

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

The meeting was called to order at **6:02 p.m.** in the Denton Room by **Vice Chairman Ross**.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Vice Chairman Ross, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt, Commissioner Yob, Trustee Boynton

Absent/Excused: Chairman DeBuck

Staff: Director Akers, Director Lockett, Secretary Zantop

Audience: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

(5) AYES – Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Gibson suggested changing postponed to canceled under the announcements/comments section.

Motion Commissioner **Gibson**, Second Commissioner **Ross**, to approve the minutes of June 21, 2023, as amended.

(5) AYES – Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Yob asked for an update on the PFAS signs at the Lake. Director Akers will follow up with the Huron River Watershed Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Denton Road Bridge

The state budget was finalized. There was a \$10,000,000 allocation in the budget. The State is in the process of making a determination on how they will roll out funding. The engineers are working on preliminary design and permitting to move the project forward. EGLE identified they will have to do a mussel survey at the bottom of the bridge. The survey should be done within the next week. If EGLE finds mussels, they should be able to relocate them next year. This should not affect the construction timeline too much. The bridge is going to raise in height by 15-16 inches. There will be one set of piers in the middle of the bridge. The goal is to let the project in May of 2024 with construction to start in July or August. There are no safety issues with boating under the bridge. There will be periods during construction that the area will be closed to boat traffic.

2. Rubbish Collection

Recycling carts were delivered to residents. Within the provisions of the contract, residents have a period in which they will be able to exchange trash and recycle carts for sizes 65 or 96. The Township has been meeting with Waste Management to address service concerns.

3. DDA Project

The DDA is in the process of applying for grants to install sidewalks on Tyler Road. The Township has tentatively received grant funding from the County to fill in sidewalk gaps on the north side of Tyler between Morton Taylor and Haggerty. The DDA's portion will be west of Morton Taylor. The DDA held an open house to get feedback to apply for grants. The DDA is continuing to work on Belleville Road. They are going to reconstruct Belleville widening to three lanes between Tyler and Ecorse. As a part of this project sidewalks will be installed on Belleville Road. The project has received \$2.1 million from the County and another half a million from the feds. It will be an 8-million-dollar project. The DDA is looking for more funding. There will be a traffic signal study for a left turn lane at Tyler and Belleville. They are trying to get a preliminary signal study for a light at Robson and Belleville.

4. RACER Trust Ordinance

RACER Trust is working with GM on language.

5. August 24th Flood

There was about 7 inches of rain in a 3-4 hour period. It overwhelmed the County Drain Systems and other water systems in the Township. The County issued a do not go in the water advisory and lifted it a couple of days later. The Huron River Watershed Council indicated that anytime there is a large rain event you should avoid the water for 48-72 hours. The YCUA system had 2 sewer overflows upstream. YCUA did testing and notification as required. The Township's sanitary sewer did not have any overflows the pumps did not fail they were working the whole time. The system was inundated with water caused by infiltration from groundwater, stormwater, or direct connection from downspouts or sump pumps connected to the sewer. The Township has 1 vector truck and hired 3 additional trucks to help keep up with pumping the lift stations. The Commission discussed neighborhood ponds and storm damage they

experienced from the rain and tornado. The Township worked with Waste Management on a bulk collection for items damaged from flooding. Vice Chairman Ross stated he heard that there were pumps that failed. Director Akers said the pumps were running at capacity but the amount of water that was going in at the same time was more than the pumps could handle. There were basement backups due to the excess amount of water.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Yob asked about the tree clearing at Belleville and Tyler. The trees are being removed to improve drainage. Commissioner Yob asked if the trees will be replaced. Some trees will be replaced. There will be a 25ft buffer along Belleville and Tyler.

Commissioner Yob shared an article she found with a picture of students with EGLE doing a mussel survey at an Ann Arbor Bridge. Director Akers stated there was a mussel survey done for the boardwalk project at French Landing Park.

Commissioner Gibson said his mom was confused with the new trash and recycling guidelines. The guideline states everything needs to be bagged. Commissioner Gibson stated his mom put all her recycling in a plastic bag. Plastic bags are a contaminant to recycling. All trash must be bagged to prevent trash from flying out when the can is dumped. The Commission discussed recycling education.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn **Merritt**, Second **Gibson**, Meeting adjourned at **7:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kendyl Zantop
Recording Secretary