

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 11th, 2023

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,

Board Members Absent: Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Also Present: Fourteen guests

Public Comment:

Sheriff Dan Abbott – Van Buren County Sheriff

Sheriff Abbott is making is yearly visits to each City, Township and Villages providing data from the department.

- 2022 had 4700 inmates
- So far in 2023 there have been 2168 inmates
- There were 123,691 calls in to dispatch in 2022

Sheriff Abbott asked for the public to call in and report any and all concerns to assist in keeping the County safe.

Deputy Turner – Van Buren County Sheriff

- There were 87 complaints in the Township for the month of February.

Wayne Nelson – Van Buren County Road Commissioner

- Wayne expressed sincere condolences in the loss of Board member, Gary Stock.
- Introduced new Director, Bret Witkowski.
- Pledging to mend relationships between the Van Buren County Road Commission and local units.

Bret Witkowski – Van Buren County Road Commission Managing Director

- Bret introduced himself to the Board as the new Managing Director.

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Paul expressed sincere condolences in the loss of Board member, Gary Stock.
- Apportionment report has been approved.
- Antwerp Township taxable value is up 6.41%.
- County taxable value is up 6.63%
- Van Buren County Clerk now has a vital index available online.
- VA informational event on April 13th, 2023.

Supervisor Ruzick addressed the crowd with the news of Trustee Gary Stock passing. There was a moment of silence to honor Trustee Stock.

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approved previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on March 14th, 2023. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

- A. **Green Development Ventures, LLC. Requests approval of preliminary plat for a 31-lot residential subdivision for the property located directly north of 50760 33rd St, Paw Paw, MI 49079 (Parcel number 80-02-006-009-00).**

The Planning Commission recommends tentative approval of the preliminary plat conditioned upon the following issues being satisfied and they recommend a waiver/variance for the maximum cul-de-sac street length requirement and all outside agency permits required to be secure prior to “final” review of preliminary plat.

1. **Stubs and Connectivity.** While there are no immediate plans for a northern public road extension, the cul-de-sac is intended to be temporary in the case that property to the north is developed in the future.
2. **Cul-de-sac Street Distance.** The proposed 1,900 linear foot public street exceeds the maximum cul-de-sac street length of 600 feet.
3. **Lots.** All proposed lots comply with all R-2 zoning district requirements. However, lot 1 must indicate two front yard setbacks as it is a corner lot.
4. **Easement.** A 12-foot public utility easement is required by Section 5.4 to abut the right-of-way, while the plat shows a 10-foot easement.
5. **Curb and Gutter.** Catch basins are proposed along Cabernet Street and at the intersection with Ackley Lane, and ditches will also convey stormwater.
6. **Streetlights.** Street lighting must be addressed by the application, and the Planning Commission recommended that they work with the power company to select the most “dark sky-friendly” fixture possible.

Joe Ossman – Resident

Mr. Ossman addressed the Board with concerns over streetlights. The Planning Commission addressed that concern in their recommendation.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the request of preliminary plat for a 31-lot residential subdivision for the property located directly north of 50760 33rd Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Pending Business

None

New Business:

- A. **Kalli Marshall Van Buren County Conservation District**

Kalli presented a Memorandum of Understanding for the Board to sign in regard to the State of Michigan, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy 2023 Michigan Recycling Infrastructure and Small Community Education Grant.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the Memorandum pledging 20% of the financial responsibility needed for the transfer station. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

- B. **Vacancy for Trustee position**

With the passing of Trustee Stock, there is a vacancy on the Antwerp Township Board of Trustees. Supervisor Ruzick will seek legal counsel in how to handle filling the vacancy. The position will be placed in on the Township’s website as well as in the local newspaper.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to post the vacancy in the newspaper and seek legal counsel in filling the vacancy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

C. VBCRC Facility in Antwerp 64th and C.R. 657

Commissioner Nelson and Director Witkowski showed interest in a potential satellite facility in Antwerp Township to serve the eastern side of the County. The Board expressed their interest in the facility and asked that they share the joint interest with the remainder of the Van Buren County Road Commissioners at their next meeting.

D. Proposals for facility study at Township Hall & Activity Center

Wightman and Associates provided a proposal in the amount of \$26,500.00 for architectural programming and schematic design while Tower Pinkster provided a proposal in the amount of \$25,350.00 for the same services. Tower Pinkster took several weeks to provide the initial proposal with somewhat poor communication.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to accept the proposal from Wightman and Associates in the amount of \$26,500.00. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

E. Proposal from Summit Protection for security

Summit Fire Protection provided a quote for security upgrades to the Township offices. After discussion, it was thought that the quote should be tabled until we meet with Wightman regarding the Township hall offices.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to table the proposal for now. No action taken. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

F. Transfer Station signage for Recycling Electronics

Sign Crafters provided a quote in the amount of \$1260.00 for two recycling signs for the transfer station. The amount includes installation.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to accept the quote in the amount of \$1260.00 for signage at the transfer station. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

G. Rahmberg Stover and Associates billing

Rahmberg Stover is the company that conducted the wage and benefit study. In April of 2022 the Board authorized expenditures of \$10,000 - \$13,000 dependent on the amount of data Clerk Reyna provided to the company for the study. After completion of the study, members of the Board feel this company used all the data Clerk Reyna provided and charged over \$10,000 for the same data we already had.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to not pay the most current bill to Rahmberg Stover in the amount of \$2540.00 and authorize the wage and benefit committee to call and explain why we were unsatisfied with their services. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- Van Buren County Road Commission weekly updates

Announcements

None

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne
\$237,119.52 in general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna
Antwerp: 35 permits for March including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$5,154.00
Almena: 17 permits for March including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$3,526.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
No Report

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
No Report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
No Report

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick
Paid bills. Department is researching a new truck.

Mattawan Fire Department – Chief Brooks/Bonnie Osborne
84 calls for the month of March. Update on truck- July delivery date. New truck will need air packs that cost \$9,000 - \$10,000.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
One burial in March.

Planning Commission -
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals -
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 in the amount of \$119,286.59
Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the bills in the amount of \$119,286.59 to be paid. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna