

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 15, 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 Montgomery, Executive Assistant Selman, Downtown Development Authority Director Ireland and Deputy Director Lothringer, Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director Laurain and Deputy Director (Police) Wright, Water and Sewer Director Taylor, Developmental Services Director Akers, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson and an audience of two (2).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion on the establishment of Industrial Development District #15 and a request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Subaru Research & Development, Inc. The applicant is eligible for a twelve (12) year property tax abatement based on the Township point system established in 1997 and revised most recently in 2016. Current taxes on the 75.98 acres is \$1,122. With the abatement the new property owner, Subaru Research & Development, Inc. will pay \$58,324.38 annually.

Discussion on the combination of lots 83-136-01-0018-000 and 83-136-01-0019-000 (Burtrig Subdivision). The property owner is requesting a combination of the two adjacent lots to address the encroachment of the home from one lot to the other.

Discussion on the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation Municipal (SMART) FY 2019 Municipal Credit Contract. The contract funds transportation for the Summer Camp program and senior services.

Board members discussed the SMART transportation system. The Township has opted out of SMART bus services since 1997 based on the cost for services to the residents. In order to Opt-In it is estimated the Township would be required to commit funding of 1.5 million to establish a route system. A consensus was reached that a further analysis should be done to determine the residents desire for bus service. Supervisor McNamara indicated that any final decision would require a ballot proposal and the ultimate decision would be decided by the outcome of a vote.

Discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding Addendum between the Township and Western Wayne County Special Operations Team. The memorandum outlines the financial and training requirements for member communities and the cost of services to non-members.

Supervisor McNamara turned the meeting over to Clerk Wright.

Discussion on a Community Recreation Center. Clerk Wright, in conjunction with Trustees Miller and Martin expressed their desire to explore the Boards interest in the development of a Community Center. A Community Center would provide needed space for recreational and senior programs that have currently outgrown the existing facility. Board members expressed concerns over initial funding, future funding, facility maintenance, utility costs, staffing and the overall size and scope of the project. A consensus was reached to move forward exploring the feasibility and logistics of a facility, consideration of community workshops and potential round table discussions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Trustee White requested clarification of several voucher list items and correction of spelling errors on the minutes. Clerk Wright corrected information appearing in a recent article in the Belleville Area Independent where a Van Buren Township Trustee was quoted. The quote indicated he had received a \$15,000.00

raise in 2016 so he would have parity with the Treasurer and an additional \$5,000.00 raise last year. Clerk Wright stated he has received the same annual raises as all Board members, received \$5,000.00 when longevity was discontinued and rolled into salaries in 2014 and \$1,500 in 2016 to achieve parity with the Treasurer. He requested that the Belleville Area Independent print a retraction and that Board members verify information before making statements. Trustee Frazier did not believe the figures presented were correct and was unsure of the statement she had made regarding the Clerk's wages. Trustee White expressed his belief that efforts to eliminate health care for Trustees in 2016 were directed at him personally, concern over the elimination of health care coverage and the in-lieu health care stipend in 2020 for Trustees citing Medicare does not provide the same coverage, belief that the Supervisor treats him as someone to put up with, explained that a Supervisor is an equal to all Board members in Township Governance, desire for all four Trustees to be treated with respect and dignity which he believes does not occur, summarized the amount of time he spends reviewing information, and requested parity and equal representation in all Township matters. Trustee Miller did not agree with Trustee White and expressed she had experienced the most team effort in years. Clerk Wright expressed that sometimes the Board gets in its own way trying to "get" each other and rebutting claims instead of supporting and building each other up and would like the Board to focus on respecting each other and developing cohesion. Trustee Frazier expressed that pointing out abuses of the township polices are difficult things to do but someone needs to be brave enough to bring it up in order to get improvements to policies. Trustee Miller commented on how nice the Lake Ledger was but would like to see it contain more information on Trustees.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Miller moved, White seconded to go into closed session at 5:55 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268(d) to consider the purchase or lease of real property. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Martin seconded to reconvene the Work Study Session at 6:34 p.m. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further discussion Frazier moved, Miller seconded to adjourn the Work Study Session at 6:35 p.m. Motion Carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_.