

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 19, 2010**

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Swallow, Parks and Recreation Director Ross, DPW Director Knepper, Chief Loyer, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Secretary Cline and an audience of fifty-three (53).

Supervisor White thanked the Tyler Elementary School Daisy Girl Scout Troop 40103 for leading the pledge of allegiance tonight.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** White moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as amended with the removal of New Business Items #5 “Consider Trustees’ request to take action on Letter of Understanding.” and #6 “Consider approval of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 236 Union Contract effective from October 7, 2009 through December 31, 2011.”. Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to remove from the agenda New Business Item #7 “Consider approval of Animal Sheltering Agreement with the Michigan Humane Society and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement.”. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Hart moved, Partridge seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on request for Public Act 328 Property Tax Exemption on Personal Property for General Electric Company. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, Ostrowski, Partridge and White. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m. Supervisor White went to Director Swallow for an explanation. Director Swallow stated this public hearing is to receive public comment on request for Public Act 328 Property Tax Exemption for General Electric Company on Personal Property being installed at the Grace Lake Corporate Center (formally Visteon Village). The General Electric Company continues expand beyond the initial investment of the Advanced Manufacturing and Software Technology Center. Director Swallow reviewed Public Act 328 stating the Act allows for 100 percent of Personal Property to be exempt, the length of time the Township grants the abatement for and is to encourage new investment in existing or new facilities. Director Swallow stated this is the first Public Act 328 request the Township has received. The Board discussed at the Work Study meeting the process used to determine the appropriate length of time for this request. Staff followed past practice in terms of granting Public Act 198 abatements where a score sheet is used to determine the appropriate length of abatement, which is similar to this request. Director Swallow stated staff recommends twelve year abatement after reviewing the criteria. General Electric plans to install \$1,161,081 in personal property by the end of 2010 and noted this is a small portion of the investment General Electric is making at the Grace Lake Corporate Center. This project will add twelve new high tech jobs. Director Swallow further stated General Electric will also sign an agreement with the Township that outlines the investment plan which will allow for provisions if the plans are not met. This is not a requirement for the Public Act 328.

Supervisor White introduced the two General Electric representatives, Doug Dinon, Site Leader and Sandra Johnson, Property Tax Specialist and thanked them for attending. Supervisor White stated the budget implications is a loss of \$750 per year for Van Buren Township in taxes if this abatement is granted.

Board members had the following questions and comments. Trustee Partridge ask what type of equipment would be installed. Mr. Dinon reviewed the equipment and stated the facility will be geared toward a prototype full scale production operation for developing a part of an aircraft engine. Trustee Ostrowski inquired if aircraft engines would be tested at this facility. Mr. Dinon stated no, this facility is a development facility that makes subcomponents. Trustee Hart further inquired on the type of facility.

Mr. Dinon explained the use of this facility will be to develop a full scale manufacturing cell that does not exist today and once it is complete the entire cell will be moved to a new location. Trustee Hart ask Ms. Johnson about the tax saving for General Electric. Ms. Johnson stated this will help keep General Electric competitive. Trustee Jahr stated the zoning for this facility is office technology and no manufacturing will be done there. Board members discussed the need for the development of a scoring system for any future Public Act 328 abatements.

Audience members made the following questions and comments. John Delaney inquired about additional reporting of information such as the number of employees General Electric has hired. Director Swallow explained the process required by the Assessor Office each year along with their Personal Property Report. Ms. Johnson stated General Electric is already keeping the Assessor informed of the number of employees. Clerk Wright reiterated that Assessor Ireland had stated yesterday during Work Study that General Electric is currently providing this information to the Assessor Office. CJ Marshall inquired the dollar amount the Township will lose over the twelve years. Supervisor White stated approximately \$9,000 over the twelve years period.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Partridge moved, Wright seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the General Electric Company. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright, White, Ostrowski and Partridge. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 8:07 p.m. Supervisor White went to Director Swallow for an explanation. Director Swallow stated this public hearing is to hear public comment on General Electric Company request for Public Act 198, Industrial Facility Tax Exemption for their Advanced Manufacturing and Software Technology Center at Grace Lake Corporate Center. The Township granted an exemption in July to General Electric for some of the investment made in Building 40 and this is a continuation of that request for the remainder of Building 40 and a portion of Building 50. General Electric request is for \$848,519.80 of abatement on personal property equipment. This project would add 125 new jobs. Director Swallow stated staff recommends twelve year abatement, for a fifty percent abatement of personal property which would be approximately \$463.82 per year based on 2010 tax rate. Supervisor White stated this request is for General Electric Advanced Manufacturing and Software Technology Center at Grace Lake Corporate Center and when the total project is completed General Electric expects to employ over 1,000 employees at this facility.

There were no comments from Board members or audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 8:12 p.m.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: White, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, Ostrowski and Partridge. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

**MINUTES:** Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes September 20, 2010 as presented. Carried.

Wright moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes September 20, 2010 as presented. Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Regular Board of Trustees Minutes September 21, 2010 as presented. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Trustee Partridge announced on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Belleville Area District Library a cultural encounter entitled “Let’s build a splendid District Library” will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Cathy Horste, Van Buren Township Historian announced a Haunted History Tombstone Tour II “The Old Souls of Sumpter” to be held on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Martinsville Cemetery off Willis Road in Sumpter Township. This event is sponsored by the Belleville Area Museum and Sumpter Township to benefit the Belleville Area Museum.

Paul Henning, on behalf of the Belleville Area District Library, read a letter in support of the Belleville Area District Library millage proposal which is on the November 2, 2010 ballot.

Pam Fleming, Co-Coordinator of the City of Belleville and Van Buren Township Goodfellows, announced donations drop off locations are at Van Buren Township Police Department, Fire Station I and II for the collection of items for the 2010 Goodfellows Christmas food and toy donation program. Also, registration forms will be available beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department and on the Township website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) and for more information contact Pam Fleming in the Van Buren Public Safety Department at 699-8930.

Michael Miazga, Belleville Masonic Lodge representative, announced a Michigan Community Child Watch program. There will be a training session on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 515 Main Street. This program provides a sign to identify to children it is a safe place to come in case of emergency.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded adopting Resolution 2010-20 authorizing Public Act 328 Property Tax Exemption for General Electric Company and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Carried.

Partridge moved, Wright seconded approving Resolution 2010-21 authorizing an Industrial Exemption for the General Electric Company and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Tax Abatement Agreement. Carried.

Wright moved, Jahr seconded to approve the personal services agreement with Thomas MacDonald as DPW Superintendent and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to approve the reappointments of David Brownlee, Tony Gibson and Norm DeBuck to the Environmental Commission with terms to expire October 1, 2013. Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded approving Resolution 2010-22 extending the moratorium on submission or receipt of applications and any and all Township Permits, Licenses or Approvals for the Growing, Sale or Dispensation of Medical Marihuana for an additional ninety days. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the October 19, 2010 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor White ordered the August 2010 Budgetary Report received and filed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Clerk Wright announced the next Work Study and Board of Trustee Meetings will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> respectively due to the November 2, 2010 General Election. Clerk Wright stated polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. A sample ballot and a link to Michigan Secretary of State web site are also available on the Township webpage [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org). For

additional information regarding the election contact the Clerk's Office at 699-8909. Clerk Wright also reminded residents a Drop Box is located in front of the Public Safety Department for ballots, absentee ballot applications and payments of tax and water bills. The Township administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veterans Day. Lastly, the Township administrative office hours has returned to regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as of October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor White stated Budget Hearings will be held on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room.

Director Ross stated a "Warm Coats to Warm a Child Coat Drive" from October 11<sup>th</sup> through December 6<sup>th</sup> at Van Buren Township Hall. Drop boxes are located at the Community Services entrance and in front of the Clerk's Office. These coats will be distributed to the Goodfellows program. Director Ross announced Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department has been nominated for two awards from the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association. For information on programs and events please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

Director McClanahan announced on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> a Neighborhood Watch program will be held at Van Buren Township Hall in the Board of Trustees room at 7:00 p.m.

CJ Marshall encouraged the community to support the Belleville Tigers Football team by attending Friday night football game to be held at Eastern University Stadium.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 8:59 p.m. to 9:38 p.m. by the audience regarding the following topics: Public Safety Department, Animal Control, Public Safety Committee and complaint process for employees.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright  
Township Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul D. White  
Township Supervisor

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_.