

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
ASSESSING BOARD OF REVIEW
BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
LOCAL OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMISSION
PARK COMMISSION
PENSION TRUSTEES
PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson,
Opsommer, Sundland
ABSENT: None

ASSESSING BOARD OF REVIEW

PRESENT: Member Louagie
ABSENT: Members Bashore, Durand-Hollis, Ellis, Federau, Hagen, Galbraith, Pentecost

BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Member Kregelka
ABSENT: Members Potterpin, Wallin

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Benenson
ABSENT: Commissioners Crowley, Kiyak, Lathrop, Thatcher, Trustee Sundland

COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioners Friedland, Lincoln
ABSENT: Commissioners Ahlbrand, Brouse, Langhals, Lincoln, Theroux

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka
ABSENT: Chair Raynak, Members Cawood, Fisher, Korrey, Spanos, Weaver

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRESENT: Chair Buck, Trustee Deschaine, Treasurer Brixie (Ex. Officio), Manager Walsh,
ABSENT: Members Barr, Carlson, Dunham, Epolito, Hundt, Ledebuhr, Olson, Rowlee, Sims

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Members N. Jackson, McConnell
ABSENT: Members Dickmann, Heos, Holland, Kielbaso, Sarver, Masten

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Members Hiller, Smith, Treasurer Brixie, Commissioner Stephens
ABSENT: Members Harmes, Lee, Mayes

LOCAL OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

PRESENT: Members Doyle, Holda
ABSENT: Members Boog, Hickox, Huerta

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Stephens, Commissioners Lick, Schaetzl
ABSENT: Chair McDonald, Commissioner Baker

PENSION TRUSTEES BOARD

PRESENT: Member Martin, Treasurer Brixie (Ex. Officio)
ABSENT; Members Bonsall, Van Coevering

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Ianni, Vice-Chair Scott-Craig, Commissioners Lane, Premoe, Richards
ABSENT: Commissioners Baruah, Cordill, DeGroff, Tenaglia

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PRESENT: Commissioner Hackbarth, Kolbasa, Potter, Vagnozzi, Trustee Deschaine
ABSENT: Commissioner Hudson, Vaughn

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Chair Beauchine, Members Ohlrogge, Stivers, Trustee Jackson, Commissioner Lane
ABSENT: Alternates Ballard, Rios

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Senior Planner Peter Menser, Associate Planner/Economic Development Coordinator Ben Motil

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll of the Board.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, addressed what he characterized as a lack of transparency in Meridian Township and its potential for abuse in local government.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

6. JOINT MEETING WITH TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (Assessing Board of Review, Building Board of Appeals, Communications Commission, Community Resources Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Economic Development Corporation, Environmental Commission, Land Preservation Advisory Board, Local Officials Compensation Commission, Park Commission, Pension Trustees, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals)

Meeting participants discussed 2016 accomplishments, as well as the following goals, objectives, concerns and ideas for 2017:

Assessing Board of Review (BOR)

- Description of this public body

Communications Commission (CCC)

- Website/branding suggestions
- Election coverage review
- Municipal broadband access
- Digital Antenna System (DAS) research

Community Resources Commission (CRC)

- Duties of the Commission
- 933 requests in 2016 from 488 households
- \$9,810 given to Township residents needing assistance

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

- Review of the DDA's mission and role in the community
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds for the DDA (captured taxes)
- \$7,500 yearly operating budget
- Streetscape activities: streetlights and hanging flower baskets
- DDA current debt of \$199,500

Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

- Ten (10) person board
- Review of the EDC's mission and role in the community
- Establishment of a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)
- Three (3) primary goals:
 - Foster entrepreneurship
 - Ensure the Township is a great place to do business
 - Remain competitive in the region

Environmental Commission (EC)

- Land Preservation Advisory Board, Parks Commission, Planning Commission and other Township groups all make major contributions to the mission of the Environmental Commission
- Regulatory and educational components
- Review of wetland use permit applications and reports from the Township's wetland consultant
- Specific recommendations provided by the EC to the Planning Commission on the draft Township Master Plan were not incorporated into the draft plan
- Request for Planning Commission reconsideration of the EC's recommendations
- Forum for discussion on major potential impacts of climate change and development of an action plan
- Collaboration between the EC and other Township Board and green teams, such as liaisons to the Planning Commission
- Importance of the EC's goals as part of the Township brand

Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB)

- Two (2) properties acquired in 2016
- 234 volunteers contributed 585 hours engaging in stewardship activities, including removal of invasive species on LPAB properties
- Nearly 800 acres of land are currently protected through the Land Preservation program
- \$500,000 grant was awarded to the Township by the State of Michigan to assist in the purchase of the Ponderosa Preserve

Local Officials Compensation Commission (LOCC)

- LOCC meets every other year
- Duties and the process of the Commission's recommendations
- First meeting will be held January 30, 2017

Park Commission (PC)

- Review of 2016 accomplishments and improvements
- Received a total of \$272,500 from the State of Michigan for two (2) large grants
- \$150,000 and \$600,000 from the Ingham County Millage
- Outline of plans for 2017
- New dog park in Central Park

Planning Commission: (PC)

- In 2016, the major responsibility of the PC continued to be the Master Plan
- PC held a large number of work sessions before its regular meetings
- The concept of form based code is complicated, but useful and forward-thinking
- Concern by the Planning Commission chair regarding quorums being met if the PC increases from nine (9) to 11 members
- Belief the best way to collaborate with other Boards and Commission is not to increase the nine (9) member PC, but to send PC representatives to various boards and commissions
- Collaboration between the Township and the PC in reviewing and modifying the current MUPUD ordinance

Transportation Commission (TC)

- Newly created public body
- First meeting to be held later this month

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

- Eight (8) criteria must be met to obtain a variance from the Township's existing ordinances
- Board approved request for a Lake Lansing Overlay District allowed more flexibility for residents in this area

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, clarified by stating his earlier comments only applied to the Township Board and the Township Manager. He expressed appreciation for Parks staff and Land Preservation staff compiling a document highlighting their 2016 accomplishments.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks.

8. CLOSED SESSION-Township Manager's Performance Review

Treasurer Brixie moved to go into closed session for the purpose of the Township Manager's Performance Review. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka recessed the meeting at 8:28 P.M.

The Board adjourned for a closed session.

Trustee Deschaine moved to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka reconvened the meeting at 10:33 P.M.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 10:34 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary