

**Charter Township of Van Buren
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Tomaino at 7:00 p.m. Present: Debuck, Gibson, Merritt, Wilson and Board Representative Jahr. Absent/excused Brownlee. Staff present: Director Swallow and Secretary Grishaber. Audience: One resident and Shana Hodges, Belleville High School Representative.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion Jahr, second Gibson to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion Wilson, second Debuck to approve the minutes from February 17, 2010 as presented with corrections made.

MOTION APPROVED.

Correspondence: Director Swallow informed the Commissioners that the Huron River Watershed Council is sponsoring the Millers Creek film festival Friday March 19, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. The festival includes short films on water quality to help get message out, and free refreshments. Members of the Commission contributed to the development of a film related to Woods Creek in the Township.

Announcements: Information on how to reduce lawn watering consumption for residential homes was passed out by Commissioner DeBuck. Suggestions were made that the Township's electronic newsletter would be a great avenue for distributing this information to residents.

Unfinished Business:

Item # 1: NPDES Phase II Storm Water Permit

The Township has a permit with the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources and Environment for some the storm water discharges that occur throughout the Township. The new State permit requirements have made it more difficult for local communities to comply due to more prescriptive monitoring and inspection requirements. The other issue that the permit requirements make could hamper the ability for the Township to work with surrounding watershed partners through organizations like the Alliance of Rouge Communities and the Huron Watershed Council. The City of Riverview is currently in litigation with the State of Michigan over these issues and has requested the courts to grant class status to their case. The Township has joined with a smaller group of communities and is opting out of the bigger class action lawsuit in order to maintain more control over our destiny.

Item #2: EQ Monitoring Reports

Director Swallow distributed the technical review of the Wayne Disposal Inc. Operating License renewal application completed by BCI Engineers & Scientists, Inc (BCI). Wayne Disposal, Inc., a division of the Environmental Quality Company (EQ), has applied to the State of Michigan for renewal of their license to operate the hazardous waste landfill located off the I-94 North Services Drive. EQ first has to complete all of the procedural and information requirements for submittal of the application. Once the application is deemed administratively complete, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) will start their technical review. The Township has chosen to have an additional review completed by our environmental consultants, BCI, to help ensure the Township's concerns have been addressed in the application. Director Swallow requested that the Commissioners submit any of their concerns or observations so that those could be considered by the applicant and included in the review by the MDNRE.

Item #3: Plastics Recycling

Director Swallow informed the Commissioners he contacted a representative at Waste Management and was sent updated recycling guidelines which will be put on the townships website. When it comes to plastics, they must have a symbol on it otherwise it is unknown whether it can be recycled or not. Director Swallow offered to set up a tour to the facility for the Commissioners when they could be available.

Item #4: Annual Reports

Director Swallow reported to the Commissioners that the 2009 draft report is not complete, but should be ready by April 2010 Meeting.

Non-Agenda Items:

Resident Larry Fix has concerns about proposed bans on open burning and an ordinance eliminating wood, corn or other organic fuels for purposes of heating homes in residential neighborhoods. The Federal government is offering a \$1,500.00 tax refund to save on gas and promote alternate fuels, and he feels the Township should not be imposing restrictions. He opposes such a ban and hopes the Commissioners do their due diligence before making such a controversial decision for the residents of Van Buren Township.

Commissioner Gibson inquired about discussion on Adopt-A-Road or another service project. The Commissioners decided to discuss the spring service project at the next meeting.

Motion Debuck, second Wilson to adjourn at 8:25p.m.

Motion Carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Tina Grishaber

Recording Secretary