently Antwerp Township collects tax dollars for the Village of Lawton for the Senior Program. After seeking legal counsel as to whether we should be disbursing the funds for another program, it was determined that Antwerp Township can not do that for the Village per Michigan Constitution Article 9, Section 3. Antwerp Township can no longer carve out monies to send to the Village of Lawton for Senior programs. The Village of Lawton may choose to put its own senior millage of the ballot to spend as they see fit however, that may result in Village residents paying two senior millages.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to discontinue sending funds to the Village of Lawton per Michigan Constitution Article 9, Section 3 effective immediately. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

D. Appointment to Senior Services Board

Current Senior Advisory Board Member Ralph Forst submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately. Senior Service Program Administrator, Karol Chopp, received a letter of interest from resident Juan Giscombe. Juan has been involved in the Senior program for years.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to appoint Juan Giscombe to the Senior Advisory Board. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

E. Antwerp Township Retirement Plan

Burnham Flowers sent a restatement plan to be signed regarding the Township retirement plan. There were no changes made to the plan.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the signature page of the restatement documents from Burnham Flowers. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- VBCRC weekly updates
- VBCRC annual report
- Van Buren County Commission monthly update

Announcements:

- None

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$160,960.65 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 50 permits for September including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$9,407.00.

Almena: 36 permits for September including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$6,632.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Training will be held in November.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

No Report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

Short Meeting. Paid bills.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick

Bids are being submitted for the construction of the new building. Paid bills.

Mattawan Fire Department – Chief Brooks

Mechanic was brought in to explain costs of maintenance on equipment. The department is getting a new security system at the station. Paid bills.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna

Two burials in September.

Planning Commission - Gary Stock

Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Gary Stock

No meeting.

Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Public Comment:

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$184,887.83.

10/13/2021 minutes cont.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve bills to be paid in the amount of \$184,887.83. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna