

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

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

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: 4 guests

Public Comment:

Melanie Hooker- Domestic Violence Coalition

- Gave update on number of cases in 2025. Total of 373 cases with 39 cases being within Antwerp Township
- The agreement presented requesting \$5000.00 in funding for the coalition. Supervisor Ruzick asked her to represent the agreement near the end of our fiscal year for potential funding possibilities.

Casey Davis - Van Buren County Undersheriff

- Introduced himself to the Board as he makes his way around the County after being appointed as the new Undersheriff for the Van Biren County Sheriff's Department

Zach Hathaway - Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 143 total calls for service in Antwerp Township in November

Scott Brooks - Mattawan Fire District Chief

- 56 calls for service in November.
- No new update on the new truck from the dealership
- Kitchen remodel moving along

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala, to approve previous minutes from Township Board Meeting held on November 11th, 2025. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

- A. **Zoning ordinance text amendment to allow ground and wall signs for agricultural uses in the AG, R-1, R-2 and R-3 zoning districts. Planning Commission recommends approval.**

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to approve the zoning ordinance text amendment to allow ground and wall signs for agricultural uses in AG, R-1, R-2, and R-3 zoning districts. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A. Antwerp Township Sunshine Library contract

Antwerp Township Board sent a renewal contract to VBDL to replace the existing contract dated October 21, 1997, requesting funds to be designated specifically for library repairs and upgrades and to date have not received that contract back. VBDL presented an addendum to the existing contract stating that they would, at their discretion, offer a one-time payment of \$15,000 and \$7,500.00 annually starting in 2026. After discussion, the Board felt we should ask for a new contract to be signed requesting a one-time payment of \$15,000.00 and \$10,000.00 annually for repairs and upgrades with a decision required by January 15, 2026, or it was to be considered Antwerp Township’s official notice of termination of the contract dated October 21, 1997.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to send a letter stating our requests and informing them that if the new contract was not signed by January 15, 2026, the current contract would be terminated. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-no, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries

B. VBCRC site barn finish wall proposal

Supervisor Ruzick received two proposals to complete the interior walls of the VBCRC building.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to accept the bid from Mallory Pole Buildings in the amount of \$16,525.00 to complete the interior walls of the VBCRC building. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

C. Market One letter of support

Market One is requesting Antwerp Township provide a letter of support to be included with a USDA grant application to conduct a study on the potential creation of a Regional Water and Sewer Authority for Eastern Van Buren County.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to provide Market One with a letter of support for a USDA grant application. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

D. Proposal for salting Township parking lot

Clerk Reyna received two bids for salting the Township parking lot.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to accept the bid from Ray Owsiany for salting of the Township parking lot in the amount of \$285 for the full parking lot and \$150 for a partial salting per occurrence. Wednesdays and events will require full parking lot to be done. The rest of the days will be at Ray’s discretion. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

Announcements:

Correspondence:

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$245,581.59 in general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 35 permits for November including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$9,983.00.

12/09/2025

Almena: 18 permits for November including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$3,595.00

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
No report

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
No report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Paid bills

Paw Paw Fire Department -Daniel Ruzick
Paid bills. Discussion on new bank

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne
January 17th is the annual meeting.

Cemeteries – Chantel Reyna
Three burials

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 \$156,639.88.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$156,639.88. 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 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna