

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 11th, 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, Bruce Cutting-Trustee, Phil Tarchala, Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Also, Present: 6 guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- The County Parks and Rec committee will have vacancies in the next year. Paul would love to see a representative from Antwerp Township on that committee.
- County Commissioners submitted a letter of support for Pallsades to use small nuclear reactors.
- County Administrator can apply for congressional spending grant to secure funds for a new 911 center.
- AI usage policy adopted.
- Financial audit complete. No negative findings.

Deputy Zach Hathaway – Van Buren County Sheriff Department
127 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of February.

Wayne Nelson – Van Buren County Road Commissioner

- Road Commission is still working on light on Red Arrow Hwy and C.R 652 (24th Street)
- Expressed appreciation for satellite building.
- Discussion on time frame of seal coat projects
- Road Commission Engineering Technician, David Clift, recognized as Program Manager of the Year.
- Seasonal weight restrictions in effect since February 28th.

Randy Graham – Resident

Randy asked for an update on the transfer station gated access. Supervisor Ruzick explained that there are parts on back order for the security system.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on February 11th, 2025. All voted in favor. Tarchala abstained. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

A. Update on Welch's

Discussion on conversations with Welch's regarding wastewater treatment facility and potential regional site. There is still no deadline from EGLE on when project needs to be completed.

B. Van Buren County District Library agreement

Trustee Cutting presented a proposed agreement at the District Board meeting. There were members missing from the meeting so there was no action taken on the proposed agreement. The members in attendance were not opposed to a potential addendum but did not want to rewrite a new agreement. Supervisor Ruzick provided amounts that the Township levies in taxes for the Sunshine branch.

C. Almena/Antwerp Township Fire agreement

Current contract expired February 28, 2025. Supervisor Ruzick asked for discussion on term of contract and millage rate to be levied.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to present a contract to Almena Township for fire services for 3 years and levy 1.5 mills on real property for current year taxable value. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

D. Senior Services building upgrades-proposals

Supervisor Ruzick reached out to three contractors for proposals to expand the current Senior Services storage area. Hall Builders is the only contractor who submitted a bid in the amount of \$9,658.00.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to accept the bid in the amount of \$9,658.00 from Hall Builders for the expansion of Senior Services storage area. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

E. Review of Federal Holidays

Supervisor Ruzick provided a list of federal holidays observed by most government entities. The Township currently observes all but two of the holidays.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to amend the current policy and include all federal holidays in section F. Time away from work part of the personnel policy. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-no, Tarchala-no, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

Announcements:

Correspondence: VBCRC updates

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$278,186.43 in general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 35 permits for February including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$8,360.00

Almena: 22 permits for February including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$4,319.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
Discussion on new agreement.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
April 8th the Candy Lady will be at the library. Book sale will be April 25th.

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. 4-year delivery on new truck.

Paw Paw Fire Department - Daniel Ruzick
Paid bills. There were some changes made to the fire agreement that Paw Paw will send over for approval.

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne
Paid bills.

Cemeteries – Chantel Reyna
One burial

Planning Commission -
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownshipmi.gov

Zoning Board of Appeals -
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownshipmi.gov

Public Comment:
None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$201,167.09
Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$201,167.09. 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 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna