

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 6, 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: None. Others in attendance: DPW Director Knepper, Parks and Recreation Director Ross, Chief Loyer, Interim Public Safety Director McClanahan, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-seven (27).

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

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Partridge seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the General Electric Company. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. Supervisor White went to Executive Assistant Ireland for an overview. Executive Assistant Ireland stated this public hearing is for a tax abatement in an already approved Industrial Development District number 18, which was established in October 2001. The request is from the General Electric Company (GE) who is relocating to the Grace Lake Corporate Center (formerly known as the Visteon Village). There are three representatives from GE present at tonight's meeting. GE is establishing their Advanced Manufacturing and Software Technology Center (AMSTC) and is expected to employ over 1,000 people at the site upon completion of the total project; however, for this particular phase 275 people will be hired. This will be their largest population of technology professionals under one roof. These individuals will be primarily IT professionals and technology engineers developing next generation software. The site will also include engineers and advanced manufacturing specialists developing new processes for manufacturing. GE is requesting that the Township Board approve their application for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFEC) on new personal property located in buildings 40 and part of 45. Building 40 has received a temporary certificate of occupancy from the building department and GE has submitted site plans for building 45 renovations. It is expected that GE will make an additional request for an IFEC at a later date. Executive Assistant Ireland, further stated revised documents have been provided to Board and GE indicating the number of employees for this tax abatement only. The process for the Township's Board approved Tax Abatement Policy includes an evaluation point system to calculate the number of abatement years an applicant qualifies for and affords the Township Board the ability to add or deduct up to 15 points for positive or negative impacts. It is the Township's staff opinion that the number of jobs along with reoccupying vacated office space at Grace Lake Corporate Center warrants granting an additional 5 points to achieve a total of 91.5 points. This point total would warrant GE receiving a 12-year abatement instead of the prescribed 11-year (86.5 points) abatement. GE is requesting approval of an abatement for only the new personal property they are adding in an amount of \$1,716,605. GE will also be using existing equipment that Visteon purchased and placed in the buildings, which is not included in their application. Over the 12-year span GE will pay approximately \$11,200 in township taxes instead of \$22,400. For all taxing jurisdictions (including Van Buren) they will pay approximately \$52,379.06 instead of \$104,758.

Board members and residents made the following comments. Supervisor White thanked the GE for locating in Van Buren Township. Trustee Partridge stated this is a long term investment in our community and also thanked GE. Trustee Hart and the GE representative reviewed the number of employees to be hired for this project and further reviewed a portion of Resolution 2010-15 as to GE's history, global operations and future growth in Van Buren Township. Supervisor White stated the salary range for these positions is \$110,000 to \$120,000 including benefits and praised GE for the jobs being

located in Southeastern Michigan. The GE representative stated he is pleased with the talent and experience of the workers being hired and this is a long term relationship in the community. Supervisor White stated the Township needs to grant tax abatements to companies in order to have companies such as GE relocate to Van Buren Township. The GE representative stated there were ten states GE was looking at before the Michigan site was selected and thanked the local, county and state representatives for their assistance. Trustee Partridge requested the GE representative review the projects. The GE representative reviewed and stated at some point renewal energy may be a part of these projects. John Delaney, resident, voiced concerns about granting tax abatement to companies. Treasurer Budd stated the Township will be receiving taxes on the occupied building versus the empty building. Reg Ion, resident, stated if the Township denies the tax abatement GE could appeal to the state and the state has the authority to grant the tax abatement. Trustee Jahr stated the amount of the tax abatement is \$11,200 based on current taxes. Trustee Hart stated it would be good for the community to have GE hiring these professional positions.

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

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

MINUTES: Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes June 14, 2010 as presented. Carried.

Budd moved, Partridge seconded to approve the Regular Board of Trustees Minutes June 15, 2010 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor White and Director Ross thanked Recreation employees Brandon and Kyle for assisting a woman who needed help with finding information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2010-15 authorizing an Industrial Exemption for the General Electric Company and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Tax Abatement Agreement. Carried.

Wright moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2010-16 to terminate the Lawn Mowing Contract with Abraham Landscaping for lack of performance. (Clerk Wright stated he went out to the parks and cemeteries and observed the poor performance.) Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the Lawn Maintenance Contract with Michigan Lawn for the remainder of the 2010 lawn mowing season. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to postpone the Agreement between the Township and Michigan Lawn Management for surplus grass cutting and related services for enforcement of the grass and weeds ordinance. Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve the Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2010 Summer Property Taxes through Thursday, September 30, 2010. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the job description for Cable Director and personal services agreement with Ally McCracken as Cable Director and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Hart moved, Jahr seconded to approve Resolution 2010-17 support for the Wayne County Department of Public Services Application for Transportation Economic Development Funding. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the July 6, 2010 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee Hart invited residents to attend the Public Safety Committee meeting tomorrow night, July 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room noting Wayne County Sheriff will also be in attendance.

Director Ross made the following announcements. The Walmart Foundation has donated a \$1,000 to the Recreation Department "Get Up and Get Active" Childhood Obesity program. The Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$2,000 grant from the Van Buren Civic Fund to go towards the construction of ADA swing sets at Quirk Park. The Wayne County Community College District has partnered with the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation for a Family Learning Adventure Day/Stomping out Childhood Obesity to be held on Saturday, July 31st at the Western Wayne County Community Campus. The Michigan Parks and Recreation Association (MPRA) have created an alternative funding program with the Detroit Tigers for a portion of the ticket price to be sent back to MPRA and participating municipalities. On July 9th the Sun Messengers will perform at the 2010 Summer Concert Series at Van Buren Park. Lastly, the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Center is a cooling center. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information on events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

Clerk Wright made the following announcements: The Michigan State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 3rd and the polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Clerk Wright reviewed the precinct locations. Candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon in the County of Wayne as follows: Governor, United States Representative in Congress, State Senator, Representative in State Legislature, County Executive, Sheriff, County Commissioner, Delegate to County Convention and Judge of the Circuit Court – 3rd Judicial Circuit. Also, Van Buren Township and Recall Corporation will host a free "Shred Day" on Saturday, August 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Residents may drop off at the township front parking lot a maximum of five cartons or medium size bags of documents per vehicle to be shredded. No three ring binders or metal of any kind please. A list of acceptable documents is posted at Van Buren website www.vanburen-mi.org and cable channel 12. Lastly, the Administrative Offices Summer Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. which began on June 14, 2010 and will run through October 1, 2010 with regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. resuming on October 4, 2010. Payments and election mail (applications for absentee ballots and ballots) can be made by utilizing our 24 hour drop slot, located in the Public Safety lobby or the ADA 24 hour drop box located in front of Public Safety Department.

Supervisor White announced on Monday, July 12th at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Trustees room a Special Work Study will be held to interview the finalist for the Public Safety Director candidates. Trustee Hart stated he will not be in attendance for the Special Work Study meeting and has requested for arrangements for him to meet with the candidates. Also, Trustee Jahr has requested to be excused from the Special Work Study meeting.

Public Safety member, Diane Madigan added additional information regarding the Public Safety Commission meeting of July 8th stating Wayne County Sheriff Neapoleon will bring free emergency 911 telephones for senior citizens and free gun locks for everyone. The Community Policing Officer Byrd will be available at 5:00 p.m. prior to the meeting to allow residents to sign up for the Community

Policing Newsletter. Ms. Madigan, further, thanked the entire Public Safety Department for hosting a successful Public Safety Day on Saturday, June 26th and thanked all the residents who attended.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 9:12 p.m. to 9:16 p.m. by the audience regarding the following topics: General Electric for relocating in the community, traffic issues on Haggerty Road due to the detour on I-275 and I-94 and the Water Tower project.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Date: July 20, 2010.

Paul D. White
Township Supervisor

Approved: As presented.