

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY February 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: 13 guests.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Osborne to add C. Diane Lambert Resignation under New Business.
All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment: None.

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

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

A. Resolution of Support Village of Mattawan

Purpose is to endorse land acquisition at McGillen's Crossing for Village of Mattawan. Planning Commission is in favor as it dovetails into Trails and Rec Plan being created and formed by Antwerp Township Planning Commission. Tom Anthony is ready to work with Antwerp Township, Phil Tarchala has also met with Village of Paw Paw, Paw Paw Recs and Park Committee, and Paw Paw Village Council. All boards are in support. Consensus is that this is a good thing for this community. Ties into things with Gov. Snyder trail ways program with State. Intergovernmental cooperation is always a good thing and can be a good cause for grant funding.

John Beck, Mattawan Village Council, spoke on specifics of the plan and need for support of Antwerp Township. Developing this park is consistent with Village of Mattawan's Master Plan and it's inputting a green space for the community at large.

Trail route discussion. Trail begins at park and ride in Paw Paw and works well to avoid wetland issues; MDOT will be working on the overpass in 2017 in Paw Paw over 94, with plan adopted they would be able to add pedestrian walkway at same time. Phil Tarchala is meeting with Wightman & Associates and MDOT on Tuesday, February 17 to discuss trail way routes. Important to try and avoid as much private property as possible, looking at easements for MDOT and power companies. The trail would continue down Western Ave to Mattawan High School and back out to Front St to the Little League fields and then hook to Main St with a trailhead at McGillen's Crossing.

Gary Stock mentioned that now is the time to support it as we have people who are willing to take this and run with it and really make this happen for our community.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Cutting to adopt resolution in support of land acquisition at McGillen's Crossing for the purposes of Village of Mattawan downtown park.

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

New Business:

A. Mattawan Lions Club Community Garden

Karol Chopp, President of the Mattawan Lions Club is interested in partnering with Antwerp Township in creating a community garden, starting this spring. Location suggested is portion of ground on the east side of the parking lot. Another site would be the area on south side of the center as it has been plowed for many years and water is available.

Lions Club is looking at being more active with events specifically held in the Activity Center (spaghetti dinner, community garage sales); important that the center be utilized for the community as it was built for that specific purpose. Mattawan Lions received their 501-c3 tax exemption designation; therefore use of the Activity Center would be at no charge.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Mitchell to partner with Mattawan Lions Club and allow use of land for community garden.

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

B. Antwerp Township Senior Services Advisory Board

Antwerp Township has ventured into a three month contract with Kalamazoo Senior Services. Tauhric Brown has provided different forms that they use for services and programs for the Advisory Board. Specifically, an intake form (removing SS number), voluntary contribution schedule, cost sharing schedule, and suggested donations for meals. KSS will be providing more home care centered programs. Advisory Board is recommending approval of forms with removal of SS number on the intake form.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Cutting to accept screening tools and other designated forms. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

C. Diane Lambert Resignation

Diane sits on the Antwerp Township Senior Service Advisory Board. Supervisor Ruzick read a resignation letter citing the declining health of Diane's mom and her need to divert attention. Diane has been a tremendous help on the advisory board, logging countless hours on her own for research and fact finding. Her incredible passion for helping seniors will be missed. Supervisor Ruzick sent a letter back to Diane expressing our concern for her and our appreciation for her dedication. Board will be contacting other applicants to verify interest in serving on advisory board and an advertisement will be put in the Courier Leader. Goal is to replace position as soon as possible.

Correspondence:

- Van Buren County Commission Report
- Senior Services Van Buren County Pat Winston letter returning applications. Senior Services Board feels it's not their responsibility to provide an administrative task for Antwerp Township. Will look at dropping a stack off at Lions Club and picking up so Senior Services doesn't have to worry about it. The applications are for residents in Antwerp Township who are still using SSVBC. The Advisory Board will be reviewing the applications and making a decision on funds that could be designated towards the membership fee for non-participating townships. VBCSS Board set the membership fee at \$120/year for an individual and \$180/year for a couple.

Announcements:

- Kickoff Luncheon on January 21, 2015 went really well as we had 91 seniors in attendance. Continue to meet each Wednesday at noon with speakers. Wednesday February 11, 2015 will be Danielle Streed for a presentation on Estate Planning and Elder Law.

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

A full report of all calls is available at the Township Hall.

Van Buren County Commissioner Beth Griffin

Presented Board with numbers for Veterans who may be in trouble with the law, they may qualify to use a specialized veteran's court in conjunction with Allegan County. BOC met 2/10/14. County signed a resolution in support of Village of Mattawan. Early plans to tweak strategic plan at county level, looking at a meeting on 3/3/15 for an economic roundtable; realtors, business owners, etc. to hear their vision of economic vitality for Van Buren County specifically in long range planning, 5 to 10 years out. Meeting minutes from BOC are being emailed to supervisors. Jeri Tapper benefit will be Saturday, March 14 at the Lawton Community Center. Tickets are \$50 per couple for dinner and dancing from 6 pm - 8 pm. Sheriff's office has tickets for sale.

Van Buren County Road Commission Al Svilpe

Discussion on primary millage monies sent to township, it will be equitable. Into January and have used \$300K for snow and ice removal and it continues to add up, however, budget is still on target. Collective Township meeting is in February at the ISD. Start to look at road projects for 2015 within Township soon. RAH project with KATS funding will start late spring/early summer; duration is unknown as this will be a big project. It will run from county line to CR 652. Ron Osborne had a question on designs for road and next meeting date.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$198,930.48 in general fund checking.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

Fourteen permits for January including Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing in the amount of \$2,596.00.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

Working on changing website to better present different educational programs being offered at the library; starting program for tutoring.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

Short meeting, hired auditor, budget hearing will be on March 5, paid bills.

VBDL Bruce Cutting

Special meeting last week where decision was made to place a small millage (.2 mills) on the May ballot for the Van Buren District Library. Decision was made in efforts to account for lost revenue from Tax Tribunal Decision from ~~Cover Nuclear Plant~~ New Covert Generating Co. and headlee rollbacks.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

One new member, working on training burn at ~~House of Tan~~ Tan Fast on RAH in Mattawan.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell
One (1) burial in January.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne
Paid bills, working on training.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer
Recommended approval of various zoning amendments which will be sent to the Van Buren County Planning Commission. After approval from county, amendments will come back to the Board of Trustees for final approval. Continue working on Parks and Rec Plan. Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell
No meeting in January.

Public Comment: John Beck thanked Antwerp Township Board for support of resolution.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$22,513.52.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk