

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Denton Room by Chairperson Brownlee.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brownlee, Ross, Debuck, Gibson, Creal, White

Absent/Excused: Merritt.

Staff: Director Best, Executive Assistant Renaud and Secretary Pecsénye.

Additional Present:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Commissioner Ross, Second Commissioner Gibson to approve minutes as presented.
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Trustee White, Second Commissioner Debuck to approve the minutes of August 21, 2019 as presented. Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Commissioner Gibson noticed some harvesting on the land between Meijer and Aldi. Director Best stated they were removing a tree that was causing damage to the fence around the retention pond.
2. Commissioner Gibson reported that he received a letter dated Dec 10th regarding the deep injection well in Romulus changing ownership.
3. Commissioner Creal reported he received an email from EGLE regarding the TMDL approved levels that was sent to the U.S.E.P.A. along with the comments that have been collected. The EPA approved the numbers 2 weeks ago. Going forward new permits will have to be pulled up and down stream.
4. Commissioner Brownlee received a question from his neighbor: "Is the Lake lowering D.O.A. or will it be revisited?" Director Best reported that the State and Federal Government will not allow the drawdown without more significant study and research into the impact of the drawdown. The township is looking into options with Eagle Creek. At this time, it is not anticipated in 2020.
5. Commissioner Brownlee requested if the commission would see the Master Plan as it would apply to Green Space? Executive Assistant Renaud reported that internally we would be getting a 70% draft next week. The draft would then be reviewed internally and then made available to the public for a 63-day comment period before being brought to the Planning Commission and the Township Board. Once the draft was in the public comment period, it could be brought to the commission so they could see the environmental direction and impact.

6. Commissioner Brownlee wanted to know what the status of the Landfill expansion is. They are still in negotiations with the State of Michigan no anticipation of any changes for 2 to 3 years. It will take another 20 years for them to get to Ecorse road if they started tomorrow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Elections –

Commissioner Ross nominated Commissioner Brownlee for Chairperson

No other nomination.

All in favor

Opposed-None

Passed

Commissioner Gibson Nominated Commissioner Debuck for Vice Chair no other nominations

All in favor

Opposed- None

Passed

2. 2020 Visioning

- Focusing on Parks projects and improvements large and small any ideas or suggestions please bring to meeting or email into office.
- Clean up efforts
- Making homes a little greener
- Getting residents in touch with recycling
- Storm water utility projects in Township
- Committee suggestions

Commissioner Brownlee recommended more work on recycling efforts in Township with focus on contamination, how it impacts people, what it is and how to get around it.

Trustee White recommended a push on promoting garbage can lid being closed.

Commissioner Debuck feels that more on recycling education in schools would be key.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn Trustee White, Second Commissioner Debuck, Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Pecsénye
Recording Secretary