

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 9th, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel Ruzick-Supervisor, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Phil Tarchala-Trustee, Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Also, Present: Five guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Tarchala, to approve the agenda as submitted with the additions of item H. Resolution Furness Farms Special Assessment and item I. Transfer Station attendant position. All voted in favor. Motion carries

Public Comment:

Zach Hathaway – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 179 total calls for service in Antwerp Township in May.
- Discussion on where to move the speed trailer in the Township

Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Chief

- 64 calls for service in May
- Garage doors need to be replaced
- Training prop – waiting on concrete contractors
- Training prop will get certified

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne, to approve previous minutes from Township Board Meeting held on May 12th, 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to approve the previous minutes from Township Budget Hearing held on June 2nd, 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission:

None

Old Business: Van Buren District Library update and Discussion

Supervisor Ruzick presented a letter received from VBDL dated May 29, 2026, stating their reason for denying our mediation request. The motion states; “Motion to deny Antwerp Township Supervisor Ruzick request for mediation The Library Board’s historical practice is that Branch Library Agreements must be uniform across all its municipal branches. Mediation would move the library away from this historical practice and undermine the long-term stability of the Library District.” The motion was passed unanimously by the Board. Supervisor Ruzick also presented the current contract that VBDL has with its Bloomingdale branch. This contract is dated January 2025 and in section 7.4 states that if the VBDL and the local unit cannot resolve any and all differences, they agree

to resolve their differences through the process of mediation. The mediator the VBDL and local unit agree to utilize for this process is Citizens Mediation Services. Supervisor Ruzick drafted a letter expressing concerns about their contradictory correspondence regarding uniform contracts and mediation. Contracts from other units have also been provided to Antwerp Township Board proving that VBDL has different contracts with different units and that none of the contracts are uniform as stated in their motion for denial of the mediation request from Antwerp Township.

After much discussion, it was decided that the letter drafted by Supervisor Ruzick should be sent to all VBDL Board members as well as the current contract with the Bloomingdale branch.

New Business:

A. Antwerp Township 2026-2027 budget

Proposed budget presented for the fiscal year 2026 – 2027.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to adopt the 2026 – 2027 budget. Roll call vote: Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

B. Fee Schedule and permit fee schedule 2026 - 2027.

Clerk Reyna presented the current fee structure and the proposed 2026-2027 fee structure for approval.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne, to approve the fee schedule and permit fee schedule for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Roll call vote: Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

C. Board Appointments

a. Mattawan Fire Board – Justin McLean and Scott Brooks term ending June 2029.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to appoint Justin McLean to the Mattawan Fire Board with term ending June 2029. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Reyna, second by Tarchala to appoint Scott Brooks to the Mattawan Fire Board with term ending June 2029. All voted in favor. Motion carries

b. Zoning Board of Appeals – Mark Lefkes term ending June 2029.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to appoint Mark Lefkes to the Zoning Board of Appeals Board with term ending June 2029. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

c. Planning Commission – Leslie Cronenwett and Denise Schultz term ending June 2029.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala, to appoint Leslie Cronenwett and Denise Schultz to the Planning Commission with term ending June 2029. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

d. Board of Review- Elizabeth Stephenson, Amy Brausch, Mollie Barkovich and alternate Kathy Barnitz term ending 2027.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to appoint Elizabeth Stephenson, Amy Brausch, Mollie Barkovich and Kathy Barnitz to the Board of Review Board with term ending 2027. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

D. Flag replacement of repair proposals

Supervisor Ruzick received bids for replacing the flagpole in the amount of \$6,999.39 and \$5,247.60. A bid was also received to repair the existing flagpole in the amount of \$867.51.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to accept the bid in the amount of \$867.51 to repair the existing flagpole. This cost does not include painting the existing pole. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

E. Midwest Tandem Rally Route Resolution

Clerk Reyna presented a Resolution approving the Midwest Tandem Rally Route within the Township.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to adopt the Resolution approving the Midwest Tandem Rally Route. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

F. VBCRC projects Crescent Estates and 28th Street bids

Original bids went out for projects within the Township and came back lower than engineers estimate. The Township asked for two additional bids to expend the annual amount allocated for roads within the Township.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to approve the two bids for Crescent Estates and 28th St. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

G. Insurance Renewal

BHS provided the insurance renewal proposal for Antwerp Township and Mattawan Fire. Supervisor Ruzick will confirm values with Mattawan Fire on equipment.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to accept the renewal from BHS. Roll call vote; Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

H. Furness Farms Resolution for Special Assessment

Supervisor Ruzick received a petition from the residents of Furness Farms to create a Special Assessment District for repaving the southern portion of the neighborhood.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to adopt a Resolution of Intent to establish a Special Assessment District within Furness Farms. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

I. Transfer Station position

Supervisor Ruzick presented a potential attendant to assist at the Transfer Station. After discussion, it was determined that there is a need for an additional attendant.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to hire Randy Graham as an additional attendant as needed at the Transfer Station. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

Announcements:

Correspondence:

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$252,192.78 in general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 60 permits for May including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$13,271.00.

Almena: 31 permits for May including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$7,279.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Discussion took place at beginning of meeting

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

No report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

Short meeting. Paid bills.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Daniel Ruzick

Paid bills. Department will be changing banks

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne

No report

Cemeteries – Chantel Reyna

Three burials

Planning Commission -

Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownshipmi.gov

Zoning Board of Appeals -

Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownshipmi.gov

Public Comment:

Supervisor Ruzick presented a letter of resignation from Sidney Shank from the Senior Services Advisory Board. Program Administrator, Karol Chopp, will make an announcement at lunch next week.

Randy Graham, resident- Would like a status update on the trail. Trustee Tarchala informed the audience that the trail is on hold due to MDOT requests which will result in additional funds being spent.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$684,203.23.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$684,203.23. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna