

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 4, 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 Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: Trustee Hart (excused). Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, DPW Director MacDonald, Executive Assistant Ireland, Assistant Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-four (24).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the following changes: to move New Business Item # 5 “Consider the attorney’s recommendation regarding case # 10-14581 (Poore vs. Van Buren Township), U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.” to the Consent Agenda and to table until the next Board of Trustees meeting New Business Item # 4 “Consider the lease and installation of a new 800 MHz police radio system from Herkimer Radio Service, utilizing E-911 funds to replace an out dated analog system.” Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes September 19, 2011; Closed Session Minutes September 19, 2011; Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 20, 2011; to accept the attorney’s recommendation regarding case # 10-14581 (Poore vs. Van Buren Township), U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.] Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Partridge moved, Wright seconded to hear public comment on the request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate, in Industrial Development District #7, for SMW, Inc., located at 8707 Samuel Barton Drive. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Ostrowski, Partridge, Jahr, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Executive Assistant Ireland stated this public hearing is to hear public comment on the request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for SMW, Inc., located in Industrial Development District #7 at 8707 Samuel Barton Drive, noting three of the applicant SMW, Inc. representatives were present. This building has been vacant for over three years. SMW, Inc. purchased the building in April 2011. The request is for personal property tax abatement on equipment in an amount of \$9.16 million. This parcel does not qualify for an exemption on the building, land or any other personal property they place at the facility that is not new to the state of Michigan, as defined by the state tax commission. SMW, Inc. also has a facility in Munith, Michigan. SMW, Inc. has obtained local clients in the Township. It is expected there will be twenty-two new jobs at this facility. SMW, Inc. qualifies for nine year tax abatement. SMW, Inc. will be paying a full tax rate of 47.1022 mills on the existing building and land. The total amount of personal property for the nine year abatement for Van Buren Township taxes is estimated at \$58,522. Trustee Partridge requested the representatives from SMW, Inc. provide a brief review of the machinery and what the employees will produce at the 80,000 square feet facility. The representatives described the manufacturing process called cold heading and showed some products produced such as bolts, bits and sockets. SMW, Inc. is a diversified company with about twenty percent of customers from the automotive industry and the remaining customers from other industries. SMW, Inc. purchased the property and plans on being a long term resident of Van Buren Township and the Van Buren Township site will be SMW, Inc. headquarters, since the Van Buren Township area has greater resource of skilled labor employees. Supervisor White stated this is a standard 198 Act agreement with a point system used to determine this nine year tax abatement.

The Audience had the following comments. John Delaney inquired if the applicant had purchased the property; would the tax abatement make a difference in SMW, Inc. staying in the township; does SMW, Inc. have a tax abatement in Munith; stated too many tax abatements have been granted to companies. The applicant stated they had purchased property and are committed to Van Buren Township but, the decision whether to expand at the Munith site or Van Buren Township site would depend on which would be more profitable and cost effective to expand at; the applicant has not applied for a tax abatement in Munith at this time and believed if a tax abatement was requested in Munith the tax abatement would be

granted. The applicant stated SMW, Inc. is committed to the community and will repair the building. Allen Babosh stated the Township should support this Michigan Company staying in Michigan by granting this tax abatement; however, each tax abatement request should be carefully reviewed by Township. Trustee Ostrowski stated he is against tax abatements and the township cannot afford giving away tax dollars.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Budd moved Jahr seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the second reading for adoption General Ordinance 9-20-11, to amend the Township General Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42, Environment, Article II, Nuisances, Division 5 Noise, Section 128 (c). Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Jahr, Ostrowski, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

\*(A copy of the synopsis of [Ordinance 09-20-11](#) follows the minutes. Copies of the full ordinance may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

**NEW BUSINESS:** Partridge moved, Jahr seconded to approve Resolution 2011-30 authorizing an Industrial Exemption for SMW, Inc. and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Tax Abatement Agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Jahr, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: Ostrowski. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve Resolution 2011-31 Board Meeting Conduct Policy as amended. Carried.

Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve job description for Executive Assistant/Assessment Coordinator; to approve the personal services agreement for the Executive Assistant/Assessment Coordinator (Linda Stevenson) and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Wright and White. Nays: Jahr and Budd. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the October 4, 2011 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor White received and filed the August 2011 Budgetary Report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Trustee Partridge announced on October 8<sup>th</sup> the Harvest Festival will be held with activities at the Library and Museum in the City of Belleville; also, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts is having a bake sale and a Great Pumpkin Race.

Trustee Jahr invited all to "Come Howl at the Moon" the BBC Striders and the American Cancer Society is sponsoring a "Bark for Life" of Belleville on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at Riggs Park in Van Buren Township from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a funding raising event and more information can be found at [barkforlife@bbcstriders.com](mailto:barkforlife@bbcstriders.com) or email Trustee Jahr at [jjahr@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:jjahr@vanburen-mi.org).

Clerk Wright stated on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> an election will be held. All Van Buren township registered voters will vote on the Public Safety Millage Renewal, for those voters who reside in the Van Buren Public School District will also vote on two (2) Van Buren Public School Board members seats and an Operating Millage Renewal Proposition Exempting Principal residence and qualified Agricultural property and for those voters who reside in the Lincoln Consolidated School District will vote on two (2)

Lincoln Consolidated School Board member seats. The last to register for the November 8<sup>th</sup> election is Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Absentee Ballots are currently available and for election information contact the Clerk's Office at 734-699-8909 or visit website at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org). To help assist voters in finding their polling locations the Clerk's Office has contacted homeowner associations of subdivisions and apartment complex managers in the township requesting polling location signs to be placed at entrances of subdivisions and apartment complexes denoting the polling location. At this time there are over twelve subdivisions and most apartment complexes will be participating in posting polling location signs. Clerk Wright also, thanked Director Wright for the assistance of Account Clerk Tina Harman in creating the polling location signs. Clerk Wright announced a student election worker program has been started in conjunction with Belleville High School.

Van Buren Township Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, sponsored by the Environmental Quality Company, will be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Environmental Quality Company parking lot located at 49350 North I-94 Service Drive for Van Buren Township residents to dispose of hazardous waste in an environmentally safe manner. This information is posted on the Township website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org).

Director Wright acknowledged ITC for donating \$2,000 to the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department stating a portion of money was used to clean up and replant the Memorial Garden at Van Buren Park. The gymnasium floor project is moving along and on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Fundamentals of Basketball (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>) from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. and Volleyball (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) from 5:20 to 6:20 p.m. will begin. For more information about recreational activities call 734-699-8921, on the Township website at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) or Like us on Face book.

Director McClanahan announced Nixle is back for Van Buren Township and to sign up for Nixle alerts via the Township website.

Supervisor White announced Budget Preparation meetings will be held on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Board of Trustees meeting room.

Supervisor White stated Closed Session was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding case # 10-14581 (Poore vs. Van Buren Township) and to discuss attorney client communication.

Craig Atchinson, from Atchinson Ford announced Drive One 4UR School fundraising event for Belleville High School on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Belleville High School.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 9:03 p.m. to 9:28 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Public Safety Department, Public Safety renewal millage, Fire Department staffing, sign ordinance enforcement, assistance in removal of dead trees along Sumpter Road, water tower, good stewardship in township, township wide home owner meeting and North Middle School PTA fund raiser.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 9:29 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright  
Township Clerk

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

Paul D. White  
Township Supervisor

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