

MINUTES FROM THE  
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

Supervisor Ruzick called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Daniel J. Ruzick-Supervisor, Chantel Reyna-Clerk, Bonnie Osborne-Treasurer, Phil Tarchala-Trustee

Board Members Absent: Bruce Cutting-Trustee

Also Present: 26 guests

Supervisor Ruzick called the public hearing to order.

- Higley's Orchard Downs Special Assessment District would allow for Higley's Orchard neighborhood to be sprayed for spongy moths. The Township received a petition with 51% or greater of property owners requesting the special assessment district be created. This is a one-year assessment.

Resident: What is the chemical being sprayed? Other residents responded with a natural bacterium that does not harm household pets.

Resident: If the district is established tonight, will this be for one year or from now on? Supervisor Ruzick stated that the special assessment is only valid for one year. If the residents would like to spray again, they would need to submit another petition with 51% or greater of the property owners' signatures.

Resident: Stated that he scrapes trees twice a day and can not continue to keep up with taping to save the trees.

Resident: This is the most cost-effective option. The cost of tree removal is expensive.

Resident: Where will the product be sprayed? Supervisor Ruzick stated that it would be sprayed in the recorded plat of Higley's Orchard Downs.

Supervisor Ruzick: Are there any residents here that are in opposition of the special assessment district? There were no residents in attendance that did not want to establish the district.

Resident: The DNR and U.S. Forestry site has information regarding the product used.

Supervisor Ruzick closed the hearing at 6:49pm.

**Public Comment:**

Deputy Scotty Borah – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 85 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of March.

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Equalization report is complete. SEV throughout the County is up 16.32%. Taxable value is up 7.78% and CPI is around 4.4%.

- Veteran’s social had 14 attendees with some being from Antwerp Township.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> there is a veteran social from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
- New K-9 dog approved. Kuno is retiring.
- There is a preliminary agreement with fire/EMS mobile CAD systems.

Resident – Antwerp Township

- Is there the option to put in a right turn lane headed south on Red Arrow at the C.R. 652 intersection? Paul will ask the VBCRC to study the traffic in the area.

Andrew Martz- Mattawan Fire

- 64 calls in the month of March for Mattawan Fire Department. 50 of them were EMS calls.
- Next fire board meeting is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Hose for the new truck is in.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to accept the agenda as submitted with the addition of item F. Laptop for Treasurer. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Cutting to approve previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and Township workshop on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:**

- A. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Special Land Use and Site Plan. Turf Works Supply, LLC requests special land use and site plan approval for a lawn service contractor’s facility for the property located at 24876 Red Arrow Hwy, Mattawan, MI 49071 (Parcel # 80-02-002-026-00). PC recommends approval with conditions as outlined in memo dated 4/4/2024.
- The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the special land use and site plan with the following conditions. All conditions are recommended to be satisfied prior to commencing the use.
  1. Provide a to-scale parking lot striping plan showing one accessible space and standard parking spaces of at least 9 feet in width and 18 feet in depth (at least five parking spaces).
  2. Secure the following approvals prior to site development and building permitting:
    - a. Road Commission (driveway permit for change of use)
    - b. Fire Department (access, maneuverability, and hazardous material storage)

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission for the special land use and site plan for Turf Works with the conditions listed above. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Pending Business**

None

**New Business:**

**A. Green Development for Preliminary Plat Extension request for Ackley Farms.**

Green Development is requesting a six-month extension due to adverse possession claims being filed on the property and failed test well samples.

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to grant a 90-day extension to Green Development. Roll call vote; Ruzick-no, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

**B. Higley’s Orchard Downs Resolution**

All residents of Higley’s Orchard Downs were notified of the public hearing that took place. Of those in attendance, there were no residents in opposition of the special assessment district being created.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to establish the special assessment district for Higley’s Orchard Downs for one year for the treatment of spongy moths. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**C. VBC Road Commission projects for 2024-2025**

Van Buren County Road Commission provided project sheets for the 2024-2025 year. Projects include:

1. Project 489.3139 – Wedge and Sealcoat + Fog Seal on 30<sup>th</sup> Street from Red Arrow Hwy to I-94 in the amount of \$87,185.26
2. Project 497.3103 – Trap Rock Sealcoat + Fog Seal on 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave., 66<sup>th</sup> Ave., 30<sup>th</sup> Street, 29.5 Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Woodhenge Subdivision, Hickory Point Subdivision, Sunset Estates Subdivision. Antwerp Township portion only in the amount of \$338,099.31.
3. Project 497.3179 – Crack seal on 66<sup>th</sup> Ave., 29.5 Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Sunset Estates Subdivision. Antwerp Township portion only in the amount of \$72,543.15.
4. Project 489.3141 – Tree Removal, Wedge Pave and Trap Rock Sealcoat + Fog Seal on 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave. from the Village of Lawton to the East End in the amount of \$23,4278.66.
5. Project 489.3140 – Tree Removal and Trap Rock Sealcoat + Fog Seal on 66<sup>th</sup> Ave. from 26<sup>th</sup> Street to C.R. 657 in the amount of \$40,995.12.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to approve the 2024-2025 road projects with the Van Buren County Road Commission. Roll call vote; Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**D. Antwerp Township Activity Center ceiling repair and fan replacement and duct work**

Supervisor Ruzick received one bid to repair the drywall ceiling in the Activity Center. Hall Builders in the amount of \$1,795.00.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to pay Hall Builders \$1,795.00 to repair the drywall ceiling in the Activity Center. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

**E. Proposal for meeting room ceiling repair**

Supervisor Ruzick received two bids to repair the drywall ceiling in the meeting room. One from Sentry Associates in the amount of \$1,800.00 and one from Drywall Specialty with a range of \$1,500.00 - \$1,800.00.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to accept the bid from Sentry Associates in the amount of \$1,800.00 to repair the drywall ceiling in the meeting room. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

**F. Laptop for Treasurer**

Clerk Reyna provided three quotes for a new laptop for Treasurer Osborne.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to purchase a Dell XPS 17 Laptop. Roll call vote; Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

VBCRC weekly newsletter  
KCHHW 1<sup>st</sup> quarter participants.

**Announcements**

None

**Reports:**

*Attorney*

None

*Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne*

\$273,065.36 in general fund

*Building Activity- Chantel Reyna*

Antwerp: 25 permits for March including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$6,435.00.

Almena: 18 permits for March including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$4,069.00.

*Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting*

No Report

*Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne*

Community garden meeting had six attendees. April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm master gardener will be presenting at the library.

*Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting*

No report

*Paw Paw Fire Department -Dan Ruzick*

Paid bills. Paw Paw fire department now serves a small area of Waverly Township.

*Mattawan Fire Department - Bonnie Osborne*

Report given from Andrew Martz at beginning of meeting.

*Cemeteries - Chantel Reyna*

No burials in March.

*Planning Commission -*

Meeting minutes are available online at [www.antwerptownship.com](http://www.antwerptownship.com).

*Zoning Board of Appeals -*

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**Public Comment:**

None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$603,514.73

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to pay the bills in the amount of \$603,514.73. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.

All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna