

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
June 17, 2015**

Chair Brownlee called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>Present:</b>	Chair Brownlee; Commissioners Ahamiojie, DeBuck, Gibson and Wilson; and Board Representative Trustee Jahr
<b>Absent/Excused:</b>	Commissioner Merritt
<b>Staff:</b>	Secretary Kurtz
<b>Audience:</b>	4

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Ahamiojie, Supported by DeBuck** to approve the Agenda for June 17, 2015 as presented. **Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Gibson, Supported by Wilson** to approve the meeting minutes of April 15, 2015 as presented. **Motion Carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:** The Commissioners were briefed regarding the departure of Jack Knowles, Director of Planning and Economic Development, from Township employment. The search for a new director is underway. Patrick Sloan and Vidya Krishnan, consultants from McKenna & Associates who are currently working with the Township, are serving as Interim Co-Directors.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES**

**1. Coal Tar Presentation by Environmental Commissioner Wilson**

Rick Lawson from the Huron River Watershed Council gave a brief overview regarding the work of his Council and their research on the use of coal tar. Since its establishment in 1965, the Council has grown to be the voice of 73 communities in the watershed. The Council works cooperatively to tackle a variety of issues facing the basin and has four areas of concern: watershed science; management; education and stewardship.

Mr. Lawson and Commissioner Wilson presented the coal tar issue and took questions. There is great concern with the use of coal tar sealants because they are incredibly high in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Such compounds have been identified as toxic, mutagenic, teratogenic and probable carcinogens. Studies show that up to 50 – 70% of PAHs found in the Great Lakes region come from coal tar sealant. PAHs are released into the environment in several ways: volatilize into air; dust on pavement enters homes; and loose particles are washed by rain into soils, storm water, catch basins, lakes and rivers. The Council is actively working to inform the public of the dangers of coal tar sealants and alternatives to its use. Local governments provide a

useful conduit for the spread of such information and become a positive example by not only discouraging the use of coal tar sealants, but by not using them in their own operations. Comments by other members of the audience include those of Nathan Antieau, who spoke of storm water inspections with regard to large developments using coal tar sealants in their paving projects.

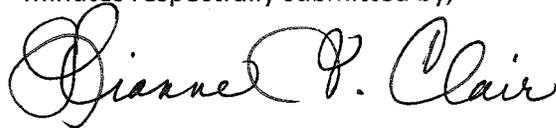
More discussion regarding coal tar sealants is expected at future meetings, particularly as developments occur regarding the State's status and any proposed legislation. This topic will be carried as an item of Old Business on the agenda for the Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There were no items of New Business brought before the Commission.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** There were no other items discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Ahamiojie, Supported by DeBuck to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lianne I. Clair". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lianne I. Clair, Executive Assistant to the Supervisor  
Charter Township of Van Buren