

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 11th, 2020

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, Gary Stock- Trustee, Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Also, Present: Eleven guests

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve agenda with the additions of item F. March hearing date for Mattawan Fire and Mattawan QR merger and item G. Trail way plan. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

- Honorable David DiStefano- *Van Buren County Probate Court & Circuit Court Civil Judge*
Judge DiStefano provided court information to the Board. Current happenings within the court include:

1. 4 of the 5 judges are new since 2012
2. Video conferencing has increased which increases safety throughout the courts. There are now audio/video recording systems in all courtrooms.
3. The courts have brought in \$780,817 in state grants.
4. There are 6 drug treatment court programs currently offered.
5. There are 3 new programs within the courts.
6. New increased communication for jury service

- Paul Schincariol - *Van Buren County Commissioner*

Commissioner Schincariol presented his report from the County.

1. The county has hired a full-time veterans service officer.
2. Goals for 2020 include obtaining financial stability and future planning.
3. There are preliminary talks of a new millage to be placed on the November ballot to help with safety issues within the jail and court.
4. Paul will leave paperwork pertaining to the 2020 census.

- Deputy Paul Graham- *Van Buren County Sherriff Department*

Deputy Graham provided a brief report of the 68 calls received during the month of January.

- Geoff Moffat - *Van Buren County Road Commissioner*

Geoff Moffat provided a report from the VBCRC.

1. Road work along C.R. 653 from Red Arrow to I-94 will be complete by November 1, 2020. This work includes drainage and widening.
2. Red Arrow from 26th to 28th road work will be done in phases.
3. Dan Bishop had a meeting with Commissioners to discuss concerns and goals moving forward.
4. Review and initiation of an asset management plan will be adopted for 2020-2021.
5. Approximately \$375,000 was given back to the state due to lack of preparation for road projects under the previous administration.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to approve previous minutes from January 14th, 2020 Regular Township Board Meeting with one change. The amount reported in general fund was entered in error. Clerk Reyna acknowledged the clerical error and has updated the minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

A. Site Plan/Special Use by Triple P LLC; 62422 M-40 Highway Lawton (Parcel# 80-02-020-022-02).

Planning Commission recommends approval with two conditions.

1. Stripe one accessible space and include signage.
2. Confirm commercial driveway compliance with MDOT standards prior to the dual use of the property (if both Triple P and Lynn Transportation operate at the same time).

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve Site plan/special land use for parcel #80-02-020-022-02 with the conditions provided by the Planning Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Pending Business:

A. Wage and Benefit Committee

The committee met with Mary and came away from the meeting thinking that they could benefit from her services. Mary had previously provided some figures that after their meeting she thought would increase some. The committee was very impressed with the lay out of the committees needs and where they want to be.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to hire Miller Johnson to assist in various employment plan issues. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

B. Long Grove Subdivision

Wightman and Associates have provided a feasible study for the ongoing water issues within Long Grove subdivision. There were three potential improvements proposed.

1. Addition of controlled outlet structure at the Maplewood Farms pond. This would allow for increased storage to be utilized within the pond prior to the release of storm water to the wetland area.
2. Construction of a berm (and likely orifice pipe) at the westerly outlet of the wetland area.
3. Increase the capacity of the Long Grove pond by expanding towards the west. This will require property acquisition from the existing property owner. In addition, raise the elevation of the 18" outlet pipe located in the northwest corner of the Long Grove pond and potentially install and orifice to better control the volume of storm water released to the southerly ditch line along Red Arrow Highway.

Wightman will continue to study possible solutions and report back with costs and cost sharing options with Kalamazoo County.

New Business:

A. Antwerp Township/Almena Township Fire agreement

The contract is still being negotiated amongst the Townships. There will be no interruption of service while the contract is negotiated.

B. Bestway Contract transfer station

Supervisor Ruzick has requested Van Buren County Conservation District to assign Antwerp Township as a tire collection location. The request has not been granted to date. Bestway Disposal provided a quote to provide one 40-yard tire recycling container in the amount of \$1200 per empty. The container will hold approximately 350-400 tires. This price includes all taxes, fees, and surcharges.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to accept the quote as presented with placing a 6-passenger tire limit per resident. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

C. Clarification for policy on Transfer Station card taxpayer/renter

Transfer Station cards have been mailed to residents who take advantage of the recycling offered. We have had several questions pertaining to "WHO" qualifies for the card. Currently the policy states Taxpayers but

the Board is thinking the policy should be changed to state that residents as well as taxpayers are able to utilize the Transfer Station.

Motion by Reyna, second by Stock to change the policy to state that residents as well as taxpayers are eligible to receive a transfer station card. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

D. Winter Hours for Antwerp Township

For the past year, Clerk Reyna has been tracking the amount of traffic coming to the office on Tuesday from 5:00 -6:00 pm. There has been 10 or less residents within the year conducting business during that time frame.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to change the hours to Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm and from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Tuesday by appointment only, starting the first week of April 2020. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

E. Antwerp Township 2020-2021 Road Project estimates

The Township has received bids for several projects with totals being \$806,968 with one option for Valleyview Subdivision or \$1,110,412 with option 2 for Valleyview subdivision. After discussion, it was thought that the Township could agree to the projects with no option for Valleyview until the 2021 fiscal year. Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to accept the bids as proposed with putting Valleyview off until 2021. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

F. Mattawan Fire/QR merger

Township attorney has provided a timeline in which things should happen during this process. The first step would be to adopt a resolution of intent to proceed with the SAD.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adopt Resolution No. 1 with intent to proceed with the merger. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Osborne-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

After adoption of Resolution No 1 the Board will need to set a public hearing date on the question of establishing the special assessment district.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to set the public hearing for the merger of the Mattawan fire department and Mattawan QR with the date of March 12, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

G. Trail way plan

Wightman and Associates provided a project and milestone summary for the trail way plan. Sam from Wightman attended the Planning Commission meeting to provide a timeline for a project like this. It is a very slow-moving process. The Board would like Wightman to begin preliminary engineering.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to authorize Wightman and Associates to begin the preliminary phases of the engineering process. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- Van Buren County Road Commission weekly updates
- KCHHW 4th quarter report for 2019

Announcements:

- None
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Reports:

Attorney
None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne
\$102,321.44 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 46 permits for January including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$9,998.00.
Almena: 7 permits for January including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$1,518.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
No report

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
The library held 13 programs with 562 attendees.

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
There will be a budget workshop hearing at the March meeting.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick
Short meeting. Authorized Dan Ruzick as a check signer on the account.

Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne
Paid bills. Firemen will be attending FDIC

Mattawan Quick Response - Bonnie Osborne
Paid bills.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
Two burials in January

Planning Commission - Gary Stock
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Gary Stock
No meeting.
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Public Comment:

Resident loves the idea of the tire disposal in the Township. He currently has people throw tires on his property and feels it would be most beneficial in the spring as tires can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Resident questioned the number of nonprofit properties we currently have in the Township. He has concerns that these properties are getting the same services he is getting but he is being taxed on the services. There was discussion on why nonprofits are exempt from property tax.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$37,222.71

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to accept bills for payment. Roll Call Vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna