

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2010**

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Ross, Planning and Economic Development Director Swallow, DPW Director Knepper, Public Safety Interim Director McClanahan, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of fifty-five (55).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Partridge seconded to open the public hearing to discuss proposed projects for the fiscal year 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. Supervisor White went to Director Swallow for an explanation. Director Swallow stated this is the second of two public hearings regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Township is seeking comments from the public for potential projects that would meet the CDBG funding guidelines. The three national objectives for projects are: to benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slum and/or blight and to meet urgent community needs. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) objectives of the CDBG program are for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities. Director Swallow stated the proposed categories of allocations are as follows: 1) Senior Services – Public Services for a portion of the Senior Director’s wages. 2) Parks and Recreation – Public Services for youth services “Takin’ It To The Streets” and youth instruction and activities. 3) Planning – Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. 4) Administration - to offset Township cost for administrating the CDBG program. 5) Bricks and mortar project – to construct sidewalks in various locations on the north side of Tyler Road, between Walden Boulevard and Haggerty Road. Director Swallow reviewed some past projects of CDBG program were improvements to Senior Citizen Center, Accessibility for American with Disabilities projects at township hall and a current project is for sidewalks in low to moderate income areas. Director Swallow reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 CDBG allocations as follows: 1) Sidewalk construction - \$94,500 2) Senior Services - \$13,500 3) Youth Services - \$13,500 4) Planning - \$6,750 5) Administration - \$6,750 The estimated funding level for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year is \$135,000.

Trustee Partridge requested Director Ross review some of the youth programs CDBG funds. Director Ross stated “Taken It To The Streets” is a mobile recreation program put on in various locations in the township. Director Ross was happy to see this resource available for the seniors and the youth in the township. A resident inquired if snow removal from sidewalks on Tyler Road could be done. Supervisor White stated the township would check into this.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Budd moved, Partridge seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on establishment of a Special Assessment District (SAD) for the purpose of maintaining street lights in the Country Pond Estates Condominium. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m. and went to Director Swallow for an explanation. Director Swallow stated the township has received petitions signed by more than fifty percent of the property owners in the Country Pond Estates Condominium, requesting establishment of Special Assessment District for the maintaining of street lighting. Director Swallow has spoken with the members of the Homeowner's Association representatives stating currently the streetlights are maintained by DTE Energy and DTE Energy bills the township for the street lighting fees and then the township bills the Homeowner's Association for the street lighting fees. The Homeowner's Association would like to make the process simpler through a Special Assessment District by putting the cost of the street lighting on the tax bills. The Country Pond Estates Subdivision is located on the south side of Savage road between Martinsville Road and Haggerty Road. There are 144 single-family homes in the development. The cost of the street lighting would be spread across these 144 property owners via the tax bill. Written notices were mailed to each of the property owners in the proposed SAD notifying of this public hearing tonight and giving them the opportunity to make comments. Following the public hearing the Board may choose to proceed with the proposed SAD by adopting Resolution 2010-03 establishing the Country Pond Estates Special Assessment District for street lighting maintenance. The next step in the process will be determining an actual list of the properties within the SAD and a second public hearing would need to take place with all property owners being notified of the public hearing and cost associated with the SAD. The current estimate for each home owner is \$63.90 per year. Trustee Ostrowski inquired if each of the 144 homes were occupied. Director Swallow stated some may be vacant. Supervisor White inquired if the subdivision was completely built and Director Swallow stated it is built out with no vacant lots.

A resident of Country Pond read a letter stating his objections to the SAD stating he needs more information regarding this Special Assessment. His concerns are regarding the amount of Homeowner's Association dues. Supervisor White stated over 50 percent of the homeowners in the Country Pond Subdivision petitioned for this SAD. Supervisor White further stated the township does not get involved in the amount of dues for Homeowner's Association. Director Swallow stated notices regarding this public hearing were mailed to each property owner and a second notice will be mailed again to each property owner for the second public hearing. A board member of Country Pond Estates thanked the board for this public hearing and stated Country Pond Estates is the only subdivision in the township that pays their street lighting maintenance in the current manner noting other subdivisions in the township pay street lighting via a SAD. The Homeowner's Association representative further stated the Homeowner's Association will look at the amount of dues.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.

Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes December 14, 2009 as presented. Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes December 14, 2009 as presented. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Regular Board of Trustees Minutes December 15, 2009 with the following correction: Under New Business the second motion should read "Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the 2010 Proposed General Fund Budget with an amendment to delete the weeds line item \$35,000 and add an additional \$35,000 to the 2010 General Fund Budget [from Undesignated Fund Balance], noting items A through G inclusive, as outlined in Supervisor White's memo dated December 7, 2009. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Ostrowski, Partridge and White. Nays: Budd (Treasurer Budd stated "It was not legally right to support a budget that was not balance."), Hart and Jahr. Absent: None. Carried." Carried.

Partridge moved, Budd seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2009 as presented. Carried.

Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes December 16, 2009 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor White read a letter from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association and Awards Committee informing Van Buren Township's Riggs Heritage Park has been selected as the 2009 Michigan Recreation and Park Association Site Design winner. Supervisor White requested Director Ross to attend the February 2, 2010 ceremony to accept the award on behalf of Van Buren Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve proposed activities for Community Development Block Grant funding for fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). Carried.

Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded to adopt Resolution 2010-01 the 2010 Board of Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve Resolution 2010-02 and authorize the Supervisor to sign Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) annual permit. Carried.

Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to adopt Resolution 2010-03 to establish the Country Pond Estates Condominium Special Assessment District (SAD) for the purpose of street lighting maintenance. Carried.

Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve Amendment #1 to the Water Contract between Van Buren Township and the City of Detroit. Carried.

Wright moved, Budd seconded to approve correction of typographical error in 2009 Amended Landfill Fund line item 260-718-956 from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Carried.

Partridge moved, Hart seconded to approve the Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2009 winter taxes through Sunday, February 28, 2010. Carried.

Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the change of Lori Werner as alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals to regular member with term to expire December 1, 2010 and to appoint P. Ramone Crowe, Jr. as alternate with term to expire December 1, 2012. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Ostrowski, Partridge and White. Nays: Budd (Treasurer Budd stated it was a shamble the way a community member was treated.), Hart and Jahr. Absent: None. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the January 12, 2010 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor White ordered the November 2009 Budgetary Reports received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Wright announced the Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday January 18, 2010 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Treasurer Budd reiterated the 2009 tax winter deadline has been extended to February 28, 2010 noting there is a drop box in the Public Safety Department for payments after hours and weekends.

On Saturday January 16th a Wild Game dinner will be held at Wayne County Fair Grounds to benefit the Wayne County Fair Grounds.

On Saturday January 30th Saint Anthony's Men's Club will host a Holiday Dance.

The Belleville Rotary is hosting Fat Tuesday Italian Dinner on Tuesday, February 16th to be held at the Eagles Hall on Beck Road.

A resident inquired about homes being foreclosed as relates to equity of taxes.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 9:00 p.m. to 9:32 p.m. by the audience regarding the following topics as follows: election law, procedures of commission and committee appointments, Meeting Rules of Conduct and actions of Township Officials.

Clerk Wright stated anyone with questions regarding election laws can contact the Clerk for a meeting. A resident inquired how the recall election will be handled and will the State run the election. Clerk Wright stated the Clerk's Office will run the election. Supervisor White responded to several comments that were made during the Non-Agenda portion.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Partridge moved, Jahr seconded to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Paul D. White
Township Supervisor

Approved: _____.