

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY October 8, 2013 7:00 PM  
**APPROVED**

Supervisor Ruzick called the Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Heather Mitchell-Clerk, Bruce Cutting – Trustee;  
Ron Derhammer – Trustee

Board Members Absent & Excused: Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer.

Also Present: Eight guests.

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

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to approve minutes from September 10, 2013 as mailed. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:** Sam Frazier offered to start a Facebook page on behalf of the Township.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:** None

**Pending Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Computer Bids Antwerp Township Office**

Three bids were received for new desktop computers in efforts to bring all operating systems and workstations into congruence. Bids were taken from Secant - \$7328.40 or \$9697 (desktop/tower vs all-in-one PC); CTS - \$6,273.15 (desktop); and Bloomingdale Communications - \$6906 or \$7106 (small form factor workstations vs mini tower work stations). In comparing bids, all have Windows 7 operating system, include labor to migrate data and three year warranty on equipment. Memory and processors are similar as well.

Discussion on three companies and level of expertise. All three companies are well respected and are offering competitive bids. Secant is currently our IT company; CTS recently provided our fiber optics and Bloomingdale has given bids in the past for all our computer requests.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Derhammer to accept bid from Tony Clark at CTS for \$6,237.15 for five new computers.

Roll Call Vote: Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes. Motion carries.

**B. Van Buren County Sheriff Agreement**

Police protection agreement between Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and Antwerp Township to appropriate funds providing additional police protection and enforcement of local township ordinances. Annual contract (Jan - Dec 2014) amount will not change from last year, based on 10 hours a week for \$24668.00. Trustee Cutting noted that the agreement stipulates 20 hours per week when in the budget worksheet indicates 10 hours per week.

Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to approve police protection agreement with modification of correct hours to contract.

Roll Call Vote: Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes. Motion carries.

**C. Paw Paw Quick Response Agreement**

Antwerp Township provides annual support of the PPQR team in the amount of \$1500.00 which helps reach and maintain goals of providing the best pre-hospital medical care to our community. The new agreement will run from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. In 2012, 65 calls involving 72 patients in Antwerp Township were covered.

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the contract between PPQR and Antwerp Township for emergency services on behalf of Antwerp Township.

Roll Call Vote: Mitchell-yes; Ruzick-yes; Derhammer-yes; Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Junk and Anti-Blight Ordinance**

Planning Commission reviewed and updated junk and anti-blight ordinance and has recommended approval. The newest version allows for the Township to address issues we have come across with foreclosure situations wherein blight is left behind and lawns are ignored. The purpose of the ordinance is to promote and preserve the general health, safety, and welfare of residents and property owners by regulating blight or potential blight through prevention or elimination of certain environmental causes of blight or blighting factors. The ordinance shall become effective 30 days after publication in a newspaper within Antwerp Township.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Cutting to approve Antwerp Township Junk and Anti-Blight Ordinance and to publish said ordinance in Courier Leader.

Roll Call Vote: Derhammer-yes; Mitchell-yes; Cutting-yes; Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:** None

**Announcements:** Antwerp Township Offices will be closed on Monday, October 14 in observance of Columbus Day.

**Reports:**

*Ordinance Officer* Mark Hamre

Deputy Hamre gave a report on calls for the last month to Supervisor Ruzick prior to the meeting. A full report of all complaints is available at the Township Hall.

*Road Commission* Al Svilpe

CR 657 and 23<sup>rd</sup> St are both finished. Continuing work on shoulder repair and maintenance such as asphalt patching throughout the county. Washout on sides of 30<sup>th</sup> St north of Red Arrow Hwy will be addressed by road commission. Township annual meeting is scheduled for October 28 in Lawrence at 6:00 pm. The agenda will focus on asset management and creating a multi-year road plan including PASER Rating system. Question from audience on Red Arrow Highway east of 24<sup>th</sup> St towards Snake Hill. KATS monies provided chip seal which will increase longevity of that section until 2015, wherein 2015 the road will be rehabbed completely.

*Attorney* Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

*Treasurer* Bonnie Osborne

\$150,190.37 in general fund checking.

*Building Activity* Heather Mitchell

30 permits for September including building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing.

*Sunshine Branch Library* Bonnie Osborne

Book sale was a huge success. Lord of the Gourds is scheduled for October 21 from 2 pm - 7pm. There will be a craft day is October 12 from Noon - 2:00 pm.

*Lawton Fire Department* Bruce Cutting

Short meeting, paid bills. Gathering bids for an instantaneous generator system covering Lawton Fire Hall and Village Hall.

*Mattawan Fire Department* Bonnie Osborne

Annual December meeting is set for December 17; working on six (6) year plan.

*Cemeteries* Heather Mitchell

One burial in September.

*Mattawan Quick Response* Bonnie Osborne

No report.

*Planning Commission* Ron Derhammer

Close to having microbrewery ordinance in a final form for recommendation; continuing work on keeping of animals which will be done by end of year. No other workshops planned at this time. Trustee Derhammer attended Annual Michigan Association of Planning Conference in Kalamazoo. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals* Heather Mitchell

ZBA approved dimensional variances for Wayne and Mary Martin for a 6.1 acre piece along Red Arrow Hwy. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

**Public Comment:** Chris Ballingall is concerned about public comment during Planning Commission meetings, feels residents should be helping to shape ordinances for our community and not people who don't live here or have a vested interest in this community.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$67,264.71.

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to accept bills for payment.

Roll Call Vote: Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Cutting to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk