

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** -
PARK COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008, **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Such,
Veenstra, Woiwode
ABSENT: Trustee Brixie

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Banas, Commissioners Dersch, Stephens
ABSENT: Commissioners Jaramillo, Smith

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Jackson, Commissioners Deits, Jorkasky, Klemans, Le Goff, Ochberg, Reicosky,
Wilcox
ABSENT: Commissioner Honicky

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP

PRESENT: Chair Richards, Members Hunting (ex-officio), Madle, Vine, A. Woiwode, White
ABSENT: Members Morrison, Rowlee, Thiel

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Trustee Such, Member Ohlrogge, Ochberg, Stier
ABSENT: Chair Hershiser

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Gregory, Member Kielbaso
ABSENT: Members Clos, Jackson, Macklem

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Members Dersch, Helmbrecht, Kielbaso, Thomas
ABSENT: Members Caszatt, Kindel, Webster, T. Woiwode

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Executive Director Paul Brake, Member White
ABSENT: Members Korrey, Raynak, Thrun, Carpenter, Fisher, Russell, Weaver

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Assistant Manager/Personnel Director Paul Brake,
Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public
Works and Engineering Ray Severy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Rick Stacy, 4264 Greystone Drive, Pastor of Meridian Christian Church, requested the Township Board consider a change relative to the caliper of canopy trees in parking areas based on a letter written by Dr. Kielbaso, member of the Environmental Commission. Dr. Kielbaso's letter scientifically confirms that a two (2) inch tree will outperform a three (3) inch tree within five (5) years.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Clerk Helmbrecht swore in reappointed members of the various boards and commissions in attendance.

Trustee Such commended the Supervisor for writing a letter to Comcast regarding its decision to move the PEG channels in its lineup.

Trustee Veenstra noted the Township Board Meeting on Policy Governance Review is scheduled for Saturday, January 5, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.

Treasurer Hunting stated his trip with the Cable TV Coordinator to Washington, D.C. was for the purpose of notifying individuals of Meridian Township's displeasure with Comcast's decision to move PEG channels to the digital tier. He indicated they attended official meetings with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Media Bureau, Senator Carl Levin's staff, John Dingell's staff and a meeting with FCC Commissioner Copps' staff to address purported illegal treatment with regard to the movement of PEG channels.

Treasurer Hunting reported that since their trip to Washington, D.C, Representative Dingell has written a letter to the CEO of Comcast expressing his disappointment and concern that Comcast may be violating both FCC regulations and federal statutes with this move. He noted that Representative Dingell is the Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees telecommunication regulations. Comcast has a January 7th deadline to respond to Representative Dingell's letter.

Treasurer Hunting added that expert legal counsel determined it was necessary to go directly to the FCC as the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has declared they have no authority to regulate Comcast as a result of the new Uniform Franchise Act which was passed by the Michigan Legislature.

Clerk Helmbrecht noted the presidential primary is scheduled for January 15, 2008. She stated there has been some confusion regarding citizens believing they needed to be registered with a party or they could not get a ballot. Clerk Helmbrecht clarified that no one in the State of Michigan registers by party. She added that citizens must select whether they wish to receive a Democrat or Republican ballot, but that does not constitute registration. The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM for those wishing to come in and request a ballot.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

Trustee Such moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Such moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, 200 Museum, Lansing; RE: 1st Friday Land Use Luncheons

BI-2 Jack Randolph, Secretary, Michigan Townships Association, 512 Westshire Drive, Lansing; RE: Notice of Annual Meeting of the Michigan townships Association on January 8-11, 2008

(2). Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 Memorandum from Patricia Herring Jackson, Chair, Planning Commission; RE: Planning Commission 2008 Work Program

(3). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

SC-1 Letter from Supervisor McGillicuddy to John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast and Juan Otero, Comcast Michigan Region; RE: Notice and Opportunity to Cure Non-Compliance

SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, December 14, 2007 Edition

SC-3 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, December 21, 2007 Edition

(4). On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Material received at the December 18, 2007 Board Meeting

Rose Wright, 5649 Bayonne, Haslett; RE: Comcast's Removal of HOM-TV from Basic Lineup

Tracy Aichele, 4409 Dobie Road, Okemos; RE: PEG channel location changes

Jean Smith, 2768 Brentwood, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #06090 (Meridian Four Seasons LDHA LP)

Michael Karagoulis, 2177 Heritage Avenue, Okemos; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #06090 (Meridian Four Seasons LDHA LP)

Steven D. Pecic, Jr., A/E II Project Manager, Wayne State University, 5454 Cass Avenue, Detroit; RE: Road access and 5099 Wardcliff Drive, East Lansing

Robert and Skeeter Rentschler, 2687 Teri Terrace, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #06090 (Meridian Four Seasons LDHA LP)

Bernice Brandon, 2758 East Grand River, East Lansing; RE: Rezoning #06090 (Meridian Four Seasons LDHA LP)

Susan Birdsall, 2776 Brentwood, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #06090 (Meridian Four Seasons LDHA LP)

Patrick Dolan, Commodore, Lansing Sailing Club, 1340 Hickory Island Drive, Haslett; RE: Business items relative to Lake Lansing residents

Ronald W. Rowe, 6247 E. Lake Drive, Haslett; RE: Zoning Amendment #07050

Patrick Dolan, Commodore, Lansing Sailing Club, 1340 Hickory Island Drive, Haslett; RE: Opposition to Zoning Amendment #07050

Trustee Such moved that the communications be received and placed on file, and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Trustee Such moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 4, 2007 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

Trustee Such moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 260,631.70
Public Works	\$ 39,111.07
Total Checks	\$ 299,742.77
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 18,283.68
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 318,026.45</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 530,608.08</u>

Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Liquor License Transfer, Sansu

Trustee Such moved that the liquor license location transfer request from Rebecca S. Jeon approved through Board Resolution dated July 17, 2007 be rescinded. Further, move that the request from Sansu Corporation to transfer location of 2007 Class C licensed business, located at 4750 W. Hagadorn, Suite 10, East Lansing, MI 48823, Meridian Township, Ingham County, to 4750 S. Hagadorn, Suite 100, East Lansing MI 48823, Meridian Township, Ingham County be approved and the Township Clerk be authorized to execute the authorized resolution. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

E. Georgetown #1 Streetlighting Special Assessment District, **Resolution #2**

Trustee Such moved to approve Georgetown #1 Streetlighting Special Assessment District Resolution #2, which confirms the plans and estimate of costs for the Georgetown #1 Streetlighting Special Assessment District; directs the Supervisor to make a special assessment according to the roll submitted to the public hearing and confirms the assessment amount of \$8,292.50 for the first year, and \$2,000.00 annually thereafter, and directs that amount to be assessed against the lands on that roll; orders the special

assessment roll filed with the Township Assessor for spreading annually on the tax roll; authorizes Consumers Energy to proceed with the installation of the sixteen streetlights, with cut-off fixtures; and authorizes the Township Supervisor and Clerk to sign the Authorization for Change in Streetlighting Contract.

Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

8. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commissions
Supervisor McGillicuddy explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to promote alignment within our community among the boards and commissions and to discuss future goals of each body. She placed copies of the current Board goals on the tables and requested comments from members if they do not feel the Board adequately addresses the goals or the goals are incomplete. She requested the various Boards and commissions discuss current goals of the respective bodies, as well as goals for the ensuing year.

Meeting participants discussed the following goals and objectives as well as ideas for Board goals:

Planning Commission:

- Status report of Planning Commission projects
- Identify Planning Commission future goals
- Achievement of smart growth goals
- Revisit Okemos Village Study
- Update of the Township's Master Plan
- Incorporation of Greenspace Plan ideas into the Master Plan
- Incorporation of park zoning districts into the Master Plan
- Opportunities to correct previous poor environmental decisions (i.e., large impervious surface areas, uncontrolled surface water runoff)
- Request input from Generation Y on changing library use
- Township Board goal for preservation of rural character of the Township through community gardens which can be achieved through a rezoning effort to RRR lots in the eastern tier

Environmental Commission

- Improve awareness of key environmental issues
 - Increase public awareness on the importance of wetland maintenance
 - Improve wetland mitigation measures
 - Provide educational programs and public service announcements
 - Continue Environmental Stewardship Awards
 - Promote an increase in the use of renewable energy sources
- Provide advice and guidance on management of environmental issues to the Township Board and Township Manager
 - Continue providing reports and reviews
 - Conduct site visits as requested
 - Cooperatively develop options for enacting the Mayors Climate Agreement with neighboring communities and cities
 - Advise on the subject of forest management
 - Recommend plantings of specific tree species which would withstand global warming trends

Land Preservation Advisory Board

- Preservation and maintenance of natural features through acquired properties
- Stewardship plans regarding implementation and management strategies written for each acquired property
- Pursuance of grants and other funding mechanisms to augment the stewardship budget
- Holding educational presentations throughout the Township to recruit aid in management of the

properties

- Creation of Land Preservation brochure
- Implementation of management actions on natural areas

Economic Development Corporation

- Goal to identify and support redevelopment of existing commercial properties
- Goal to promote revitalization of the business areas
- Goal to promote and facilitate better communication between business owners and the Township
- Support existing business retention programs
- Continue strong relationship with Meridian Area Business Association (MABA)
- Development of the Meridian Township Entrepreneurial Asset Movement (MTEAM)
- MTEAM development of the Meridian Asset Resource Center (Meridian Asset Resource Center)
- MTEAM effort to fill the Youth Entrepreneurial Pipeline through cooperative efforts with the Haslett and Okemos public school systems
- EDC goal to make an easy transition for new businesses coming into the community
- Identity of the community through small businesses within the area
- Creation of a micro lending fund

Downtown Development Authority

- Partnership with the Planning Commission on the Okemos Village Study Area
- Possible zoning overlay district for the downtown Okemos area
- Creation of a “sense of place” in the downtown Okemos area through community projects
- Creation of a walkable community through mixed use which ties into the Board’s global ends statement

Park Commission

- Creation of a local park system that is walkable and accessible through neighborhood parks, athletic fields and nature trails
- Placement of sidewalks in Orlando Park
- Partnerships with developers for neighborhood parks and athletic fields
- Fundraising for expansion of the Harris Nature Center facility
- Construction of a fishing dock at the Meridian Historical Village
- Grant application to develop an athletic complex on the Towner Road property
- Continue to develop philosophy for neighborhood parks
- Yearly recognition of volunteers who have worked in the community parks and facilities
- Inclusion of neighborhood parks during the development process at the Planning Commission level
- Review the possibility of splash pads, skate parks and dog parks in Township parks
- Outreach into schools for youth input
- Review of the Central Park mission
- Review of the Farmers Market expansion

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Zoning amendment to Section 86-758 (1)(c)(1) needed to allow for two (2) inch trees which will survive better than the currently required three (3) inches in the parking landscaping regulation
- Above mentioned zoning amendment needs to be addressed quickly by the Board in order to catch the upcoming spring planting season
- Increased Board effort in attracting, recruiting, mentoring new members to serve on Boards and Commissions

Clerk Helmbrecht stated the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) will look at restoring a deteriorated wetland on the former Davis Farm. The LPAB is also working with Pheasants Forever who has agreed to plant several acres of tall grass prairie and wildflowers. She added that seeds will be grown around the old farmhouse which will ultimately be planted in the fields.

Treasurer Hunting stated the application form for public service is available on the Township’s website at www.twp.meridian.mi.us. He also encouraged members of the various Boards and Commissions to attend education seminars and conferences hosted by the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Municipal League.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 3, 2008 *APPROVED*

Trustee Woiwode thanked the various members for their vision and proactive approach.

Supervisor McGillicuddy thanked the participants for their attendance. She availed herself if any of the commission members want information on a specific topic. Supervisor McGillicuddy noted the Board will be discussing its goals during Policy Governance Review on Saturday, January 5, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Room.

Trustee Veenstra stated he would like to see requirements for bicycle parking, which would aid in the Township's efforts towards a walkable community.

Commissioner Ochberg urged the Park Commission to seriously consider space expansion of the Farmers Market and the Artisan Market.

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary