

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 12th, 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, Bruce Cutting-Trustee, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Phil Tarchala-Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Also Present: Ten guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of item C. Wightman Proposal. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Deputy Scotty Borah – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 82 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of February.

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Veterans Service social will be held March 28th, 2024 from 6 pm – 8 pm.
- Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy will host an event at the Silo in Allegan on April 19, 2024.
- Market Van Buren will host a municipal summit on March 19, 2024 from 9 am – 2:30 pm at Southwest Michigan College.
- There are bonds up for renewal within the County. 911 millage, road millage, Veterans millage, and public transit millage.
- Lisa Phillips was reappointed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to approve previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on February 13th, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

- A. Special Land Use and Site Plan, Hurley & Stewart, on behalf of Marc LaBarge (MTH Lawn Service), requests special land use and site plan approval for a law service contractors’ facility and outdoor storage for the property located at 29333 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw, MI 49079 (Parcel 80-02-009-029-05). Planning Commission approved with conditions as outlined in minutes dated March 6th, 2024.
 - David Jirousek provided an updated recommendation dated March 12, 2024 with the following:

The Planning Commission recommended approval (5-0) with the following conditions. My review notes of the latest plan revisions since the Planning Commission review are indicated in **bold font**.

1. A side entry allowance is a recommended waiver per Section 6.6 **(the ordinance otherwise requires a front entry door on the facade of the building)**.
2. The front office windows shall include shutters **(revised plans show one narrow shutter for each front window)**.
3. Revise the front office façade to include at least 80% masonry, wood, or cementitious siding **(revised plans are compliant)**.
4. Provide a compliant photometric plan and light fixture details for the parking area in accordance with Section 12.2 **(revised plans do not comply)**:
 - a. **Lower color temperature from 4,000K to 3,000K.**
 - b. **Increase minimum footcandle illumination to at least 0.6 for each parking space.**
 - c. **Increase average footcandle illumination to 2.6 (calculated only for parking spaces).**
 - d. **Demonstrated compliance with uniformity ratio (calculated only for parking spaces). The ratio cannot exceed 4:1 (average to minimum footcandles).**
5. Revise plans to ensure that no more than 30 percent of the total trees or shrubs used on a site are of a single species **(compliance not demonstrated within tree schedule-applicant must add a column indicating the number of each species)**.
6. Install protective fencing prior to site disturbance. The limits of disturbance should be tightly bound around the area of construction. Protective fencing must be installed to delineate preserved areas prior to site development.
7. Secure the following approvals prior to site development and building permitting:
 - a. Drain Commission- SESC and stormwater plan **(stormwater approval secured)**.
 - b. Road Commission (driveway).
 - c. Health Department (well and septic).
 - d. Fire Department (access, maneuverability, and hazardous material storage).

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to approve the special land use and site plan request for MTH Lawn Service with the condition listed above in memo from David Jirousek dated 3.12.2024. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

Pending Business

None

New Business:

A. Higley’s Orchard subdivision request to establish Special Assessment District for the tree preservation caused by spongy (gypsy) moths.

Residents submitted a petition requesting a special assessment district be created for a one-time charge to treat spongy (gypsy) moths in the Higley Orchards neighborhood.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to adopt a Resolution to establish a Special Assessment District for the preservation of trees in Higley Orchard neighborhood from spongy (gypsy) moths. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

B. Lawn Bid – Maple Grove, Harwick, and Bangs Cemeteries

Clerk Reyna received three (3) bids:

1. Brightview Landscape Services to mow 30 times throughout the season and hand trim around headstones 15 times in the amount of \$35,250.00
2. Abraham Solis to mow 24 times throughout the season in the amount of \$19,920.00
3. MTH Lawn Service to mow 30 times throughout the season and trim around headstones 30 times in the amount of \$33,450.00

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to approve the bid submitted by MTH Lawn Services in the amount of \$33,450.00 for one year. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-no. Motion carries.

C. Wightman Proposal

Wightman and Associates provided a proposal in the amount of \$16,900.00 for engineering services to prepare design and bid documents for new parking lot and staging area for the Van Buren County Road Commission site located at the corner of C.R. 657 and 64th Ave.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to accept the bid received from Wightman and Associates in the amount of \$16,900.00. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence:

VBCRC updates

Announcements

Workshop for facilities and wage and benefits scheduled for Friday March 15th, 2024 at 1:30pm.

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$263,931.13 in general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 24 permits for February including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$4,867.00.

Almena: 24 permits for February including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$7,457.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
Millage discussion

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
Big furry friends Saturday 10:30 am – 2:00 pm. Community garden meeting March 25, 2024.

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. Paid bills. Budget approved.

*Paw Paw Fire Department -*Dan Ruzick
Paid bills.

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne
68 calls for the month of February.

Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna
No burials in February.

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

Zoning Board of Appeals -
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Public Comment:
None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$91,762.81.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$91,762.81. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-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 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna