

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, August 11th, 2020

Supervisor Ruzick called the 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: six guests

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

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve previous minutes from July 14th, 2020 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

- Paul Schincariol – *Van Buren County Commissioner*
Commissioner Schincariol provided a brief of update.
 1. The County is in support of Marcon Ventures renovations on the corner of Red Arrow and 24th Street in Mattawan.
 2. MDOT is working on a plan to renovate the bridge crossing at I-94 on exit 60. Most likely the exit will be like exit 66 within the next 5 years.
 3. The counties website will be modernized soon.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

None

Old Business:

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal beginning September 2020**
The wage and benefit committee are recommending no changes to the policy currently, therefore recommending renewal beginning September 1, 2020.

- **Almena/Antwerp Fire/Medical contract**
Supervisor Ruzick has presented a contract calculating payment for services based off taxable value x 1.4 mills that Antwerp residents are currently paying to determine payment. Almena has sent a contract calculating payment from a fire payment formula which uses different factors to determine payment. Almena representative Kelly Redmond explained why Almena thinks using the fire formula is the best contract. There was discussion pertaining to both contracts presented.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to sign contract submitted using the L4022 to determine taxable value x 1.4 mills for the current year. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

New Business:

A. Treasurer request late fee waiver policy

Treasurer Osborne has requested a waiver for tax payments over or under \$3.00 for two years (2020-2021) like the waiver has been set in the past.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve the requested list of financial institutions for Antwerp Township. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

B. Mattawan Fire Grant application request

Mattawan Fire Chief addressed the board with a grant application that the department had submitted for First Responder Hazard pay program. The department currently is not paid but the grant application was still submitted. The Township Board offered support in the submission of the application.

C. Karol Chopp Senior Service Program Administrator

Karol was hired on a 90-day trial period after the resignation of the previous Administrator. Karol has proven that she is able to complete all duties required of this position. The wage and benefit committee recommends a full-time position for Karol at the same rate she was temporarily hired in at which would make her eligible for full time employee benefits.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to hire Karol Chopp as a full-time employee at 40 hours a week with the option to take employee benefits offered to full time employees. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

D. Consumers right of way request Red Arrow

Wightman and Associates has contacted the landowner of the property and they are not willing to sell for the Township to increase the water retention area. Consumers energy is requesting payment for the easement to be granted.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to have Supervisor Ruzick continue communication with Consumers with a request of a life lease on the property to help with the drainage issues in Long Grove. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

E. Zoning text amendments - Solar

Planning Commission discussed the amendments and it was recommended that the amendment address the following sections and topics:

- Section 2.10. Adds definitions related to solar energy.
- Table 5-1 and 6-1. Adds accessory and commercial solar energy systems to the Tables of Uses and regulates location by Zoning District.
- Section 9.42. Amends existing regulations concerning accessory non-commercial solar energy systems.
 - a. Allows backyard systems by-right, rather than as special land uses.
 - b. Allows off-site, front yard, and side yard systems as special land uses (new).
- Section 9.52. Adds a new Section 9.52 to include specific regulations concerning commercial solar energy systems as special land uses.

Motion by Stock, second by Reyna to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation on the amendments of the zoning for solar. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

F. Long Grove change order tree stump removal in drainage area

Aleksich Excavating submitted a change order on previously approved bid to remove four stumps that are in the drainage area causing additional issues. The change order is in the amount of an additional \$1000.00.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the change order in the amount of \$1000 to remove the four stumps in the drainage area. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

G. Long Grove Tree Removal

Two bids were received for stump removal in the drainage area in Long Grove subdivision. The first bid was from K&H Tree Service in the amount of \$3500 which included removal of all limbs, wood, and debris. The stump would be mechanically ground 6-8" below the surface. The second bid was from J.C. and Sons in the amount of \$1600 which included tree removal, wood removal and chip brushing.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to award the bid to J.C. and Sons with the addition of stump grinding not to exceed a total of \$2100.00. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

H. Valley View subdivision paving

Van Buren County Road Commission provided a project program sheet in the amount of \$283,970.00 to mill out existing asphalt and repave base and top course (2' each). There is approximately 7,000' x 21' and two cul-de-sacs that will be repaved.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to accept the project program sheet in the amount of \$283,970.00. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

I. Van Buren County Road Commission proposal for brush in road right of way

Van Buren County Road Commission provided a project program sheet in the amount of \$3200.00 for boom mowing in the road right of way in three areas within the Township.

1. 29 1/2 Street from Red Arrow Highway to 48th Ave.
2. 33rd Street from Red Arrow Highway to Township line.
3. Ewing Road from Village of Lawton limits west to Township line.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to accept the project program sheet in the amount of \$3200.00 for boom mowing in the Township. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

J. Van Buren County Interlocal agreement for designated Assessor

Van Buren County prepared an agreement for a designated Assessor. All Townships are being presented the same agreement as protection to the jurisdiction in the event our contract would be terminated with the current Assessor.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to accept and sign the interlocal agreement for a designated Assessor. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

K. Lawn Perfect amended contract to include new section in Harwick Cemetery

Lawn Perfect provided an updated contract to include the lawn maintenance of the new section of Harwick Cemetery. The cost is \$95 to include the new section.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to accept the amended contract with the increase of \$95 to include the new section of Harwick Cemetery. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

L. Cemetery booklet update

Effective July 1, 2020 the prices for cemetery plots and services have increased. The current booklet reflects outdated pricing as well as information that is no longer correct. Maple Grove cemetery is full and there are no longer graves available for purchase there. The revised booklet would remove Maple Grove as an available cemetery and focus on the graves only available at Harwick. The new booklet would also reflect the new pricing for graves and grave openings. The new booklet would also include a change made to item number 12. No headstone marker shall be placed until a burial has occurred.

Correspondence:

- Van Buren County Road Commission weekly updates. HHW 1st and 2nd quarter 2020, VBC Commissioners update

Announcements:

- September 8th, 2020 meeting will begin at 6:15 pm

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$110,418.55 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp:33 permits in the month of July including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$6,994.00

Almena: 19 permits in the month of July including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$4,070.00

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Member of the Board passed away. Board is looking for new member. Paid bills.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

Summer reading program with end on August 15th, 2020.

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

Short meeting. Paid bills.

*Paw Paw Fire Department -*Dan Ruzick

Paw Paw Fire received over payment from Almena Township while Antwerp Township received underpayment from Almena. Almena is aware of error and will send check to pay remaining balance owed.

Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne

Bylaws were approved for Mattawan Fire.

Mattawan Quick Response - Bonnie Osborne

Mattawan QR is receiving money from VBEMS as well as Almena Township which needs to be reflected in the budget.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna

Two burials.

Planning Commission - Gary Stock

Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Gary Stock

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Public Comment:

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services to pay bills in the amount of \$397,932.93

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve bills in the amount of \$397,932.93. 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 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna