

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, February 26th, 2019

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Bruce Cutting- Trustee, Gary Stock- Trustee

Board Members Absent: none

Also Present: Eight guests

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve agenda with the addition of item E. Kalamazoo County HHW contract for 2019. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

- Chris Ballingal- *Resident*
  1. Chris provided a Senior Service report for 2018 in comparison to 2015. In 2015 we had an average of 41 attendees each week at lunch. In 2018 the average was 108. In 2015 we took in an average of \$80 a week and in 2018 the donations have grown to an average of \$162 a week. In 2015, 2087 meals were served and in 2018 5944 meals were served. The master list has grown from 197 to 298 and the non-resident list has grown from 20 to 44. In 2015 we had 13 veterans that attended lunch to now in 2018 there are 25 veterans who attend. Resident Bill Elmer gets service rings for veterans and presents them at lunch. Bill has handed out 15 rings at the weekly lunches. Chris suggests that we put an ad in the newspaper thanks the tax payers, vendors, past and present Advisory board members, and any volunteers who have helped grow this program over the years.
- Deputy Skinner- *VBC Sheriff*
  1. Deputy Skinner briefly went over his report for the month of January.
  2. There are a few blight issues that he is still dealing with throughout the Township.
  3. Deputy Skinner believes the new enforcement policy will make things run more smoothly throughout the Township.
- Kris Adams- *Resident*
  1. Kris has been working this Trustee Stock on easement and ordinance questions she has. Trustee Stock will communicate with the attorney to address questions that Kris still has.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

**A. Site Plan Boven Tire at 28838 Red Arrow Hwy Paw Paw (Parcel # 80-02-009-011-30)**

Planning Commission is recommending approval of plan submitted with three conditions. Conditions include securing fire department approval, providing parking lot lighting plan and installing protective fencing before site disturbance. Mr. Boven thanked the Planning Commission as well as the Township Board for making the rebuilding process quick and easy. Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve Planning Commissions recommendations of approval with the conditions being met. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Pending Business:**

**A. Wage and Benefit Committee- Assessor position**

Assessor Ben Brosseau presented numbers to the committee at the January 8, 2019 meeting for the committee to review while deciding whether to keep Ben as an employee of the Township or to turn the Assessor position to a contract position. The committee recommended that the position be switched to a contract position starting April 1, 2019. There were several numbers factored into deciding the amount that would be paid on this contract. The committee recommended a contract with APG, Inc beginning April 1, 2019 with a price of \$93,032 per year. Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to change Assessor position for Ben Brosseau to contract with a yearly salary of \$93,032.

**B. Wage and Benefit Committee – Retiree Health Care**

The committee is working on putting together a “Plan” for retiree insurance for the three eligible employees who were hired under the previous handbook.

**C. Wage and Benefit Committee- Life Insurance for full time employees**

The handbook that was adopted in August of 2018 states that all full-time employees will receive \$50,000 in Township provided life insurance. The current full-time employees are receiving \$25,000 in benefits. The cost to increase the coverage would increase by approximately \$40 a month bringing the monthly cost to around \$100 a month. Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to amend the current handbook to read \$40,000 in life insurance coverage will be provided to each full-time employee. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Wage and Benefit Committee- Bob Lambert**

The committee currently consists of Trustee Stock, Trustee Cutting and Resident Bob Lambert. Trustee Stock and Trustee Cutting are currently being paid to be trustees, however Bob Lambert is attending all meetings pertaining to wages and benefits and Trustee Stock and Trustee Cutting feel that Bob Lambert should receive a compensation for his time as a committee member. The committee will put together a proposal for compensation and present it at the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting.

**New Business:**

**A. Antwerp Township Cemetery/ Activity Center**

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to place the extension of the Cemetery and redesigning of back of Activity Center out for bids. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**B. Land exchange for new access to M-40 off 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave.**

Southwest Survey has completed the survey of the two properties that would be exchanged in order to complete a new access to M-40. Mr. Don LaRue has agreed to exchange his parcel (80-02-020-028-70) for the Townships parcel (80-02-020-028-73). During this time, AEP asked that each party sign an easement allowing them to place poles on the property. Mr. LaRue asked that he receive the compensation from AEP for both parcels. There was much discussion on this exchange. Motion by Ruzick, second by Cutting to exchange the parcels of land with compensation for both parcels from AEP going to Mr. LaRue but in exchange the Township would ask for an additional 50 ft. of property into the parcel that Mr. LaRue would obtain. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Stock-yes, Cutting-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

**C. Intergovernmental agreement for services with Almena Township**

Almena Township made the changes that we requested to the Contract and presented it for approval. Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve revised contract for services with Almena Township. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Best Way Contract transfer station**

Best Way submitted a new contract with a rate increase due to an increase in per ton pricing. The proposed contract has price increase from \$5000 to \$5625 per quarter. The amount was based on previous year recyclable material. Best Way has also changed the hours during winter months. The transfer station will be closed on Tuesdays starting on November 1 through March 30. Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to approve contract as submitted but not having the winter hours take effect until November 1, 2019. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

**E. Kalamazoo County HHW contract**

Kalamazoo County sent the contract for Hazardous Household Waste for 2019 in the amount of \$7000. Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve contract as submitted. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

- KCHHW 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. report- Antwerp Township had 44 residents drop off hazardous waste which is a large number for smaller municipalities outside of Kalamazoo County.
- VBCRC weekly updates- brief discussion on the weekly updated provided by VBCRC. The letter that the Township board sent over to the VBCRC was published in the Courier Leader.

**Announcements:**

- None

**Reports:**

*Attorney*

None

*Treasurer-* Bonnie Osborne

\$138,238.70 in the general fund

*Building Activity-* Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 18 permits for January including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$6,349.

Almena: 5 permits for December including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$1,756.20.

*Van Buren District Library-* Bruce Cutting

January meeting was canceled due to weather. In February they approved their audit. There was conversation with Dan regarding expansion of the Sunshine branch.

*Sunshine Branch Library-* Bonnie Osborne

The library hosted 12 programs last month with a total of 200 attendees. The summer reading program will begin May 28<sup>th</sup> and end August 27, 2019.

*Lawton Fire Department-* Bruce Cutting

Short meeting, paid bills. Bruce and Joe met early with the new chief to help rearrange the budget.

*Paw Paw Fire Department-*Dan Ruzick

The department has decided to go with the firm from Chicago. Waverly was the only Township not to respond whether they wanted to go ahead with the firm.

*Mattawan Fire Department* Bonnie Osborne

Air packs will be here soon. The department is still working on job descriptions. Discussion on merger of fire and QR.

*Mattawan Quick Response* Bonnie Osborne

Discussion on the merger with the fire department.

*Cemeteries* Chantel Reyna

One burial in January.

*Planning Commission* Gary Stock

Planning Commission plans to present their recommendation on recreational and medical marihuana. Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals* Gary Stock

No meeting.

Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

**Public Comment:**

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$96,776.23.

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

Roll Call Vote: Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna