

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 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: Planning and Economic Development Director Swallow, Public Safety Interim Director McClanahan, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of one hundred and seven (107).

Supervisor White thanked the North Middle School Cadet Girl Scout Troop 41052 for leading the pledge of allegiance tonight.

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

Supervisor White read portions of the Township Board of Trustees Meeting Conduct Policy.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to open the public hear public comment on special assessment roll for the Country Pond Estates street lighting Special Assessment District(SAD). Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Supervisor White went to Director Swallow for an explanation. Director Swallow stated this is the second public hearing to hear public comments on the special assessment roll for the Country Pond Estates SAD for the purpose of maintaining street lighting. At the January 12, 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting the Board approved the SAD and this meeting is to hear public comment on the special assessment roll containing the list of properties lying within the SAD. The Township has received petitions signed by more than fifty percent of the property owners in the Country Pond Estates Condominium. Director Swallow stated currently the street lights 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. If the Board approves Resolution 2010-05, the special assessment roll 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 SAD notifying of this public hearing tonight and giving them the opportunity to make comments. The initial annual cost, as supplied by DTE Energy, will be \$9,201.60 or \$63.90 per year, per unit. Supervisor White inquired how many street lights were in the Country Pond Estates. Director Swallow stated there are 32 street lights. Trustee Partridge stated there are very few vacant homes and no vacant lots. Director Swallow stated there are 4 homes listed as bank owned or vacant.

A resident of Country Pond Estates stated he has concerns regarding the amount of homeowner's dues and how many homeowners were aware of this special assessment. Director Swallow stated notices regarding this public hearing were mailed to each property owner for both of the public hearings and further stated the Township does not have control over the Homeowner's Association. A member of the Country Pond Estates Homeowner's Association who help collect the petition signatures for the SAD stated flyers were distributed several times to each property and stated the homeowners are aware of the SAD. The president of Country Pond Estates stated the Homeowner's Association has been working on the SAD for several years and the amount of dues will be reduced the amount of the special assessment (\$63.90) and this will be revenue neutral.

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: Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes January 11, 2010 as presented. Carried.

Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes January 11, 2010. Carried.

Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the Regular Board of Trustees Minutes January 12, as presented. Carried.

Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2010. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes January 20, 2010 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk Wright read a letter from Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County Clerk addressed to Deputy Clerk Kathleen Cline, CMC stating M.C.L. 168.965 Recall of officer with election duties; appointment of impartial public officer, Sec. 965 in accordance with the statute, appointing Kathleen A. Cline to conduct all official election duties of Leon Wright, Charter Township of Van Buren Clerk, associated with the upcoming February 23, 2010 Special Recall Election until the result of the question of recall is finally determined.

Supervisor White read an email from a resident thanking a police officer for his assistance with checking and putting air into the tires of her car.

On Monday, February 8th Savage Elementary School is hosting a bring your parent to school day sponsored by the National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). This is a national call to action to get parents more involved in their children's education and all parents are encouraged to participate.

John Delaney read a letter commending Trustee Ostrowski for his recent actions when approached by three males selling stereo equipment at a reduced rate and he informed the Police Department who then stopped this illegal action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2010-04 approving the Belleville Area District Library Agreement as presented. Carried.

Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the appointment of Joseph Monte to the Interim District Library Board. Carried.

Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the appointment of Christa Brasil to the Interim District Library Board. Carried.

Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve the appointment of Paul Henning to the Interim District Library Board. Carried.

Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to approve the appointment of Elaine Gutierrez to the Interim District Library Board. Carried.

Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded to adopt Resolution 2010-05 to approve the special assessment roll for the Country Pond Estates street lighting special assessment district as presented. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the February 2, 2010 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Wright announced the Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday February 15th in observance of Presidents Day and due to this closure the next Work Study Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th at 4:00 p.m. with the Board of Trustees Meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Treasurer Budd reminded residents the 2009 tax winter deadline has been extended to the end of February noting there is a drop box in the Public Safety Department for payments after hours and weekends.

Chief Loyer gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Fire Department including the following: budget, staff, equipment, fire stations, description of fire runs (PowerPoint slides of injury accidents and structure fires were shown), fire safety tips and Chief Loyer answered questions from the audience regarding the Fire Department.

Paul Henning, Communication Specialist from Van Buren Public School District read an apology statement to the entire school district and Van Buren Township Board members regarding a Van Buren Public School District advertisement in the Van Buren Voice newspaper by stating the school district takes no political side and remains neutral regarding the current Van Buren Township Board members. Trustee Ostrowski thanked on behalf of the four Board members being recalled Mr. Henning for the apology.

Bob Thorne announced he is waiting for an official response to the invitation for a debate on February 11th between the four Board members being recalled and the Recall members.

A letter addressed to Supervisor White was read on behalf of a resident who is also a veteran regarding the P.O.W.W. groups name and his view on the upcoming election.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 9:24 p.m. to 10:23 p.m. by the audience and Board regarding the following topics as follows: political activities, Public Safety Department, Water Tower, Board members actions, commissions and committees, ballot language, local newspaper, Interim Public Safety Director and Fire Chief, WalMart compliance to site plan regarding a walking path, Roll Call Vote process, Public Safety Department budget cuts pertaining to cancellation of Fireworks and Marshmallow Drop, Chamber of Commerce, policy on appointments made by Board and training budgets.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to adjourn at 10:23 p.m. Carried.
Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Paul D. White
Township Supervisor

Approved: _____.