

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, October 8th, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Phil Tarchala-Trustee, Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Also, Present: 9 guests

Supervisor Ruzick called the Fox Creek Street Light Special Assessment District hearing to order.

- There were four residents of three residences in attendance. Two residents of Fox Creek were in full support of the streetlights where the other two residents who reside in the same household were not in favor of the streetlights. Supervisor Ruzick stated that the Township had no control of establishing this District and that the petition that was circulated had 34 signatures of the 54 lots within the neighborhood.

Supervisor Ruzick closed the hearing at 6:48pm.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of item D. Resolution for adjustment of July and December Board of Review dates. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Wayne Nelson – Van Buren County Road Commissioner

- Summer construction is done.
- Major construction projects are done for the year.
- Annual Employee Appreciation Day coming up
- Supervisor Ruzick stated that the Township would like our fog seal to be completed in a timely manner. This matter has been addressed with the managing director.

Deputy Scotty Borah – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 113 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of September.

Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Chief

- 65 calls in the month of September
- Hurricane relief trailer is filling up

Leigh Schincariol – Luc’s Light – No report

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

- A. **Zoning amendment for 80-02-009-005-70, 28201 Red Arrow Hwy, Paw Paw. Previously approved at September 2024 meeting but did not make the publication deadline.**

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to reapprove the request for rezoning from Rural Estate Residential (R-1) and Commercial Corridor Overlay (CO) to General Commercial (GC) for parcel #80-02-009-005-70. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Antwerp Township early tabulation of AV ballots**

Clerk Reyna stated that the AVCB would be processing AV ballots on Sunday November 3, 2024.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to authorize the AVCB to preprocess and tabulate absentee ballots on Sunday November 3, 2024. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**B. Antwerp Township Senior Service addition**

Wightman submitted a proposal in the amount of \$2000.00 for a new rendering of an addition for the Senior Services building. After discussion, the Board decided not to approve the request and have a commercial kitchen company come look at the current building.

**C. Planning Commission make up 5 or 7 members**

Currently the Planning Commission is made up of 7 members. As of today, there are 6 members with one that will be resigning at the end of the year. The Township Board has advertised the position over the last year with little to no response. It was proposed to change the make up to a 5-member board after the first of the year. There was resistance from the Planning Commission on doing that. The Board decided that March 1, 2025 would be the deadline to appoint new members or the Board would go down to a 5-member board.

**D. Resolution to adjust July and December Board of Review dates**

Assessor Brousseau provided a Resolution to be adopted to adjust Board of Review dates if needed.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adopt the Resolution to adjust Board of Review dates if needed. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:** VBCRC weekly updates, VBCRC annual report, Paw Paw fire audit 2023

**Announcements:**

**Reports:**

*Attorney*  
None

*Treasurer-* Bonnie Osborne  
\$199,552.84 in general fund

*Building Activity-* Chantel Reyna  
Antwerp: 40 permits for September including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$8,306.00.  
Almena: 25 permits for September including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,152.00.

*Van Buren District Library-* Bruce Cutting  
Compensation adjustments have been made. Still working on one.

10/08/2024

*Sunshine Branch Library*- Bonnie Osborne  
Family night will be held October 9, 2024.

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

*Paw Paw Fire Department* -Daniel Ruzick  
Annual meeting

*Mattawan Fire Department* – Bonnie Osborne  
Report given from Chief Brooks

*Cemeteries* – Chantel Reyna  
Zero burials

*Planning Commission* -  
Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals* -  
Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

**Public Comment:**

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$126,179.59

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to pay the bills in the amount of \$126,179.59. Roll call vote; Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna