

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 16, 2013**

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Captain Laurain, Chief Besson, DPW Director Taylor, Deputy Supervisor LaMothe, Secretary Cline and an audience of sixty-two (62).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda and the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes July 1, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 2, 2013; Voucher List of July 16, 2013.] as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Van Buren Public School Board President Mikulski gave a brief presentation on the positive events in Van Buren Public School District including the following: classroom learning, finances, operations and communication. Superintendent Van Tassel discussed recent changes to improve the school district such as the redistricting of schools, new policies regarding discipline and bullying and noted the improvement in ACT scores this year.

Fire Chief Besson introduced the following six new Probationary Paid-on-Call Fire Fighters Ryan Smith, Dustin Cox, Kurt Driscoll, Stephen Jones, David Kail and Bronson Campbell.

Captain Laurain stated the recent "Coffee with a Cop" was successful with around 100 participants. The following police officers volunteered their time to participate in this event Lieutenant Floro, Sergeant Abdilla, Sergeant Moening, Sergeant DeVos, Detective Toney, Detective Buxton, Officer McCormick and Officer Mike Long. A certificate of appreciation was presented to the owners of Leo's Coney Island.

Supervisor Combs read a thank you letter from Janet Campbell who attended the "Coffee with a Cop" event with her husband stating this was a wonderful idea.

Captain Laurain announced on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Van Buren Public Safety Day will be held at Walgreen's parking lot. Chief Besson stated the refurbished Fire House will also be at this event.

A letter from Ruth Bleeker regarding a plaque honoring former Supervisor Gollwitzer is missing from Van Buren Park and is seeking help to find out where it is.

Supervisor Combs read a letter from Hoosier Energy stating the Visteon/Hoosier Cogeneration plant project will not be built.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** A resident commented on Public Safety Director Position; request for an application for the Public Safety Director position; budget (Police Chief and Fire Chief instead of a Public Safety Director).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the Job Description for Public Safety Director; Personal Services Agreement between Captain Gregory Laurain and Van Buren Charter Township and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller and McClanahan. Absent: None. Carried.

Jahr moved, Miller seconded to approve the Job Description for Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent; Personal Services Agreement between William Turner and Van Buren

Charter Township as DPW Superintendent and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Carried.

Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to adopt [Resolution 2013-12](#), purchase of land foreclosed on by Wayne County Treasurer. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller. Absent: None. Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded awarding contract to Tri-Star Roofing & Sheet Metal, LLC for repair, removal and replacement of specifically identified areas of the Township Hall not to exceed \$220,800 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor Combs received and filed the May 2013 Budgetary Report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supervisor Combs made the following announcements. Van Buren Township Hall is a cooling center and residents may come to Community Services Department during this heat wave during regular township hours to cool off. The 2013 Summer Concert Series has begun on Friday nights at Van Buren Park with the following bands: Toppermost (Beatles Tribute) on July 19, Chain Reaction (Classic Rock) on July 26, The Dan Rafferty Band (Top 40's ~Pop) on August 2, Annabelle Road (Country) on August 9 and Delirious Love (Classic 60's ~ current) on August 16. All concerts start at 7:00 p.m. with a \$4 entry fee to Van Buren Park and a thank you to the following sponsors: McDonalds of Belleville Road, McDonalds of Rawsonville Road, I-94 Marine and Watersports, Perspective Eyecare, Belleville Lake Current, Edward Jones, Wendy's of Belleville Road, Reed Rite Pet Store, Cedar Woods, Coca-Cola, Van Buren Civic Fund, Great Lakes Towing, Atchinson Ford, Victory Lane Quick Oil Change and Twisted Rooster. For more information or in case of rain contact Parks and Recreation Department at 734-699-8921. On October 19<sup>th</sup> a Household Hazardous Waste Day for Van Buren Township residents will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Environmental Quality Company (EQ) east parking lot located at 49350 North I-94 Service Drive. Public Safety Day will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Walgreens' parking lot. Lastly, the Belleville Area Museum and Historical Society are collecting donations for the Belleville City-Wide Yard Sale to be held in September. Items may be dropped off at the museum located at 405 Main Street in the City of Belleville and for more information contact Director Katie Dallos at 734-697-1944.

Clerk Wright announced the change to Michigan Election Law eliminating Local Township Board of Canvassers and gives this duty to County Boards of Canvassers. Also, Van Buren Township and Recall Corporation will host a free "Shred Day" on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents may drop off at the township front parking lot a maximum of five cartons or medium size bags of documents per vehicle to be shredded. No three ring binders or metal of any kind please. A list of acceptable documents is posted at Van Buren website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) and cable channel 12.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 8:15 p.m. to 8:19 p.m. by a member of the audience regarding the following topics: Public Safety Director swearing in; Wade-Trim/parking lot project; Model Ethics Ordinance violation filed regarding Mondays Closed Session and Open Meeting Act. Clerk Wright stated no Open Meeting Act violation occurred and the Township had an attorney's opinion on this Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor