

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Trustee Stock called the board meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Gary Stock- Trustee, Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Board Members Absent: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor

Also Present: Seven guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of item H. VBCRC project sheet PASER rating. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:
None

Pending Business: Wage and benefit committee

Trustee Cutting stated that the committee will be meeting with the consultant next week to outline parameters for salary survey and discuss a financial proposal for the cost of the survey. Committee will provide an update at the next Township Board Meeting.

Public Comment:

Tim Kloosterman – Almena Township Trustee

- Almena Township trustee Kloosterman presented a packet with a formula that Almena Township would like to use to calculate fire services with the Mattawan Fire Department. The Township Board would like to review the packet at the special meeting being held on March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Commissioner Schincariol provided a brief Commissioner report.
 1. The meeting layout has been restructured for the Commissioners.
 2. The County is hiring a new building and grounds director.
 3. There will be a public hearing regarding a kayak launch in Hartford.
 4. The County building located in Mattawan will go up for sale.

Deputy Tarner – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- Deputy Tarner provided an update of calls for service in the Township in the month of February. There were 126 calls in Antwerp.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve previous minutes from February 8, 2022, Regular Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

New Business:

- A. Van Buren County Road Commission discussion on FOIA request

The Van Buren County Road Commission fulfilled the FOIA request sent by Supervisor Ruzick and returned the \$100 fee that was included with the request. The formula that was requested has been provided. The Township Board will discuss the allocation further at the Special Board Meeting being held on March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm.

B. Senior Services Millage Resolution

Antwerp Township Senior Services millage is up for renewal in August of 2022. The Senior Services Advisory Board is considering an increase in the millage that is levied to offset the increasing costs to run the program. The Senior Board will discuss the millage at their next meeting and provide direction on what they are requesting.

C. Charter Township Resolution

At its Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting in February, The Board decided they did not want to become a Charter Township. In order to opt out, the State requires a Resolution to be on file opting that the Township does not want to become a Charter Township. Clerk Reyna presented a Resolution for approval to opt out.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adopt the provided Resolution opting out of becoming a Charter Township. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

D. Antwerp Township ordinance amendments - open spaces

Zoning and Planning Administrator, Dave Jirousek, provided a recommendation to approve a zoning ordinance amendment. Trustee Stock informed the Board that this recommendation needs to be updated and that the Planning Commission will present the updated recommendation later. The approval was tabled.

E. Ballot container discussion

Per Michigan election law, Clerk Reyna is required to certify all ballot storage containers every four years. The certification will be held on April 21, 2022 at the Van Buren County Fairgrounds. Clerk Reyna is looking for a truck and trailer to transport the containers for certification. Chief Brooks of the Mattawan Fire Department said that he would provide a truck and trailer for transportation to and from to get containers certified.

F. Open operation discussion

The Township offices will reopen on Wednesday March 9, 2022 at 7:00am for normal office hours. The employees will operate on a rotating schedule as to when they are in the office working or working remotely. This will allow for residents to conduct business in person without making an appointment but also keep the number of people down who are in the office at a time. The senior services program will resume in person lunches beginning April 6th, 2022. There are currently no restrictions for indoor gatherings per the Van Buren County Health Department.

G. Planning Commission survey discussion

The Planning Commission had to change the date of their meeting to March 9, 2022 therefore we have not been provided the survey results. This matter will be tabled until next month.

H. Van Buren County Road Commission project sheet for PASER rating cost

VBCRC provided a project sheet for the cost of PASER ratings within the Township.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to sign the project sheet for PASER ratings done in the Township. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

None

Announcements:

Reports:

Attorney
None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne
\$450,902.27 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna
Antwerp: 13 permits for February including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$2,216.00.
Almena: 7 permits for February including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$1,633.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. Working on personnel issues.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
No report

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

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick
No report

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne
Mattawan fire would like to make two budget adjustments. There were 76 calls for service in February. Members have attended ice and water training. Chief Brooks is applying for grants.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to make budget amendments in the amount of \$25,000 moved from building maintenance to uniforms and \$8,000 moved from building maintenance to gas and oil. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
No 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:

There was discussion on a workshop being held to discuss the Almena fire formula, Van Buren County Road Commission fund allocation, ARPA funds, Senior Service millage and wage and benefit updates. The workshop will be scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Antwerp Township Hall.

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 \$71,993.80. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna