

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 21, 2015**

Chairman Brownlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Brownlee, Commissioners Ahamiojie, Debuck, Wilson and Board Representative Jahr.

Absent/Excused: Commissioner Gibson, and Commissioner Merritt.

Staff: Deputy Director of Planning and Economic Development Best, and Acting Secretary Lampinen.

Audience: (2) Member

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Brownlee added election of officers as item number one of new business, motioned to approve agenda as amended, supported by Jahr, seconded by Wilson. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion from Brownlee to approve minutes for September 16th, 2015 as submitted, approved by Wilson, seconded by Ahamiojie. **Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE: Discussion of Household Hazardous Waste Day and the success of the advertisement in the Independent Newspaper, and flyer distribution. Chairman Brownlee shared his hopes to ramp it up more for next year. Deputy Director Best discussed choosing an earlier date for next year and possibly getting Wayne County and U.S. Ecology involved in sponsoring the event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES

1. **Coal Tar Sealant:** Discussed the draft ordinance banning Coal Tar Sealant in the Township. Deputy Director Best discussed the penalty and enforcement section of the draft ordinance, and shared his discussion with the Van Buren Ordinance Officers regarding the difficulties of enforcing this ordinance due to the Township not requiring permits for driveway paving. Board Representative Jahr suggested dropping out paragraphs C & D Section 42-153 of the ordinance and making the ordinance more about the Commercial Applicators rather than the homeowners. Brownlee motioned to remove Section 42-153 paragraphs C & D from the Coal Tar Ordinance, Wilson approved, Debuck seconded. **Motion Carried.**
Board Representative Jahr inquired if there was a way to have driveway permitting enacted. Deputy Director Best explained the inability as of now being due to lack of ability to inspect each driveway. Jahr mentioned a registration method for Asphalt businesses as a way of keeping track of the use of materials such as Coal Tar Sealant and other matters. Best agreed that the registration option could be explored and to have staff look into possible permitting and registration for Asphalt companies. Best mentioned having the attorney go over the ordinance with the sections removed and getting the revised ordinance onto a Work Study Meeting for the Board. Chairman Brownlee recommended discussing this topic further in the next meeting.

2. **Recycling Road Map:** Chairman Brownlee mentioned being in contact with the people who do the Resource Recovery Guide for Wayne County and how to get this information to the residence in Van Buren Township. It was suggested adding an insert for the Township into the Resource Recovery Guide. Chairman Brownlee recommended putting this topic on the next agenda and going through what would be idea for the Township insert.

3. **Shoreline Ordinance:** Deputy Director Best brought everyone up to speed on the revision and added definitions of the Shoreline Ordinance on page 15; Section P regarding Watercraft Repairs. Board Representative Jahr mentioned how this ordinance is starting to get off topic from its original intentions which were originally of the strip of land on the shoreline. It was suggested by Commissioner Debuck and Board Representative Jahr to just remove the section regarding Watercraft repairs all together. Deputy Director Best agreed to suggest the removal of Section P. to the Planning Commission who has been working on the ordinance and keep everyone up to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chairman Brownlee opened nominations for Chairman, Board Representative Jahr nominated David Brownlee, Commissioner Wilson seconded. **Motion Carried.**
Brownlee opened nominations for Vice Chairman, Jahr nominated Commissioner Debuck, Wilson seconded. **Motion Carried.**

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Deputy Director Best discussed speaking to the director of Wayne County Resource Management about TENORM waste and the sources of TENORM waste. Also discussed was the meeting with U.S. Ecology, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Township. Deputy Director Best explained the purpose of the meeting which was the storage of hazardous waste, such as TENORM waste. The Army Corp was there to answer questions and concerns of the Township and get insight on how the Township views U.S. Ecology due to their plans of potentially utilizing U.S. Ecology as a place for their TENORM waste. Commissioner Wilson discussed his pleasure of what he learned about the disposal of TENORM and how there is no organic materials to transfer the radioactive gas in the landfill. Best clarified that the Army Corp did not say for sure that they will pick U.S. Ecology, but U.S. Ecology has agreed to inform the Township if any waste is decided to be brought into the landfill. It was also made clear that the waste that would be brought in, if any, would not be fracking waste. Commissioner Wilson ended the discussion by saying how pleased he was with being asked to attend that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ahamiojie, Supported by Debuck to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Jessica M. Lampinen
Acting Recording Secretary