

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Sheldon Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Wheelock, Director of Public Services Best, Executive Assistant Selman, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Zaenglein and Account Clerk Price, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Downtown Development Authority Director Ireland, Human Resources Director Sumpter, Director of Public Safety Laurain, Lieutenant Bazy, Fire Marshall McInally and an audience of three (3).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the combination of lots: 83-022-01-0003-004, 83-022-01-0004-003, 83-022-01-0005-005, 83-022-01-0006-001, 83-022-01-0007-001, 83-022-01-0008-003 (Denton Farms), 83-021-99-0001-0000 and 83-023-99-0005-000 with conditions. This combination is in compliance with the Township's Lot Split Ordinance and the Land Division Act. It was reviewed by the Parcel Division Board on June 12, 2018 and given preliminary approval at that time.

Discussion on a memorial at Quirk Park in honor of Egypt Covington. Long-time resident, Chuck Covington, has approached the Parks and Recreation Department expressing his desire to place a memorial at Quirk Park in honor of his daughter who passed away June 23, 2017. Commemorative benches, signs etc. are customary in many municipal parks. The Recreation Committee is in support of this effort and the Recreation Department is developing a program that will formalize the process. Board members discussed memorial placement in Quirk Park and will address this in the Recreation Master Plan update.

Discussion on Resolution 2018-24: 2019 Departmental Fee Schedules Each year as part of the budget process departments review their fee schedule(s) to be revised as needed. Departmental fees were discussed during the Budget Preparation meetings in August.

Discussion on the Election Inspector pay increase. Election procedures and processes have evolved significantly over the past five years requiring the recruitment of technically skilled workers and increased training time. Rates were last adjusted in April 2014. The proposed increase is consistent with other municipalities. General Board discussion was held on the need to incentivize and retain capable poll workers. A consensus of the Board agreed to increase the recommended pay schedule by ten dollars per position.

Discussion on Resolution 2018-23: 2019 Water and Sewer Rates and Fee Schedule. The estimated projection of increased Water and Sewer costs to the Township in 2019 exceeds 10%. The Water and Sewer Department is recommending an overall 5.0% increase to Township water and sewer customers. Board members discussed water meter replacement next year and questioned the Supervisor's decision to utilize an outside consultant to determine the need for replacement. Director Best assured the Board that an independent opinion was in the Township's best interest for such a costly project.

Discussion on Resolution 2018-22: Reimbursement of Travel, Meal and Lodging Expenses Policy. Modifications requested by the Board during the September 4, 2018 meeting have been incorporated. This policy amends Resolution 2012-18 as a standalone policy. Board members discussed the adjustments made that incorporated changes brought forward during the Work Study session of September 4, 2018.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment included a desire for poll workers to volunteer as opposed to being financially compensated.

BOARD COMMENT:

The Board discussed potentially reinstating a Cemetery Committee and future upgrades to the Township website.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further discussion Supervisor McNamara moved, Trustee Frazier seconded to adjourn the Work Study Session at 5:50p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Date: _____.