

MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 10th, 2024

Supervisor Ruzick called the Public Hearing to order at 6:15 pm.

- Mattawan Fire Department: 1.4 mills for an estimated \$487,379.65 for the 2024 tax year.
- Paw Paw Fire Department: 1.4 mills for an estimated \$96,332.03 for the 2024 tax year.
- Lawton Fire Department: 2.0 mills for an estimated \$250,989.05 for the 2024 tax year.

Public Hearing closed as 6:33 pm.

Supervisor Ruzick called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Board Members Absent:

Also, Present:10 guests

Motion by Reyna, second by Osborne to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of items F. Van Buren County Road Commission satellite facility parking lot., item G. Transfer station discussion on non-resident usage, item H. Cemetery tree removal, item I. Website upgrades, and item J. Fox Creek special assessment for street lights. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

Randy Graham – Resident

Complimented the Township on the upgrades at the transfer station.

Paul Schincariol – Van Buren County Commissioner

- Complimented the Township on transfer station upgrades
- 2024-2025 budget approved
- Public transit will get two new buses and ridership is back to pre-pandemic numbers.
- Design firm will be hired for a long-term strategic plan
- ARPA funds have been committed.

Deputy Scotty Borah – Van Buren County Sheriff Department

- 109 calls in Antwerp Township for the month of August.

Scott Brooks – Mattawan Fire Chief

- 68 calls in the month of August
- 611 call so far in 2024
- Almema Township awarded the fire department with \$13,000 of ARPA funds to be used for radios
- Truck 2561 will be sold this week

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to approve previous minutes from Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting on August 13th, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Action on Planning Commission Recommendations:

- A. Antwerp Township Zoning ordinance amendment of Section 4.2 thereof, the Zoning Map, to rezone a parcel that is currently zoned Rural Estate Residential (R-1) and Commercial Corridor Overlay (CO) to General Commercial (GC). Parcel # 80-02-009-005-70 and is located at 28201 Red Arrow Hwy Paw Paw, MI.** Planning Commission recommends approval of the request for rezoning from Rural Estate Residential (R-1) and Commercial Corridor Overlay (CO) to General Commercial (GC).

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to approve the request for rezoning from Rural Estate Residential (R-1) and Commercial Corridor Overlay (CO) to General Commercial (GC) for parcel #80-02-009-005-70. Roll call vote; Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes. Motion carries.

Old Business: Clean up at 29579 64th Ave. is slowly happening.

New Business:

A. Lawton Fire Special Assessment

Public Hearing held at 6:15 pm. Assessment is for 2.0000 mills for the 2024 tax year for an estimated \$250,989.05 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Cutting, second by Reyna to approve 2.0000 mills for the 2024 Lawton Fire Special Assessment. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

B. Paw Paw Fire Special Assessment

Public Hearing held at 6:15 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2024 tax year for an estimated \$96,332.03 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to approve 1.4000 mills for the 2024 Paw Paw Fire Special Assessment. Roll call vote; Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes. Motion carries.

C. Mattawan Fire Special Assessment

Public Hearing held at 6:15 pm. Assessment is for 1.4000 mills for the 2024 tax year for an estimated \$487,379.65 in tax revenue. The assessment will be levied on real property only.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to approve 1.4000 mills for the 2024 Mattawan Fire Special Assessment. Roll call vote; Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes. Motion carries.

D. Discussion on Buildings possible workshop date

The Township Board would like Supervisor Ruzick to get prices on a kitchen and storage space for elections from Wightman and report back next month.

E. Resolution to dispose of asset Fire truck 2003 Ford F550 pumper

Mattawan Fire Department will sell its 2003 Ford F550 pumper to Arnegard Rural Fire District located in Arnegard, North Dakota in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Motion by Osborne, second by Tarchala to adopt a Resolution for the sale of the 2003 Ford F550 pumper truck in the amount of \$40,000.00. Roll call vote, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes, Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes. Motion carries.

F. VBCRC Parking lot at satellite location

Clerk Reyna received four bids for the parking lot

1. Krohn Excavating in the amount of \$362,040.00
2. Aleksich Excavating in the amount of \$349,196.20
3. TBD Construction in the amount of \$506,725.00
4. Nexgen Construction in the amount of \$403,500.00

Motion by Tarchala, second by Reyna to award the bid to Aleksich Excavating in the amount of \$349,196.20 pending review from the Engineer and bond. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

G. Transfer station discussion on non-resident usage

After discussion, the Board feels that the recycling portion of the transfer station should only be utilized by residents at this time. If the request for usage from non-residents increases, we will discuss that at a later time.

H. Cemetery tree removal

There are trees and branches down at the cemeteries. Supervisor Ruzick will get quotes for the removal. The Board will allow Supervisor Ruzick to work with a contractor to get them removed with the amount not to exceed \$1000.00.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to authorize Supervisor Ruzick to get the trees and branches removed from the cemeteries with the amount not to exceed \$1000.00. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

I. Website upgrades

Clerk Reyna is working toward converting the Township website to a .gov website. While doing so, the IT company suggested a more user-friendly website upgrade. The cost would vary from \$1000 to \$1500.

Motion by Tarchala, second by Osborne to authorize Clerk Reyna up to \$1800.00 for the upgrade of the Township website. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

J. Fox Creek Street Light Special Assessment

Supervisor Ruzick received a petition with 47 signatures requesting a special assessment for streetlights. A Resolution to establish the district was presented.

Motion by Cutting, second by Osborne to adopt the Resolution for Fox Creek streetlight special assessment. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence: VBCRC weekly updates

Announcements:

Reports:

Attorney

None

Treasurer- Bonnie Osborne

\$272,961.04 in general fund

Building Activity- Chantel Reyna

Antwerp: 45 permits for August including Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing with fees of \$8,944.00.

Almena: 3 permits for August including Building, Electrical and Mechanical with fees of \$7,882.00.

Van Buren District Library- Bruce Cutting
Committee on compensation has been formed. Working on budget

Sunshine Branch Library- Bonnie Osborne
Story time will be on Wednesday and Thursday. There will be a cookbook club.

Lawton Fire Department- Bruce Cutting
Short meeting. Paid bills.

Paw Paw Fire Department -Daniel Ruzick
Discussion on new truck

Mattawan Fire Department – Bonnie Osborne
Fundraiser for muscular dystrophy raised nearly \$3000.00

Cemeteries – Chantel Reyna
Four burials in August.

Planning Commission -
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals -
Meeting minutes are available online at www.antwerptownship.com.

Public Comment:
None

Recommendation from the committee on Antwerp Township, Mattawan Fire Department, and Senior Services bills in the amount of \$276,887.96.

Motion by Cutting, second by Tarchala to pay the bills in the amount of \$276,887.96. Roll call vote; Reyna-yes, Osborne-yes, Cutting-yes, Tarchala-yes, Ruzick-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Osborne, second by Reyna to adjourn.
All voted in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantel Reyna