

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY November 10, 2015 7:00 PM
APPROVED

Supervisor Ruzick called the Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Heather Mitchell-Clerk, Bruce Cutting - Trustee, Ron Derhammer-Trustee.

Also Present: Five guests.

Motion by Osborne, second by Derhammer to approve agenda as presented. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment: Jack & Gina Irelan expressed concern over conditional rezoning on softball fields behind Legends in Paw Paw. Board discussion with Irelan's stating that requirements on behalf of owner have been met and conditional rezoning runs with land, not owner.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve October 13, 2015 minutes as mailed. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

New Business:

A. Midwest Energy Metro-Act Application

Midwest Energy provided application under METRO Act for access to and ongoing use of public ways by telecommunications providers. Midwest Energy Cooperative plans to deploy a fiber communication project in Antwerp Township for its own use. In addition, this project allows Midwest to provide high speed broadband within the township which requires them to pay Metro Tax on property. The fiber will be attached to existing poles of our electrical system. Metro Act 45 states that the governing body shall issue its determination within 45 days from the date of the application.

Issue at hand is the current burial project through Kris & Jim Adam's property and fear that this is a way for the company to sidestep having to bury fiber lines claiming "for their own use." Planning Commission is currently reviewing ordinances in place covering situations involving cable companies and METRO Act.

Will ask Midwest for an extension on deadline in order to have Attorney Jim Straub review the application and make a decision at our December 8 meeting.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Mitchell to request an extension from Midwest Energy and to table the issue until December 8 meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

B. Antwerp Township Poverty Guidelines

Each year the Township Board has to approve poverty guidelines for the upcoming tax year. Looked at guidelines set by federal government and recommended asset level test of \$15,000.

Motion Mitchell, second by Osborne to approve guidelines with a 20% increase and to set the asset level at \$15,000 for the 2016 tax year.

Roll Call Vote: Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

C. Snowplowing & Salting Renewal Contract

Ray Owsiany & Tom Aleksich have agreed to snowplow and salt the parking lot at the same prices (from 2015) for the 2016 calendar year.

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to approve snowplowing and salting contracts for 2016 calendar year at same prices from 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes. Motion carries.

D. Antwerp Township Senior Service Request for portable salad/dispenser

Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Committee is looking at purchasing a portable salad and soup dispenser. Two quotes came in from Great Lakes West and an online store. Advisory Board can only spend up to \$1000 without Township Board approval.

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to approve up to \$3300 for the purchase of a portable soup/salad dispenser.

Roll Call Vote: Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence: None

Announcements: None

Reports:

Recreation Plan & Trailway Phil Tarchala

Phil presented the two phases for completion of the trailway throughout Antwerp Township. The trail will run west from Berrien County with hopes of connecting to Texas Township as well. Hoping to receive grants in April 2016 and starting construction in 2017. Phase I will see cost of \$929,000 with \$773,974 in grants. Phase II will see cost of \$938,000 with \$781,330 in grants.

Need to see about advertising public hearings in a different way in order to draw more public participation. Will look into an informational postcard.

Phil would like to see this be an "honor" trail where 1 mile or ½ mile sections are named after different community residents to honor them.

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell, to support the recreational plan and trailway phases in order to start the grant writing process.

Roll Call Vote: Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes; Derhammer-yes. Motion carries.

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

Reviewed current blight issues in Township.

Van Buren County Road Commission Al Svilpe

Reviewed letter from Supervisor Ruzick in regards to monies left in primary road millage banks. Policy of road commission is anything monies left as of 12/31 will be reduced by 25% and the reduction will flow into the road commission general fund. A blanket policy was changed three years ago in order to encourage municipalities to spend their money on road projects. Antwerp Township has never left any money in account, this would be the first year, would ask Road Commission to review policy, but will give possible road projects in order to avoid reduction, however, no program sheets will be signed without authorization of the entire board.

County Commissioner Beth Griffin

Wahmoff Farms will be having their annual "Tree for Troops" loading event on November 30. All donated trees will be delivered to Ft Bragg, NC.

Sue Weir, Veteran's Office, has seen an additional \$186,000 in benefits (monthly) for veterans in the area.

Tax tribunal case for Covert Nuclear Generating Plant is headed to Supreme Court, however, next budget has been planned as if money will not be there.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne
\$126,164.24 in general fund checking.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell
21 permits for October including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$4374.00.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne
Peter "Madcat" Ruth will be performing on November 17 @ 6:30 pm. November 28 Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the library for craft day and a visit with the kids.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting
Short meeting, paid bills. Dealing with a workman's comp issue.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne
17 calls for October. CPR training.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell
Three (3) burials in October.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne
58 calls in October.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer
Pathway plan and Metro Act. Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell
No meeting in October. Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Public Comment: None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$44,505.13.
Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to accept bills for payment.
Roll Call Vote: Derhammer-yes; Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk