

DANIEL J. RUZICK, Supervisor
CHANTEL REYNA, Clerk
BONNIE OSBORNE, Treasurer
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Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs.
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday: Closed
Closed for lunch M, T, W, Th
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ANTWERP SUNSHINE LIBRARY – AN UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY

October 28, 2026

Dear Antwerp Township Residents,

Yesterday, October 27, I attended the Van Buren District Library Board meeting in Decatur, hoping we could finally make meaningful progress toward a new agreement that would preserve our Antwerp Sunshine Library in its existing location and approximately 7,400 square feet of space.

Unfortunately, we still have not reached an agreement.

The VBDL Board has prepared a new proposed agreement, but its financial position remains essentially unchanged: \$7,500 annually toward building maintenance and capital improvements, along with \$25,000 in back pay.

On a positive note, the Library Board has now recognized the 59% reimbursement for building utilities. Our Township's proposed agreement has also been forwarded to their attorney for review.

During the meeting, there was discussion about potentially developing a more equitable agreement based on the square footage occupied by the library branches, particularly the two largest facilities, along with adjustments for inflation.

I welcome that discussion.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As Township Supervisor, I believe we have three possible paths to consider:

Antwerp Township...a growing community

Option 1 – Preserve Our Existing Library Space

Maintain the Township's proposal of \$15,000 annually, \$25,000 in back pay, and 59% utility reimbursement while preserving the library's existing approximately 7,400 square feet. Have their attorney draft a new agreement with language they want but understand the Township wants shall "pay".

Option 2 – Develop a Fair Square-Footage Agreement

Request that VBDL prepare a new agreement establishing annual contributions based on occupied square footage, particularly for the two largest branches, with inflation adjustments and a clearly defined formula for utility reimbursements. Have their attorney draft a new agreement with language they want but understand the Township wants shall "pay".

Option 3 – Accept VBDL's Financial Terms with Reduced Space

Accept the \$7,500 annual contribution, \$25,000 in back pay, and an appropriate utility reimbursement arrangement, but reduce the library's occupied space from approximately 7,400 square feet to 4,800 square feet. Not our preferred choice

These are options for consideration, not decisions that have been made by the Antwerp Township Board.

I sincerely hope we can put the differences of the past behind us, reach a fair agreement, and return our attention to the people who matter most: the residents we serve.

I will continue to keep our community informed as discussions move forward.


Daniel J. Ruzick
Antwerp Township Supervisor