

MINUTES FROM THE  
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP WORKSHOP MEETING  
Tuesday March 8th, 2023

Supervisor Ruzick called the Workshop to order at 6:30 pm

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

Board Members Absent:

Also Present: Nine guests

**A. Discussion**

Supervisor Ruzick provided a list of requests received for use of Antwerp Township ARPA funds. The list includes:

1. Mattawan Fire Department
2. Antwerp Township Trailway
3. VBCRC Satellite Station at Transfer Station
4. Luc's Light
5. Senior Services addition
6. Antwerp Township hall building upgrades
7. Animal's Best Friend
8. Woodsbrook Estate broadband
9. MEC/Van Buren County broadband project

Supervisor Ruzick opened the floor for presentations of requests.

Chris Scharrer who was hired by the County to conduct a broadband study provided the data that was gathered pertaining to Antwerp Township. There are 198 addresses that are currently not served. Midwest Energy is applying for funds through the ROBIN grant and is requesting 10% of the cost of the project. They are requesting 15% from Van Buren County and Midwest Energy will contribute 25%. The remaining 50% is the request from ROBIN. There were concerns from Board members regarding the cost of services for residents.

Pastor Ben Bowater from Red Arrow Ministries presented the development of a youth performing arts center called Luc's Light. Mr. Bowater provided statistics regarding youth mental health and the positive impact they feel this youth center will have on kids who need positivity and connectedness. The amount requested from Luc's Light is 6.86% of the Township's ARPA funds.

Supervisor Ruzick asked the Board if there was support for each of these projects:

**Luc's Light**

Osborne – yes  
Reyna – yes  
Ruzick – yes  
Cutting – yes  
Stock – yes

**MEC/Van Buren County Broadband**

- Ruzick - yes
- Osborne - no
- Reyna - no
- Cutting - no
- Stock - no

The Township Board will act on the dollar amounts awarded to each request at a later Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn. All voted in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna