

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING-BOARD RETREAT MINUTES
MAY 12, 2015**

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery and Representative Naheed Huq from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). No audience members were present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Naheed Huq provided an overview of the agenda, outlined participation and expected outcomes and asked for any modifications of the agenda. Hearing none the agenda was approved as presented. Ms. Huq presented a slide show presentation entitled "The Region on the Rebound" that focused on information and statistics in the Region and State. Following the slide presentation the focus was directed to a review on the status of projects identified in the last strategic planning session. These projects included Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) bond repayment issues; Township planning process; Van Buren Park; Economic development and leverage locational advantages. Board members provided in-depth updates on each project and explored additional priorities they wished to focus on. Supervisor Combs recessed the meeting at 7:08 p.m. for a five minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:13 p.m. Following the re-examination and exploration process the Board re-established the priorities as (1) Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), (2) Planning, (3) Funding of Public Services, (4) Leverage location/Township Branding, (5) Economic Development, (6) Community Pride and (7) Van Buren Park. Ms. Huq will provide the Board a written summary of the topics discussed and encouraged future progress update sessions. Additional sessions will be scheduled and will include Departmental Directors and Downtown Development Authority participation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Approved: _____.