

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JULY 6, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Crowe

ROLL CALL

MICHAEL MIAZGA-CHAIRPERSON – arrived 5:33 p.m.

P. RAMONE CROWE VICE CHAIRPERSON

DIANE MADIGAN

REGINA MILLER

RAYMOND BAILEY

RICHARD WARDWELL

TRUSTEE PHIL HART

Others in attendance: Director McClanahan, Secretary Smolen and an audience of fourteen (14).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Bailey; support Hart to approve the agenda of July 6, 2011.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Wardwell; support Bailey to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2011 as presented.

Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Leash Law Update

Committee members discussed the status of the approved leash law proposal. McClanahan stated the proposal went to Supervisor White for review, would be reviewed by the Township Attorney if approved by the Supervisor. Hart and McClanahan will follow up with the Township Supervisor and update the Committee at the next Public Safety meeting. It was suggested to keep the topic on the agenda so as not to lose track of the proposal.

Noise Ordinance Update

Committee members discussed information received from the last Work Study session. Committee members expressed interest in looking into the ordinance further in a Work Study session. Motion Miller; support Madigan to set date and time for a Work Study session to further discuss the ordinance.

Motion Carried.

Hoarding Ordinance Update

Committee members discussed the information from the April 14, 2011 Work Study session. Member questioned if the proposed animal check list with a clemis report had been completed by the Animal Control Office. The list is to help determine the number of licensed/unlicensed dogs in a home. The check list will be developed by the Animal Control Officer and Director McClanahan.

Truancy Ordinance Update

Chairman Miazga previously presented a proposed Truancy Ordinance to the members; the proposal was not accepted by the committee. Chairman Miazga asked if any members had new language and/or other community ordinances to share with the committee. No proposals were brought forth; members discussed the need for School Board involvement, other community ordinances, and the procedures for adopting said ordinance. Motion Wardwell, second Bailey to add the Truancy Ordinance to the Noise Ordinance Work Study session.

Replacement for Nixle

McClanahan gave a briefing on the Township financial cost to use Nixle, the proposed use of face-book and twitter to notify residents and utilize the police networking data base. Members discussed different notification procedures to the residents and the protection of confidential information. McClanahan will provide further information on the use of face-book and twitter at the next Public Safety meeting.

Status of Committee recommendation for Police and/or Fire Briefings

Miazga believed a motion was made to recommend this item to go to the Board for approval. Hart stated at a previous meeting a speaker made it clear it was critical to not bring forth the briefings to a meeting. Hart stated he had discussed with Supervisor White that this is a policy decision and the decision had been left with Supervisor White. The Committee discussed the information received from McClanahan at the meetings was sufficient.

NEW BUSINESS

Raccoon Releases

Miazga stated it was brought to his attention raccoons are being brought in and released into the Township near Sandy's Marina. He informed the committee he resides near the marina. These animals not only damage personal property but his dog was recently attacked by a raccoon. McClanahan advised residents if you have a specific complaint against a specific person then to file a police report. If the Police Department receives a complaint they refer the complaint to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for investigation. The Committee discussed different procedures residents could take if they encounter raccoons and the status of an outstanding complaint.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Madigan asked for the status on the 3 armed robberies. McClanahan answered it was determined there was one person involved, a description was provided, robberies had occurred in other communities with a similar description and Van Buren Police had partnered with other police agencies. There is no closure at this time.

Resident expressed concern on releasing raccoons and adopting a local ordinance more stringent than the state law.

Resident clarified state law for the releasing of raccoons and read a section from the state law.

Resident supported adopting a local raccoon ordinance. He expressed concern on exploiting personal information with using face-book, twitter and Google for the emergency alerting system. Asked if the Work Study session was open to the public?

Answer; Yes

Resident stated she is a School Board member and welcomes ideas from the Committee in reference to the Truancy Ordinance.

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 3, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Miazga support Miller to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. **Motion Carried**