

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2018

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Sheldon Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Director of Public Services Best, Executive Assistant Selman, Downtown Development Authority Director Ireland and Deputy Director Lothringer, Senior Director Jordan, Water and Sewer Director Taylor, Lieutenant Bazzy, Attorney Mannarino and an audience of four (4).

Supervisor McNamara requested the addition of New Business #7 Discussion on the 2018 Amended and 2019 Budgets, discussion of the items in the following order #1, #4, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7, and clarified that item 9 [Long Term Debt Fund] and 10 [Capital Improvement Fund] have been added to the Public Hearing as they relate to the 2018 amended and 2019 proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets.

Board members discussed the addition of items 9 and 10 to the Public Hearing indicating the public posting did not indicate them. Supervisor McNamara and Treasurer Budd expressed that they were included in the draft budget presented, that they are part of the Special Revenue Budgets and it was not necessary to spell each item out as it pertained to the Special Revenue Budgets. Board members reached a consensus that they could move forward with the Public Hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the appointment of James Chudzinski to fill the unexpired term of office on the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire March 9, 2022 of Mr. Ron Blank has retired. Mr. Chudzinski has expressed his desire to fill the unexpired term of office.

Downtown Development Director Ireland, with the assistance of Deputy Director Lothringer presented to the Board a brief video highlighting the progress on the pedestrian overpass on Belleville Rd. over the I-94 Expressway.

Discussion on the appointment of Dolores Hogan to the Endowment Committee with a term to expire January 15, 2020. Ms. Hogan has been a volunteer at the September Days Senior Center for many years and is eager to serve on the Endowment Committee.

Discussion on the re-appointment of Jeff Jahr to the Planning Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2021. Mr. Jahr is working on his Citizens Planner designation and has expressed his desire to continue serving on the Planning Committee.

Discussion on the re-appointment of Ben Ross to the Environmental Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2021. Mr. Ross is a former teacher, lives on the lake and has expressed his desire to continue serving on the Environmental Commission.

Discussion on of the first reading of Ordinance 10-02-18 (2) to amend the General Code of Ordinances Chapter 74 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places) Article II (Sidewalks) to add Sec. 74-27 to 74-29. The ordinance requires snow and ice removal accumulating prior to 6:00 a.m. to be removed by noon in commercial districts. Snow accumulating on residential sidewalks of more than 1 inch is to be removed within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation and within 18 hours of ice accumulation. Property owners will be notified if non-compliant and will be given 24 hours to take corrective action. Violation for non-compliance will be a civil infraction. Board members questioned compliance by “snow birds” and sidewalks maintained by Home Owners Associations. “Snow birds” would need to establish a way to address the sidewalks during their absence and residential property owners, not Home Owners Associations, would be noticed of violations.

Board members discussed a sidewalk maintenance/replacement program as it pertained to broken, lifted and damaged sidewalk slabs throughout the community noting a significant number in the subdivision at Haggerty and Tyler. Supervisor McNamara indicated he has explored a sidewalk repair program and ordinance to address the concern however the up-front costs for the Township are approximately a quarter million. If an ordinance was adopted the Township would be required to repair the sidewalk of residents who were non-compliant. Supervisor McNamara indicated further review would be conducted.

Discussion on the first reading of Ordinance 10-02-18 (3) to amend the General Code of Ordinances Chapter 74 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places) Article I (In General) to Article I (Snow Emergencies) and amend Sec. 74-1 to 74-10. The ordinance requires vehicles and trailers to be removed from streets when a snow emergency is declared by the Township Supervisor. Notice to residents would be via VBT12, postings on the Township website, at Township Hall, on social media platforms and local media stations. Board members expressed concern over how long vehicles would need to remain off the road indicating that Wayne County road crews often do not plow streets in an expedition manner. Further discussion on instances where the Wayne County road crew was unable to service roads and Public Safety vehicles had extreme difficulty accessing the subdivision at Haggerty and Tyler during the winter months. Board members reached a consensus to remove this item for further review from the Board Meeting of October 2, 2018.

Discussion on the 2018 amended and 2019 proposed Budgets. Board members thanked Executive Assistant Dan Selman on compiling the budget. Discussion occurred regarding indiscriminate wage increases for salary employees, the lack of an evaluation process for determining wage increases, Trustee White requested a wage increase citing comparison with Sumpter Township and hours spent reviewing packets, approved wage increase for election workers as it pertained to the 2018 election budget, General Fund fund balance in 2018 and projection for 2019, capital outlay funds, long-term debt funds and requests for a data driven budget going forward. Supervisor McNamara indicated that he had performed a wage analysis on salary wages and Trustee wages were in line with other communities and were considerably higher for a Van Buren Township Trustee who also received health care.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

BOARD COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further discussion Miller moved, Martin seconded to adjourn the Work Study Session at 5:36 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Date: _____.