

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - APPROVED -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka,
Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public
Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark
Kieselbach, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie, Director of Parks and
Recreation LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Director of Parks and Recreation LuAnn Maisner presented Darcie Weigand, the Township's new Parks & Recreation Specialist. She highlighted Ms. Weigand's many years of experience in the parks and recreation field.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced concern with the extended period of time (3-½ months) the pathway has been closed in front of the Aldi project.

Craig Ruff, 1849 Cimarron, Okemos, expressed concern with the millage language which certifies only the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) can provide Redi-Ride services, believing that competition provides better service. He urged the Board to consider all others entities when the millage comes before the voters in 2018.

Paula Bladen, 1738 N. Crystal Cove, Haslett, noted the existing Redi-Ride system is not sufficient for those who are in need, hoping it can be extended to weekend and evening hours. She requested this issue be reopened for Board discussion, when appropriate, to consider all options.

Sam Singh, State Representative for the 69th District, 1837 Cricket Lane, East Lansing, expressed appreciation for the Township's continued involvement in the Michigan Townships Association (MTA). He noted the legislature, through the budget process, was able to secure all of the money received last year for revenue sharing, resulting in the retention of \$100,000 for Meridian Township. Representative Singh announced his next coffee hour at the Okemos Public Library on August 17th at 9:00 A.M.

Tom Repasky, 3663 Stagecoach Drive, Okemos, voiced his continued concern with the Forsberg Drive connection to the Ponderosa subdivision. He added that, yesterday, residents of the Ponderosa subdivision filed a petition to vacate Forsberg Drive.

Monica Gamboa, 1121 Larned Street, Lansing, and owner of El Oasis Food Truck, voiced concern with lack of clarity relative to food truck vending, specifically the 14 day limit in one location.

Brant Johnson, 4515 Oakwood, Okemos, and business representative for El Oasis Food Truck, expressed concern with lack of clarity in the ordinance relative to food vending, specifically the 14 day limit. He stated during the process of applying for a vending license, his client was required to comply with other requirements not clearly "spelled out" in the ordinance. Mr. Johnson pointed out non-food vendors are granted the entire 120 days, while his client is required to move every 14 days.

Kathleen Donahue-Brown, 2221 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, listed several questions she believed were not "fully" addressed during Planning Commission consideration of the cell tower approved to be located at Grand River near Park Lake Road, along the Grand River Corridor. She stated the appeal is scheduled before the Board on August 18, 2015.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood Drive, Okemos, believed, after 16 years, it is time for Redi-Ride in Meridian Township to be reviewed. He noted many things have changed both in the community and in the industry. Mr. Norkin stated there is no contract administrator assigned by the Township for this program which expired five (5) years ago. He suggested this \$300,000-\$400,00 expenditure be assigned a ¼ time full time equivalent (FTE) by the Township to oversee the Redi-Ride program, adding on-going reports be provided to the Board.

Donna Shull, 4206 Wabaningo Road, Okemos, spoke on behalf of Carla and Michael Hudson (blind residents in Meridian Township), indicating public transportation allows senior citizens to be a viable part of the community. She noted the Hudson's purchased their home at 6009 Skyline Drive in Meridian Township because of the availability of Redi-Ride. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson voiced concern that although same day service was initially promised, the reality is a rider must plan out as far as one week ahead of need, the ride is not direct (as it stops for other passengers and drops off at various locations) and the vehicles are not nimble. They encouraged Redi-Ride to update their technology.

Mike McCurdy, 5848 Okemos Road, Okemos, spoke to the need for rezoning his RAAA six acre property to RR in order to retain his goats. He noted many neighbors own parcels between one (1) and 12 acres in size who would like to rezone as well, as those properties do not appear appropriate for redevelopment.

Fred Wertzell, 1212 N. Foster, Lansing, spoke about the need for a broader public transportation system for the Tri-County area. He indicated his experience working at the University of Michigan's Michigan Transportation Research Program taught him integrated public transportation systems work better than segregated public transportation systems. Mr. Wertzell believed the use of improved technology with reduced costs per ride should result in more rides. He also held there is a need to eliminate redundancy within the trip itself through the use of various computer applications. Mr. Wertzell suggested a bidding system with specifications could offer efficiencies not currently available to Meridian residents.

Donna Rose, 6027 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing, a supporter of public transportation, voted for Redi-Ride as it offered same day service which is no longer the case. She requested Redi-Ride be expanded for greater availability as she is often left with no option regardless of the time requested. Ms. Rose noted during the school year, many school children use this service instead of riding the bus, adding that 55% of the riders do not have disabilities. She requested an expansion of service which would run on weekends and holidays. Ms. Rose believed before a contract is renewed, a public hearing should be held to provide citizen input.

Bryan Leek, 3793 Sandlewood Drive, Okemos, voiced support for Redi-Ride and the Michigan Flyer. He spoke in favor of expanded service through competition.

Stan Kaplowitz, 629 Marshall, East Lansing, spoke to the need for Redi-Ride to offer better service as many who need it cannot utilize it at the time needed. He suggested capacity could be increased through additional vehicles and give elderly and disabled the highest priority. Mr. Kaplowitz expressed a concern drivers who become unsafe still drive as there is no other reasonable way to reach their destination. He believed safety would be increased for all by providing good alternatives for the elderly.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, shared an article from the July 31st issue of *The Week*, subtitled "The Plan to Remake Suburbia". He believed further expansion of the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) and its objectives will lead to further urbanization of Meridian Township's suburbia. Mr. Provencher believed Meridian has been shortchanged in terms of hours for its Redi-Ride service compared to other communities (e.g., Delhi and Delta Townships).

Ginger Yang, owner of Lotus Voice Integrative Therapies, LLC, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, alerted the Board she is in the process of appealing Planning Commission approval of the cell tower to be located at Grand River Avenue near Park Lake Road. She spoke to its location at what she characterized as the gateway from East Lansing into Meridian Township. She inquired of the Board as to its vision for the Township as it relates to the Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability.

Brent Forsberg, 2422 Jolly Road, Okemos, reported on his July 6th trip to Portland, Oregon with the Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) team as part of the USA Urban Sustainability Accelerator Program. He noted this grant was obtained by TCRPC to update its plan to foster the Tri-County region over the next 20 years. Mr. Forsberg noted some of the areas discussed to grow the region include connectivity between municipalities, public transportation, projected population growth centers and how the infrastructure should look as it is built to accommodate growth.

Ben Amber, 829 Southlawn Avenue, East Lansing, indicated when landlords were required to comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), it was the right thing to do. He pointed to language in the ADA which states "we are all temporarily nondisabled" and if we live long enough, we will become disabled. He believed it the right thing to do to accommodate the elderly and disabled relative to public transportation.

7. CATA PRESENTATION

Debbie Alexander, Assistant Executive Director of CATA, offered an extensive update on the Bud Rapid Transit (BRT) Project through a Powerpoint presentation, noting Route 1 service is at capacity.

[Clerk Dreyfus left the room at 6:52 P.M.]

She stated implementing additional public transportation vehicles only compounds problems for auto users. Ms. Alexander stated CATA is attempting to provide a transportation network which services more people with less vehicles through the BRT. She noted additional information can be obtained at www.cata-brt.org.

[Clerk Dreyfus reentered the room at 6:54 P.M.]

Board and CATA representative's discussion:

- Current 45 stops on Route 1 will be condensed to 28 BRT stations
- Stations elevated 18 inches will be level with the floor of the bus and take fare payments
- Docking system will allow buses to pull in so the "gap" between the station and the floor of the bus will be minimal
- Electronic information will be provided for the next bus at all stations
- Bicycles will be stored inside the bus along one wall
- New boarding system will significantly reduce boarding times
- Buses will be equipped with signal priority (extension of the green light for the bus to pass through the intersection; advance the red to green to allow for faster bus transit)
- Removal of buses from the auto lanes improves capacity to those lanes
- Designated bus lane also improves capacity to the bus line

- Future discussion with business owners along Grand River in Meridian Township regarding the impact of no left turn off Grand River will take place during the design and engineering process
- Public hearing is to determine the feasibility about the environmental impacts
- CATA research showed many businesses are supportive of the BRT as it will improve access to those businesses
- Concern with the prohibition of left hand turns on Grand River
- Prohibition of left turns improves the safety of the access
- Automobiles will make “U” turns at signalized controlled intersections in lieu of turning left
- Meridian Township is experiencing a number of approved and proposed redevelopment projects along the Grand River corridor
- Developers are “excited” about the economic opportunities enhanced transportation through the Township’s main corridor will bring
- Board member belief elevating the region’s transportation network will grow our region and obtain new jobs by providing the infrastructure
- Two park and rides planned through CATA’s infrastructure process: near Meridian Mall and US Route 127
- Any land owner has the option to create a park and ride lot near any station along the BRT
- Discussion during the charrette process to encourage private park and rides along the corridor
- Concern with the ability for bicyclists to travel on Michigan Avenue when there is only one auto lane in each direction
- Elements of bicycle facilities will be considered during the next phase of the engineering and design process
- Meridian Township will be engaged in the decision making regarding bicycle facilities being incorporated into the right-of-way after the environmental assessment is complete and federal approval is given
- Board member desire to hold one of the public hearings in Meridian Township
- The public hearing is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration and is unique in that the environmental assessment document belongs to the federal government and there are strict prescriptions which must be adhered to
- Public hearing will likely take place in the middle of the Grand River Corridor
- Estimate of construction costs for the current BRT plan is \$155 million
- CATA will continue to look for ways to further reduce the cost as the project moves forward
- Design and engineering costs are projected to be approximately \$12.5 million

8. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance last week at the Health in All Project (related to the Urban Services Management Area subcommittee) where the Health Impact Assessment Toolkit was discussed (toolkit can be found at www.midmichigansustainability.org). He spoke to the Executive Summary he included in the Board packet regarding the Health Impact Assessment as it relates to the Urban and Rural Services Management Policy spearheaded by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC).

Trustee Veenstra urged the ticket issued to Mr. McCurdy regarding goats on his property be placed on hold until the rezoning issue is thoroughly vetted. He was unclear as to why the Township initiated rezoning of properties in this area in 1994. Trustee Veenstra outlined the three (3) options he determined to be available for recourse, adding his preference was to accept Mr. McCurdy’s application for rezoning and waive the \$900 fee. He attended the July 29th regular meeting of TCRPC where a resolution was passed, for the second time, opposing the closing of the mail distribution center on Collins Road.

Trustee Scales reported his attendance at several functions throughout the Township, ranging from the grand opening of the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union branch, legislative coffee hours with Representative Sam Singh and State Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr., rededication ceremony of Courtesy Ford and meetings with various entities regarding the Ember Oaks plat changes/Forsberg Road.

Treasurer Brixie reported the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) is currently seeking public input for meaningful names of five preserves (e.g., Central Meridian Uplands).

9. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

Treasurer Brixie 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 Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the July 21, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- Amend page 13 by deleting the words “action at the August 18, 2015 ” and inserting the words “further discussion at an upcoming” in the consensus statement relative to Agenda Item #12 A (PRD #15-97015)

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra; Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
ON THE MAIN Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

MOTION: NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 579,498.50
Public Works	\$1,125,530.44
Retainage	
Check #2004-Mauldon Bros (Okemos Road	
Water Main)	\$ 2,496.52
Total Checks	\$1,707,525.46
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 10,984.09
Total Purchases	<u>\$1,718,509.55</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 367,952.17</u>

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
 Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

- D. Ratification of Police Officer Appointment
Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointment of Douglas Strouse to the position of Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
 Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

12. HEARINGS

- A. Newton Road Paving, Special Assessment District No. 43
 Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 7:45 P.M.

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Perry summarized the special assessment district as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 30, 2015.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in favor of the project as this paving will provide cyclists and pedestrians with a safer egress from the Township to the north. He voiced concern with using pathway millage money and not constructing Newton Road to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.

Ahsan Sumbal, 900 Gulick Road, Haslett, objected to the special assessment.

Angela McGuire, 6024 Newton Road, East Lansing, objected to paving Newton Road as it would increase traffic on the road. She assumed the pavement project will lead to future assessments for sidewalks, streetlights, etc. She requested that if Newton Road is paved, speed bumps be installed to slow traffic in front of Newton Road Park and the drive into the park also be paved. Ms. McGuire believed sewer infrastructure should be installed prior to the paving, as she did not want the new pavement to be replaced. She requested the assessment period be as long as possible to make it more affordable for the affected property owners.

Susan Luks, 2292 East Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, objected to being assessed for the paving as her property does not have access onto Newton Road. She believed the paving project will increase traffic.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 7:54 P.M.

13. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

- A. Final Plat #05012 (Eyde) Georgetown No. 3, 55 Single Family Lots Located East of Powell Road and South of Tihart Road

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN approves the Final Plat of Georgetown No. 3. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board and staff discussion:

- Project was slowed down by the recession and is now ready to resume
- Request for staff definition of a water feature setback as noted in condition #16 of the final preliminary plat approval
- Water feature setback includes setbacks for natural features (wetlands, ponds, drains), structures and grading
- Water feature setbacks were part of the deed restrictions when recorded for lot sales
- Board member concern without language in the resolution which states the conditions of the preliminary plat remain in effect, those conditions do not have legal force
- 23 conditions remain throughout the entire plat process and are included in the final plat approval for Georgetown No. 3
- 23 conditions of the preliminary plat continue to be implemented as each phase is developed
- Township Board has previously approved final plats for two other phases
- Blueprint provided by KEBS, Inc. indicates Georgetown No. 3 will have water provided by the Board of Water and Light
- Georgetown is served by Township water and sanitary sewer
- Other documents besides the blueprint determine the water hookups within the community (payback district benefit charges, work orders, etc.)
- Typographical error in the blueprint can be corrected
- Specific timeframe for action on the final plat, and there is not time for another Board meeting prior to the end of that timeframe
- Concern that condition #11 notes the applicant agrees to grant the Township a 15 foot easement for a pathway, but does not require construction of the pathway
- Township has already received the easement from the Eyde Company
- Township received a performance guarantee for the cost of building the pathway
- Preliminary plat was extended on March 5, 2015 until 2017
- Listed conditions have not traditionally been included in the letter to the applicant confirming final plat approval as the conditions stay with the plat until all conditions are met
- Final plat confirms what was approved under the preliminary plat remains consistent (number of lots, road pattern, etc.)
- Some of the conditions will not be met until the homes are constructed
- Cornell Road cul de sac has yet to come to the Board for final plat approval

Trustee Veenstra moved to add language to the resolution which reads: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all applicable conditions placed on Final ~~PRELIMINARY~~ Plat #05012 shall remain in effect."

The motion died for lack of a second.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra

Motion carried 6-1.

B. Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Procedures and Guidelines

Trustee Wilson read her intended amendments to the FOIA policy as outlined in her email to the Board dated July 31, 2015.

Trustee Wilson offered the following amendment:

- **Amend the first sentence in Section 2 of the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines by deleting "must do so in writing" and insert "may do so by submitting the request on the Township's FOIA Request Form, in any other form of writing (letter, fax, email, etc.) or by verbal request."**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief the amendment makes the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines more cohesive by providing the public with multiple options for making a FOIA request

- Language used in the approved FOIA Procedures and Guidelines was contained in a template provided by Michigan Townships Association and then customized by each municipality to fit its unique character
- Rationale for retaining the wording as originally approved makes it easy for citizens to know how to make a request, access the optional Township FOIA Request Form and the processed used to submit the request to the Township using a variety of submission methods
- Michigan law clearly states FOIA requests must be in writing
- Cities and townships may choose to accept verbal FOIA requests
- MTA chose to write its template to allow for verbal requests, although it is not a requirement
- State law was written without including verbal requests as the legislature was concerned about verbal requests not being adequately described
- Confusion can result from a verbal request if it is ambiguous or vague
- Written requests are more specific, reduce errors and possibly reduce the number of mistaken denials of public records
- Some verbal requests for information are not considered FOIA requests (something easily obtained or information is available on the Township website)
- Decision by the Clerk to accept and respond to verbal FOIA requests as it maximizes all channels available for a citizen to make a FOIA request
- Written request are the preferred method of accessing public records
- Clerk construction of the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines was written in short paragraphs to make it simple to understand and easier for citizens to understand the difference between a written request and a verbal request through delineation of certain conditions
- Board member belief this minor amendment provides greater transparency
- Language, as written in the first sentence under Requesting Public Records, conflicts with language which later occurs in the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines
- FOIA law was changed in an attempt it allow it to be more liberal (i.e., verbal), but in a way that is clear
- Solution to fix the confusion could be to amend the first sentence to say...”must do so in writing, except as otherwise provided for in this section.”
- Original amendment proposed was taken directly from the MTA template

Trustee Wilson withdrew her motion.

Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:

- **Amend the first sentence in Section 2 of the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines by inserting “, except as otherwise provided for in this section” after “must do so in writing”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Board discussion:

- Calculation of fees (old v. new calculations)
- Timelines for processing FOIA requests remained the same
- Changes were made to defining certain timeframes within the appeal process
- Availability of certain documents at a reduced fee or no charge as identified by the Clerk’s Office
- Clerk’s office has not officially identified any documents
- MTA language in the FOIA Policies and Guidelines also identifies the Township Board as an entity to identify documents available at a reduced fee or no charge
- Major thrust of changes in the state law was to standardize charges for copying and labor charges across the state, as well as ensure all Michigan citizens had equal access to public records
- Board member suggestion if it costs more to process the FOIA payment than what is charged, the information should be provided free of charge
- New FOIA law provides for the first 15 minutes of labor to be free of charge

- Concern with lack of consistency in arbitrarily deciding which documents will be provided free of charge
- Board member suggestion to inquire of staff as to the cost of processing a payment
- Board member suggestion to include the nature of FOIA requests included in the quarterly report
- Board member belief the new FOIA request form (two pages) as recommended by the MTA is cumbersome and intimidating
- Second side of the FOIA request form is for “special” situations (e.g., records located on the website, overtime labor costs, request for discount: indigence or non-profit organization)
- Of the 12 FOIA requests received since July 1st, no one has reported problems with using the New FOIA Request Form
- Board agreement to remove “complete both sides” at the bottom of Page 1
- Board member suggestion to place optional on the second side of the form

[Trustee Scales left the room at 8:45 P.M.]

- Article published in the July 24th edition of *The Lansing State Journal* titled “Compliance with new state FOIA law mixed” praised Meridian Township as one municipality which “knocked the how-to and fee-explanation elements out of the park”
- Board member belief fax and emails should not be required and should be labeled as optional
- Requestors are not required to supply an email
- Email line is provided on the form in the event further communication is required
- Appreciation to the Clerk for proposing a FOIA policy which was praised in the Lansing State Journal

[Trustee Scales reentered the room at 8:47 P.M.]

C. Budget Amendment to Reallocate Cable TV Funds for Audio Engineering Project

Trustee Styka moved to approve an increase in the Capital Line Item budget of \$24,000 and reallocation of funds from the Contractual Line Item to the Capital Line Item in the amount of \$14,865 for the Town Hall Room audio replacement and upgrade. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board discussion:

- Apparent necessity for this upgrade
- Equipment becomes aged and technology gets out of date

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA)

Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Trustee Wilson to the GLTA. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief the appointment comes through the Supervisor and therefore, the previous motion was out of order
- The Township’s Code of Ordinance does not stipulate the type of appointment for the GLTA
- GLTA will not impact Meridian Township in the same fashion it will impact the cities of Lansing or East Lansing
- Preference for safe and reliable taxi service for Meridian Township residents
- Concern that East Lansing will receive three (3) seats on the Authority board while Meridian Township will receive only one and both municipalities have approximately the same amount of residents within their boundaries
- Rationale for the number of seats for each municipality is one of the Township’s stipulations in belonging to the Authority was that Meridian will be held harmless relative to financial liability
- Lansing and East Lansing will assume all the financial risk for the GLTA
- Board member suggestion for criteria to be established related to serving on the GLTA

- Criteria for serving on the GLTA should be related to the responsibilities of handling the appointment
- Board member belief a part-time trustee would be better able to serve on the GLTA than a full time member of the Board
- Board courtesy to allow the Supervisor, as the leader of the Township, to make the nomination
- Board always has the option to vote down the nomination of the Supervisor
- Time of the meeting should not impact the responsibilities of any Board member, either full-time or part-time
- East Lansing City Clerk is very involved in the GLTA, not as a voting member, but in an administrative role
- Board member nominated for the appointment indicated she already has established a working relationship with individuals who spearheaded the GLTA
- Other Board members acknowledged they also had long-established relationships with East Lansing and Lansing officials as well

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus
 Motion carried 4-3.

14. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Chuck Barbieri, Foster Swift, 313 S Washington Square, Lansing, attorney on behalf of The Ponds, Inc., urged the Township to support a Chapter 20 Drain petition for the Daniels Drain. He showed photos of the deterioration of the pond and noted the GEI report points out most of the impact is due to the neighborhoods south of the pond.

Kathie Kuhn, 5473 Okemos Road, East Lansing, spoke in support of allowing the McCurdy's to retain the goats on their property. She believed the goats enrich the community and are a focal point of the area. Ms. Kuhn submitted additional petition signatures in support of allowing the McCurdy's to retain their goats.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Newton Road Paving, Special Assessment District (SAD) No. 43

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Perry continued his summation of the proposed Newton Road Paving, SAD No. 43 after the public hearing. He pointed out the north and south ends of the road are the subject of this SAD, as the adjacent developer is paving the majority of the road.

[Trustee Veenstra left the room at 9:09 P.M.]

Board discussion:

- Board directs staff on the length of the proposed assessment during the final assessment process
- Current policy in place is a ten (10) year assessment if the assessment is over \$7,000, and if the assessment is under \$7,000, the Board has assigned a five (5) year assessment
- Township and the Eyde Company have the largest assessments
- Suggestion for staff to connect with the affected property owners to provide information on the five (5) year, with one payment per year for five (5) years
- Developer is paving approximately 2/3 of the road
- Developer was not included in this assessment as he is paying for a majority of the road as agreed upon through the development agreement

[Trustee Veenstra reentered the room at 9:11 P.M.]

- Board member suggestion to request the ICRD install ten (10) foot travel lanes as suggested during the public hearing to allow for bicycle lanes
- Request for staff to provide input to the ICRD regarding trees on this road
- Board member suggestion to provide information to the public regarding the cost to the developer for paving his portion
- Township has begun to investigate providing sewer in the area which would be paid for through a payback district when homes connect
- Sewer would be connected to the current development and then run west to Newton Road and then south
- Preliminary staff work calculated costs for sewer at \$35,000-\$40,000
- Plans have been submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) as there is a 30 day process involved in its review
- Staff to provide sewer through monies from the sewer funds and then residents who decide to hook up or have failed septic systems would begin paying back
- Board member suggestion for residents to seek a 45 mph speed limit for Newton Road
- Installation of four (4) foot paved shoulders would preclude installation of sidewalks
- Staff does not currently have plans to add sidewalk in the subject area
- Total frontage for the two parcels owned by Mr. Sumbal is 417 feet and the cost is calculated on that frontage
- Property on the southwest corner fronts onto Lake Lansing Road and the frontage on Newton Road is a side yard
- Board member request for the corner lot to be assessed at a lower rate
- Staff review of the shape of the corner lot led them to believe the parcel may be divided at some point in the future
- Board member reminder this situation was similar to a parcel on Perry Road when its special assessment district was established
- Board member support to handle the corner lot the same way as the parcel on Perry Road
- Several objections have been made to the assessment and preliminary staff calculation shows the linear frontage of those properties exceed 20%
- If residents who own more than 20% of the road frontage object, Public Act 188 requires staff to find out if 50% of the property owners wish to proceed with the petition
- Meridian Township is a large property owner along Newton Road
- Board member inquiry why the assessment district was not set up with the developer paying his portion through the assessment district
- The development agreement did not require the developer to pave the north and south ends of Newton Road
- Compliment to Mr. Perry for his depth of knowledge after only five months of employment with the Township

B. Daniels Drain Improvements

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Perry summarized the Daniel's Drain/Walden Pond issue as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 30, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Jurisdictional municipalities incur the cost of Chapter 20 drain improvements
- Public Act 188 allows the Township to hold public hearings and provides an avenue for the Board to pass on assessments to residents who directly benefit from the improvements
- Chapter 20 of the Drain Code allows objections by residents to be taken under advisement, even if more than 20% of the affected property owners object
- Board member preference to move forward with the petition as the first phase pending determination of preliminary costs
- Staff is working to develop a good working relationship with the Ingham County Drain Office for a "mix" of fixes for the Township's aging drains
- A process does exist to remove Chapter 20 Drains to a different type of drain

- Board member concern that once a drain has been determined as necessary, the project cannot be stopped irrespective of the cost
- Maintenance costs of Chapter 20 Drains are borne by the Township
- Staff looked at a similar project (i.e., Briarwood Pond) and estimated a total cost of \$1-\$2 million
- Cost of the preliminary assessment
- If the Board decides to move forward with the petition, staff will lay out the entire process in order for Board members to make a determination
- Board member preference to hear from the surrounding neighbors who will be affected by the assessment

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the August 18, 2015 Board meeting.

- C. Township Manager Performance Review
Trustee Styka summarized the process for the Township Manager's Performance Review as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 30, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Board will receive a consensus document produced by the subcommittee from which to work
- This evaluation is being labeled as an interim evaluation
- Transition is being made to work toward an annual evaluation during October/November
- Contract discussions will also take place
- Moving the evaluation to November 1st allows the Board that is in place for the entire year to review his performance

It was the consensus of the Board to go into closed session at 5:00 P.M., prior to the August 18, 2015 Board meeting.

15. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

16. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Scales expressed a desire for the Board to be "more considerate" of scheduling its meetings, noting the annual meeting was scheduled on the same day as National Night Out.

Township Manager Walsh noted next year there will be no conflict with National Night Out as the Board meeting will be moved to the Thursday after the first Tuesday in August to accommodate the 2016 primary election.

Trustee Veenstra added that in even years, there will be no conflict.

Several Board members suggested that in odd years, the first Board meeting in August be moved to Thursday to avoid conflict with National Night Out.

Trustee Wilson reported the August, 2015 meeting of the Groundwater Management Board has been canceled. She indicated she and Human Resources Director Marx are part of the Diversity of Lansing Work Group with Lansing Area Economic Partnership (LEAP), with the first of four (4) meetings to be held in September. Trustee Wilson stated they will be working with multiple stakeholders on how to recruit, retain and attract a diverse work force.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:49 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary