

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY January 8, 2013 7:00 PM
Approved February 12, 2013

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Board Members Absent:None

Also Present: Five guests.

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

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve minutes from December 11, 2012. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

Pending Business: None

New Business:

A. Van Buren County Computer Support Agreement

An agreement for computer services between Van Buren County and Antwerp Township to provide computer services. The County can provide the Township with various levels of computer support to include trouble shooting and counseling services. Antwerp Township currently contracts with Secant Technology for IT services. However, with the proximity of County IT Support and familiarity of programs, it would be a logical agreement to maintain in addition to Secant. The agreement is of no cost to the Township, unless services are requested and rendered.

Motion by Cutting, second by Derhammer to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the agreement on behalf of Antwerp Township.

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

B. Hall Rental Policy

The Antwerp Township Activity Center currently charges a different rate to distinguish between residents and non-residents. Discussion on whether or not to change current policy to only allow Antwerp Township Residents to rent the hall, unless it is non-profit agency which would benefit the community. The non-resident rentals have produced more damage and tend to outweigh the resident rentals. A security deposit is charged along with a rental fee and even when documenting and keeping a portion and sometimes all of the hall deposit, we are subsidizing the hall with taxpayer money. An issue is created as we are not a commercial for profit business and are finding that the office is devoting time and competing with other rental halls in the area.

Discussions on changing the alcohol policy, looking into a management company, hiring security for events at renter's cost, increasing out of township rates while decreasing resident rates.

PC: Alan Smaka suggested that the board look at the reason the Activity Center was built and try and abide to those motives. Ron Osborne suggested changing alcohol policy.

Trustees would like to see a breakdown of the last two - three years of rental history and have a cost comparison obtained from other similar halls.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to table the issue until next month. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence: Kalamazoo County HHW Quarterly Report

Announcements:

- Vacancy on the Planning Commission that needs to be filled. Interested applicants need to submit an application to the Township hall.

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

Synopsis of the calls for Antwerp Township, 184 units responded to calls for December; monitoring one open blight case. Full report is available in the township office.

Attorney Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$190,843.09 in general fund checking. Taxes are coming in slow.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

24 permits for December.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

Year-end wrap up and moving into the New Year.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

Short meeting; obtaining quotes to replace 50+ air bottles which will be an estimated \$30,000.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

Short meeting; one truck is being repaired.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell

One burial in December.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne

Paid bills; short meeting.

Planning Commission Heather Mitchell

Mark Boven made a brief presentation to the PC on a subdivision on 62nd Ave; approved the 2013 Meeting Schedule; public hearing scheduled for Parks and Recreation Plan update for February meeting starting at 7:00 pm; Tarchala and Stock asked the PC to take a look at sign setback language. A complete set of the minutes can be obtained online at www.antwerptownship.com or at the Township office.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell

Discussed a difference in the common understanding versus actual text language in Zoning Ordinance for sign setbacks. Obtaining information from Larry Hummel at the VBCRC on right of way measurements along Red Arrow Highway; approved 2013 meeting schedule. A complete set of the minutes can be obtained online at www.antwerptownship.com or at the Township office.

Public Comment:

Ron Osborne asked if the prior month's meeting minutes could be available on the podium. Clerk Mitchell wanted to make sure guests understood that the minutes, that would be made available, would be a **draft** copy as the minutes are approved during the meeting. Mr. Osborne made it known that he doesn't trust Clerk Mitchell in her abilities to take minutes and then after asking for a copy of the minutes was grateful, as this was the first time he had seen any of the minutes.

Dialogue presented itself about the agreement that the Township approved for utilities with the Village of Mattawan and Bronson properties. Ron Osborne doesn't believe that the Township notified him properly and if not for his concern, the agreement would have gone through without any regard to taxpayers on 23rd St.

Supervisor Ruzick responded that when the original building/site plan was brought before the Planning Commission for a special hearing (February 2012) a written notice was mailed to all property owners within 300 ft back. Bruce Cutting, Trustee, and Alan Smaka, Twp engineer, also spoke to the agreement that was signed which gave permission to have utilities through the right of way, but was still subject to Township approval once final plans were drawn up. Supervisor Ruzick sent another letter to 23rd St residents once Dan Lewis, Prein Newhoff, presented the plans which intended to take down a large number of trees along 23rd St.

The biggest issue that the agreement faced was ownership of the utilities. The Township didn't feel that entering into a long term utility agreement was in the best interest of township residents and the Village when presented with three different options choose to sign an agreement that allowed the utilities to simply be run through the road right of way. A joint venture isn't out of the question, as the Village and Township can pick up discussion on having Township residents hook up to water at any time.

Ron Osborne pointed out that when Clerk Mitchell said she supported the Bronson project because it would bring new jobs in April 2012, he spoke with Carol Long who confirmed that that statement is incorrect.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$34,450.37.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk