

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY November, 12, 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, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer; Heather Mitchell-Clerk,  
Bruce Cutting – Trustee.

Board Members Absent & Excused: Ron Derhammer – Trustee.

Also Present: Eleven guests.

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

Motion by Mitchell, second by Cutting to approve minutes from October 8, 2013 as mailed. All voted in favor; Osborne abstained. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:** None

**Pending Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Antwerp Township Office Furnace Quote**

Two bids from Mattawan Mechanical and Suburban were received for a new furnace for the Antwerp Township office. Both offered multiple options ranging from 80% to 96% efficiency. The board has a history of trying to award bids to businesses within the township, however, with a price difference of \$654 and a higher efficiency the board feels Suburban is a better choice.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to accept proposal from Suburban for Model EL296DF090XE (96% afue, 2 stage gas, ECM blower) and to replace the existing air conditioning evaporator coil for \$3796.

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

**B. Chris Olson-Linahan Request**

The Antwerp Township Board of Trustees received a request from Chris Olson-Linahan for use of the Activity Center on March 1, 2014 at no charge. The request is to hold a benefit to raise money for the American Cancer Society in honor of Cyndi Puzevic.

Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to approve the use of the Activity Center at no charge on March 1, 2014 for American Cancer Society Benefit. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**C. Snowplowing & Salting Contracts**

Ray Owsiany submitted a renewal for his snowplowing contract indicating the same fee as his original contract. The rate is \$100 per occurrence and is plowed before 7:00 am and every 2 inches after that for the parking lot shared by the township offices, activity center and library.

Tom Aleksich submitted a renewal for his salting contract with no price increase for the 2013-2014 winter season.

Both contracts have been in place for five (5) years and have not increased the prices in the last three (3) years even with cost of fuel increasing.

Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to renew both snowplowing and salting contracts with Ray Owsiany and Tom Aleksich, respectively. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**D. Tax Foreclosure Property in Antwerp Township**

The second auction of tax foreclosed properties was held on October 11. There was one parcel in Antwerp Township that did not sell. Per MCL 211.78(m)(6), the county treasurer is required to notify the municipality if any tax foreclosed properties within the Township did not sell at either auction.

These properties are automatically deeded to the Township unless rejected in writing.

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to submit a letter to county treasurer rejecting any and all parcels not sold at either tax auction in 2013. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**E. Antwerp Township Farmer's Market**

The Township board asked the Planning Commission for its input on the creation of a Farmer's market for Antwerp Township. PC asked that a survey be circulated in efforts to receive feedback from the community on whether or not one is wanted in this area. The desire to gather input initially from the community to better service the community rather than saturate it with another market, if there is no need. Clerk Mitchell will speak with Dave Jirousek about creating a survey and finding ways to circulate it throughout the community.

**Correspondence:** Van Buren District Library Focus Group Meeting was held on November 4. HHW 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report. Resolution to support BS&A grant for Van Buren County.

**Announcements:**

**Reports:**

*Ordinance Officer* Mark Hamre

Deputy Hamre gave a report on calls for October and gave on update on three blight cases still open. A full report of all calls is available at the Township Hall.

*Road Commission* Al Svilpe

Project on CR 652 has been slowed due to weather.

*Drain Commissioner* Joe Parman

Joe Parman attended the meeting to give explanation on the "at-large" charges for drain assessments. Majority of the drain assessments are attributed to individual parcels which are located within each assessment area, however, some of the monies are attributed to townships and villages and are considered "at-large" assessments. The difficulty being that Township has no way to recoup monies extended to those types of assessments.

*Attorney* Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

*Treasurer* Bonnie Osborne

\$198,758.23 in general fund checking; taxes will be mailed the weekend after Thanksgiving.

*Building Activity* Heather Mitchell

25 permits for October including building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing.

*Sunshine Branch Library* Bonnie Osborne

Focus group looked at signage and visibility of library including the layout. November 30 is Make and Take Craft from 11 am to 1 pm. Story time is done for now. In February, Movie Time will start.

*Lawton Fire Department* Bruce Cutting

Looking at prices for backup generator to cover the Village Hall and Fire Department.

*Mattawan Fire Department* Bonnie Osborne

One new member; 14 calls in October; working on new jeep.

*Cemeteries* Heather Mitchell

Three (3) burials in October.

*Mattawan Quick Response* Bonnie Osborne

One new member; 46 calls and had O<sub>2</sub> tanks refilled.

*Planning Commission* Ron Derhammer

Citizen committee to be set up to explore possibilities of a Farmers Market in Antwerp Township. Final revision reviewed and will be brought back to the December meeting for the Breweries and Keeping of Animals Ordinances. Clothing Box Ordinance is being recommended for approval to the Township Board. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals* Heather Mitchell

No meeting in October.

**Public Comment**

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$70,902.17.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk