

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Supervisor Ruzick called the board meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Gary Stock-Trustee, Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Four guests

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted, with the addition of item D. VBCRC 29 ½ St deberming, item E. Custom Plumbing quote for library, item F. All Phase lights and item G. Senior Services addition. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of previous minutes from the Township Board meeting July 12, 2022.**

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve the minutes of the Township Board Meeting July 12, 2022. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

**Deputy Tarnier – Van Buren County Sheriff**

- 136 calls for the month of July.
- Deputy is continuing to work with blight throughout the Township

**Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Department**

- The Mattawan Fire Department picnic was held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. There were 250-300 people in attendance.
- New truck is 4-5 months out once the build hits the line. Not expected to hit the line until at least December.
- The department has a training house located on 67<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- AED's and other equipment will arrive soon.
- Commemorative bell in honor of Nathan Fruin has been ordered.
- Tech upgrades will be installed at the station.

**Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner**

- The County has committed \$7 million of ARPA funds to broadband throughout the County.
- Van Buren County Road Commission has a vacancy for a Commissioner.
- Solid Waste budget increased.
- All ARPA fund requests have been tabled
- County Administrator position is still available.
- There will be a public hearing for the fiscal year budget with a September renewal.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

None

**Old Business:**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal beginning September 1, 2022**

The wage and benefit committee recommend renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield policy. Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to renew the proposed Blue Cross Blue Shield policy beginning September 1, 2022. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

**New Business:**

**A. Proposal tree trimming 72nd Ave, Kristina Circle, and 26th Street south of Red Arrow Hwy**

Clerk Reyna received two sealed bids. The first bid was from J.C. and Son’s and the other was from Aleksich Excavating. Each contractor submitted a proposal for each job. The proposals are as follows:

**J.C. and Son’s**

- Kristina Circle tree removal - \$2,275.00
- 26th Street tree trimming & removal - \$28,600.00
- 72nd Ave tree removal and trimming - \$15,600.00

**Aleksich Excavating**

- Kristina Circle tree removal - \$4,950.00
- 26th Street tree trimming and removal - \$43,900.00
- 72nd Ave. tree removal and trimming - \$8,950.00

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to award the contractors for each project as follows:

- Kristina Circle – J.C. and Son’s in the amount of \$2,275.00
- 26th Street – J.C. and Son’s in the amount of \$28,600.00
- 72nd Ave – Aleksich Excavating in the amount of \$8,950.00.

Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**B. Mattawan Fire/Quick Response special assessment for 2022-23 discussion on levy of 1.4 mills or 1.5 mills.**

Currently Antwerp Township residents are paying 1.5 mills for Mattawan fire services. The special assessment hearing will be held next month. There was discussion on whether the amount levied should remain at the current 1.5 mills or be decreased to 1.4 mills. The budget presented by the Mattawan Fire Board was calculated with 1.5 mills.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to set the special assessment at 1.5 mills for the hearing to be held on September 13, 2022. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**C. Almena/ Antwerp Township inspection service contract**

Antwerp Township sent notification to Almena Township in May that the current contract was expired, and that Antwerp Township would like to receive 100% of permit fees to offset administrative expenses. Almena Township is exploring other avenues to handle their building department but has asked if Antwerp would sign a temporary contract through April 30, 2023 with terms that Antwerp Township laid out in the renewal sent. Supervisor Ruzick presented a contract to be sent over with Antwerp collecting 100% of permit fees and an additional fee of \$10.00 per permit with an ending date of May 1, 2023.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to send the presented contract to Almena Township for approval. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

**D. VBCRC 29 ½ Street deberming**

Van Buren County Road Commission is receiving complaints from residents regarding water drainage along 29 1/2 Street in Antwerp Township. Project sheet 497.3188 was presented in the amount of \$3,196.00 to de berm the area of concern.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the project sheet in the amount of \$3,196.00 with the Van Buren County Road Commission for de berming along 29 1/2 Street. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**E. Custom Plumbing proposal for library**

Custom Plumbing presented an estimate for installation of a new slop sink faucet with new wall board and FRP on wall, replace parts on lawn faucet in the amount of \$575.00. If the lawn faucet can not be fixed the cost would increase by \$308.00 for a total of \$883.00.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to accept the estimate in the amount of \$575.00 from Custom Plumbing with the understanding that it could be \$883.00 if the lawn faucet can not be fixed. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

**F. All Phase estimate for lights in the Activity Center**

All Phase presented a quote in the amount of \$531.72 for 7 broken light fixtures to be replaced in the Activity Center. Supervisor Ruzick received a quote from Wilcox Electric in the amount of \$600 for the installation of the fixtures.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to purchase 7 light fixtures from All Phase in the amount of \$531.72 and installation to Wilcox Electric for \$600 for a total amount of \$1131.72. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

**G. Activity Center addition proposal**

Structural Engineer, Nick Barnitz, provided the Township with a quote in the amount of \$15,950.00 to design and prepare all required drawings needed for construction.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the quote in the amount of \$15,950.00 for design and preparation of drawings for the addition on the Activity Center. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

2022 Household Hazardous Waste, VBCRC annual report, Farm Bureau invitation for annual dinner.

**Announcements:**

Antwerp Township Regular Board Meeting will start at 6:00 pm on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for special assessment hearings.

**Reports:**

*Attorney*  
None

*Treasurer-* Bonnie Osborne  
\$246,763.59 in the general fund

*Building Activity-* Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 40 permits for July including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$13,396.00.  
Almena: 31 permits for July including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,534.00.

*Sunshine Branch Library*- Bonnie Osborne  
Summer reading program will end August 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Van Buren District Library*- Bruce Cutting  
Short meeting. Paid the bills. Currently dealing with a mold issue in one of the branches.

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

*Mattawan Fire Department* – Bonnie Osborne  
No report

*Paw Paw Fire Department* – Dan Ruzick  
Paid the bills. Toured the new department.

*Cemeteries* - Chantel Reyna  
One burial.

*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.

**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 \$110,063.36. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantel Reyna