

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY March 11, 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; Ron Derhammer – Trustee.

Also Present: 28 guests.

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Cutting to approve minutes from February 11, 2014 as mailed. Four voted
in favor, Derhammer abstained. Motion carries.

Public Comment: None.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

A. William Schultz. Special Land Use and Site Plan to operate a Farm Microbrewery.

Request was submitted before the Planning Commission for special land use and site plan to
operate a farm microbrewery within the AG district at 60139 CR 652 Mattawan, MI in section 24.
Planning Commission recommends approval.

Special use for a farm winery was approved in fall of 2013. One change to the site plan for
microbrewery is creating one (1) parking spot with an impervious surface.

Question from audience on organic waste. Mr. Schultz responded that some will be recycled for
human consumption and rest will be spread on fields.

Motion by Derhammer, second by Cutting to approve special land use and site plan to operate a farm
microbrewery including one change employed by Planning Commission.

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

Pending Business: None.

New Business:

A. Senior Services Proposed Millage Request

Jennifer Carver, director of Senior Services of Van Buren County, presented a resolution to the
Antwerp Township Board asking for a renewal of the senior citizen millage (.25 mills) specific to
her organization, Senior Services of Van Buren County.

Questions and discussion on Senior Services organization and programs available. Board has
concerns on amount of money being sent to Senior Services of Van Buren County and the
amounts that are actually spent in Antwerp Township. Jennifer Carver noted that an outreach
and needs assessment still needs to be done for this area, however, attendance has been slowly
increasing and unfortunately the programs that they have tried in this area haven't attracted a lot
of attendance.

Other concerns were raised over monies expended for the Paw Paw Lions Club being used instead of the Antwerp Activity Center. However, since attendance wasn't improving in Mattawan, Senior Services moved to where attendance was increasing, Paw Paw.

Audience members commented on need of participating and everyone involved to make sure program succeeds, specifically getting younger people involved.

Board feels more in depth study needs to happen to find out what the seniors of Antwerp Township really want and need.

Senior services at this point is looking at township by township millage renewal, however county wide millage is not out of the question.

Jennifer Carver voiced concerns about how to serve and meet the needs of Antwerp Township residents if the Board doesn't contract with Senior Services of Van Buren County directly.

Question was asked about Covert Township and how they pay because they don't directly contract with Senior Services of Van Buren County.

Board feels it is in the best interest of our residents to vet all possible choices for the amount of money that is collected for this millage.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Cutting to adopt the following resolution:

**Senior Citizens Millage Resolution
Antwerp Township, Van Buren County**

Motion by _____, Supported by _____

WHEREAS, Public Act 39 of 1976 authorizes a local unit of government to appropriate funds for activities or services for older citizens; and,

WHEREAS, activities or services under said Act mean identifiable actions directed toward improvement of the social, legal, health, housing, educational, nutritional, recreational, or mobility status of older persons, being persons 60 years and older; and,

WHEREAS, said Act provides a local governing body of a local unit of government may submit a millage proposition to the electorate to levy up to 1 mill of services to older citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Board desires to appropriate funds to activities and service to older persons via contract or agreement with a provider or providers of the same, which may include a private, non-profit corporation or organization offering senior citizen activities or services to Antwerp Township residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan resolves to submit the following ballot proposition in the primary election to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2014.

"Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX Section 5 6 of the Michigan Constitution, on general ad valorem taxes within the township of Antwerp be increased by .25 (one quarter) mill (\$.25 per \$1,000) of taxable value on all real and personal property in Antwerp Township, Van Buren County Michigan, for the four year period of 2014-2017 inclusive for the purposes of appropriating funds for activities and/or services for older persons, meaning individuals over the age of sixty (60) years, pursuant to Public Act 39 of 1976. The Township of Antwerp would contract to provide services. It is anticipated that the revenue collected by Antwerp Township as a result of this proposal will be \$88,745 in the first calendar year of the levy."

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: _____

No: _____

Absent: _____

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Derhammer to take a short recess at 8:34 pm.

Supervisor Ruzick called the meeting back to order at 8:45 pm.

B. Best Way Proposal Transfer Station

Best Way Disposal currently operates the Antwerp Township Transfer Station on the corner of CR 657 and 64th Avenue. Lease agreement, effective April 1, 2014, has been presented to the Board to continue current lease agreement in place. The lease shall be for two (2) years and Antwerp Township will agree to pay \$5,000/quarter to cover expenses of labor and recycling cost. Recyclable materials are free to residents, where charges do apply for non-recyclable materials. Changes in pricing include a \$5.00 increase in loads for trucks and trailers and a \$.50 increase for waste in 30 gallon bags.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to approve lease agreement with Best Way Disposal.

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

C. Great Lakes Door Maintenance Contract

Great Lakes Door has supplied a contract for automatic doors in order to cover service calls and maintenance. Need additional information. Issue tabled. Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to table until April meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence: BS&A year end 2013 statistics showing usage for IT services. 1/1/13 - 12/31/13 property and land had 8,063 hits and tax information had 5,048 hits for a total of 13,111. Antwerp Township provides this information free of charge.

Announcements: Supervisor Ruzick & Clerk Mitchell met with officials from MDARD on Friday, March 7 to discuss proposed changes to GAAMPS and local zoning ordinance proposed changes.

Question from audience on process of changing ordinances.

Reports:

Ordinance Officer Mark Hamre

Monitoring blight on 32nd St, owner hopes to have completed a spring clean-up. Deputy Hamre reviewed calls for Antwerp Township, nine for February. A full report of all calls is available at the Township Hall.

County Commissioner Beth Griffin

Van Buren continues to be one of the only courthouses without a single entrance and security. Commission expending money for tech upgrades to create a single entry point, which will initiate a 6-8 month construction project, with total cost being just under \$1 million, majority coming from casino monies.

Commission signed a new lease agreement with Hartford fairgrounds for Van Buren County 4-H county fair.

County will be seeking candidates for another f/t accountant to work as county controller under the county administrator. Treasurer's office is also currently seeking a deputy.

Road Commission Al Svilpe

County road commission has exhausted \$1.6 million for snow removal. Concentrating on pothole maintenance as weather starts to break (concern on specific potholes should be directed to VBCRC).

Representative Svilpe provided brochure of "Local Road Matters" detailing tax monies towards local roads.

Question from audience on pothole maintenance and effectiveness when cold water is left in hole. Svilpe answered work being done is not intended to last, simply a quick fix for the time being.

Attorney Harold Schuitmaker

No report.

Treasurer Bonnie Osborne

\$186,506.80 in general fund checking.

Building Activity Heather Mitchell

Thirteen (13) permits for February, including building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing.

Sunshine Branch Library Bonnie Osborne

There is a part time staff opening at the Mattawan branch; free pre-algebra class will be offered on Tuesdays from 5 pm - 6 pm during March; Story time and Toddler time have started again.

Lawton Fire Department Bruce Cutting

Had first meeting of the new fiscal year, exploring some options for a banking issue that has surfaced.

Mattawan Fire Department Bonnie Osborne

Ordering jeep for support vehicle, paid bills.

Cemeteries Heather Mitchell

No burials in February.

Mattawan Quick Response Bonnie Osborne

Ordered new coats, training will start soon.

Planning Commission Ron Derhammer

Trails committee will recommence to begin initiating the plans of Parks and Rec Plan. Meeting minutes are available in the Township hall or online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals Heather Mitchell

No meeting in February.

Public Comment: Questions to Board on ballot language for Senior Citizens millage and needs assessment; plowing in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Quick Response and Mattawan Fire Department bills in the amount of \$39,437.17.

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

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

Motion by Osborne, second by Mitchell to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather Mitchell/Clerk