

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 9th, 2021

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor (attending from Antwerp Township Hall), Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer (attending from Antwerp Township Hall), Chantel Reyna-Clerk (attending from residence in Antwerp Township), Gary Stock- Trustee (attending from residence in Antwerp Township), Bruce Cutting-Trustee (attending from office in the Village of Paw Paw)

Board Members Absent:

Also Present: Two guests

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of item E. zoning text amendment to allow and regulate accessory dwelling units. And item F. Four-year election agreement with school districts in the Township. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Stock-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve previous minutes from January 11th, 2021 Regular Township Board Meeting. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

1. A county wide land bank has been approved. \$5,500 was used from the general fund to seed the land. Moving forward it will be self-sustaining.
2. 5 single and 2 double arraignment rooms have been created that are self-contained creating privacy and safety within the courthouse.
3. Van Buren County Road Commissioner submitted his resignation to become the Treasurer of Almena Township. The vacancy created at the Road Commission was filled by Todd Hackenberg.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

None

New Business:

A. Antwerp Township and Mattawan Fire update

Mattawan fire and the Township have been working with the Township attorney to complete the merger of the fire department with the quick response department. Unbeknownst to the Township, Mattawan fire obtained their own legal counsel and established an EIN and a 501(c)3. The Township attorney is working with the fire department attorney to negotiate the split of the fire department from the Township and to merge the fire and quick response. Supervisor Ruzick will work the Township attorney regarding this issue and report back to the Township Board.

B. Transfer Station update with Nu-Wool paper.

The Township is working with Nu-Wool to come to an agreement on recycling paper at the transfer station. Supervisor Ruzick will work with Nu-Wool to get a proposal for service and report back to the Township Board.

C. Antwerp Township 2021-2022 road project estimates

Road Commission provided an estimate of projects for the upcoming year. The Township Board will prioritize the projects for Supervisor Ruzick to discuss with the Road Commission.

D. Vik Bawa letter dated 1-25-2021 requesting recreational marihuana in the Township.

The Township received a letter regarding parcels located in Derhammer parkway to be used for recreational marihuana. In 2019 the Township voted to opt in to medical marihuana and ordinances were established. The Township also voted to opt out of recreational marihuana at that time. Mr. Bawa is requesting that the Township reconsider their decision to opt out of recreational. The Township Board agreed to open the discussion on recreational marihuana in the Township. We will work with our zoning and planning administrator as well at the Township attorney to gather more information about his request.

E. Zoning text amendment to allow and regulate accessory dwelling units.

Planning Commission has been working with residents regarding the usage of accessory dwelling units and feels the zoning ordinance should be amended.

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock to amend the current zoning ordinance pertaining to accessory dwelling units. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

F. Four-year election agreement with school districts within Township.

Clerk Reyna attended meetings to renew our current four-year contracts with the school districts in the Township. The contracts spell out the responsibilities of each party involved when a school election takes place. The contract begins January 2021 and ends December 2024.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to authorize Clerk Reyna to sign the four-year contract. Roll call vote; Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- KCHHW 4th quarter report
- Geoff Moffat resignation letter dated 1/12/2021.
- VBCRC weekly updates

Announcements:

- None

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$173,105.43 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 23 permits for January including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$8,096.00.

Almena: 5 permits for January including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$886.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Short Meeting. Paid bills. Officers for upcoming year were elected.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
No Report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. Paid the bills. Budget work was done to move capital outlay dollars around.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick
Short Meeting. Paid bills.

Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne
Applied for a grant. 1 new member.

Mattawan Quick Response - Bonnie Osborne
No report

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
One burial 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:

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$158,946.05.

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna