

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 12, 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,

Board Members Absent: Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Also Present: 41 guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Stock to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of item D. Antwerp/Almena fire agreement and item E. Transfer station clean up. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Deputy Tarnier – Van Buren County Sherriff Department**

Deputy Tarnier stated there were 71 calls for service in the Township last month.

**Presentation Paw Paw Schools ballot proposal – Rick Reo Superintendent**

Superintendent Reo provided literature about the upcoming bond proposals for Paw Paw Schools. Questions from the audience were answered by Mr. Reo.

**Presentation Senior Services of Van Buren County – unidentified Board Member will attend**

Doug DeLeo, Treasurer for Senior Services of Van Buren addressed the Board with a request to place a 1 mill proposal on the August 2022 ballot in Antwerp Township.

**Van Buren County Road Commission – Dan Bishop**

Dan Bishop gave the Board an update on operations at the Van Buren County Road Commission and opened the floor to questions. Supervisor Ruzick read a letter that the Antwerp Township Board sent to the Van Buren County Commissioners informing them of the requests the Township has submitted to the Van Buren County Road Commission asking them to review current allocation formulas for money allocated to each jurisdiction.

**Public Comment:**

**Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner**

- Acknowledgment of letter received from Antwerp Township Board regarding Van Buren County Road Commission allocation formula
- Van Buren County property located in Mattawan has sold.
- Two pieces of property have been purchased by the County south of the courthouse.
- Meeting formats have changed.
- Broadband study is currently underway.
- John Small has been hired as the new building and grounds manager.
- Veterans affairs officer will be available in Antwerp Township in May. Date will be confirmed soon.
- State SEQ reports show that assessed values are up 7.4% in the county.
- New data backup system has been approved in the amount of \$46,000.
- Ambulatory service renewal will be on the ballot in August.
- Public safety renewal will be on the ballot in August.

**Matt Nilson – 39<sup>th</sup> District State Representative Candidate**

Mr. Nilson introduced himself to the Board and audience.

**Consideration of previous minutes from the Township Board meeting March 8, 2022 and Special Meeting March 22, 2022.**

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve the minutes for the Township Board meeting on March 8, 2022 as submitted. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve the minutes for the Special Board meeting on March 22, 2022 as submitted. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

**A. Open Space Zoning Amendments**

The Planning Commission recommends zoning ordinance amendments to the following:

- Section 5.2, Table 5-1
- Section 5.4 K
- Section 5.5 B.1
- Section 5.5 F

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to amend the sections listed above in the Antwerp Township zoning ordinance. All voted in favor. Motion carries

**B. Drive-Thru facilities Zoning Amendments**

The Planning Commission recommends zoning ordinance amendments to the following:

- Section 6.2, Table 6-1
- Section 6.6 B.3
- Section 9.16

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to amend the sections listed above in the Antwerp Township zoning ordinance. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**C. (GC)-General Commercial Zoning Amendments**

The Planning Commission recommends zoning ordinance amendments to the following:

- Section 2.2
- Section 6.2, Table 6-1

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to amend the sections listed above in the Antwerp Township zoning ordinance. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Pending Business: Wage and benefit committee**

Trustee Stock provided an update in that the committee received a quote from Rahmberg Stover to complete a wage and benefit survey. The quote provided had a cost of \$12,000 - \$13,000 for the project. Clerk Reyna stated that she had worked with another jurisdiction that was also conducting a survey and would provide the data that was collected from that survey to help possibly offset the cost of the survey to be conducted by Rahmberg Stover. The wage and benefit committee are recommending we hire Rahmberg Stover to conduct the survey.

Motion by Stock, second by Reyna to authorize the wage and benefit committed to hire Rahmberg Stover with an expense range of \$10,000 - \$13,000 depending on the data that Clerk Reyna provides from the survey she will obtain. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

**New Business:**

**A. Antwerp Township Senior Service Millage Resolution**

The Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board voted at its Regular meeting on March 9, 2022 to place a millage request on the August 2022 ballot with .50 mills to be levied. Currently the program levies .25 mills. The cost of running the program has gone up, the program has grown, and it is anticipated that the costs will continue to increase over the next four years.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve the Resolution presented requesting .50 mills for the Antwerp Township Senior Services program. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

**B. Luc's Light**

Pastor Maria Bowater from Red Arrow Ministries along with Luc's Light Youth Music & Arts Foundation addressed the Board with a request for ARPA funds that the Township received. The request is to construct a youth music & arts building where teens are able to explore and develop their artistic talents. They have asked Van Buren County to contribute approximately 4.8% of their ARPA funds and they are requesting the same from Antwerp Township. Supervisor Ruzick informed them that at this time, we are collecting requests for uses of the ARPA funds and will form a committee to prioritize requests. While the Township would not commit to disbursing ARPA funds to the project, we did agree that we would waive fees for permitting the project. Pastor Bowater acknowledged the offer and was thankful for any and all help. There was discussion of possibly having a public forum once all requests have come in to determine the priority of requests.

**C. Antwerp Township 2022-23 road projects**

Bids for the 2022-23 road projects within Antwerp Township were opened on March 29, 2022. The estimated cost of all projects placed for bid was \$897,693.40. The actual cost after bids were opened was \$1,108,273.50. The Township allocates roughly \$700,000 in road projects each year with the addition of the allocation from the Van Buren County Road Commission. After talking with the Road Commission, it was decided that the Township should wait on the Autumn Vineyards project until next year. The cost without Autumn Vineyards would be \$849,218.00.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve the 2022-23 road projects in the amount of \$849,218.00. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Antwerp/Almena fire agreement**

Antwerp and Almena signed a five-year fire agreement on April 15, 2020 for services in the amount of 1.4 mills of previous years taxable value of fire service area. Almena Township Board members presented a request to change the agreement and go with a formula-based payment. The change in agreement would result in Almena paying \$45,573.22 less in the 2022 service year. After discussion, it was decided that Antwerp Township does not want to change the current agreement and Supervisor Ruzick will write a letter to Almena Township to inform them of our decision.

**E. Transfer Station clean up**

Aleksich Excavating provided a quote to clear space at the transfer station for yard waste and create a turn around of traffic. The quote is in the amount of \$9,600.00.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to accept the bid in the amount of \$9,600.00 for clearing and clean up at the transfer station. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

VBCRC updates

**Announcements:**

Wage and benefit committee set salaries for May 2022 and set budget hearing date

**Reports:**

*Attorney*  
None

*Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne*  
\$371,142.54 in the general fund

*Building Activity- Chantel Reyna*  
Antwerp: 32 permits for March including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$6,052.00  
Almena: 14 permits for March including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$2,164.00

*Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting*  
No report

*Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne*  
Crafts and story time are now being held in person.

*Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting*  
No report

*Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick*  
Review of policies and procedures

*Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne*  
Position descriptions are being updated. Changes are being made to the bylaws. There were 73 calls last month.

*Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna*  
Two burials

*Planning Commission - Gary Stock*  
Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*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 to be paid.  
Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve bills to be paid in the amount of \$74,499.30 Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.  
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna