

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday August 10th, 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, Bruce Cutting-Trustee, Gary Stock-Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Also Present: 7 guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to accept the agenda as submitted with the addition of item B. W. Soule sprinkler proposal, Item C. 61023 C.R. 657 Demo, Item D. Senior luncheons, and item E. Cemetery request Daniels. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve previous minutes of July 13th, 2021, Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Michigan State Police Post Commander Scott "Rusty" Ernestes – *Michigan State Police Department*
Post Commander Ernestes introduced himself as the new Post Commander

Deputy Andrea Walker – *Van Buren County Sherriff Department*
Deputy Walker provided a report of calls within Antwerp Township for the month of July. There were 96 calls for service.

Paul Schincariol – *Van Buren County Commissioner*
Commissioner Schincariol reported: committee formed to determine how ARPA funds will be dispersed. Palisades Nuclear committee has been formed. There have been several reappointments within the County.

Resident of Antwerp Township
A resident asked if the Township had any knowledge of the Village of Mattawan conducting studies pertaining to the Hayden Creek water facility. Supervisor Ruzick does believe there are studies being conducted but does not have any further information at this time. Resident also stated that there are trees and branches within the cemeteries that he feels should be looked at for removal.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

None

Pending Business:

A. Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal

The wage and benefit committee determined there was a 1.2% increase in premium with the proposed renewal and is recommending we accept the proposal. The committee stated that they are still working on retirement benefits and would like to conduct not only a salary analysis but a benefit analysis as well.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to accept the proposed renewal for health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Roll call vote; Ruzick – yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne - yes, Cutting - yes, Stock – yes. Motion carries.

B. Trailway Budget commitment

Wightman and Associates asked for an additional commitment for the trail at last months meeting. It was tabled until this month. When submitting the application for funding, the Township requested the largest of amount of funding that it could. It was recommended that the Township pledge an additional \$462,000 to the project to increase the chance of approval of the application.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to commit to the additional \$462,000 for the trail project. Roll call vote; Osborne – yes, Cutting – yes, Stock – yes, Ruzick – yes, Reyna – yes. Motion carries.

C. Aunalytics Proposal

Trustee Stock is working with Aunalytics as well as a few other IT companies to determine the best option for service for the Township. At this time, the proposal from Aunalytics is still tabled until the Board can meet with each of the companies for proposals.

New Business:

A. Resolution Mattawan Fire & Quick Response

Attorney Kaufman sent a sample resolution at 6:30 pm on August 10th. There was no time for the Board or the fire department to look at the Resolution to edit the document for use between the two.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to table the Resolution until the September 14th, 2021, Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

B. W. Soule proposal

Per Village of Mattawan requirements, the Township office is required to have testing done on the sprinkler system backflow. W. Soule found the backflow to be broken to the point that the testing could not be done. The proposal to fix the backflow is in the amount of \$592.00.

Motion by Stock, second by Cutting to authorize W. Soule to fix the backflow for the irrigation system in the amount of \$592.00. Roll call vote; Cutting – yes, Stock – yes, Ruzick – yes, Reyna – yes, Osborne – yes. Motion carries.

C. 61023 C.R. 657 Lawton, MI 49065

The property located at 61023 C.R. 657 has previously been condemned by the Antwerp Township building department. Aleksich Excavating was awarded a bid for demolition of the property at the Antwerp Township July Board Meeting. It has been brought to the attention of the Board that if the demolition happens that the cost of the demo can not be added to the property tax bill due to the property being in foreclosure. The Township could file a lien on the property for the amount to the demolition.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to continue with the demolition of the property and place a lien on the property for the amount of the demolition. Roll call vote; Stock – yes, Ruzick – yes, Reyna – yes, Osborne – yes, Cutting – yes. Motion carries.

D. Senior lunches

With the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, there has been discussion as to whether the Wednesday Senior lunches should go back to drive through. The Senior program administrator has been working closely with the Van Buren County Health Department and is suggesting that the lunches for indoor dining be postponed for now. The Board concurs with the program administrator. Effective September 1, 2021, lunches will go back to drive through service.

E. Cemetery request - Daniels

On July 23rd, 2021, the Township had a burial in Maple Grove Cemetery. During that time, there was a lot of rain causing the grave to collapse when being dug as well as the ground around the grave. The Township sexton and vault company determined it was not safe to dig the grave and have the family stand around the area. The family of the deceased was not happy with the choice that the sexton and vault company made and complained to Adam's Funeral Home about the service received. Adam's Funeral Home refunded the family the cost of the grave opening and closing and is requesting that the Township pay a portion of the cost of reimbursement. The Board decided that the sexton and vault company did nothing wrong and that the situation could not have been handled differently and decided that they did not want to refund a portion of the cost.

Correspondence:

2nd Qtr. Household Hazardous Waste and Van Buren County Road Commission weekly updates.

Announcements:

September Meeting will begin at 6:00 pm for special assessments.

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$151,564.03 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 38 permits for July including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$6,160.00.

Almena: 34 permits for July including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$6,181.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Short meeting. Paid bills.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

None

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

Short meeting, pd bills.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick

Meeting held on August 10, 2021

Mattawan Fire Department - Scott Brooks

Chief Brooks presented the Board with a letter requesting funds from the ARPA funds that the Township will receive.

Mattawan Quick Response – Scott Brooks

Short Meeting. Quick Response donated the truck they have to the Mattawan Fire Department with the stipulation that it will not be sold or altered for ten years. The Mattawan Fire Department accepted the donation with the stipulation.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna

Four burials in July

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 Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$58,644.71.00

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to accept bills for payment. Roll call vote; Ruzick – yes, Reyna – yes, Osborne – yes, Cutting – yes, Stock – yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:00m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna