

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 3rd, 2020

Supervisor Ruzick called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm.

- Mattawan Fire Department: with the merger of Mattawan Quick Response 1.5 mills for an estimated \$410,000.00 for 2020 tax year.
- Lawton Fire Department: 1.4 mills for an estimated \$130,984.18 for the 2020 tax year.
- Paw Paw Fire Department: 1.4 mills for an estimated \$73,282.88 for the 2020 tax year.

Public Hearing closed at 6:37 pm.

Supervisor Ruzick called the board meeting to order at 6:40 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: Eight guests

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to approve the agenda with the addition of order by Township at 29579 64th Ave. Lawton, MI 49065. And under old business, wage, and benefit committee discussion. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

- Resident- Summer Wilkey Ransom briefly introduced herself in regarding to 29579 64th Ave.

Dale Kreh and neighbors in Territorial Creek Estates

- Residents of Territorial spoke about their concerns regarding the lawn at 22148 Wynsmythe Dr. Mattawan, MI 49071. The residents that spoke had concerns about tall grass, weeds, other invasive weeds in the yard as well as property values throughout the neighborhood. It was suggested by Supervisor Ruzick that the residents consider establishing a Homeowners Association with restrictions pertaining to lawn management. The Township has issued zoning violations in the past, with success in compliance. It was suggested that Deputy Graham from VBC Sheriff's Department have a conversation with the property owner regarding the neighbor's concerns.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve previous minutes from August 11th, 2020 Regular Township Board Meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

A. Land Divisions and Subdivision Ordinance Amendments.

Planning Enabling Act does not require the Planning Commission to recommend change to the Land Division and Subdivision Ordinance. The Township Board could act without a formal Planning Commission recommendation. There are five changes being considered.

1. Sections 1-2. Changes to survey requirements for land divisions and boundary line adjustments (elimination of the "iron set" survey requirement).
2. Section 3.

- Clarification of the method to measure lot depth and with when reviewing depth to width ratio compliance.
- Deletion of depth to with ratio exemption up to six to one for combinations and boundary line adjustments.
- Deletion of reference to Zoning Board of Appeals consideration of depth to width ratio variances.
- Clarification that the four to one ratio does not apply to “resulting lots or parcels which are 10 acres or greater.”

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve Land Divisions and Subdivision ordinance amendments. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries

B. Agriculture Tourism Ordinance amendments

Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow and regulate agricultural tourism. The hearing was held on August 5, 2020 and one resident spoke in favor of the proposed changes. The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to recommend the text amendments, and the Van Buren County Planning Commission concurred with the recommendation unanimously.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation for text amendments to the Agricultura Tourism Ordinance. Motion carries.

Old Business:

A. Wage and Benefit Update

1. The committee met with a representative from Miller Johnson regarding the retiree policy The Committee is requesting approval to move forward on working with Miller Johnson after information is gathered from Watkins Ross. Board consensus is to continue work with Miller Johnson.
2. Deputy Clerk Stiffler has questions regarding the pregnancy policy at the Township. Per the handbook, a pregnancy would be handled as a FMLA matter.

New Business:

A. Lawton Fire Special Assessment

Public Hearing held at 6:00 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2020 tax year for an estimated \$130,984.18 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve 1.4000 mills for the Lawton Fire Special Assessment. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

B. Paw Paw Fire Special Assessment

Public Hearing held at 6:00 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2020 tax year for an estimated \$73,282.88 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve 1.4000 mills for Paw Paw Fire Special Assessment. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

C. Mattawan Fire Special Assessment

Public Hearing held at 6:00 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2019 tax year for an estimated \$410,000 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve 1.5000 mills for the Mattawan Fire and Mattawan Quick Response Special Assessment. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

D. Almena/Antwerp Township Contract

After discussion, it was determined that Supervisor Ruzick would reaffirm the five yar contract at 1.4 mills on taxable value that is determined by the Township Assessor.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting. Roll call vote: Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

E. Harwick Cemetery proposal installing monumentation

Wightman and Associates provided a bid for additional markers for monuments to be placed in Harwick Cemetery's expansion for grave direction. The cost to add the markers would be in the amount of \$3315.00 versus the original \$2500 without the additional markers.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stoc to accept the bid for the additional markers. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

F. Election purchase of additional tabulator

Clerk Reyna addressed the Board with concerns regarding the upcoming General Election and the number of absentee ballots that the Township would receive. Previously the Absentee Counting Board has had 1688 absentee ballots as the most ever counted. The Absentee Board is anticipating over 3000 ballots in the November election and is requesting an additional tabulator to be able to count all ballots on election day.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approval Clerk Reyna's request for an additional tabulator. Roll call vote: Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

G. Order by Township for demolition and removal at 29579 64th Ave. Lawton, MI 49065

The property owner was given notice that by May 26, 2020 the structure and all debris needed to be removed from the property and the parcel. The property owner attended the meeting to state her case. She traveled South to obtain documents needed to record property transfer and get signatures needed for permits. After discussion, the board agreed to extend the date for permits and work to be done to September 30th.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to grant the additional time requested extending the date to September 30th for permits and progress to be made at the property. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-ye, Stock-ye, Ruzick-ye, Reyna-yea. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- VBCRC weekly updates
- VBCRC annual report
- Paw Paw fire annual report
- Hazardous waste 1st and 2nd quarter report
- VBC Conservation district monthly update

Announcements:

- None

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$215,258.63 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 35permits for August including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$5,645.00.

Almena: 27 permits for July including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,230.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

The Board is currently working on items including new board member and reviewing bids for the remodeling project.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
No Report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. Paid the bills.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick
Short Meeting

Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne
Merger discussion. Four new members, 2 new cadets.

Mattawan Quick Response - Bonnie Osborne
Paid bills

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
Two burials in August.

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:

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$359,395.63

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna