

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 17, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brownlee at 7:00 p.m. Present: Debuck, Gibson, Merritt, Wilson and Brownlee. Absent: Jahr. Staff present: Director Swallow and Secretary Queener. There were 2 people in the audience.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion Wilson, Gibson second to approve the agenda with the following amendment-adding item # 3 under New Business tour of recycling center, and the E-newsletter.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion Gibson, second DeBuck to approve the minutes from October 21, 2009 as presented.

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Unfinished Business:

Item #1: Woodstove Discussion

John & Starr Burke who reside at 48524 Ormond Drive, stated research as shown that smoke and odor represents a health hazard to all individuals with pulmonary problems, and requested an ordinance be enacted that eliminates the use of wood, corn, or other organic fuels for purposes of heating ones home in a residential neighborhoods. As a minimum, such an ordinance would require that using such equipment would necessitate a permit that would be issued only upon receipt of written approval of all neighbors within 1,000 feet of the structure. Mr. Burke stated the State of Michigan has a ban along with some other communities.

Commissioner Wilson inquired if a neighbor approved the stove, and then moved and a property had a new owner, what would happen in that case? Mr. Burke stated it would be grandfathered in.

Director Swallow stated enforcing this type of ordinance would be extremely difficult.

Commissioner Brownlee asked Mr. Burke to provide model ordinances and references to State law.

Item #2: NPDES Phase II Storm Water Permit- Contested Case

Director Swallow stated the Judge placed a stay on the Administrative proceedings because a class action lawsuit regarding NPDES Phase II was filed by the City of Riverview. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), now the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE), appealed this stay and would like to see the Administrative proceedings continue.

Item #3: EQ Ground Water and Surface Water Sampling

Director Swallow stated he has reviewed the technical report prepared by Commissioner Wilson to reduce the number of Parameters for which the Township samples each year. Commissioner Wilson reported he had statistically analyzed the past results and was able to select several metals and volatile organic carbons that would be good indicators of potential problems.

New Business:

Item #1: EQ License Renewal Application and Expansion Plans

Director Swallow reported that the Environmental Quality Company (EQ) has submitted a license renewal application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for their Wayne Disposal landfill facility. The license is currently in the public comment period, after which a public hearing will be scheduled. Swallow stated that he had forwarded a copy of the license application to the Township environmental consultant, BCI Engineers and Scientists, for a technical review.

Item #2: Annual Report

Director Swallow stated the annual report for 2009 would not be as in-depth as in the past due to budget and time restraints. Swallow stated he would prepare a draft report for review at the next monthly meeting.

Item #3: Tour of Recycling Center

Chairman Brownlee requested that the Commissioners go on a tour of the recycling center to better understand what is recyclable. Brownlee reported residents have inquired about items, particularly different types of plastics, and he has not had the answer. Brownlee also had concerns with the E-newsletter, stating there was not enough information to keep the interest of residents and would like to include additional information.

The Commissioners agreed with Chairman Brownlee stating when the weather is nicer they would look into the availability of a tour of the recycling facility.

Motion Wilson, DeBuck second to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Queener,
Recording Secretary