

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

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: 8 guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of item 6. As Built drawing VBCRC building. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Deputy Scotty Borah – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 95 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of December.

Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Chief

- 91 calls for the month of December.
- Department is partnering with Manning Enterprises to construct a training prop.

Wayne Nelson – VBCRC Commissioner

- Snowing plowing is in full force.
- On behalf of VBCRC appreciation is shown for the partnership on satellite building in Antwerp Township.
- Budget adopted.
- Discussion on red light at corner of Red Arrow Hwy and C.R. 652. The light is not long enough. Cars are running light. VBCRC will look into length of light again.

Pat Lennen – Attorney representing Welch Foods.

- Pat addressed the Board in regard to the proposed wastewater treatment project. Welch's and EGLE have determined this is the best option for their needs.
- Supervisor Ruzick asked why our Board wasn't informed two years ago when this discussion started.
- Antwerp Township has hired a firm to help facilitate this project.
- The proposed project currently does not meet Antwerp Township zoning requirements.
- Welch Foods stated they would like to work with the Township to complete this project

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

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**1. Antwerp Township Planning Commission annual report**

Zoning and Planning Administrator, David Jirousek, provided an annual report for approval. The Planning Commission held 10 meetings in 2024 with 1 of them being Text Amendments, 5 of them being Special Land Uses, 1 of them being Site Condos, 1 of them being Rezoning, 1 of them being Plan Extensions, 1 of them being Planned Unit Developments, and 1 of them being Parking lot surface waiver. The discussions that took place in 2024 were as follows:

- 1. Annual Report
- 2. Wellhead protection and performance standards
- 3. Environmental regulations
- 4. Trial project
- 5. Outdoor storage, sales, and display
- 6. Mosier Well Drilling determination
- 7. Number of members
- 8. Recycling center update
- 9. Site plan compliance and enforcement procedures
- 10. Commercial kennel requirements
- 11. Welch’s wastewater treatment

**2025 Goals**

- 1. Environmental regulations
  - a. Performance standards
  - b. Natural resource protection checklist
  - c. Environmental Buffer Overlay District assessment and consideration of amendments
  - d. Alternative energy ordinance review based on recent state legislation (solar, wind, and battery storage)
- 2. Zoning test amendments as necessary.

**2. Antwerp Township Board, Planning Commission, and ZBA meeting dates**

The 2025 schedule of meetings were presented for approval.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to approve the 2025 meeting dates schedule as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**3. Van Buren County Road Commission Revenue Share Policy**

Van Buren County Road Commission submitted the annual revenue share allocations for Antwerp Township for 2025.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to accept the 2025 revenue share policy allocations from the VBCRC. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**4. Appointment vacancy for Senior Service Advisory Board**

Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board has a vacancy for a Board member. Clerk Reyna received one letter of interest for the vacancy.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to appoint Ed Kornetti to the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

**5. Proposal for Recycling side of Transfer Station plowing**

Clerk Reyna received one bid from Ray Owsiany in the amount of \$90.00 per push for plowing on the recycling side of the transfer station.

Motion by Reyna, second by Tarchala to award Ray Owsiany the contract for snow removal at the recycling side of the transfer station in the amount of \$90.00 per push. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**6. As Build drawing VBCRC satellite building**

The Township received a quote in the amount of \$2500.00 for an engineering design of the satellite building for the Van Buren County Road Commission from Bruce VanderWeele.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to accept the bid in the amount of \$2500.00 for an engineered final drawing of the satellite building. Roll call vote; Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

**Announcements:**

**Reports:**

*Attorney*

None

*Treasurer-* Bonnie Osborne  
\$198,093.15 in general fund

*Building Activity-* Chantel Reyna  
Antwerp: 38 permits for December including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$12,806.00  
Almena: 14 permits for December including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$3,708.00.

*Van Buren District Library-* Bruce Cutting  
Business manager has been hired. Discussions regarding operational agreements with municipalities.

*Sunshine Branch Library-* Bonnie Osborne  
Story time will be held Wednesday's and Thursday's.

*Lawton Fire Department-* Bruce Cutting  
Short meeting. Paid bills. Discussion on new truck

*Paw Paw Fire Department -*Daniel Ruzick  
Contract signed. Paid bills.

*Mattawan Fire Department -* Bonnie Osborne  
Nothing to add to Chief Brooks earlier report.

*Cemeteries -* Chantel Reyna  
No burials

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

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*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 \$97,491.69.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$97,491.69. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna