

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 8, 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, Gary Stock- Trustee, Bruce Cutting- Trustee

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Seven guests

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

Public Comment:

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Commissioner Schincariol provided a brief Commissioner report.
 1. The County is working on a lease agreement with the USDA for the Health Department building in Hartford.
 2. Van Buren County Public Transit has realigned their pay scale to be in line with other County workers pay.
 3. Commissioners are working on a strategic plan as a long-term goal to develop a vision for a new facility in the empty lot near the existing courthouse. This project will be done in phases over several years.
 4. Parrisades committee meetings are beginning. The committee is made up of members of the County.
 5. There have been several reappointments to Boards within the County.
 6. The County has received \$14.4 million in ARPA funds. The County is currently prioritizing allocations of funds. Broadband will be included in the allocation.
 7. The County is updating their software and IT for enhanced security.

Deputy Tarnier – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- Deputy Tarnier provided an update of calls for service in the Township in the month of January. There were 87 calls in Antwerp.

Kelly Redmond – Almena Township Trustee

- Almena Township Trustee Redmond discussed the current fire contract that Almena Township has with Mattawan Fire and their concern on how the amount paid should be calculated. Trustee Redmond believes the formula he previously presented is the best option rather than the current 1.4 mills that the contract currently collects. There was discussion on both options. Trustee Redmond will put together more information for the Township Board to discuss further.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve previous minutes from January 11, 2022, Regular Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

None

Pending Business:
None

New Business:

A. Kathy Barnitz appointment to Board of Review term ending 2023

Kathy Barnitz submitted a letter of interest to the Board of Review to fill a current vacancy on the Board.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to appoint Kathy Barnitz to the Board of Review with term ending in 2023. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

B. Resolution on poverty exemption update form with new application

Township Board recently approved poverty guidelines. It was brought to our attention that there are new forms to be completed as well as a Resolution needing to be adopted to approve the exemptions.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to adopt the Resolution for the 2022 poverty exemption guidelines as well as the new forms required. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

C. Van Buren County Road Commission 26th Street project estimate

The Board previously discussed completing this project of two fiscal years. Van Buren County Road Commission placed the job out for bid with full completion in the amount of \$69,309.25. After discussion, it was determined Supervisor Ruzick would send a letter requesting that the job be done over two fiscal years like previously discussed.

D. Van Buren County Road Commission Antwerp Township allocation for 2022

The Board received an email with all jurisdictions in the County of allocated funds for roads for 2022. Supervisor Ruzick asked the County for the formula on how the allocation is determined. The reply received referenced the Transportation Partners booklet. There are three items in the booklet that make up the formula. 1. Fixed allocation to each Township. 2. Credit for number of miles of local roads in each Township. 3. Credit for population factor in each Township. Supervisor Ruzick was looking for a more in-depth explanation on the allocation.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to send a FOIA request to the Van Buren County Road Commission requesting a detailed breakdown of the formula used to set allocation amounts. We will include a \$100 fee for the FOIA request. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

E. Van Buren County Road Commission Antwerp Township Trail way billing

Van Buren County Road Commission sent a project sheet stating that they will review documents required to complete the trailway project. The Township Board has approved Wightman and Associates to assist in the completion of the required documents. Supervisor Ruzick will draft a letter stating the Township will not be paying for the services that we are currently paying for with Wightman and Associates.

F. Van Buren County Road Commission Road projects 2022-2023

VBCRC provided an estimate of roads within the Township that have the worst PASER rating. There was discussion on which roads to allocate funds to repair.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the bid sheets for road projects; 30th Street (Red Arrow to 48th Ave), 60th Ave/30th Street (62nd to CR 657), 64th Ave (CR 652 to Van Kal), 52nd Ave (CR 653 to 30th St), Autumn Vineyards, 60th Ave (CR 657 to Village of Mattawan), 30th St (North of 62nd wooden box culvert rehab), 67th Ave (26th to CR 652) and 26th St (63rd to 60th) in the estimated amount of \$897,693.40 minus the

allocation amount of approximately \$91,000 from the County over two fiscal years. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

G. Discussion on ARPA funds and process

The Township received the revenue loss calculation from Siegfried Crandall. The State is revising the ruling on approved uses for the ARPA funds, so it is recommended that we wait until new direction comes from the State. The Board is receiving requests for funds and will begin to prioritize the requests. The County has also allocated funds for broadband which the Township is interested in joining forces with the allocated amount to provide more funds for broadband within the Township.

H. Antwerp Township Charter Township status

Clerk Reyna received information from the State regarding the eligibility to become a Charter Township after the 2020 census was completed. If the Township chooses not to become a Charter Township, a Resolution needs to be adopted opting out. After discussion, the Board decided that Antwerp Township will opt out of becoming a Charter Township at this time.

Wage and Benefit Committee

Trustee Cutting provided a brief update: The committee is working with the Township consultant to compile wage and benefit studies conducted for other jurisdictions like Antwerp Township to determine a fair package for all Township employees. The committee will provide more details as they gather information.

Correspondence:

- Van Buren County Commissioners report

Announcements:

Reports:

Attorney
None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne
\$442,841.90 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna
Antwerp: 18 permits for January including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$3,159.00.
Almena: 20 permits for January including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$4,246.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. No in person activities being held at this time.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
No in person activities

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Short Meeting. Approved budget. Paid bills.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick
Paid bills.

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne

Grants have been applied for to update technology at the department. Per updated mask guidelines for medical response teams, they are considering respirators vs. continually purchasing masks. There were 70 calls for service in January.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
Three burials

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 in the amount of \$156,382.78. 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 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna