

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, October 11th, 2022

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: Five guests

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve the agenda as submitted with addition of item E. Board of Review member appointment. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Deputy Turner – *Van Buren County Sherriff*

- There were 150 complaints in the Township for the month of September.

Paul Schincariol – *Van Buren County Commissioner*

- Ballot proposal forum being held October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
- Open House for Daily Recovery Zone will be held October 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am- 2:00pm.
- Van Buren County Stand Down event for Veterans will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the Decatur VFW.
- Tire recycling event will be held in Lawrence on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Appointment of new Van Buren County Road Commissioner, Wayne Nelson.
- Interviews will be held for the County Administrator position on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- County has dedicated \$7,000,000 of ARPA funds to broadband throughout the County.

Scott Brooks – *Mattawan Fire Department Chief*

- There were 83 calls for the department with 71 of them being medical calls.
- New radios have arrived.
- Committee for trail equipment is in fact finding phase.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve previous minutes from September 13th, 2022, Regular Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

- A. Wine Chips, LLC, requests the rezoning from Rural Estate Residential (R-1) to General Commercial (GC) for the property located at 61675 M-40, Paw Paw, MI 49079 (Parcel # 80-02-019-023-01).

A public hearing was held on September 7, 2022. There were no public comments. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the General Commercial rezoning request (5-0). The Van Buren County Planning Commission also reviewed the proposal and concurred with the recommendations.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the rezoning request from R-1 to GC for Wine Chips, LLC (parcel# 80-02-019-023-01). Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

**A. Wage and Benefit Committee Study update**

Wage and benefit committee will meet with Rahmberg Stover to discuss the wage study that was conducted. The committee will report back to the Board after that meeting.

**B. Insurance Alternates**

In November 2021 the committee planned to put a policy in place for payment in lieu of insurance in the amount of \$300 per month for the employees who opted out of insurance with the following guidelines.

- Compensation will be each paycheck.
- Payment will be for each eligible employee who maintains a full-time status.
- Employee who opts out of Township insurance.
- Employee must provide proof of coverage elsewhere.
- The Board will set the amount and may be adjusted annually.
- Payment is for employee only not to include payment for dependents for employee.

The committee is recommending \$300 per month for 2022 with retroactive pay back to January 1, 2022 and a payment of \$400 per month for 2023.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to implement the policy of \$400 per month for employees who opt out of insurance with the following guidelines beginning January 1, 2023. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the committee's recommendation of \$300 per month for the 2022 year for employees opting out of Township insurance under the guidelines listed above. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

**New Business:**

**A. Paw Paw Quick Response contract**

Paw Paw Quick Response submitted their contract for services in the amount of \$1500.00 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve the contract submitted in the amount of \$1500 for fiscal year 2022-2023. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**B. Kalamazoo County Hazardous Household Waste contract amendment**

KCHHW sent a letter stating that our \$5000 allocation is depleted and is asking for additional funds.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to allocate and additional \$2500 in funds to the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Household Waste program. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

**C. Activity Center microphone proposal**

Integrated Smart Technologies prepared a quote for a new microphone system in the Activity Center in the amount of \$2230.00.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the quote of \$2230.00 for a new microphone system in the Activity Center. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Fiber proposal for Activity Center from AT&T**

AT&T provided a quote to provide fiber to the Activity Center in the amount of \$2404.48 per month for 36 months and Metronet provided a quote in the amount of \$293.25 per month for 60 months.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to approve the quote from Metronet in the amount of \$293.25 per month for fiber to be ran to the Activity Center. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**E. Board of Review member appointment**

The Board received one application from Amy Brausch to join the Board of Review.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to appoint Amy Brausch to the Board of Review with a term ending 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

- Paw Paw fire letter dated 9/20/22
- VBCRC weekly updates

**Announcements:**

- ARPA workshop October 24, 2022 at 6:00pm.

**Reports:**

*Attorney*  
None

*Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne*  
\$250,611.76 in the general fund

*Building Activity- Chantel Reyna*  
Antwerp: 31 permits for September including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$3,817.00.  
Almena: 20 permits for September including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,185.00.

*Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting*  
Short meeting

*Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne*  
Pumpkin fest will be held October 15, 2022

*Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting*  
Short meeting. Paid the bills.

*Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick*  
Paid the bills. New signees on the books.

*Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne*  
Report given during public comment by Chief Brooks. Two new members

*Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna*

Two burials for September.

*Planning Commission* - Gary Stock

Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting moved to November 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Zoning Board of Appeals* - Gary Stock

No meeting.

Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

**Public Comment:**

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$64,144.41.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve the bills in the amount of \$64,144.41 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 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna