

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
SPECIAL WORK STUDY SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 30, 2015**

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Sheldon Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Miller and Trustee McClanahan. Late arrival (4:08 p.m.): Trustee Jahr. Others in Attendance Secretary Montgomery, DDA Director Ireland, Executive Assistant Clair, Deputy Director Public Safety Wright, Deputy Director Fire Besson, and an audience of eight (8).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion on the Public Safety millage. The current millage (4 mils) will expire next year. Members of the community have formed a committee to address future funding of the Public Safety Department and are seeking direction from the Board for ballot proposal language. Board members discussed the Public Safety budget and budget projections for 2016. The Public Safety expenditures are approximately 8 million dollars annually and the current millage, with support from dedicated landfill funds, does not fully fund the department. Clerk Wright presented a proposal outlining the costs associated with creating a full-time Fire Department. Board members considered the options of renewal of the current 4 mils for 7 years; renewal of the current 4 mils for 7 years with an additional ballot proposal requesting 2.5 mils for 7 years, and one ballot proposal request of 6.5 mils for 7 years. All Board members agreed that time is of the essence since the deadline for receipt of ballot proposal language by Wayne County, for a November 3, 2015 election, is drawing near. Ballot wording representing each option will be presented to the Board during the Work Study Session on July 6, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Audience members comment included: approval of the any of the three options presented; supporting the high level of service provided by the Public Safety Department; concern over taxes captured in the DDA district; and shared services with neighboring communities.

Trustee Jahr was excused at 5:17 p.m., Trustee McClanahan was excused at 6:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further discussion Miller moved, Hart seconded to adjourn the Work Study Session at 6:15 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Date: _____.

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Date: _____.