

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2018

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Director Best, Executive Assistant Selman, Recreation Director Wright and an audience of twenty-five (25).

Supervisor McNamara requested the agenda be amended removing Consent Business item #6 [Voucher List of March 6, 2018] and placing it as New Business item #1.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. [Work Study Session minutes of February 20, 2018, Closed Session minutes of February 20, 2018, Board Meeting minutes of February 20, 2018, Prepaid List of February 22, 2018, Prepaid List of March 1, 2018 and approval of the attorney recommendation in the settlement of Wayne County Circuit Case No. 17-008615-NI, Anna Wambaugh V. Van Buren Township]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Miller moved, Frazier seconded to open the Public Hearing at 7:05 to receive public comment on the Iron Belle Trail Project. Motion Carried.

Public Services Director Best outlined the Iron Belle Project and the possible routes identified. When completed the Iron Belle Trail will be the longest state trail in the nation connecting Belle Isle in Detroit to Iron Wood in the Upper Peninsula. It will consist of 1,221 miles of hiking trail (72% completed) and 798 miles of non-motorized trail (62% completed). The project incorporates a safe connection from Downtown Belleville to Lower Huron Metro Park and requires a 25% contribution of funding by the Township. Grants have been identified and will be applied for to cover the required 25% funding. A public informational meeting was held at Belleville High School on January 31, 2018 at which attendees identified route options and expressed pros and cons of each. Three of the options were discarded by the Board because they would require right of way access from the railroad which has been denied. The remaining options will be further reviewed by the Board. Director Best proposed a new option that would address the first segment of the trail and allow the Board to consider moving forward with the grant application submission. The segment would commence at Edgemont Dr. along the southside of E. Huron River Dr. and end at Riggs Park. Moving forward he proposed forming a Van Buren Township Trails workgroup consisting of residents and moderated by Township Staff (Parks and Public Services) who would provide a route recommendation to the Board. PEA Inc. Engineer Sam Lovell was present to answer questions from the audience.

Audience members comments included: support of the Iron Belle Trail, safety concerns with Option #1, easements, setbacks, path width, ownership of Edison Lake Rd., E. Huron River Drive speed limit, speed limit enforcement, traffic accidents at s-curves on E. Huron River Drive, mailbox location/relocation, damaged trees, damaged fire hydrants, damaged fences, bridge integrity, bridge structural assessment, utility location/relocation, utility connection responsibility, path crossing safety on E. Huron River Drive, road conditions, lack of support for Option #1, support for alternative routes, and eighteen wheeler traffic. Two letters to the Board were read or summarized by audience members who had submitted them in advance of the Public Hearing. Questions posed by audience members were addressed by PEA Engineer Lovell.

Board members commented on: The importance of public involvement in the process of determining the trail route, thanked the audience for participating in the process, encouraged continued participation, support for the formation of a trails workgroup, support for moving forward with the initial path segment on the southside of E. Huron River Dr. from Edgemont Dr. to Riggs Park, discussed pros and cons of various routes and emphasized the importance of safety when it comes to determining the final route.

White moved, Miller seconded to closed the Public Hearing at 8:38 p.m. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Martin moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2018-2 authorizing the grant submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to cover a segment of the trail from Edgemont Dr. to Riggs Park. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the Voucher List of March 6, 2018. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Martin and Miller. Nays: Frazier and White. Motion Carried. Trustees Frazier and White expressed concern over Clerk Wright’s registration fee to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks conference out of state. Both indicated their previous request, and continued desire, to have further discussion and review of the travel policy. Trustee Frazier questioned the benefit to the community in attending an international Clerks’ conference and the Clerk’s expenses associated with past and future travel. Trustee Miller, Treasurer Budd and Supervisor McNamara confirmed their support of the Clerk’s Regional position and that expenses associated with the position were discussed and approved during the budget process. Clerk Wright reminded Board members that he was elected Regional Director of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks last year and will be installed in this position during the conference in question. His travel plans and expenses were discussed and approved during the budget process and that each Board member had signed a letter of support for him as a Regional Director. Clerk Wright maintained that for the past ten years he has followed all policies and procedures relating to travel and in the performance of his duties and all expenditures have been thoroughly reviewed on an annual basis by the Township auditing firm.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Township administrative offices will be closed to the public on Friday March 23, 2018 so that staff can participate in emergency preparedness training, Van Buren Township was featured in the March issue of the Michigan Township Association Focus magazine,. Trustee Frazier said she had submitted the information for publication at no cost to the Township, the Township will host the Conference of Western Wayne on Friday March 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. open to all residents, the Recreation Department will host the teen Flashlight Egg Hunt on Saturday March 24th from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Quirk Park, Summer Camp registration is now open, Fire Chief Brow is assisting the Van Buren Public Schools in obtaining a grant for Narcan and will be providing training in its use, the 22nd annual Quilt Show is going on at the Belleville Area Museum Tuesday 3:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. and Van Buren Township was first in submittal of their 2017 tax roll for settlement with the County. Treasurer Budd thanked Deputy Treasurer Sean Bellingham and Account Clerks Jessica Shevrovich and Kathy Adams for all their assistance.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Martin seconded to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Date: _____