

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY December 10, 2013 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: Three guests.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Derhammer to approve the agenda with the addition of **D. Generator Proposal** under New Business. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve minutes from November 12, 2013 as mailed. All voted in favor; Derhammer abstained. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

Pending Business: None

New Business:

A. Federal Poverty Guidelines

Assessor Ben Brousseau provided the Board with the 2013 federal poverty guidelines and sample hardship application. The Township does have the ability to increase, but not lower the guidelines. Each year the Board must adopt guidelines to be used by the March Board of Review and Township Supervisor for calculating an applicant's eligibility for a poverty exemption from some or all property taxes. The application includes a Poverty Exemption Affidavit completed when the applicant is not required to file federal or state income taxes, which copies of tax returns had previously been a requirement in filing for the hardship (poverty) exemption.

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adopt the federal poverty guidelines with a 20% increase. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

B. Township Board 2014 Meeting Schedule

Schedule of 2014 meetings for township board was presented. All meetings will occur on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm, with the exception of the September meeting which normal starting time is 6:30 pm due to special assessment hearings. June budget hearing will be determined and set at the May meeting.

Motion by Osborne, second by Derhammer to approve the 2014 Township Board meeting schedule. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

C. Public Act 161 of 2013 Advertisement

Governor Snyder recently signed into law P.A. 161 of 2013. The Act amends MCL 211.7b regarding Veterans Exemptions. Discussion on new eligibility requirements and affidavit developed by the Veterans Administration to be approved by the State Tax Commission on December 16. Board

feels an advertisement (after 12/16 STC meeting) in local papers would help to make more disabled veterans aware of new benefit.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Mitchell to publish advertisements in Courier Leader and Flashses in regards to PA 161 of 2013. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

D. Generator Proposal

Recently, the Township has lost power for lengths of time. Initial requests into generators for the Activity Center and Township Hall/Library have produced two bids from electrical engineers to assist us with the process. Byce & Associates have provided a proposal to analyze, size, engineer, specify and documents the proposed installation of two emergency generators with automatic transfer switches in two phases. Phase 1 - Activity Center @ \$3340 and Phase 2-Township Hall/Library @ \$6150. Kingscott provided a proposal for electrical engineering services as well. Option 1-Activity Center @ \$5500 and Option 2- Township Hall/Library @ \$8500 and Option#3 for both @ \$10,000.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Osborne to accept Phase 1 proposal from Byce & Associates at \$3340. Roll Call Vote: Cutting=yes; Osborne=yes; Mitchell=yes; Derhammer=yes; Ruzick=yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence: None

Announcements: Planning Commission has moved their January meeting to the first Tuesday, January 7 because of the holiday. Township offices will be closed 12/24 , 12/25, and 1/1/14. Offices will also be closing early on 12/31/13 at noon.

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

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

Road Commission Al Svilpe

Winter budget is in good shape; all other work has ceased unless weather breaks, working with Village on 60th/Robinson (portion annexed) on speed enforcement and whether or not Village will bring portion of the road to county specifications in order to turn over to county.

Attorney Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$131,137.12 in general fund checking. Taxes postmarked by 12/31/2013 will be receipted as a 2013 payment. Winter taxes can be paid without penalty and interest through February 28, 2014.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

Seven (7) permits for November including building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

Library will be closed 12/24, 12/25 and closing at 5 pm on 12/31. Movie time will restart in January.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

Looking at prices for backup generator to cover the Village Hall and Fire Department, paid bills; annual meeting on Saturday December 14.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

Attended annual meeting on December 7; paid bills.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell
Two (2) burials in November.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne
Paid bills.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer
Public hearing scheduled on January 7, 2014 for amendments to section of the Zoning Ordinance including outdoor donation boxes, farm wineries, and keeping of animals and livestock. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell
No meeting in November.

Public Comment: None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$41,650.40.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk