

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland,

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Economic Development Director Chris Buck, Principal Planner Peter Menser, Fire Chief Mike Hamel, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Interim Police Chief Ken Plaga, Information Technology Director Stephen Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club

John Brewster of the Rotary Club reported on the mission and impact of the organization. Discussed operations in Meridian Township, future projects, and international initiatives.

B. Semi-Annual Township Report

Township Manager Walsh discussed the progress of the Redevelopment Ready Community initiative, the recent audit process, and work on special projects by various departments.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:13 pm.

Rollie Harmes, 5120 Cornell Road, Okemos; supports the Master Plan's designation of the eastern third of the Township to remain rural.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett; supports Zoning Amendment #18060 (Agenda 12A), opposed to Rezoning #18050 (12B) and in favor of motion to deny. Developers should

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support the Master Plan's focus on minimal development in this area and thus be a part of the community. He noted that the Township Board and Planning Commission need to consider detrimental effects of unplanned population growth and road expansion.

Doris Schwartz, 2209 Kent Street, Okemos; opposed to Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) plan (Item 12D) and the Economic Development strategy being presented to the Board. She stated that the Methodist St. right-of-way was designated as a pathway on the map, but the CATA consultant drafted an inaccuracy on half of the county right-of-way, indicating potential development of this property. This Redevelopment Plan is not protecting the neighborhood in the Okemos PICA, it causes damage and it's not supportive of the Master Plan. Don't pass the RRC/Economic Development Strategy Plan right now, get the diagrams and maps correct.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:20 pm.

### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Update on the search for new Police Chief
- Archie Virtue retirement party took place on July 10<sup>th</sup>, he's been with the Township 56 years
- Kiwanis Club and Groundwater Management Board will present at Board Meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>

### 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland reported:

- Communications Commission meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> discussed HOM-TV and their national recognition on "overall excellence," and an alumni donation program proposal that would help support interns

Treasurer Brixie reported:

- Summer tax bills have been sent out

Clerk Dreyfus reported:

- Permanent Absentee Voter list increased from 3400 to 5200
- 4300 ballots mailed out, 850 ballots received
- Clerk's Office will be open Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>
- Election workers needed, training provided - \$11 an hour

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- Attended Sexual Assault Prevention meeting
- Transportation Commission will be discussing what roads to address at upcoming meeting
- Met with CATA to find ways to discuss fare increase for Redi-Ride

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Thanks to staff and volunteers that helped make Celebrate Meridian a success

### 8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

VOICE VOTE:            Motion carried 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

A. Communications

**Clerk Dreyfus 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 Deschaine.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Minutes – June 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2018 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Bills

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows, seconded by Trustee Deschaine:**

<b>Common Cash</b>	<b>\$341,145.06</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$335,169.63</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>\$51,866.22</b>

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<b>Retainage</b>	<b>\$33,434.89</b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$761,615.80</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions June 8th to July 4th, 2018</b>	<b>\$23,337.33</b>
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b><u>\$784,953.13</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	<b><u>\$1,350,777.65</u></b>

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (NONE)

11. HEARINGS (NONE)

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Zoning Amendment #18060 (Township Board) outdoor recreation in C-2 and C-3 – Introduction

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the attached resolution to introduce Zoning Amendment #18060 for publication and subsequent adoption. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

Board Discussion:

- Economic Development Corporation has recommended to support
- Current rule is that unless zoning is allowed in ordinance, it's considered prohibited
- Special use permit process gives chance to review the requests

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

NAYS:

Motion carried

B. Rezoning #18050 (Eyde) 5080 Cornell Road

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the attached resolution to deny Rezoning #18050, a request to rezone approximately 10.01 acres located at 5080 Cornell Road from RR (Rural Residential) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density). Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

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Board Discussion:

- Does not meet criteria for rezoning
- Need to maintain eastern third of Township as rural, doesn't align with Future Land Use Map

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Rezoning #18070 (M78 Insite Venture) 6365 Newton Road – Introduction

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution to introduce Rezoning Petition #18070 for publication and subsequent adoption. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board Discussion:

- Planning Commission recommended this action
- Consistent with Future Land Use Map

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

D. Redevelopment Ready Communities

**Trustee Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution to approve the Economic Development Strategy and Corridor Plan as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Economic Development Director Chris Buck reported on the status of the proposed Economic Development Strategy and Corridor Plan, adapted to fit Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) requirements for submission for Redevelopment Ready Communities certification.

Board Discussion:

- No specific deadlines or available funding from MEDC requires immediate Board action
- Concern the Township is moving too fast in this process and time should be taken to submit an accurate application, Township Economic Director believes there is a sense of urgency
- Questions on how the Redevelopment Plan fits within the Economic Development Strategy
- Redevelopment Ready Communities rating needed for competitive funding from MEDC

**Trustee Opsommer moved to amend the resolution by having staff redact the blue overlay on the paper extension of Methodist (Street), and also the slight orange overlay of General Flex Three, to have it accurately reflect the street grid.**

**Trustee Opsommer added: Liverance also has a small extension that doesn't reflect the street grid off the southern end. Townhouse small apartment is the overlay and it extends slightly off of Liverance. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board Discussion:

- Color coded map segments are clearly erroneous, omissions by the consultant

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

**Treasurer Brixie moved to amend the resolution by adding the following statements to the resolution (after the 4<sup>th</sup> Whereas): "Whereas the Corridor Plan includes an extension of Methodist Street which does not reflect the Township Master Plan;"**

**Trustee Opsommer offered a Friendly Amendment: "Whereas the Corridor Plan includes an extension of Liverance which does not exist." Accepted by maker of the motion. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

Board Discussion:

- Motion not required due to previous motion to correct the map upon submission
- Belief that the motion would help to clarify our intentions on the resolution itself
- This motion would not fit with standard drafting of Township resolutions

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 3-4

**Supervisor Styka moved to amend the resolution's Therefore;" clause to include "as corrected and approved" after the words "Corridor Plan." Supported by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

**Treasurer Brixie moved to accept the new language for the amended resolution as: "to approve the Economic Development Strategy and Corridor Plan as presented, corrected and approved." Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

**Trustee Deschaine moved to adopt the amended resolution to approve the Economic Development Strategy and Corridor Plan as presented, corrected and approved. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board Discussion:

- Board member belief that Meridian Township is not "Redevelopment Ready" at this time, more detailed Economic Development vision needed, the \$650,000 Meridian Redevelopment Fund is too vague, essential to take time to develop Economic Strategy
- Belief that the Meridian Redevelopment Fund (MRF) is part of the Economic Development Strategy being submitted to MEDC, the MRF is not well-thought out so its inclusion is premature in the certification request to the State of Michigan
- Belief the MRF is not related to the Economic Development Strategy, separate programs
- Language in Economic Development Strategy states MRF is part of economic strategy, Board member concern about MRF effectiveness as a development tool

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- MRF will be operated by Meridian EDC and Township Board
- Opinions sought on the Economic Development Strategy from the Meridian EDC, the Planning Commission and from the Corridor Improvement Authority

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

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus

Motion carried 6-1

E. Michigan Employee Retirement System 2017 Actuarial Report

**Treasurer Brixie moved to accept the MERS 2017 Actuarial Report. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

Township Manager reported on the status of the Township MERS contributions. Currently funded at 61%, does not include the \$1,500,000 (2017) contribution; with that funding, the level is approximately 64%. ARC (annual required contribution) has gone done for the first time. Mentions factors to get to 100% funded.

Board Discussion:

- Report is available for residents to view on the Township website
- Question if this is required as an action item, or would discussion be sufficient, questioning the necessity to vote to “accept” this report
- Presentation is stated as a transparency measure, similar to the audit, up to the Board to choose to accept the report by vote or be presented with the information and discussion
- Recent mortality rates have gone up, and rates of return have gone down; Meridian Township has kept ahead of the curve even with these changes

VOTE VOICE: Motion carried 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2018 Order to Maintain Sidewalk – S.A.D. #18 Resolutions #1 and #2

Public Works Director Derek Perry reported: in accordance with Township ordinance Section 58-32b, and Section 58-32d, the Township Board may order the repair of defective sidewalks. If the property owner fails to repair the sidewalk within 20 days after written notification, the Township may repair or replace the sidewalk and bill the cost of construction to the property owner.

**Consensus of the Board to bring this item back at the next meeting for action.**

B. Woodingham Lift Station – Sewer Contract Addendum

Public Works Director Perry reported on the partnership with East Lansing and MSU for wastewater treatment. For improvements to be made, Township needs to extend the January 1961 Sewer Contract.

**Consensus of the Board to bring this item back at the next meeting for action.**

C. Township Manager Employment Agreement Modification

Township Manager Frank Walsh requested changes made to his employment contract to allow work outside of his Township employment, including specific wording that would allow him to conduct managerial searches for township and city managers (as a Recruitment Consultant) on his own time; allowing up to three consulting contracts a year.

Board discussion:

- Employment Agreement does not specifically permit outside work
- Each managerial search requires a 40 to 50 hour commitment over a multi-week span
- Township Manager questioned why his personal time should be of interest to the Board
- Most organizations and companies have personnel policies that limit an employee's outside employment; reasons include limiting conflict of interest and ensuring that outside work does not interfere with the full-time position
- Township HR Director reported that all Township personnel are required to clear outside employment with their respective Directors, police even have form to fill out
- HR Director noted Township Manager has Employment Agreement, different than other staff
- Board member belief that all employees need to follow the same rules, including the Township Manager, regardless if he has an Employment Agreement
- Manager is requesting permission to do additional work, so belief he is following the rules
- Helping in managerial searches could be perceived as doing public good for the community
- No evidence of conflict of interest is immediately evident during this discussion

**Consensus of the Board to bring this item back at the next meeting for action.**

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:00 pm.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett; commented on personal experiences with HR policies that limited him from outside employment while he had a full-time position, showed appreciation for Public Works Director Derek Perry and his prompt action in addressing concerns/requests.

Doris Schwartz, 2209 Kent Street; voiced appreciation for Director Perry. She hopes that the Redevelopment Ready Community comprehensive plan will be reviewed for more than just the changes made at this Board meeting, to be congruent with the Master Plan. Introduced the Okemos Four Corners Group.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks at 8:06 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- Love a Park Day (May) events were voluntarily and spontaneously assisted by Meridian citizen Mike Wilson. Gratitude to Mike for his help.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

17. POSTSCRIPT - BRETT DREYFUS

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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK