

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at **6:07 p.m.** in the Denton Room by **Chairman DeBuck**.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Chairman DeBuck, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt, Commissioner Yob, Trustee Boynton

**Absent/Excused:** None.

**Staff:** Director Lockett, Secretary Zantop

**Audience:** None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Commissioner **Ross**, Second Commissioner **Gibson** to approve the agenda of December 20, 2023, as presented.

**(6) AYES –DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton**

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion Commissioner **Ross**, Second Commissioner **Merritt**, to approve the minutes of November 15, 2023.

**(6) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton**

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Election of Officers

Chairman DeBuck opened up the nominations for (2) Officer positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson

Motion: **Gibson** support by **Merritt** to nominate **DeBuck** for Chairperson.

**Roll Call Vote: (6) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton  
(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried.**

Motion: **Merritt** support by **Gibson** to nominate **Ross** for Vice Chairperson.

**Roll Call Vote: (6) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton  
(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried.**

## 2. Various Environmental Related Issues Update

### **Denton Road Bridge**

The design process is continuing with the goal of having the design documents ready to be submitted to Wayne County in March. The Township's engineers have made submittals to EGLE for review and the Township had discussions with Wayne County over the preliminary plans. In these discussions, some modifications were made to lane width per the County's request. The County also approved having a two-span bridge and approved the material for the retaining walls. There will be some upcoming utility coordination meetings, but as of now, we are still on track. There is a survey out to the public for the decorative design of the bridge.

### **Solid Waste Program**

The Township will begin the advertisement of our cart swap-out program during the first week of January. Residents will be able to trade in their trash bin for a smaller size and/or their recycle bin for a larger size. The advertisements will run for 3-weeks and residents will have until early February to get their requests in.

### **Do Not Eat Fish Signs**

The Township was not included in the allocation lists directly from the Huron River Watershed Council and the signage was sent to Wayne County. The Township is in the process of requesting signage through the HRWC and made a request for 8 signs.

### **Republic Household Hazardous Waste Day Attendance**

Republic did not take attendance at the event which occurred in October. They advised us that they had a similar number of residents attend the event from previous years. Some of the delays were caused by fewer volunteers and having a different layout. Commissioner Gibson stated hopefully next year Republic will be able to report a headcount.

### **Renewable Energy Law**

The Township will be working with our Planning Consultant McKenna & Associates to look at adopting ordinance revisions that bring our code in compliance with the new laws passed by

the State. Trustee Boynton stated he is participating in upcoming conversations and meetings/webinars and will keep the Commission updated.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:**

Chairman DeBuck asked if there were any plans for the old K-Mart property. Trustee Boynton stated the owner is looking into what they can do with the property. One possibility being living quarters but they cannot do anything until all the current tenants are gone.

Commissioner Gibson asked about the senior living facility on Morton Taylor and Tyler where they didn't follow the plan. The blue siding was removed and the Planning Commission approved new materials/colors for the building.

Director Luckett stated the Township is in discussion with Wayne County on getting the trash and debris cleaned up along the roadways.

Trustee Boynton thanked the Commission and wished them a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to Adjourn **Boynton**, Second **Merritt**, Meeting adjourned at **6:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kendyl Zantop  
Recording Secretary