

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, April 10, 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: Five guests

Motion by Osborne, second by Derhammer to approve agenda with the addition of C. General Zoning Update and D. Jim Evans Cemetery Renewal Proposal under New Business. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Joe Gabb questioned the stakes that are placed near his property (next to the Township Hall) for the new access road. Supervisor Ruzick will provide Mr. Gabb a copy of the final plans and survey and get a copy to Gary Stock, as well, as Gary hasn't seen the final design.

Phil Tarchala asked about a roundtable discussion between a few members of the Planning Commission and Township Board to gain a more educated viewpoint on medical marihuana. At this time the Township Board appreciates the educational opportunities and will certainly attend sessions as able; but would like to see the Planning Commission comes a little further in the process prior to scheduling a roundtable discussion.

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

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:** None

**Pending Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Van Buren County Road Commission Road Millage Request**

VBCRC provided responses to the questions Antwerp created over concerns for the upcoming millage request. The County also relayed the questions as a FAQ to the rest of the County to be proactive for other municipalities that might have the same questions.

The main concerns Antwerp Township Board still has after reading the responses is the allocation methods in sharing funding for the primary and secondary roads and the lack of desire on the VBCRC part to review the antiquated process.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Derhammer for Clerk Mitchell to create and authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign a resolution in opposition of the requested road millage for Van Buren County Commission.

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

**B. Personnel Policy**

Tabled until May meeting.

**C. General Zoning Updates**

Planning Commission has recommended approval of the following Zoning Ordinance amendments:

- Section 3.12 Corner Clearance & Visibility
- Section 3.24 Condominium Developments
- Section 5.4 C.2.b Fences
- Section 5.4 D Home Occupations
- Section 5.4 M Vehicle Sales on Residential Property
- Section 6.6 General Commercial and Commercial Corridor Overlay Building Form & Design Requirements
- Section 9.32 Outdoor Display, Sales, or Storage
- Section 9.34 & 9.35 Public Facilities, Public Utility Facilities, and Places of Worship
- Section 9.41 Two Family Dwellings
- Section 9.41 Vehicle Repair
- Section 12.1 J Detention and Retention Ponds
- Section 12.2 Exterior Lighting Requirements

Motion by Derhammer, second by Mitchell to approve all amendments as recommended by the Planning Commission on May 7, 2018 meeting.

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

**D. Jim Evans Cemetery Renewal Proposal**

In 2017, Antwerp Township board approved a quote from Jim Evans for years 2017 – 2019 at a rate of \$750 per year for top dirt delivered and distributed on graves as needed and hauling away excess dirt and one load of brush per year. For 2018 the price is \$800 because of the need of a sign repair at Bangs Cemetery.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Cutting to approve the \$50 increase in the bill for 2018.

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

**Correspondence:**

- April 4, 2018 VBCRC Letter
- VBC Commissioner Update

**Announcements:** Senior & Veteran Expo May 7, 2018 9 am – 1 pm Free Boxed Lunch

**Reports:**

*Van Buren County Road Commission* Al Svilpe

Continuing the conversation on various breaches from retention pond in Long Grove Subdivision and how to best direct the overflow of water.

VBCRC provided a response to the concerns Antwerp had for the proposed millage request.

*Van Buren County Sheriff* Todd Skinner

Reviewed 72 calls for March for Antwerp Township and current blight situations.

*Treasurer* Bonnie Osborne

\$230,040.18 in general fund checking.

*Senior Services* Dan Ruzick

Awaiting August election results for Almena Township and Senior Services millage monies.

*Building Activity* Heather Mitchell

Antwerp: 37 permits for March including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$8615.

Almena: 16 permits for March including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$4,329.50.

*Sunshine Branch Library* Bonnie Osborne  
New director, Kayla Jellies started on April 2.

*Lawton Fire Department* Bruce Cutting  
No report.

*Mattawan Fire Department* Bonnie Osborne  
1964 jeep has been sold.

*Mattawan Quick Response* Bonnie Osborne  
Paid bills.

*Cemeteries* Heather Mitchell  
Zero burials in March.

*Planning Commission* Ron Derhammer  
Approved ordinance text amendments. Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals* Heather Mitchell  
No meeting in March. Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Parks and Recreation* Phil Tarchala  
Sam Leatch is new contact for Wightman & Associates. Sam is doing a great job regaining momentum on this project.

**Public Comment:**

- Thankful for new guests and welcome to attend more meetings. We appreciate public input.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$281,652.66.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk