

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 9, 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: Eight guests

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve the agenda as submitted with additions of item J. Maple Grove cemetery tree clean up, item K. Compensation in lieu of insurance and item L. CTS Metro Act name change. 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 84calls for service in Antwerp Township.

Marilyn Murphy – Property Owner in Antwerp Township

- Marilyn Murphy as well as property owner Kip Kerby, are requesting that they be placed on the December agenda to discuss personal use marihuana in the Township. Supervisor Ruzick will honor this request.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve previous minutes from October 12, 2021, Regular Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

None

Pending Business:

A. Mattawan Fire – Shannon White

The wage and benefit committee met on November 2, 2021 to discuss wages and benefits for Shannon White. At this time, committee member Cutting is requesting the matter be tabled until the committee is able to meet again.

New Business:

A. Mattawan Fire request for new pumper truck

Mattawan Fire formed a committee for the purchase of a new truck. After compiling several bids, they addressed the Board with a request to purchase a new pumper truck in the amount of \$788,000. The truck will not be complete for at least fifteen months. The truck that the new truck will replace is currently 19 years old and parts to repair and refurbish are becoming obsolete. NFPA standards on trucks state that a vehicle can remain a primary vehicle up to 20 years in age as long as the vehicle is regularly maintained. After 20 years the vehicle should be considered a spare vehicle and after 25 years, the vehicle should become obsolete. The new truck would replace two trucks that are currently in the fleet.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve the purchase of a new pumper truck in the amount of \$788,000. Roll call vote; Ruzick-no, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

B. Mattawan Fire request for ARPA fund expenditure equipment

Mattawan Fire has presented the Board with a request for funds received through the ARPA grant that the Township will be receiving. The Board will form a committee as well as meet with the Township accountant to determine appropriate uses for the funds. The committee will then prioritize requests and allocate the money appropriately.

C. Election equipment purchase

Clerk Reyna is requesting the purchase of new voting booths to increase the number the Township currently has. She is also requesting new ballot storage containers that will have to be certified by the County in March of 2022.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to authorize Clerk Reyna to purchase new election equipment not to exceed \$5,000. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

D. Paw Paw Fraternity of Eagles request Class "C" license

Paw Paw Eagles is requesting a Resolution from the Township Board recommending approval of a Class "C" license for the establishment. The members attended a meeting in November of 2019 for the approval and at that time the Board signed a Resolution. The application to the State was never completed due to the pandemic therefore, the members are requesting an updated Resolution to submit with their application.

Motion by Reyna second by Osborne to sign the Resolution presented for the Paw Paw Fraternity of Eagles to apply for a Class "C" license. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

E. Treasurers request for winter tax collection

Winter tax bills will now be due on February 14 rather than February 28 as they have been in years past. Treasurer Osborne is requesting authority to waive penalties for tax bills paid between February 15 and February 28. Per Michigan Compiled Law, interest can not be waived but local jurisdictions can waive penalties if approved by the Board.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to authorize Treasurer Osborne to waive late fees for tax bills collected between February 15 through February 28.

F. Clean up update 29624 Jewells Dr Lawton, MI 49065

At the October 12, 2021 Township Board Meeting there was one bid received to clean up the property located at 29624 Jewells Drive Lawton, MI 49065. The Board voted to award the Bid to Lantz Excavating to begin clean up in November. The property owners are requesting more time. Supervisor Ruzick is looking for direction on continuing clean up or granting more time. After discussion, the Board stated they would like to move forward with the clean up. The property owners have had ample time to clean the property up.

G. Robert Reyna 90 day probation from Snelling

Robert Reyna has been working closely with Karol doing janitorial duties in the Activity Center since July of 2021. Karol sent an email requesting that we hire him as an employee of the Township effective Monday November 15, 2021.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to hire Robert Reyna as an employee of the Township at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

H. Court order 31955 66th Ave. Lawton, MI 49065

On August 30, 2021 Judge McKay signed an order requiring clean up of property located at 31955 66th Ave. Lawton, MI 49065 to be done no later than 60 days of the order being signed. Per a report from Deputy Walker, as of November 9, 2021 the property still has not been cleaned up. Supervisor Ruzick is looking for direction from the Board on what the next step should be. The Board feels that starting the RFP clean up process would allow for the property owner to have additional time to clean up as well as moving forward on the Township's side. The Board authorizes the RFP to be put out for bid.

I. VBCRC estimate for clean up on 26th Street south of Red Arrow Hwy

Van Buren County Road Commission provided an estimate of cost for maintenance on 26th Street. The estimate totaled \$152,698.00. After review from the Board, they would like to move forward with a portion of the items on the estimate.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the bid sheet for items 2, 7, 8 and 9. This would include; clearing, trenching, shoulder work and a culvert. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

J. Maple Grove tree clearing

A tree has fallen on part of the fencing at Maple Grove cemetery as well as a bunch of branches needing to be trimmed. Abraham Solis presented a bid in the amount of \$1000 to clean up the cemetery of downed trees and branches.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve the bid from Abraham Solis in the amount of \$1000 for clean up at Maple Grove cemetery. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

K. Compensation in lieu of insurance

At a meeting held in November of 2020, the Board approved compensation for Clerk Reyna to opt out of the Township health insurance policy. The approval was good for one year and would be revisited at the November 2021 meeting. The wage and benefit committee is recommending compensation in the amount of \$3000 per year for Clerk Reyna to opt out of the Township insurance.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve \$3000 compensation for the year for Clerk Reyna to opt out of health insurance on the Township's policy. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

L. CTS Metro Act name change

CTS is changing their name to Climax Telephone and is requesting an updated Metro Act permit with the new name to be signed by the Township.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to sign the updated permit with the new name change. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- VBCRC weekly updates
- Kalamazoo County Household hazardous waste 3rd quarter report

Announcements:

- None

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$529,720.95 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 28 permits for October including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$4,766.00

Almena: 24 permits for October including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$3,012.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Training will be held November 13, 2021.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

No Report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

Short Meeting. Paid bills. Annual meeting will be held December 11, 2021 at the Lawton Community Center.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick

Paid bills.

Mattawan Fire Department – Chief Brooks

Annual meeting will be held December 17th, 2021 at the Rock in Marcellus.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna

Three burials in October.

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 to be paid..

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve bills to be paid. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna