

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY December 9, 2014 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: 4 guests.

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

Honorable Jeffrey Dufon, 36th Circuit Court Judge, gave an update on Van Buren County Courts. Judge Dufon described the framework of the courts, discussed the technological updates and improvements, and detailed process and success of specialty courts. Judge Dufon announced that Judge Willis will be retiring at the end of this year.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Cutting to approve November minutes with a change under Planning Commission Recommendation from storage to outdoor storage, second by Mitchell. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations: None

New Business:

A. Federal Poverty 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. Assessor Ben Brousseau provided the Board with the 2015 federal poverty guidelines and sample hardship application. The Township has the ability to increase, but not lower the guidelines. Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to adopt the 2015 federal poverty guidelines with a 20% increase. Roll Call Vote: Ruzick-yes; Mitchell-yes; Osborne-yes; Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

B. Township Board 2015 Meeting Schedule

The schedule for calendar year 2015 township board meetings 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 Cutting, second by Osborne to adopt the 2015 calendar year for meetings. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

C. Van Buren District Library Board Appointment

Ryan Wieber, Director for VBDL, requested that Bruce Cutting be considered for reappointment to the VBDL Board as his current term is expiring on December 31, 2014. The new term will expire December 31, 2018.

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to reappoint Bruce Cutting to the VBDL Board with a term ending December 31, 2018. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence: Van Buren County Board of Commissioners November board meeting synopsis.

Announcements:

- Senior Advisory Board will meet on December 16 @ 9:30 am. Township received a 26% return rate for surveys mailed.

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

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

Van Buren County Road Commission Al Svilpe

Not having to worry about snow, tree trimming and removal is taking top priority along with patching potholes.

Attorney Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$83,235.67 in general fund checking.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

25 permits for November including Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing in the amount of \$4,218.00.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance and kids made crafts, the day was well attended. Taking some time off in December and programs will restart in January.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

Todd Hackenberg will be stepping down as chief and Eric Ramsey will be taking over in March of 2015.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

Updating training records. PPFDF looking into feasibility study for new station.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell

Two (2) burials in November.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne

One new member.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer

Keeping of Animal ordinance revisions, will be reviewing front yard setbacks for clarity, trailway & rec plan update, environmental buffer overlay summary, set 2015 schedule for meetings. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell

ZBA made a clarification on front yard setback regards to application by Tapper Propane/Don Larue. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Public Comment: Discussion on PPF future plans and fire district boundaries.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$194,958.28.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk