

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brownlee at 7:00 p.m. Present: Debuck, Gibson, Merritt, Tomaino, Wilson and Board Representative Jahr. Staff present: Director Swallow and Secretary Grishaber. Audience: None.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion Merritt, second Wilson to approve the agenda with modifications to add Item #5 in response to the petition on wood burning and keep it on the agenda until a disposition can be realized.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion Tomaino second Wilson to approve the minutes from March 17, 2010 with noted corrections.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Correspondence:** Commissioner Merritt announced that last month he and his daughter entered into the Millers Creek Film Festival and won an award for a short film on the Huron River Watershed. The money they won, he donated back to the Huron River Watershed Council.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Item #1: Environmental Quality Company-Wayne Disposal Updates**

Director Swallow reported that the Township has received results back from the follow-up sampling that was completed at the Environmental Quality Company (EQ) site. The original report had an odd showing of a single Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) in the ground water sampling. The good news is it may have been an anomaly in the sampling results. The new test shows no contamination of the ground water. They also completed additional sediment samplings around the perimeter of the site for metals. The metals were found primarily in the roadside locations and could be caused by vehicles and other non-landfill sources.

EQ has submitted a renewal application to the State for operation of the Wayne Disposal landfill. The Township's environmental consultant, BCI, has completed a draft report of concerns and issues that need to be addressed. Director Swallow stated he would like to have the permit comments finalized by the end of April 2010, so that he can submit them to EQ in accordance with the Host Community Agreement. Wayne Disposal has also proposed an expansion of the landfill to the west on currently vacant property. They will be submitting the application for the expansion to the State of Michigan in the near future. Director Swallow has submitted information regarding the proposed expansion to BCI and requested that they review the proposal for the Township.

**Item #2: Plastics Recycling**

Director Swallow informed the Commissioners of the updated information for plastics recycling from Waste Management that will be posted on the Township website and throughout Township Hall. The Commissioners discussed the new information, specifically noting what plastics may or may not be recyclable. The Commissioners will be touring the New Boston Recycling facility on Friday, April 30, 2010 at 5:00 pm.

**Item #3: Spring Service Project**

Director Swallow informed the Commissioners that the materials are available to complete storm drain labeling in at least two developments. He noted residential developments in need of the labels are the Pine Forest and Briarwood subdivisions on the south side of the Township. Belle-Pointe development also could use storm drain labeling.

Chairman Brownlee stated the Adopt-A-Road project has been very successful and would like to complete at least one clean up per year. He feels both the Adopt-A-Road and storm drain labeling projects are worthy of the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Tomaino suggested they complete the Adopt-A-Road clean up in the spring and later in the summer address the storm drain labeling. The Commissioners scheduled an Adopt-A-Road clean up for May 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 8:00am. Chairman Brownlee requested that if the Commissioners are aware of any stretch of road in the Township that is heavily littered, the Commission could vary from their current Tyler Road site. Otherwise, the Commissioners should plan to meet in the Meijer parking lot on the clean up day.

**Item #4: Annual Report**

Director Swallow stated the annual report documenting the activities accomplished by the Environmental Commission should be completed soon.

**Item #5: Woodburning in the Township**

Chairman Brownlee suggested the Township should inquire about ordinances that have been passed by other communities, so that the Commissioners can review more information as to how to address the issue within the Township. Director Swallow found that most of the ordinances he has reviewed only address the more controversial exterior, shed-style wood burning boilers. This style of wood burning boiler accepts all types of burning materials, which could be hazardous to the environment. Director Swallow stated he would include the ordinance information from other communities in a future agenda packet.

**Motion Tomaino second Gibson to adjourn at 8:05pm.**

**Motion Carried.**

Next Meeting Date: May 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Grishaber  
Recording Secretary