

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Supervisor Combs. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Director Akers, Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Best, Public Safety Deputy Director (Police) Wright, Public Safety Director Laurain, Public Safety Deputy Director (Fire) Besson, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Department of Public Services Director Taylor, and an audience of fifty-two (52).

Budd moved, Hart seconded to appoint Clerk Wright as Chairperson for the meeting. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: McClanahan moved, Hart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session Minutes of November 16, 2015; Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015; Prepaid List of November 19, 2015; Voucher List of December 1, 2015; revisions to the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: POLC Union representative questioned if the budget being presented had any cuts in the Public Safety Department. Resident questioned why there is a 1.7 million dollar increase in the budget from the budget averaged from previous years and encouraged budget oversight by Elected Officials.

Clerk Wright stated the 2016 Public Safety Budget being presented for approval did not contain any cuts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jahr moved, Miller seconded to approve the first reading of General Code of Ordinance 12-1-15 prohibiting the use of coal tar products. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve Resolution 2015-40 the 2016 Water and Sewer Rates and Fee Schedule. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve Resolution 2015-41 the 2015 amended and 2016 proposed General Fund Budgets with the removal of the fire department secretary line item and the following directives: Revenue in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance, Fiscal year line items which are not expensed shall revert to net income, approval of appendices noted (Balance sheet modification statement and Salaried Employee Wage Schedule) as part of the General Fund Budget, Revenues as "Tax Administrative Fee" is to continue as is past practice. The allocated millage for township operation 4.9144, represents .9144 for Township Operations and 4.000 mills for Public Safety, adoption by department total and approval of the final General Fund Amended Budget supersedes any prior resolution. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr and McClanahan. Nays: Miller. Absent/Excused: Combs. Motion Carried.

Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to approve Resolution 2015-41 the 2015 amended and 2016 proposed Special Revenue Budgets which will not include a canine, revenue in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance and items not expensed shall revert to net income. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the 2015 amended and 2016 proposed water and sewer budget. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: September 2015 Budgetary Report was received. Copies are available at the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Belleville, MI 48111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Budd announced the winter tax bills are in the mail. The deadline for payment will be extended until the end of February 2016. City of Belleville/Van Buren Township Goodfellows Coordinator Pam Fleming announced the last day to file an application for holiday assistance is December 4, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Seniors interested in receiving food assistance may apply and should indicate "food only" on the application. Applications are available at the Public Safety Department or may be downloaded from the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org. Monetary donations are still being accepted, checks made payable to Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows. Donation boxes are located at the Township Hall, Leo's Coney Island and at the City of Belleville. Trustee Hart announced the passing of senior resident, former Public Safety Committee member and community advocate Raymond Bailey.

NON AGENDA: Resident comments included: request for clarification regarding whether police layoffs have been directed, if the fire stations were going to be shut down, concern regarding classes being taught by Deputy Director (Fire) Besson, levels of funding for Public Safety, Township revenue over the past three years, acknowledgement of the efforts of the Public Safety Millage Committee, request for clarification of POLC union membership notification of layoffs. On behalf of the POLC and MAFF unions representatives comments included: reading of a recent comment posted by a resident to an article in the Belleville Area Independent, questioned if there had been discussions about layoffs in the police department, requested clarification of funding to maintain current police staffing levels, described conversations with Public Safety Director Laurain referencing budget cuts, layoffs and union notification, and a portion of an email sent to the MAFF union negotiation team by attorney Vinson regarding the duty crew was read.

Clerk Wright commented that a letter was sent to the MAFF union negotiation team requesting a meeting to discuss possible elimination of the duty crew, the Board has not sent any letter of notification regarding closure of the fire stations or directed anyone to notify personnel of layoffs, the Deputy of Director (Fire) received appropriate approval to utilize flex or PTO time to teach classes and provided a brief overview of Public Safety millage funding for the past 7 years.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Sharry Budd, Township Treasurer

Date: _____.