

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: Trustee Jahr (excused). Others in attendance: Public Safety Director Laurain, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Fire Chief Besson, Planning and Economic Development Director Mullen, Secretary Cline and an audience of thirty-three (33).

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Minutes September 3, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 3, 2013; Reappointments of Michael Dotson and David Taylor to the Local Development Finance Authority with terms to expire on 8-12-2017; Voucher List of September 17, 2013.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Wright seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on a request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Die Services International, LLC. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Wright, Budd, Hart, McClanahan, Miller and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: Jahr (excused). Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. Supervisor Combs went to Assessing Coordinator Stevenson for an overview. Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated this public hearing is to hear comments regarding a request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Die Services International, LLC. Die Services International, LLC purchased the former Republic Die and Tool Company in January 2010. The building has 250,000 square feet of manufacturing space and continues to utilize the same equipment for services ranging from Die Tryout and Spotting, Press Rental, Production Stamping, Engineering Changes, Emergency Repairs, Foreign Tools, Large Component Machining and Service Parts. The request is for a tax abatement on a new purchase of a hydraulic press and associated equipment in the amount of \$3,000,000. This project utilizing new equipment would enable Die Services International, LLC to hire 24 additional employees. The building is in an existing Industrial Development District #5 and based on the Township's Tax Abatement Policy point system qualifies for a seven (7) year exemption. The abatement policy point system does allow for an additional 15 points to be added for extraordinary impacts and Die Services International has requested these additional points. This would qualify for a ten (10) year exemption instead of seven (7) year exemption. Notices were mailed to other taxing authorities and no comments or objections have been received for this abatement.

Mr. Heidrich, owner and president of Die Services International, LLC stated he purchased the property in 2010 and made a commitment with former owner of Republic Die and Tool to keep the business open and not to sell off the equipment. Mr. Heidrich owns another tool and die business in Oakland County, Michigan. He is requesting a ten (10) year abatement stating he has no previous tax relief and has paid \$128,000 in property taxes in 2012, currently employees 80 full time and 70 temporary employees and would add an additional 24 employees. Board members had the following comments and questions: Trustee Miller stated she is not in favor of large companies receiving tax abatement who can pay the taxes; what was 2012 yearly revenue; the 24 new jobs are they transferring or new hires; how do you give back to community. Mr.

Heidrich stated the revenue for 2011 was 2 million, for 2012 was 10 million and anticipated for 2013 is 12 million; the jobs are for all new hires to the company; would like to be involved and support the community. Supervisor Combs stated temporary employees have moved to permanent full time positions and Mr. Heidrich confirmed this process. Clerk Wright inquired if Die Services International, LLC is in the process of hiring now and Mr. Heidrich stated yes. Trustee McClanahan inquired if there was in-house training for employees and Mr. Heidrich stated yes. Trustee Miller inquired is there a process in the Township to ensure the 24 jobs are filled. Treasurer Budd stated a report is turned in each year for the Township to monitor goals. Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated every tax abatement is sent a report to complete each year. Trustee Hart stated tax exemptions can be removed if not meeting goals and could the requestor request additional tax exemptions in the future if the company buys additional new equipment. Assessing Coordinator Stevenson confirmed the Assessing Department monitors all tax exemptions; tax exemptions can be revoked and yes the requestor could request additional tax exemptions. Trustee Miller inquired if the company is sold does the tax exemption transfer. Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated the new company would have to apply for the tax exemption to be transferred and would require Board approval.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read a thank you email regarding trash pick-up by Waste Management employees from a resident for the good service they provide.

Supervisor Combs read a thank you letter addressed to Public Safety Director Laurain for the "Coffee with a Cop" the Public Safety Department held on July 13th at Leo's Coney Island and congratulated Director Laurain on his position as Public Safety Director.

Supervisor Combs read an email from Deputy Director Zaenglein regarding Boy Scout Michael Porcaro from Boy Scout Troop 210 stating he recently completed his Eagle Scout Project at French Landing Park by refinishing the play structure.

Director Laurain announced another "Coffee with a Cop" will be held at Leo's Coney Island on November 9th from 8:00 am. to 10:00 a.m. for residents to get to know Public Safety officers.

Director Laurain recognized Leo's Coney Island and it's owners who on September 11th, Patriots Day hosted a day of recognition for Public Safety personnel; for those who gave their lives in the line of duty in New York and to show the support for their local Fire Department by pledging ten percent of the September 11, 2013 day's proceeds to the Fire Department. Sam from Leo's Coney Island read a brief statement in honor of 9/11 victims and presented a \$500 check to the Fire Department.

Chief Besson removed the probationary status from the following three probationary fire fighters Dan Walter, Ian Skotak and Christopher Roy and presented each with their badges and helmet shields. Chief Besson also introduced new probationary fire fighter Rachel Spence.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved, McClanahan seconded to adopt [Resolution 2013-15](#) authorizing a the seven (7) year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Die Services International, LLC and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to execute Tax Abatement Agreement. Carried.

Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve the request of budget amendment reallocating \$30,000 from State Forfeiture Fund Balance to Capital Improvement line item. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced the following: The township parking lot is being repaved and residents may enter through the Recreation entrances; October 19th the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held for township residents at Environmental Quality Company East parking lot located at 49350 North I-94 Service Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Applications are available for Van Buren Township residents who are eligible for Community Development Block Grant housing rehab assistance program at the Developmental Services Department or downloaded from the township website www.vanburen-mi.org/Development/CDBGHousingRehabApp.pdf; Flu shots will be available at the September Days Senior Center on September 25th and October 2nd for more information and to schedule your appointment call 734-699-8918; October 5th the Recreation Department will host “Touch A Truck” for children to explore all types of trucks; Belleville Area Museum and Historical Society will host a Cemetery History Tour at Tyler Cemetery on October 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chief Besson announced the Fire Department recently participated in a state wide Mutual Aid training day event in Novi.

Clerk Wright commended Chief Besson on fulfilling the Board’s request of hiring fire fighters. Supervisor Combs also commended Chief Besson for the training being provided to the Fire Department.

Chief Besson announced on September 28th the Fire Department will hold a training burn at 7080 Edwards.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 7:47 p.m. to 7:51 p.m. A resident commented on the replacement of fence between Ecorse Service Drive and Ecorse Road and appreciates the improvements to Ecorse Road.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor