

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

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. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Director Akers, DPS Director Taylor, Engineer Nummer and an audience of eleven (11).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Jahr moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session Minutes of August 17, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of August 17, 2015; Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2015; Prepaid List of August 14, 2015; Prepaid List of August 21, 2015; Prepaid List of August 27, 2015; Voucher List of September 1, 2015; Adoption of Resolution 2015-35-Health Care Opt-Out for 2016 and Approval of the combination of lots V125-83-018-02-0112-003 and V125-83-018-02-0115-000.] Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to open the public hearing to receive comment on the request by Ashley Crossroads North, LLC to establish Industrial Development District #25 at 7:03 p.m. Motion Carried.

Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated the application to establish the I.D.D. district was received in July. The total size of the property is approximately 283 acres and is comprised of many individual tax parcels, all contiguous, located along Ecorse and Haggerty Rd.

Board members commented on the following: Site plans for development of the property previously submitted to the planning commission were turned down, in part, due to the need for a traffic study; current issues between Wayne County and the applicant remain unresolved, creation of the district would automatically allow any lessee to receive a tax abatement; making a decision without an approved site plan is premature; and opposition to the district.

One public comment was received opposing the district. The resident stated if the district was approved there would be a need to widen Van Born, Haggerty and Ecorse roads; questioned if the 47 residential parcels along Haggerty, Ecorse and Van Born roads were noticed of the intent to create the district; indicated if a district was approved that tenants would receive automatic tax abatement appeals if an abatement was denied by the Township and referenced the 21 page State of Michigan statute relating to Industrial Development Districts.

There being no further discussion Jahr moved, Miller seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m. Motion Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Combs read a letter to Director Laurain from a resident who praised the professionalism of public safety Officer Vernier when he responded to her traffic accident in July. Treasurer Budd read a letter from the President of the Van Buren School Board thanking the Township for their assistance in the securing donations for school supplies.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Resident paraphrased a comment made by an official during the previous day's work study session regarding the area associated with the proposed Industrial Development District #25. He felt the comment was derogatory towards the residents who live in the area. Trustee Miller stated the comment was made in response to her inquiry regarding truck traffic and the reply given by the Supervisor has been taken out of context.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Wright moved, Miller seconded to deny the adoption of Resolution 2015-34 to establish Industrial Development District #25. Motion Carried. Reasons for the denial were discussed by the Board during the Public Hearing.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to award the construction contract for the 2015 Pavement Rehabilitation Project (Dewitt, Jeanette and Venetian Roads) to Verdeterre Contracting in the amount of \$488,100, and authorize a 10% contingency amount to be used at the discretion of Director Akers to address change orders as needed and to accept the proposal from Wade Trim to provide construction engineering services for the 2015 Pavement Rehabilitation Project (Dewitt, Jeanette and Venetian Roads) in the amount of \$46,200 consisting of a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,100 for construction engineering and an estimated amount of \$16,100 for construction inspection services. Motion Carried. This project will be funded by the Wayne County Local Roads Initiative and the Dewitt, Jeanette and Venetian Roads Special Assessment District.

McClanahan moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Personal Services Agreement between Martin E. Ladd and the Township and authorized the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Motion Carried. Mr. Ladd has been hired as a Superintendent in the Public Services Department.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Personal Services Agreement between Matthew Best and the Township and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Motion Carried. Mr. Best has been hired as the Deputy Director of Planning and Economic Development.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Clerk Wright congratulated Trustee McClanahan who celebrates her 25th wedding anniversary and Trustee Hart on his retirement, after 37 years, from Ford Motor Company; noted his own 28<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday and announced the Township Administrative Offices will be closed Monday September 7, 2015 in observance of Labor Day. Treasurer Budd announced the summer tax bill due date has been extended, without penalty, until September 30, 2015.

**NON AGENDA:**

Residents commented on: the process by which the millage was approved by the Board; that during a special work study session in June the Board talked about three potential millage options; that at that meeting the Supervisor indicated all three proposals would be presented at the July 6<sup>th</sup> work study meeting; that the three proposals were not presented because the Supervisor indicated that staff did not have sufficient time to compose the language; that staff should have been mandated to prepare the language for further discussion since time was of the essence ; that no further discussion occurred on the millage until the Board voted on one proposal at the July 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Trustees meeting; opposition to the millage; disapproval of comments made by two Board members regarding public comment on the

millage during the non-agenda portion of the meeting potentially stifling freedom of speech and having one of the lowest taxes in Wayne County is not bad.

The Supervisor stated she has consulted with the Township attorney and the Board will allow residents to speak on whatever topic they wish to speak on as long as it is germane to Township Business.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Wright moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion Carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright, Township Clerk

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

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