

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY February 12, 2013 7:00 PM
Approved 3.19.13

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

Board Members Excused: Ron Derhammer - Trustee

Also Present: Seven guests.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as amended with D. Parks & Rec Plan under New Business. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve minutes from January 8, 2012. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

Pending Business: None

New Business:

A. Planning Commission Vacancy

With Helen Mann's unfortunate passing, the Planning Commission has been short one member. A publication went into the Flashes and Courier leader and the Board received three (3) applications from Richard Corwin, Alan Smaka, and Zach Morris. Supervisor Ruzick made a recommendation to appoint Zach Morris.

Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to take Supervisor Ruzick's recommendation and appoint Zach Morris to fulfill the term of Helen Mann ending June 2014.

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

B. Hall Rental Policy

Comparison of renters detailing 2010-2012 calendar years was presented. A majority of the use was from non-profit organizations, which was the intention of the Activity Center when built. The Township has been dealing with damage to the hall and a majority of it is due to non-resident events. However, trying to determine how to minimize the damage and keep the hall breaking even is difficult. Discussion of area rental halls and prices as a comparison of the Activity Center proved that our rates are adequate.

Motion by Cutting, second by Mitchell to amend the hall rental policy to allow Township residents only to rent, with an effective date of April 1, 2013, honoring all events already booked by a non-resident of the Township and to allow time for any non-resident who has started the booking process to finish.

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

C. Mattawan Fire Agreement Renewal

Fire protection agreement between Antwerp Township, Almena Township and Mattawan Fire Department effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2015. Agreement includes area of protection and conditions of payment.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to sign the fire protection agreement of behalf of Antwerp Township.

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

D. Parks & Rec Plan

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on Wednesday, February 6 for the Parks & Recreation Plan Update. Shawn Seymour, LSL Planning, gave a presentation pertaining to the details of the Parks & Rec Plan and its purpose. In order to qualify for different types of funding, the Township needs to keep their Parks & Rec Plan current and have it certified by the State. Planning Commission approved it unanimously.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Osborne to approve the Parks & Recreation Plan update.

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

Correspondence: Resignation letter from Arlen Winther; Kalamazoo County HHW Quarterly Report; 2012 BS&A usage report

Announcements: None.

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

Synopsis of the calls for Antwerp Township, 162 units responded to calls for January; monitoring one open blight case. Full report is available in the township office.

Road Commission Al Svilpe

Report on snow removal and roads that have priority. Township has received some complaints from residents who live in subdivisions, RC is still fine tuning schedule and Al will express concerns at his next meeting. New budget year has started and once again RC is seeing a decrease in funding from state and federal funding. Barry Antilla is creating a list of projects for Antwerp Township.

County Commissioner Beth Griffin

Online program that provides assistance to taxpayers who have delinquent taxes. Beth provided the Board with a summary of changes from a senate bill that affects operating a vehicle under the influence from SW MI Substance Abuse. As of Jan 1, Antwerp Township has been included in KATS (Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study). The KATS is a cooperative effort of local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, and other local organizations connected to the transportation system.

Attorney Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$144,967.85 in general fund checking. Treasurer Osborne attended a personal property seminar where Brian Calley spoke on the elimination of personal property for commercial businesses that have a taxable value under \$40,000.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell
12 permits for January.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne
Story time and toddler time have started again. An open house to welcome Ryan Weiber as the new VBDL director is March 11 from 4:30pm – 6:00pm.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting
Budget discussion in March for new budget year; decision to replace 50+ air bottles all at once so a replacement schedule won't need to be followed.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne
The department was looking at placing a transmission ~~antennae~~ antenna on their property at a cost of \$50,000, an alternate option became available to place it on top of the Mattawan Village water tower at a cost of \$14,000. Two members were removed from the department's list and discussion on fire protection agreement for Antwerp and Almena Township.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell
One burial in January. Office received a call about snow plowing the cemeteries in the winter; the cemeteries are only snowplowed when a burial is scheduled.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne
Training will be held on March 12.

Planning Commission Heather Mitchell
Shawn Seymour, LSL Planning, gave a presentation on the Park & Recreation Plan during the public hearing. PC recommended approval of the plan update. Matt Meersman made a presentation on Antwerp Township wetlands and their functional capacity as it relates to other water systems. Matt is one of the Conservation District's Watershed Coordinators working on water quality issues. 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
No meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$121,210.31.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk