

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 14th, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Board Members Absent: Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer

Also, Present: Nine guests

Public Hearing: Furness Farms Road Improvements Special Assessment District

- Resident – Are the four lots with frontage on 52nd Ave part of this Assessment? No, there are 41 lots within Furness Farms excluding those four lots.
- The average cost over 3 years would be \$1858.79 per lot
- This would be a three-year special assessment

Hearing closes at 6:35 pm.

Motion by Tarchala second by Cutting, to approve the agenda as submitted. All voted in favor. Motion carries

Public Comment:

Zach Hathaway – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 140 total calls for service in Antwerp Township in June.
- Discussion on where to move the speed trailer in the Township
- Liquor commission inspections were completed last week

Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Chief

- 93 calls for service in June
- Training prop needs permits pulled with Village
- Air packs - \$6000 difference to change from 30 minute to 45-minute packs

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to authorize Chief Brooks to purchase air packs in the amount of \$239,900.00. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala, to approve previous minutes from Township Board Meeting held on June 9th, 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission:

None

Old Business: None

New Business:

A. Furness Farms resolution

Public hearing held on July 14th, 2026, to establish SAD for Furness Farms Roads.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to adopt the Resolution to move forward with the establishment of the Special Assessment District. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

B. Mattawan Fire proposed tower construction

Chief Brooks is preparing the cost and donations associated with the construction of the training prop. It was discussed that all permits need to be pulled with the Village of Mattawan before construction can begin. Chief Brooks provided approvals from the Village of Mattawan on the stamped plans he submitted.

C. Roofing bids for Township Hall/Library

Supervisor Ruzick presented three bids for replacing the roof of the Township Hall and Sunshine Library Branch.

1. Southwest Roofing Company - \$61,600.00.
2. Roach Roofing - \$78,557.83
3. Lakeside Roofing - \$67,000.00

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to approve the bid from Southwest Roofing Company in the amount of \$61,600.00. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

D. Resolution to adopt millage ballot language for library maintenance 5 year .10 mills November 3, 2026, election

Supervisor Ruzick presented ballot language requesting .10 mills be levied to maintain the Sunshine Library branch. There was much discussion on whether the Township should go to the voters and ask for additional funds to maintain the library when the residents are already paying millages to the VBDL. Residents question what the millages being levied already are paying for. It was suggested they contact the VBDL board for clarification.

Motion by Cutting, second by Ruzick to approve the ballot wording for a millage request to be placed on November 3, 2026, ballot. Roll call vote; Tarchala-no, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-no, Cutting-yes. Motion fails.

Additional discussion took place regarding gathering more information and talking more to the residents before a decision is made. A special meeting will take place on July 27, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

E. Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour event

Clerk Reyna presented a letter in support of the Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour that will take place within the Township on September 13, 2026.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to authorize Clerk Reyna to send a letter in support of the Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

F. Siegfried Crandall engagement letter for 2026 audit

Clerk Reyna presented an engagement letter from Siegfried Crandall to conduct the 2026 audit.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to authorize Clerk Reyna to sign the engagement letter for the 2026 audit. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

G. Bangs Cemetery and Transfer Station repair

Supervisor Ruzick contacted three companies to remove storm damage at the cemetery and transfer station. Two of the three stated they were more than 30 days out. The third submitted a quote in the amount of \$3000.00 to remove trees from both the cemetery and transfer station.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to pay \$3000.00 for the removal of storm damage at the transfer station and the cemetery. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to have Justice Fence fix the damage on the fence at the transfer station in the amount of \$1086.00. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Announcements:

Correspondence:

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

No report

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 62 permits for June including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$9,387.00.

Almena: 34 permits for June including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,912.00.

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. New truck may be done sooner than expected.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Daniel Ruzick

Paid bills. Department changed banks. Audit report clean

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne

No report

Cemeteries – Chantel Reyna

One burial

Planning Commission -

Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownshipmi.gov

Zoning Board of Appeals -

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Public Comment:

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$239,974.33.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$239,974.33. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna