

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 16, 2011**

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: Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, DPW Director MacDonald, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant Ireland, Assistant Assessment Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-eight (28).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the revised agenda as follows: under "Approval of Consent Agenda" remove item #6 "Resolution 2011-28 and Petition to the Wayne County Drain Commissioner to abandon a portion of the Post-Robinson Drain"; add item #7 "Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2011 Summer Property Taxes through Friday, September 30, 2011"; item #5 "Resolution 2011-27, Equality and Human Rights" (revised); item #3 "Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 2, 2011" (amended). Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes August 1, 2011; Closed Session Minutes August 1, 2011; Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 2, 2011 as amended; Personal services agreement for DPW Field Superintendent (James Taylor) and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement; Resolution 2011-27, Equality and Human Rights (revised); Detroit Edison Company agreement for Municipal Street Lighting for Belle Pointe Subdivision; Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2011 Summer Property Taxes through Friday, September 30, 2011.] Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Jahr moved Hart seconded to hear public comment on establishing Industrial Development District #23. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Executive Assistant Ireland stated this public hearing is to establish Industrial Development District #23 for the General Electric facility located at 41965 Ecorse Road. On January 11, 2011 Van Buren Township received correspondence from General Electric indicating they would be requesting the Board of Trustees establish an Industrial Development District and the Township received the application August 1, 2011. Executive Assistant Ireland gave a brief description of the new Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center that is projected to add investments comprised of machinery and equipment, building acquisition, building improvements, and future equipment investment in the estimated amount of \$27,500,000. It is estimated that 130 technical jobs will be added. There were no objections from any other taxing jurisdictions as it relates to the request for the tax abatement. Executive Assistant Ireland stated under the Township's current policy General Electric qualifies for six (6) years of abatement; however, a commitment to seven (7) year PA 328 was noted in the August 12, 2010 correspondence from Supervisor White. Executive Assistant Ireland further reviewed the resolutions, application and agreement stating General Electric meets the qualifications for this abatement. The applicant's representative thanked the Board for working with General Electric and gave an overview of the project stating once the construction of the project is completed the manufacturing will begin.

Trustee Jahr stated this public hearing is only to set the district and not for the PA 328 tax abatement. Trustee Jahr inquired if a PA 198 tax abatement would also be requested for this project. The General Electric representative stated yes. Trustee Jahr requested details on the location of the district. Supervisor White stated the site is former Ashley Capital building located on Ecorse Road. Executive Assistant Ireland stated the site is located at 41965 Ecorse Road just west of Haggerty Road, the size is approximately five (5) acres and the property is owned by General Electric. Trustee Jahr inquired when the process started. Executive Assistant Ireland reiterated the January 2011 letter and August 2011

application was received by the Township. Trustee Jahr inquired about the August 2010 letter stating the following "The Township's elected officials have concurred with the following tax incentives based on your commitments to locate the research, development and manufacturing facility at the Ecorse Road site: Public Act 328 Personal Property Exemption for a period of seven (7) years, providing for 100 percent tax abatement on new personal property." Trustee Hart stated this pre-commitment from Supervisor White dated August 2010 was inappropriate prior to the Board being thoroughly informed of the proposal and is disappointed the Board was not involved in this process. Supervisor White stated discussions were held in August 2010 including former Director Swallow and Executive Assistant Ireland regarding a Turbo tax incentive proposal with General Electric from Wayne County for fifty percent tax abatement on real property for a period of five years. Supervisor White stated this project at the time was on a fast track.

The following were comments from audience. Mr. Delaney stated the previous public hearings in 2010 regarding General Electric were for Visteon Village/Grace Lake Center site on the east side of I-275 and not this site and the Supervisor should have consulted the other Board members. Mr. Fix stated when General Electric first came to the Township it was kept secret and felt it was a travesty that these issues were not worked out prior to the Board Meeting. Ms. Madigan inquired about the size of the district and is it a PA 198 or PA 328. Supervisor White stated the request is for a PA 198 District for the former Ashley Capital Building site. Trustee Jahr clarified the public hearing is to set a PA 198 District; however, General Electric is also requesting PA 328 personal property abatement.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Edward Smith, representative of the Tri-Community CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) stated CERT is a group who works with Public Safety Departments and is asking for recognition from Van Buren Township. A training session will be held at Sumpter Township Fire Hall on September 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Jahr and Trustee Hart requested a detailed presentation be presented at a Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Director MacDonald introduced new DPW Field Superintendent James Taylor to the Board and audience.

Supervisor White read Resolution 2011-27 regarding Equality and Human Rights. Several residents commented on the need for this Resolution and both did not think it was necessary since the majority of the residents already follow these beliefs.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to adopt Resolution 2011-24 establishing Industrial Development District #23. Carried.

Partridge moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2011-25 authorizing an Industrial Exemption Certificate for General Electric Company and authorizing Supervisor and Clerk to execute the PA 328 Tax Abatement Agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr, Partridge and White. Nays: Ostrowski. Absent: None. Carried.

Wright moved, Partridge seconded to adopt Resolution 2011-26 advising the Wayne County Department of Public Service of the Township's willingness to accept jurisdiction and maintenance of storm water drainage system constructed in connection with the development of Statewide Boring & Machine LLC (parcel number V125-83-002-99-0025-702); authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Storm Water Management System Maintenance & Repair agreement, between Van Buren Township and

Statewide Boring & Machine LLC. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Hart, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: Ostrowski and Jahr. Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to have Supervisor White draft a letter to be sent to Wayne County Executive, Robert Ficano and Wayne County of Commissioners requesting to modify stormwater permits and as suggested by the attorney “to have all of the stormwater permits previously issued by the County to be reissued in the name of the property owner to void the stormwater maintenance agreements imposing liability upon the Township”. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the August 16, 2011 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Treasurer Budd reminded residents the 2011 tax summer deadline has been extended to Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> noting there is a drop slot in the Public Safety Department Lobby and an ADA drop box located in front of the Public Safety Department for payments after hours and weekends.

Director Wright made the following announcements: The Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department presents Takin’ it to the Streets on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This free event will be held at Tyler Elementary School located at 42200 Tyler Road. On Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> Stolen Moments will perform at the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Summer Concert Series held at Van Buren Park, located at South I-94 Service Drive from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Also, at Van Buren Park on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> the Van Buren Area Talent Competition presented by Party Time Entertainment will be held. Finally, the Applebee’s Dining to Donate is Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and fifteen percent of your bill will be donated to the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department. You must present flyer to your server for the donation to be counted. Flyers are available online at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) and/or at the Recreation Department. For more information call 734-699-8921.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 9:47 p.m. to 10:25 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: update of Water Tower, update on the improvements to Beck Ball diamonds, FEMA National Flood Insurance Program, emergency light at Fire Station One, attorney fees, budget, Robert Rules of Order and Open Meetings Act, Board members, Police Department and a request for a report on the number of officers on shifts.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright  
Township Clerk

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

Paul D. White  
Township Supervisor

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_.