

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, March 13, 2018  
approved

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Heather Mitchell-Clerk, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Bruce Cutting-Trustee, Ron Derhammer-Trustee

Also Present: Four guests

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

**Public Comment:** None

Motion by Mitchell, second by Cutting to approve the February 13, 2018 Township Board Meeting Minutes as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carries

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

- A. Special Land Use and Site Plan Review: Marty Webber Autobody – Major Vehicle Repair Business with Outdoor Storage. Business located at 50519 CR 652 (Parcel #80-02-001-044-00). Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions.

Marty Webber was present to give brief overview of what current plans include for expanding and running the repair business. Two residents asked questions pertaining to lighting, exhaust, paint fumes including filtration system.

Business hours will typically end at 5 pm on weekdays and more parking will be added. Concerns for disposal affecting groundwater were addressed during Planning Commission review.

Planning Commission recommended approval with the following conditions:

1. The ordinance must be amended prior to allowing outdoor storage (delete minimum frontage requirements of 200 feet). \*Projected amendment date is April 10, 2018.
2. Protective fencing shall be installed prior to site development. Township Board recommends following similar design of Dollar General in Mattawan which provides a greater protection for neighbors on the north and south sides of the subject property.
3. A lighting plan is required if hours open to the public extend into night-time hours.
4. Approval shall be contingent upon:
  - a. Drain Commission (storm water and SESC).
  - b. Road Commission (driveway).
  - c. Fire Department approval.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Ruzick to approve special land use and site plan review for Major Vehicle Repair Business located at 50519 CR 652 with conditions as outlined by Planning Commission.

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

**Pending Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Resolution Antwerp Township Senior Services Language August Ballot**

Clerk Mitchell presented a resolution including ballot language for the renewal of the senior service millage at .25 mills.

“Shall the expired previously-voted millage of .25 mill in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Antwerp Township, Van Buren County Michigan, reduced by the required roll back to 0.2462 mills be renewed at and increased to the original .25 mills (\$.25 per \$1,000 in taxable value) for the 4-year period of 2018 through 2021 inclusive for the purpose of appropriating funds for activities and/or services for older persons, meaning individuals over the age of sixty (60) years, pursuant to Public Act 39, of 1976? The Township of Antwerp would contract to provide services. It is anticipated that the revenue collected by Antwerp Township of this proposal will be \$100,245 in the first calendar year of the levy.”

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the resolution for senior millage of .25 mills to be levied 2018 through 2021 once passed on the August 2018 primary ballot inclusive for appropriating funds for purposes of supporting a senior services program.

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

**B. Van Buren County Road Commission Additional Millage Proposal**

Van Buren County Road Commission is asking for approval of ballot language from BOC to be placed on the August 7 primary ballot. The ballot language is asking voters of Van Buren County to pass an additional 3 mills for 12 years (2018-2029). The County Board of Commissioners are set to decide on March 28, 2018 as to whether or not to approve the ballot language:

“Shall Van Buren County levy an additional 3.0000 mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000 dollars of taxable value), subject to reduction as provided by law, on the taxable value of real and personal property located in Van Buren County for twelve (12) years, 2018-2029, inclusive, for the purpose of maintenance, repair and reconstruction of public highways, streets, avenues and roads in Van Buren County? It is estimated that the revenue generated by this proposal will be \$10,432,956 in the first year of the levy. If approved, this would be a new additional millage.”

Antwerp Township Board of Trustees has concerns on the request for the additional millage. We would like to hear and know of the events which have prompted the need for an additional 3 mills over the course of 12 years which will provide additional funding of millions of dollars in the first year alone, with over \$1 million coming from Antwerp. Additional questions surfaced on the formulations used to arrive at 3 mills and 12 years longevity. Until clarification can be given, Antwerp Township Board of Trustees opposes such a large increase in funding.

Motion by Cutting, second by Ruzick to draft a letter on behalf of the entire Board to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners and Van Buren County Road Commission asking for clarification on the need and design of the additional millage.

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

**C. Van Buren County Road Commission Projects 2018-2019**

Van Buren County Road Commission provided estimates for seven (7) projects. Total cost through Michigan Paving & Materials is \$364,521. Projects include:

- 489.3103 28<sup>th</sup> Street from 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave to CR 358 (\$88,846)
- 489.3108 Brownstone Sub (\$158,297)
- 489.3105 Martha’s Vineyard (Dennis Sweet) (\$22,898)
- 489.3107 Hunt Road (\$12,014)
- 489.3102 Oak Ridge Drive (\$32,925)
- 489.3106 Pawton Way Subdivision (\$27,481)
- 489.3104 Martha’s Vineyard (Terry Lane) (\$22,060)

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to accept bids for all seven projects at a cost of \$364,521.  
Roll Call Vote: Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Cemetery Lawn Maintenance Contract Renewal**

Steve Vidosis of Lawn Perfect provided a renewal for cemetery lawn maintenance. One change in the amount of spring and fall cleanup to create an increase of \$700.

Mowing:	Harwick	\$195/week
	Maple Grove	\$585/week
	Bangs	\$150/week
Empty Trash Barrels		\$15/week
Spring Clean up		\$1200 *one time charge
Fall Clean up		\$4500 *one time charge

Motion by Ruzick, second by Osborne to approve service agreement for 2018-2019.  
Roll Call Vote: Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:** None

**Announcements:** None

**Reports:**

*Van Buren County Road Commission* Al Svilpe

Road tour will be scheduled soon to review pending projects. Discussion on road entrances and exits for Silver Oaks subdivision. Residents have reached out to Township Board again asking why Road Commission didn't have different options available for proposed road connections and lack thereof. Road Commission meeting minutes referenced the need for a preference. Township Board is skeptical in giving a preference since we are not engineers and rely on the VBCRC for those tasks. However, we also don't want different options to be ignored.

Therefore, motion by Derhammer, second by Mitchell to implore VBCRC to search out options B&C as feasible alternatives to Option A as all options were approved by the Planning Commission and Township Board for road connections and lack thereof.

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

Continuing efforts with Kalamazoo County Road Commission to resolve issues with Long Grove retention pond.

*Van Buren County Sheriff* Todd Skinner

Reviewed calls for February for Antwerp Township and current blight situations.

*Treasurer* Bonnie Osborne

\$165,181.13 in general fund checking. Taxes have been turned over to County Treasurer.

*Senior Services* Dan Ruzick

Average luncheon numbers are around 85 per week. Approved ballot language will be sent to County Clerk to be placed on August 2018 ballot.

*Building Activity* Heather Mitchell

Antwerp: 24 permits for February including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$5,477.

Almena: 8 permits for February including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$3184.10.

*Sunshine Branch Library* Bonnie Osborne

April 2 will be the start date for the new head librarian, Kayla Jewells.

*Lawton Fire Department* Bruce Cutting

Short meeting. All business.

*Mattawan Fire Department* Bonnie Osborne

Abby Wheeler was named Firefighter of the Year. Congrats to Abby!

*Paw Paw Fire Department* Dan Ruzick

Resolution was received.

*Mattawan Quick Response* Bonnie Osborne

Truck is being painted and lettered.

*Cemeteries* Heather Mitchell

Zero burials in February.

*Planning Commission* Ron Derhammer

Approved ordinance text amendments. Zach Morris is the new chair. Recommended approval of Special Land Use and Site Plan for Marty Webber Autobody. Meeting minutes are available online at

[www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals* Heather Mitchell

No meeting in February. Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

**Public Comment:**

- Township Board wanted to extend a warm welcome to Supervisor Ruzick as he is returning after six (6) week of medical leave. Supervisor Ruzick extended his thanks for Treasurer Osborne and Clerk Mitchell for all they have done in his absence. We are all grateful that Supervisor Ruzick is back and on his way to great health!
- Clerk Mitchell announced that she will not be running for reelection in 2020.
- Personnel Policy will be presented in April.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$46,471.70.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk