

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday, June 19, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Denton Room by Chairperson Brownlee.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Brownlee, Ross, Gibson, Merritt and White.

**Excused:** Debuck and Emekpe.

**Staff:** Director Best, Executive Assistant Renaud and Secretary Harman.

**Audience:** one (1).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Merritt, Gibson second to approve the agenda of June 19, 2019 as presented. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion Ross, Merritt second to approve the minutes of April 17, 2019 as amended to include Commissioner Gibson listed as excused and a spelling correction of the word "long" on the last page. Motion Carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Commissioner Gibson would like to see the Commission start doing community service projects again, such as: drain labeling, road or highway clean up. A follow up will be provided at the next meeting as to what other communities are doing.

Commissioner White received a phone call of septic drainage leaching into a ditch and asked Director Best for a number to Wayne County to provide to the resident. Director Best provided the following contact information: Wayne County Environmental Health, Dave Wilson (734) 727-7417 and advised to let the Public Services Department know if any follow-up is needed.

Chairperson Brownlee informed Commission members of an article in the Detroit Free Press "*PFAS Contamination in Michigan*" (article dated April 25, 2019). The article is part of a series and does a great job summarizing the impact of PFAS in Michigan. The article along with several others can be found on the Detroit Free Press website: [www.freep.com](http://www.freep.com). Similar articles can also be found on the Detroit News website: [www.detroitnews.com](http://www.detroitnews.com).

Director Best informed Commissioners that the Lower Huron Advisory Group and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) met and are asking for a new "Avoid Foam" sign to be added to the current signage. Director Best displayed the sign which indicates it is ok to have contact, but to rinse off if exposed and to keep pets away from foamy water and to rinse them off immediately as well. The Township will receive four (4) signs, they will be placed

underneath the existing signs. Director Best will provide Commissioner White a digital copy of the new sign to be posted on the Township Website and on Facebook.

- 1. Coal Tar Webinar:** The Van Buren Public Services Department was invited to a Coal Tar seminar. Multiple communities do not have an ordinance in place, they inquired how this group campaigned to make this ordinance possible and how to create an ordinance with civil infractions. A lot of Michigan communities are looking to put similar ordinances in place, there is also a possibility of a statewide coal tar ban.
- 2. Installation of new groundwater monitoring wells:** The U.S. Ecology hazardous waste landfill has asked for permission to remove and replace existing groundwater monitoring wells. This is a standard practice to maintain the groundwater monitoring system, by keeping equipment up-to-date.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1. Lake Drawdown Update:** Director Best provided the Lake Drawdown update. The Township Supervisor announced at a recent work study meeting that due to the comments/concerns received by Eagle Creek from the pre-application, there will not be enough time to get all concerns resolved to get the permit in time for the drawdown this fall. It took Eagle Creek some time to put together the plan and submit the pre-application, they have just received the response and the list of concerns that need to be addressed prior to acquiring the permit. Some of the items needing to be addressed for the pre-application are: a historical search, an environmental study, an archaeological study, samplings from the sediment bed for macroinvertebrates and determination of the timing of fish spawning as it may affect the timeline as well.

Commissioners inquired where we are at in the process now, what the next steps will be, will the drawdown happen this year, does this have anything to do with PFAS and what can the Commission do to help? The process is on hold while awaiting a response from Eagle Creek on the pre-application concerns, the Township will work with Eagle Creek to see what the next steps will be, the drawdown will not happen this year, the pre-application concerns do not have anything to do with PFAS and Director Best will keep the Commission informed of any updates that he receives. Commissioner White asked that any information received be emailed to the Commission members to keep them up-to-date on the progress moving forward. Director Best will forward any information that he receives on to the Commission members.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Gibson inquired if there will be a meeting in July or August, traditionally there has not been. Chairperson Brownlee confirmed there will not be a meeting in July or August unless something important comes up that needs to be discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion Ross, Merritt second to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Harman  
Recording Secretary