

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

Supervisor Ruzick called the public hearings to order at 6:15pm.

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: 7 guests

Public Hearing:

6:15 pm Mattawan Fire District

There was again discussion on whether the Township should levy 1.4 mills or 1.5 mills.

6:21 pm Hearing Closed

6:21 pm Paw Paw Fire Department

Discussion on 1.4 mills being levied

6:23 pm Hearing Closed

6:23 pm Lawton Fire Department

Discussion on 3.0 mills being levied

6:26 pm Hearing Closed

Short recess until the start of Township Board Meeting

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

Zach Hathaway - Van Buren County Sheriff Department

There were 163 calls in the Township for the month of August.

Barry Antilla - Van Buren County Road Commission

Projects in Antwerp Township are almost wrapped up for the season. Bridge on C.R. 657 will need to be repaired which will cause financial issues with the lease on the satellite building.

Emily Hickmott - Van Buren Conservation District

Lunch will be held to discuss partnerships within the County on September 22 and September 29.

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 August 12th,2025. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

A. Trailway update and Easement request

All easements needed to move forward with the trail are complete and approved. Wightman and Associates attended the meeting to inform the Board that the construction cost has increased from the initial pricing in 2021. The Township Board also stated that they wanted to be transparent with the public and hold a public workshop for residents to come in and discuss the trail. The Board decided that the meeting would be held on Wednesday October 1, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Supervisor Ruzick will publish the details for the public to attend.

B. Lawton Fire Special Assessment

Public hearing held at 6:23 pm. Assessment is for 3.0000 mills for the 2025 tax year for an estimated \$386,180.93 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to approve the 3.0000 mills for the 2025 tax year. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

C. Paw Paw Fire Special Assessment

Public hearing held at 6:21 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2025 tax year for an estimated \$101,296.30 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve the 1.4000 mills for the 2025 tax year. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

D. Mattawan Fire Special Assessment

Public hearing held at 6:15 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2025 tax year for an estimated \$500,909.87 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Cutting second by Ruzick to approve the 1.4000 mills for the 2025 tax year. Roll call vote; Osborne-no, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-no, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-no. Motion does not carry.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to approve the 1.5000 mills for the 2025 tax year for an estimated \$537,431.00 in tax revenue. Roll call vote; Cutting-no, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-no, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

E. VBCRC building update and discussion on lease.

VBCRC satellite building is nearing completion, and the Township has been informed that the bridge near C.R. 657 and 62nd Ave needs major repairs resulting in the VBCRC not being financially able to commit to a lease for the remainder of the project that was not covered by ARPA funds. The Board discussed several options and determined it would be best to complete the project and allow the VBCRC to use the facility until the land lease is up in 2027. At that time, the Township Board and VBCRC will discuss a lease for the building.

F. PC Board John Paquin resignation effective December 2025.

Supervisor Ruzick received a letter of resignation from Planning Commission member John Paquin. Clerk Reyna received an application for a resident interested in joining the Board.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to accept John Paquin's resignation and appoint Jacob Diljak to the Planning Commission starting October 2025. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Announcements: Informational trail meeting October 1, 2025, starting at 6:30pm.

Correspondence:

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$316,170.43 in general fund

Treasurer Osborne presented a request to purchase two CDs from Sturgis Bank. One CD for Antwerp Township general fund and the other for Mattawan Fire District. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 53 permits for August including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$19,730.00

Almena: 51 permits for August including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$10,729.00

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting

Message relayed regarding contract with Township. Supervisor Ruzick states that the Township will not go on record to support the millage request on the November ballot until we come to an agreement regarding contract sent months ago.

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne

No report

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting

Paid bills.

*Paw Paw Fire Department -*Daniel Ruzick

Paid bills. Thursday October 2, 2025, annual fire dinner. All Township Board members are invited.

Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne

No quorum. Replacement truck is roughly \$86,000.

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:

Atlas tower submitted a request for a cell tower on property owned by the Township. Planning Commission had previously discussed this topic and are in support of it.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$121,972.13.

08/12/2025

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$121,972.13. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna