

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Board Members Absent: Chantel Reyna-Clerk

Also, Present: 7 guests, Robyn Thatcher- Deputy Clerk

Public Comment:

Honorable Judge Michael McKay- Van Buren County Court

- Welcome new Judge Susan Metzger
- Drug Treatment Court is producing better results and cost less than incarceration
- FOC: Moved to new building in 2023, held a successful amnesty day on 12/12/23. Offers different programs like "Do it for the kids" and "24/7 Dad"

Deputy Scotty Borah – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 100 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of June.

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Recently approved the addition of a defense attorney to the Appellate Court to help in writing these appeals
- Housing Assistance Program grant of \$650,000 budget for 18 low income for home preservation through the USDA
- Committee formed to work on a Master Plan for long term building development in the County
- Van Buren County Conservation District Annual meeting will be July 31st at Brookside Blueberry's with a benefit dinner as well.

Wayne Nelson and Bret Witkowski – Van Buren County Road Commission

- 194 miles of sealcoat and fog seal will be completed throughout the County this year.
- To improve quality and to save on cost all County mowing was brought in-house
- Studies continue regarding traffic lights/ traffic counts at 24th Street and Red Arrow Highway per road commission this is one of the busiest intersections in the County.
- New Law passed: motorist to stay 200' from an operating snowplow with Amber and Green lights- this will be a civil infraction
- Asking for support for the upcoming vote on the millage

Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Chief

- 96 calls for the month of June/ 70 EMS calls for June
- Ladder truck in need of generator repairs, to refurbish current generator is \$11,000 vs. \$16,000 to replace

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to approve previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on June 11th, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

Old Business: None

Pending Business: None

New Business:

A. Bret Witkowski, Van Buren County Road Commission County Wide Millage

Asking for support for the upcoming millage and was also asked to look at the traffic counts at the intersection of Red Arrow Hwy and CR 657

B. Nanny’s Family Restaurant request for local approval for Michigan Liquor Control

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to give approval. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

C. BHS Insurance Proposal

Proposed renewal of \$36,996 for commercial insurance to include Township hall, Library, Community Center/Hall, Cemetery storage and Mattawan Fire Hall.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to accept the insurance renewal. Roll call vote; Tarchala-yes, Ruzick- yes, Osborne- yes, Cutting- yes. Motion carries.

D. Asphalt Restoration proposal for parking lot

Proposal amount of \$13,268.00 plus \$2,600 for repairs

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to accept the proposal. Roll call vote; Ruzick- yes, Osborne- yes, Cutting- yes, Tarchala- yes. Motion carries.

E. Storm damage- Transfer Station and Maple Grove tree removal and fencing

Tree removal \$4,900, Fence \$8,382.00 Clean-up/tree removal \$8,450.00

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to accept the proposal. Roll call vote; Osborne- yes, Cutting- yes, Tarchala- yes, Ruzick- yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence: None

Announcements

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$282,041.19 in general fund

Building Activity- Robyn Thatcher

Antwerp: 53 permits for June including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$10,855.00.
Almena: 26 permits for June including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$5,479.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Millage passed. Better wi-fi, summer programs, pay adjustments

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

480 participants signed up for summer reading program.

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

July meeting moved due to July 4th.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick

July meeting moved due to July 4th.

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne

July meeting moved due to July 4th.

Cemeteries – Robyn Thatcher

Zero burials in June.

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 \$156,186.60.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$156,186.60. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robyn Thatcher