

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 12, 2022

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, Gary Stock-Trustee, Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Board Members Absent: Chantel-Reyna-Clerk. Mr. Stock will record minutes.

Also Present: six guests

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted, with the addition of item M. Confessco proposal, and item N. MTA invoice. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Deputy Tarnier – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

Deputy Tarnier stated there were 70 calls for service in the Township last month. Discussion ensued about whether to permit blight material to be discarded at the Township Transfer Station at no charge. This has helped cleanup in other townships. Permission might be useful to specific landowners where blight is an issue, and would be granted only at an Ordinance Enforcement Officer's discretion.

Rick Reo – Superintendent, Paw Paw Public Schools

Mr. Reo thanked voters for supporting the recent millage, and the Township for providing a public forum the previous month.

Van Buren Conservation District – Kalli Marshall

- Events to allow recycling of Styrofoam are planned for 2022.
- Tire and electronic pick up on September 8 at Village of Lawton Department of Public Works.
- Annual Meeting will be held on July 27th.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of New Business item M. Confessco Proposal, and Item N. MTA invoice. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of previous minutes from the Township Budget Hearing June 7, 2022, and Township Board meeting May 10, 2022.

Minutes of the Township Budget Hearing of June 7, 2022 were not immediately available. Their approval will appear on next month's agenda.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne to approve the minutes for the Township Board meeting on May 10, 2022 as submitted. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

A. Stull Special Land Use

Donald and Rhonda Stull requested a change from a non-residential building (Paw Paw Inn) to a single-family dwelling at 33033 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw, MI 49079 (Parcel 80-02-007-068-11).

Township Planner David Jirousek waived site plan approval, as no relevant changes were proposed.

Planning Commission recommends approval as set forth in a June 2, 2022 memo from Horizon Community Planning.

Motion by Stock, second by Cutting to approve the request as recommended. All in favor. Motion carries.

B. Baker Special Land Use and Site Plan Amendment

Bosch Architecture requested Special Land Use and Site Plan Amendment on behalf of Independent Baker Properties, LLC, for a drive-through service window and lane for the proposed Paw Paw Veterinary Clinic at 31690 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw, MI 49079 (Parcel 80-02-008-003-20).

Planning Commission previously reviewed and recommended site plan approval without drive-through service. A recent ordinance update permits a drive-through window, which is the only change. Planning Commission recommends approval as set forth in a June 2, 2022 memo from Horizon Community Planning.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the request as recommended. All in favor. Motion carries.

C. Morga Special Land Use and Site Plan Amendment

Brian Morga of Mattawan Landscape Supply requested Special Land Use and Site Plan Approval for expansion of a landscape supply business with outdoor storage and sales at 26333 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw, MI 49079 (Parcel 80-02-003-023-22).

Mr. Morga previously received Special Land Use approval, but did not recognize that site plan approval was required before making changes. After work was completed, the Township notified Mr. Morga of that requirement, and he provided drawings to reflect as-built conditions. This approval is for the site as-built.

Planning Commission recommends approval as set forth in a June 2, 2022 memo from Horizon Community Planning.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the request as recommended. All in favor. Motion carries.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Rural Electronics Grant - Kalli Marshall Van Buren County Conservation District

Antwerp Township intends to maintain its contract with Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste, but could reduce that expenditure by accepting some items here in the Township. The State of Michigan offers grants that could be used to develop a collection site for electronics, at least. Kalli Marshall of VBCD drafted a grant proposal for \$20,000, with a required 20% or \$4,000 match from Antwerp Township. Transfer Station grounds could be adapted for this use. The grant deadline, however, is July 2, 2022. It may not be practical to plan effectively for design, storage, and operation soon enough to accept funds during this grant cycle.

Motion by Osborne, support by Stock to submit the grant application as written, and to gather information to determine later (if funds are granted) whether to accept funding during this grant cycle. Roll call vote, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

B. Trailway Public meeting with Easement holders

Progress on the proposed Antwerp Township Trailway near I-94 will oblige negotiation with at least ten property owners. Half are individuals, and half are corporate entities, all of whom will appreciate clear communication about the proposal. The Township will hold an event on Tuesday, July 28, 2022 to discuss and answer questions about the Trailway plan. It will be open to the public, and the Township will send written invitations to these landowners to encourage especially their attendance.

C. Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Proposal

The proposal arrived early enough to allow for review by the Wage and Benefit / Compensation Committee. Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to table action pending Committee review and recommendation. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

D. Antwerp Township 2022-23 Budget

A public hearing on the 2022-2023 Township budget was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Budget highlights appear in the minutes of that meeting.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne, to approve the budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year as presented. Roll Call vote: Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries

E. Fee Schedule and Permit Fee Schedule 2022-23

Supervisor Ruzick presented proposed changes to various Township fees and permits.

- No changes to general Fee Structure.
- Increase one grave cost from \$700 to \$800; four graves from \$2,400 to \$2,500.
- Update building valuation terms 2009 to 2013 State rates (see full rate sheet for details).
- Increase Electrical Permit base fee from \$55 to \$65. Plumbing permit, no change.
- Increase Mechanical additional inspection fee from \$50 to \$60.
- Remodel or addition will no longer be a set fee; both will be calculated using valuation terms.
- Inground pool inspection now will occur after either a fence OR operable cover is installed.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne, to approve changes as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

F. Board Appointments

Motion by Osborne, second by Stock, to appoint Chris Gendron to the Mattawan Fire Board for a term ending June 30, 2025. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Stock, second by Osborne, to appoint Douglas Cultra to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending June 30, 2025. All voted in favor. Motion carries

G. Resolution to impose Property Tax Administrative Fee 1%

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve the administrative fee recommended by the Township Treasurer. All voted in favor. Motion carries

H. Proposal by Siegfried Crandall PC for audit year ended June 30,2022

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to accept the proposal by Siegfried Crandall PC, and retain the firm to perform the audit for a fee not to exceed \$9,600. Roll call vote: Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

I. Maple Grove Cemetery water lines

Water service within Maple Grove Cemetery is becoming unreliable. The cost to replace the wellhouse may approach \$7,000. Underground line replacement may cost an additional \$5,200, but trenching poses a risk of damage to graves. That risk may lead to significant liability and associated costs. A single water source

would still serve cemetery visitors, while avoiding costs and risks of trenching. Supervisor Ruzick will pursue estimates to replace the central wellhouse, but not the underground lines.

J. Proposal for gravel at Transfer Station

Recent grading on the south side of the Transfer Station revealed some areas of softer soil. Gravel is needed to maintain the surface. Bids were opened from Ray Owsiany (four loads of 22A gravel, spread in place, for \$1,450) and from Aleksich Excavating (six loads of stabilized gravel, spread in place, for \$1,000).

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne, to accept the bid by Aleksich Excavating. Roll call vote, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

K. Proposal for Dust Control 72nd Ave Lawton

VBCRC suggested that Antwerp Township apply dust control to the gravel surface of 72nd Avenue (south and west of Village of Lawton). VBCRC also mentioned vegetation control. Although 72nd Avenue serves only one Antwerp Township resident (Mr. Miller), and several on the south side (Porter Township), this segment is Antwerp Township's responsibility. Certain vendors are approved (and some are not) to provide these services. Southwest Michigan Dust Control proposed providing a single brine application for \$800.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the Southwest Michigan Dust Control proposal. Roll call vote, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes. Motion carries.

Supervisor Ruzick will investigate costs for selective trimming of branches encroaching on 72nd Avenue.

L. Proposal BHS Insurance

Workers Compensation premiums from Accident Fund would have increased significantly. Much better pricing (subject to audit) is included from Michigan Counties "Comp 1." Estimated replacement value for the Senior Center increased from less than one million dollars to over \$1.3MM. Overall, premiums will increase from \$22,130 to \$24,693, plus Comp 1 Workers Compensation premiums (subject to audit) of \$3,038.19.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve the BHS Insurance proposal. Roll call vote, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

M. Confessco proposal

Recently, monitoring equipment in the Senior Center has reported false alarms. Confessco proposed updating the alarm panel with a 4G/5G component, without advising that 5G service may not be available. In 2019, Confessco installed the current 3G/4G component, without advising that 3G service would soon end. 4G remains the only known service here. A new wired connection to the Senior Center could become primary, making 4G secondary. Supervisor Ruzick inquired with CTS about costs to install and manage a wired connection. The Township is awaiting their response.

N. MTA invoice

Although Antwerp Township is not a member of Michigan Townships Association, MTA recently sent an invoice for annual membership. This may have been triggered by a recent communication with MTA, but Antwerp Township did not ask or agree, and is not inclined, to become an MTA member.

Correspondence:

Letter from Almena Township regarding Silver Oaks II paving.

Announcements:

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne
\$242,723.65 in the general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna
Antwerp: 49 permits for May including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$7,367.00.
Almena: 33 permits for May including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,273.00.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
Molly Wunderlich is the new Library Director. Residents of Kalamazoo County have asked why they do not have library privileges in the Van Buren District. This is due to past decisions among the districts. Residents of Texas Township, for example, should inquire with Texas Township about those services and decisions.

Lawton Fire Department - Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. Paid the bills. Last Sunday, many gathered for a memorial service to Bill Cronenwett, Sr. All local departments were represented in a well deserved tribute to his long service.

Mattawan Fire Department - Scott Brooks / Bonnie Osborne
Short meeting. Paid the bills. A total of 64 calls occurred during May.

Paw Paw Fire Department - Dan Ruzick
Paid the bills. There is significant progress on the new building.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
Two burials.

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

Zoning Board of Appeals - Gary Stock
No meeting. Supervisor Ruzick invited applicants for the recent ZBA vacancy. So far there have been none.

Public Comment:
None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills to be paid.

Motion by Cutting, second by Stock to approve bills to be paid in the amount of \$656,545.33. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Stock-yes, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Stock