

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY December 8, 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

Board Members Absent: Ron Derhammer-Trustee

Also Present: Four guests.

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

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve November 10, 2015 minutes as mailed. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

New Business:

A. Midwest Energy Metro-Act Application

The METRO act encourages competition among telecommunication service providers and encourages new providers and increases investment in the telecommunication infrastructure in Michigan. The act requires a telecommunication provider seeking to use public right-of-way in a metropolitan area must seek a permit from the municipality to do so. It provides for maintenance fees to be paid using the public right of way. A municipality is not permitted to enact any ordinance or other legal requirement applicable to a telecommunication provider inconsistent with the METRO act.

Issue at hand is a private easement versus a public easement and the with the changes in leadership at the State level there seems to be a lot of gray area in looking and passing an ordinance that would help protect the rural character and natural beauty of the township in attempts to keep cable lines buried within right of ways. Right of way running through Adams' backyard is an easement for AEP not Midwest. It's a prescriptive easement for electric only. Midwest is presenting the METRO act as communication lines between stations, although they are advertising cable for customers in other areas. Concern is that this is a way to circumvent burial of lines and these "communication" lines will eventually be used for other purposes.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to approve METRO Act permit application with the provision stating that all lines within project (as stated in Section 2.2 of Description of Project in application) to be used by Midwest must be buried in a given public right of way in order to avoid clutter in air and that any fiber optic lines being established must be buried in a public right of way rather than private properties.

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

B. Township Board 2016 Meeting Schedule

Supervisor Ruzick presented the board with the schedule for the 2016 year. The only variance is the March meeting, which needs to be moved to the 2nd Wednesday instead of Tuesday because of the Presidential Primary on March 8.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adopt the 2016 Township Board Meeting Schedule.

C. Senior Services Appointment: Karen Dunn

Barb Farris has asked to be placed as an alternate instead of a full time appointment. Karen Dunn has submitted a letter of interest.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to appoint Karen Dunn to the Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Committee. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

D. Policy for Assessing Records

Through the AMAR process, it was revealed that Antwerp Township does not conduct "regular" business hours. The office is open 40 hours a week; however, we run four (4) ten hour days and are not open on Fridays. Regular business hours are considered M-F 9am-5pm, therefore a public records policy needs to be adopted in order to meet the requirement of supplying information during "regular" business hours.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to adopt policy for obtaining public records.

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

E. Activity Center Request

Stacy Smithee submitted a request to use the Activity Center for a bootcamp training class. Stacy is requesting the use for community members and asking if a discount could be given for the use of the facility. Discussion on details.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to offer the use of the meeting room at a rate of \$25/hour.

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

Correspondence: None

Announcements: None

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

Reviewed current blight issues in Township.

Van Buren County Road Commission Al Svilpe

Discussion on letter from VBCRC on primary millage funding and end of year process. Supervisor Ruzick detailed concerns with process and loss of millage monies at end of year. Monies available at end of year have to be assigned to a specific project or monies will be lost and transferred to VBCRC general fund. 2015 is the first year Antwerp has had money left and would like to see it go towards lighting issues at Rolling Pines Ct or an embankment issue on CR 652. Response from VBCRC is that these are not viable projects, only viable project is RAH expansion. Board is not in agreement with that option, but also doesn't want to lose monies for Antwerp Township.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to assign primary millage monies leftover in 2015 to Red Arrow Highway expansion project in 2016. Ayes- three (3), Nays- one (1). Motion carries.

Winter hours will start Monday - Friday 7 am - 4 pm. Trees are being taken down and trimmed throughout the county, all projects have been completed for 2015 and waiting for snow. \$1 million has been saved this year with the warmer weather.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$173,981.25 in general fund checking.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

20 permits for November including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$2,717.00.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

75 kids came to Craft Day and to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. Millage money approved will be used to go through inventory of books and remove those that are older than five years. December 12 will be adult craft day from noon-2 pm.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

Short meeting, will also be attending December meeting. Dealing with a workman's comp issue.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

15 calls, December meeting coming up, two new policies on driving and training were adopted.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell

One (1) burial in November.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne

54 calls in November.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer

METRO act, Rec plan, front yard setbacks. Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell

Variance on 58 acre parcel in section 27 for width and street frontage. 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 \$45,710.67.

Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to accept bills for payment.

Roll Call Vote: 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 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk