

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY April 14, 2015 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
Board Members Absent & Excused: Bruce Cutting - Trustee, Ron Derhammer-Trustee.

Also Present: Eleven guests.

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

Public Comment: Question from audience about monies for VBCSS memberships. Discussion on reasons for concern for Township Board to pay money for membership to another vendor; reasons for filling out applications. A total of 39 people (23 individual and 8 couples) requesting money to have Township pay VBCSS membership at a cost of \$4,200 wherein millage monies collected total \$415.74.

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to approve March 10, 2015 minutes as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None.

New Business:

A. Antwerp Township Senior Advisory Board appointments

Two vacancies currently exist on the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board because of resignations. Five applications were received for interested parties.

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to appoint Barb Farris to the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to appoint Deb May to the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ruzick to appoint Ralph Forst to the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

B. Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board Recommendations

• Policy for nonresident participation for luncheons and trips

Recommendation has been made from the Antwerp Township Senior Service Advisory Board to have non-residents pay the full amount for the weekly luncheons, currently at \$6.50 with KCSS, to be reviewed in six (6) months. Goal of lunches is nutrition with taste; salads will be coming for the summer months.

Recommendation has been made from Antwerp Township Senior Service Advisory Board to allow non-residents to sign up for trips, once ample time has been given to Antwerp Township residents, at no additional rate since no millage monies are used for trips.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to approve recommendations presented by Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board for non-residents to pay for lunches @ \$6.50/person and that trips be open to non-residents, once ample time has been given to Antwerp Township residents, at the same cost,

both to be revisited in six (6) months by the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- **Van Buren County Senior Service membership program**

Recommendation from the ATSSAB is to not contribute any monies to membership fees. General discussion on concerns for contributing monies to memberships. Request for \$4200 seems high in comparison to millage monies collected. Membership fee gains access to building, but trips, food, classes will still have to be paid for out of pocket. Question on what the membership fee actually covers. Second concern is raised on tracking of Antwerp Township residents using program and what happens when someone stops attending or moves. Some admitted to filling out paperwork who have never attended programs. Frustration from this board is that seniors are in the middle and it is unfortunate.

Treasurer Osborne offered that VBCSS is offering scholarships for those who want to attend and cannot afford the annual membership fee of \$120 and a reduction of the fee if you volunteer. Resident offered that her membership would be \$60 since she volunteers, which brought another concern of the Township still being charged the full \$120 instead of \$60.

Questions asked over amount Township is collecting and how it will be spent.

Revenue/Expenditure report is available each month. All monies not used at end of fiscal year will remain with Senior Services fund. Antwerp Township is working hard to establish programs and to hand over that amount of money would be detrimental to our program and would not be proactive in attracting people here by paying for them to go somewhere else.

Clarification on VBCSS being a vendor and not part of Van Buren County and on the Meijer Garden bus trip as an email went out from another vendor that we had spent millage monies and paid \$800 for a bus. ATSS paid \$540 for bus and all monies collected from residents were used to pay entrance fees and bus, Antwerp Township did not spend \$1 in millage monies for the trip.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to accept recommendation from Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board and not contribute any millage monies toward membership fees for VBCSS. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

C. Paw Paw Fire Board

Preliminary discussions from Paw Paw Fire Department on whether current station will be remodeled or will be rebuilt at another location. Current situation does not allow for enough room and Township will need to look at all options. Options would include continuing to pay Paw Paw Fire department for fire protection at a higher cost once a new station is built or looking at expanding Mattawan Fire department with a satellite station to be manned full time. Chief McLean will continue to investigate costs and options for Township. Feasibility study might help us make a better informed decision.

D. Mattawan Lions Club

Mattawan Lions Club has established their 501-3c in order to use the Activity Center at no cost. Looking at using the hall for more functions. Question was raised on using front alcove area for a dedicated meeting room with renovations. All remodeling fees would be covered by the Mattawan Lions. A room would be established to hold meetings, place plaques and awards on walls. Township will need to let insurance carrier know about change to building.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to allow Mattawan Lions to utilize the front alcove area of the Antwerp Township Activity Center including remodeling with all costs to be borne by Mattawan Lions Club.

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

Correspondence: Noreen Miller resignation letter

Announcements: None

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

Deputy Mark Hamre was present to review the March 2015 report for Antwerp Township. Total of 423.27 miles were driven in Township; added two (2) more properties to the blight list; reviewed stats for month.

Van Buren County Commissioner Beth Griffin

PowerPoint presentation from the Economic development roundtable from March 18 which included business owners, township supervisors, and realtors. Looked at what is positively and negatively affecting Van Buren County economically. County website is being revamped as current framework will not support new pictometry.

Van Buren County Road Commission Al Svilpe

Red Arrow Highway turning lane will be in reconstruction; working on filling potholes.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$110,791.69 in general fund checking.

Antwerp Township Senior Services Dan Ruzick

Trip to Meijer Garden on April 15 with 30 people signed up to go.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

Eleven permits for March including Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing in the amount of \$2,588.00.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

Library book sale will be in September.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

No report.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

Short meeting, training in Indianapolis is coming up; cadet program has been capped at 12. Question asked about meanings of siren and obtaining smoke detectors for Project SafeSenior.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell

Three (3) burials in March.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne

Paid bills.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer

No meeting in April. Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell

No meeting in March.

Public Comment: Continued discussion on VBCSS and reasons behind Antwerp Township not paying for membership fees. Township continues to strive for utmost accountability and transparency.

4/14/15 minutes con't

Questions asked will be answered. Budget and breakdown of revenue and expenditures is always available.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$135,955.91.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk