

MINUTES FROM THE
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE/WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday June 15th, 2021

Trustee Stock called the board meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Introduction by Gary Stock

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 Antwerp Township Hall), Gary Stock- Trustee (attending from residence in Antwerp Township), Bruce Cutting (attending from residence in Antwerp Township).

Board Members Absent:

Also Present: Six guests

A. Questions by Mattawan Fire and Quick Response

Attorney Kaufman opened with an explanation of the importance of having the fire and QR combined with the Township. It was determined that we would move to discussion and answer questions from the fire and quick response if they were not answered within the discussion.

B. Discussion

Attorney Kaufman asked questions pertaining to the current operation of the fire department. Questions include:

- How is the budget reviewed and approved? The Township Board reviews and approves at the yearly budget hearing held in June of each year.
- Who provides insurance to the fire and quick response departments? Both departments are currently on the Townships insurance policy.
- How are the bills paid? The Township Board approves bills each month to be paid.

After discussion, attorney Kaufman stated that she does not think an Advisory Board is needed. She suggested that we continue to have a Township Board representative attend monthly meeting and suggested that the Fire Board send their monthly meeting minutes to the Township Board. It was recommended that the Fire Board meet with the Township Board quarterly to review capital expenditures, personal policies, and any other business that needs to be discussed.

Chief Brooks asked if a line item should be added to the Fire Board agenda to give the Township Board representative the opportunity to talk. Attorney Kaufman said yes.

Supervisor Ruzick is suggesting that going forward, procedures such as budget, HR, and accounting should be handled by an advisory board. Chief Brooks will provide the Township Board with the current bylaws, SOP's, and policies that are in place.

Trustee Cutting feels at this time the most important issue is to complete the steps to establish governmental immunity for the fire and quick response departments and that the ordinance language can be worked out in the future. The Township Board, attorney and Fire Chief all concur.

Fire attorney Phillip Reed stated that the fire department obtained a 501(c)(3) to provide some sort of protection until the merger could take place. The department will continue to use that status for fundraising and other events.

Attorney Kaufman suggested that a resolution be created stating the intentions of both the Township Board as well as the Fire and Quick Response departments as step one of this process. The Township Board will work the attorney Kaufman to draft a resolution for approval.

C. Set next meeting date.

At this time, it is not necessary to set another meeting.

The Board went through the questions presented from the fire members. It was determined that all questions had been answered during the discussion portion of this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna