

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 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 Sumpter, Planning Director Knowles, DPW Director Taylor, IT Director Steve Rankin and an audience of seventeen (17).

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2015; Work Study Session Minutes of March 2, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of March 2, 2015; Prepaid List of March 6, 2015; Prepaid List of March 12, 2015; Voucher List of March 17, 2015; Approval of the agreement between The County of Wayne and Van Buren Township for improvements to Quirk Park]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CORRESPONDENCE: The Senior Alliance-Aimee Page presented on Services for the Township Fiscal Year 2014; Clerk Wright gave a presentation on the May 5, 2015 Special Election Public Service Announcement (PSA) to educate Township residents on the Ballot issues and to showcase Cable Director McCracken along with her staff Nicole Bleifield and Ron Carnacchi. The PSA will air on VBT 12, U-Verse, and the Clerk's Face Book page on the Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident comments included: a request for an additional public comment section on the Board Meeting Agenda; that the Board is not considering the audience when asking to comment on the agenda before the items are presented. Supervisor Combs and Clerk Wright commented that Van Buren Township Citizens have access to the Agenda prior to the meetings; that an open door policy is always available for questions so proper comment can be discussed during the Board Meeting under Public Comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to consider approval of the first reading of Ordinance 03-17-15 to Amend the Township Zoning Ordinance rezoning approximately 1.99 acres of land (Parcels V125-83-018-02-0134-006, -007,-008, -009 and -010) located on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Denton Road from C (Local Business) to C-1 (General Business); Motion Carried
2. Clerk Wright moved, Hart seconded to consider approval of the request for special land use approval by Belleview Development, LLC for the establishment of a Drive-Through Restaurant at 10705 Belleville Road; Motion Carried
3. McClanahan moved, Jahr seconded to consider approval of Resolution 2015-06 the proposed Maintenance Agreement on the Downriver Sewage Disposal System; Motion Carried

4. Budd Moved, Hart seconded to consider approval of the purchase of BS&A Software to replace the remaining Springbrook Software Modules of Finance, Cash Receipt's, and Utility Billing; Motion Carried

REPORTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced the Van Buren Township Hall is hosting the Hoppin Hullabaloo & Magic Show Saturday March 28, 2015. The Hullabaloo starts at 1p.m and Magic Show 3p.m.; Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Presents Frog Night Friday, April 17, 2015 at 6p.m. - 8p.m. A \$2 per person pre-registration is required; Yard Waste Pick-Up begins April 5, 2015 and will run through the week ending November 28, 2015; Trustee Miller announced the 3rd Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity basketball Game between Van Buren, Belleville, and Sumpter's Police and Fire Departments on Saturday March 28, 2015 at Belleville High School Gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. game starts at 7 p.m.; Clerk Wright announced absentee ballot applications for the May 5, 2015 Special Election were mailed out to voters on the permanent Absentee application list on March 2, 2015; The Township Administrative office will be closed Friday April 3, 2015 in observance of Good Friday; The Department of Public Works will be conducting the annual spring cleaning for the Townships Cemeteries on March 23, 2015 through April 2, 2015, all receptacles placed on the graves if not discarded will be removed by March 20, 2015.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Resident stated that item #5 under new business to consider approval of the purchase of BS&A Software is a topic that the audience should have had a chance to comment on prior to the Board Vote on approving the purchase; that the Landfill will start to accept blight from the City of Detroit causing the life expectancy to gear down faster. Supervisor Combs asked how the information was received as it is not correct. Trustee Hart reassured the resident that he has researched the information and will stay on top of the issue to ensure compliance.

Resident stated that they would like to see more ordinances created and enforced to prevent vehicle blight in the Haggerty Subdivision; that they have contacted Lt. Bazzy and informed him of the issues. Resident also gave the Board pictures of the problems. Supervisor Combs stated that she will be diligent in getting the problem resolved.

Resident stated that they are pleased to see a cohesive board; that the report in the Independent labeled "7th Annual Report to Taxpayers" opened his eyes to the blended rate policy of the Township; that they were disappointed with the leadership, not so much as for the wages but for the mismanagement of employee's welfare. He stated that working those hours take away from family time and other qualified candidates could do the job; that other options should be discussed regarding the possible elimination of blended rate officers.

Audience member spoke about the ways to help Van Buren Township move forward in the process of allowing Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries and Grow Facilities set up and offered a tour of their facilities in the City of Ypsilanti to the Board.

Audience member offered services from his organization to help facilitate the caregivers and dispensary processes; that they would like to see an upcoming agenda on Commercial light industrial buildings for

Medicinal Marijuana; Supervisor Combs stated that she really appreciates the offer and would like to gain insight on the subject.

Audience member wants the Board to keep an open mind on the Medical Marijuana dispensaries and grow facilities as she is also looking for a building to house her Sweet Dreams business; that since Van Buren Township prides itself on being there for the aging community she informed the Board that Senior Citizens are her primary clientele. Trustee Miller stated she looks forward to delving into the topic and has seen documentaries on the benefits.

Director Knowles stated that the topic of Medical Marijuana is the clear indicator on the importance of getting this process in effect for the Township; Clerk Wright stated that the Township respects the constituents voice on this matter and he too is looking to move forward.

Audience member stated he is a journalist and was very proud to see so many on the Board in agreement to start the process of Medical Marijuana businesses within the Township; that since surrounding communities have already implemented ordinances and cannabis laws, Van Buren Ordinances can use their format for Ordinances; that laws and ordinance can also be found on his site at thecompassionchronicles.com.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Approved: