

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Finance Gretchen Gomolka, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx

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. PRESENTATION – Introduction of Police Sergeant Edward Besonen
Chief Hall introduced Sergeant Edward Besonen, who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and sworn in on September 29, 2014.
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

William LaRue, 2010 Lac Du Mont, Haslett, expressed concern with the alleged disparity in the rental inspection system. He stated he is the only renter in his six (6) unit townhouse condominium and is required to be inspected on a yearly basis while the other five townhomes have no safety standards imposed on them. He addressed the yearly inspection fees, noting the cost of the fees are passed down to the renter.

Marna Wilson, 1905 Tomahawk Road, Okemos, requested homeowner associations receive notification in the event the Township changes the ordinance regarding rental properties. She believed it necessary to maintain the rental inspection program on a regular basis.

Judith Kurth, 6187 W. Golfridge Drive, East Lansing, spoke in opposition to the outdoor gathering permit request for a music event to be held at Walnut Hills on October 31, 2014.

Phil Kurth, 6187 W. Golfridge Drive, East Lansing, believed the Walnut Hills golf course is not a public venue and it is inappropriate to burden the adjoining neighborhoods with a music event such as being requested.

Quenda Story, 4526 Marlboro, Okemos, stated unregulated rental property places other buildings/homes in the area at risk. She urged the Board to be cautious in its deliberations regarding a possible reduction in rental housing inspection and fees.

Cecilia Kramer, 4560 Oakwood, Okemos, President, Forest Hills Homeowners Association, expressed concern with the overall integrity and well-being of subdivisions with the suggestion of a reduction in rental housing inspection and fees. She urged more regulation than is currently employed by the Township to ensure unregistered rentals are brought into compliance.

Richard Williams, 1703 S. Crystal Cove, Haslett, President, Rental Property Owners Association of Mid-Michigan (RPOAMM), addressed registration and yearly fees charged by Meridian Township for rental properties. He urged the Township provide safe but affordable rental housing, noting Meridian Township charges more in yearly fees than the average of the three surrounding townships and the City of Lansing. Mr. Williams spoke to what he believed was the Township's excessive \$800 initial registration fee. He addressed Senate Bill 313, a law which may "cap" the rental registration fee to \$100, revise the frequency of inspections and provide for the leasee to refuse an inspection.

Mary Elizabeth Low, 4646 Ottawa Drive, Okemos, expressed concern with the number of inspections and the amount of fees charged by the Township for rental properties. She alleged a disparity in fees charged for single family homes v. apartment buildings.

James Pollack, 1380 Hickory Island Drive, Haslett, believed fees charged for rental property are artificially high, particularly for "good" rentals that never have problems.

Brent Forsberg, 2422 Jolly Road, Suite 200, Okemos, spoke in support of licensing fee review for rental properties. He also expressed concern with the wetland fee increases proposed in the 2015 Recommended Budget.

Jim Bartow, 6154 Longview Drive, East Lansing, and President, The Greens Homeowners Association, spoke in opposition to the outdoor gathering permit request for a music event to be held at Walnut Hills on October 31, 2014.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, pointed the Board towards an article in *Nature Discovery* addressing the wisdom of placing the dog park in Legg Park. He noted a study was performed which found the area was a diverse natural habitat with a variety of wildlife. He addressed the environmental study subsequently prepared by a firm hired by Meridian Township which contradicted earlier findings. Mr. Bowlby suggested a dog park located in the center of the Township would be frequented by more Township residents. He voiced appreciation for the removal of weeds on the south side of Haslett Road east of Park Lake Road and the Township's Recycling Event held on October 4, 2014 at Chippewa Middle School.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Meeting with Williamstown Township regarding the proposed continued police services agreement
- 2015 Recommended Budget does not propose a change in rental inspection fees
- Setting of fees and the process used to inspect are two separate issues
- Timeline for rental inspections is mandated by ordinance
- New rental registration fee was reduced last year ~~by 25%~~ to \$800

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Wilson reported Lansing Economic Area Partnership's (LEAP) designation of Lansing Region Makers Week October 6th through 12th, which highlights the Midwest's first startup week-long event. She noted more information is available at www.lansingmaker.com. Trustee Wilson reported the next Groundwater Management Board meeting will take place tomorrow. She indicated the Okemos Public School's Board of Education will host a special meeting with the school community on October 15th at 6:30 PM in the Meridian Senior Center to engage with the citizenry on budget priorities for the school system. Trustee Wilson announced the Township's Human Services Specialist, Darla Jackson, sent out letters seeking sponsors for Holiday Food Baskets. She urged any interested parties to contact Darla during office hours.

Trustee Wilson commented on Board policy regarding inclusion of correspondence addressed to the Board in the Board packet. She specifically addressed correspondence from Toni Harris dated September 2nd, and requested that be included in the next Board packet.

A. Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Treasurer Brixie gave an update on delinquent personal property tax collection totals for tax years 2009-2013, 2014 total tax year collections as of September 30, 2014, 2014 Tax year distribution totals as of September 15, 2014, and current fixed maturity investments and non-fixed investments as of August 31, 2014.

Trustee Veenstra pointed out Senate Bill 313, introduced in the State Senate this summer, would have reduced the level of rental inspection fees Meridian Township currently charges. He stated that although the initial rental registration fee of \$1,200 was reduced last year to \$800, he believed it is still "too high", alleging it has no relation to actual costs. Trustee Veenstra assumed the unregistered rentals mentioned previously during public comment are due to the initial rental registration fee cost of \$800. He reported his attendance at the September 24th regular meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) where a presentation was made on the issue of lime sludge, adding the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA) uses lime to soften the water, with the resulting waste product of calcium carbonate. He noted a committee has been created at TCRPC to discuss a possible study on the feasibility of purchasing a kiln which would heat the calcium carbonate and convert it back to calcium oxide, used to soften water. Trustee Veenstra stated the cost of that study is estimated to be \$375,000-\$500,000, of which ELMWSA would be expected to pay approximately ten percent (10%).

Trustee Styka reported on the success of the recent Heritage Festival and last weekend's Recycling Event. He reported his attendance at the last Okemos School Board meeting where an unsolicited offer to purchase Wardcliff School was discussed and a decision was made not to sell. Trustee Styka stated the school board is looking for other renters for the remaining vacant two-thirds of the building. He announced the Cable Communications Commission will meet tomorrow to discuss further delays in receipt of information from Comcast on its merger with Time Warner.

Clerk Dreyfus reported 3,335 absentee ballots have been issued by the Clerk's Office as of October 6th, with requests processed on a daily basis. He announced registered voters may apply and request an absentee ballot be mailed to them through Saturday, November 1st, and may request and vote a ballot at the Township on Monday, November 3rd. Clerk Dreyfus indicated he received a letter from an individual urging the Board to discuss and support a resolution which encourages oversight of charter schools. He reported Michigan State University received \$3 million in federal money to open its Food Processing Innovation Center as part of the "food hub" proposed along Jolly/Okemos Road area, adding a food hub is an economic development activity which places all aspects of the food industry in a centralized location.

In response to an earlier Board member comment, Clerk Dreyfus explained Meridian Township is involved in potential litigation with two (2) Township employees and a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was submitted with respect to that lawsuit. He stated the attorney representing the Township employees has had correspondence with the Clerk's office regarding the FOIA request and it is standard policy to not include any communications in the Board packet which may jeopardize the Township's standing and position in a current legal matter. Clerk Dreyfus noted the Treasurer has chastised other Board members for bringing up legal issues before the Township Board, stating it is a legal practice for the Board not to discuss the issue in public.

Trustee Wilson explained the letter she referred to earlier was not relative to the FOIA request, but the "other" communication on which all Board members were copied.

Clerk Dreyfus reiterated the correspondence to which Trustee Wilson referred is a part of the FOIA lawsuit.

Trustee Veenstra requested clarification as to why Board receipt of a letter from someone who may be involved in a lawsuit against the Township would jeopardize the Township's legal position. He believed anytime someone sends a letter to the Township Board, each Board member should receive a copy.

Inclusion of Board Communications in the Board Packet: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

Q. Are you going to explain this?

A. I can comment that generally when correspondence is received, it is put in the packet. I haven't seen the letter we are talking about, so I don't know what legal ramifications it may have. I can't speak to the legality of having it in or not in the packet; I'll leave it at that.

Q. I heard two things here. I heard it involved a FOIA lawsuit. Is there a FOIA lawsuit, first?

A. I'm not handling a FOIA lawsuit that I'm aware of. I don't believe I am handling that.

Clerk Dreyfus clarified he did not say it was a FOIA lawsuit, but a FOIA issue dealing with a potential lawsuit that the law firm is involved in. He noted a FOIA was submitted with respect to the potential lawsuit.

Trustee Scales believed that since there was no lawsuit, there was no legal matter. He stated the problem he has with it is that he believed it was negative against the Clerk, and he alleged that because of that, the Clerk did not include it in the Board packet. Trustee Scales spoke to an emergent pattern of behavior, noting all Board members must operate with transparency.

Clerk Dreyfus spoke to the political nature of this matter, with Trustee Scales attempting to find a pattern where none exists. He believed it a waste of both the Board's and public's time having irrelevant discussions in an attempt to validate the political views of several Board members. Clerk Dreyfus suggested all Board members be collegial and professional in their dealings with one another.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Add Agenda Item #12E: Ingham County Permit Variance for Various Locations throughout Meridian Township**
- **Add Agenda Item #12F: Initiation of a Tree Ordinance Revision**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. 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 Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Communications (BI)

BI-1 Richard C. Williams, President, Rental Property Owners Association of Mid-Michigan (RPOAMM), 3315 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing; RE: Existing Fees for Rental Properties

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 Jeralyn Moran, 3680 Hiawatha Drive, Okemos; RE: E-mail notification of her resignation from the Environmental Commission

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 Scales, Styka, 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 September 16, 2014 Regular Meeting amended as follows:

- **Amend the first paragraph on Page 2 by deleting the last sentence after “Treasurer Brixie” and inserting “inquired why a communication from Toni Harris to the Clerk and the Board was not included in the Board packet.”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 400,660.50
Public Works	\$ 87,494.58
Retainage	
Check #1076-Advance Rehab/Wildwood Lift Station\$	\$ 9,087.60
Total Checks	\$ 497,242.68
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 9,681.51
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 506,924.19</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 680,457.13</u>

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

D. Employee Request to Purchase MERS Generic Credited Service

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the request from Kristen Cole to purchase additional credited service as provided by the Municipal Employees Retirement System Plan Document. Kristen Cole is requesting to purchase five years’ worth of service. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

E. Resolution of Support – Speed Limit on Jolly Oak Road

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian concurs with the Michigan State Police Traffic Control Order setting a speed limit of 35 miles per hour on Jolly Oak Road from Okemos Road to Jolly Road.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

Q. Since we have had all this discussion about a communication, would it be appropriate for us to give direction to the staff to include the missing communication in the next Board packet at this time? Do we need a vote for that or can we just make a general instruction?

A. Well, I just reviewed it. It doesn't have any reason legally to not have it in the packet. So, I don't think a vote is necessary. I think it is regular correspondence and it can go into a future packet. Just what I saw here; if there's anything else that goes with it, I have not reviewed anything else.

11. HEARINGS

A. 2015 Recommended Budget

Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 7:09 P.M.

Finance Director Gomolka noted the changes as summarized in staff memorandum dated October 2, 2014.

Trustee Veenstra suggested highlighting the changes in the Manager's budget message in the future.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, noted the capital item explanation within the Police Department should reflect how the \$14,000 allocation will be spent. He inquired when the capital contributions for Georgetown Phases 2, 3 and 4 will be turned over to the Township and noted accordingly in the Water and Sewer Funds.

Richard Williams, 1703 S. Crystal Cove, Haslett, President, Rental Property Owners Association of Mid-Michigan (RPOAMM), suggested combining the yearly rental registration and rental inspection fee into one cost, reduce initial registration fees from \$800 to \$400 and change inspections from yearly to every three (3) years through an ordinance amendment.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 7:18 P.M.

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Kip Miller, Co-owner, Walnut Hills Country Club, 2874 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, spoke to a decrease in golf course revenues while there is an increase in expenses, necessitating the need to "think outside the box". He spoke in support of the outdoor gathering permit at Walnut Hills on October 31, 2014.

Thomas Mayes, Pure Visuals, Inc., 1322 Rensen Street, Suite G, Lansing, noted the major concern expressed regarding this application is sound. He stated disc jockey music is approximately 100 decibels and the speakers will be directionalized to face away from the nearby residential neighborhoods. Mr. Mayes indicated disc jockey music does not emit any backsound towards the residents. He addressed the issue of safety, stating security will be staffed at a ratio of 100 attendees to one security guard, coordinated with Meridian Township Police personnel. Mr. Mayes noted one crowd control method used will be to contain the area to prevent egress into nearby neighborhoods.

Joan Johnson, 6503 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, spoke in support of Zoning Amendment #14040. She indicated her husband is the third generation within his family to own and farm the subject property since 1957 and it is their children's intent to continue farming the land. She believed their property unique as it has one access without sufficient public frontage.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

- A. Outdoor Gathering Permit – Walnut Hills Event on October 31, 2014
Township Manager Walsh summarized the request as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 2, 2014.

Trustee Scales moved to approve the Outdoor Assembly License for the October 31, 2014 music event to be held at Walnut Hills Country Club, 2874 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Seconded by Supervisor LeGoff.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board can condition approval to a specific number of attendees
- Appreciation for the use of directional speakers
- Lower decibel level than anticipated by one Board member
- Music will end at 11:00 P.M.
- Tickets will be presold to ensure the number of participants does not exceed the Board approved limit
- Previous outdoor wedding events held at Walnut Hills
- Presence of Walnut Hills security and the Township Police Department during the event
- Staff suggestion to hold this event with fewer people than requested
- Success/problems with this event will provide direction to the Board for any future events
- Concern with the noise level for nearby neighborhoods
- Concern with attendees spilling over into the neighborhood
- Limited event is of short duration on Halloween night
- Target audience are individuals over the age of 18 within a specific geographical area
- Promotional advertising through the use of electronic media networks built up over the years
- Purchase of tickets through an internet ticketing site
- Roped off area will be available for individuals aged 21 or older who wish to consume alcohol
- Alcohol cannot leave the roped off area
- A wide double barricade perimeter will be created around the area intended to serve alcohol to prevent “reach-over”
- Use of buses to disperse attendees at the conclusion of the event
- Concern with the logistical feasibility of dispersing the crowd in one-half hour once music ceases
- Alcohol sales will cease at 10:30 P.M.
- Presence of temporary general lights to illuminate the venue once the concert has ended
- Preference for a smaller maximum number of attendees
- Inquiry if the names and addresses of all officers, directors and shareholders have been provided per the application
- Use of one security guard per 100 attendees
- Number of police officers to patrol the event
- Balance between business survival for Walnut Hills and fostering a community which is attractive to families
- Preference to view this request as a test which should be conducted on a weekend afternoon
- Inquiry as to the number of attendees which our high school football stadiums can hold
- Meridian Township police officers will be directing traffic at the conclusion of the event
- Overflow parking will be available on the driving range, east of the driveway
- No Township requirement which limits the number of outdoor assembly licenses an applicant can apply for on a yearly basis
- Technical impact of the license on the noise ordinance
- Comparison with yearly one-day event held by Meijer to welcome back MSU students
- Need for Walnut Hills to reinvent itself to preserve this highly desirable land use

Treasurer Brixie moved to add a condition to limit the outdoor gathering permit to 1,500 attendees. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

Trustee Scales moved to add a condition to limit the outdoor gathering permit to 2,000 attendees. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved to add a condition to limit the outdoor gathering permit to 1,750 attendees. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Styka
Motion carried 6-1.

Trustee Wilson moved that the music cease at 10:30 P.M. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- Amendment will ensure there is not excessive noise and traffic into the nearby neighborhood past 11:00 P.M.
- Amendment will take into consideration the nearby resident's quality of life
- Heightened awareness will be prevalent on Halloween night
- Board member belief commencing the festivities at 6:00 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M. is not beneficial
- Board should view this as a placemaking event

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Wilson
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 2-5.

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

Jim Bartow, 6154 Longview Drive, East Lansing and President, The Greens Homeowners Association, viewed Board approval of this outdoor assembly license as a bad precedent.

Trustee Scales invited Mr. Bartow to attend the Board meeting the first week in November to apprise members of his impression of how the function played out.

Phil Kurth, 6187 W. Golfridge Drive, East Lansing, believed nearby residents should have been notified earlier in the process. He requested decibel readings be taken during the concert and reported back to the Board.

- B. Zoning Amendment #14040 (Planning Commission), Amend Section 86-368 to Allow More than One Residence on an RR (Rural Residential) Zoned Site 50 Acres or More in Size – **Final Adoption** Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2014-05, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article VI by amending Section 86-368(b)(1) and by adding Section 86-368(b)(17).”**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. **Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Board discussion:

- Second home on 50 acres is not overly dense building, will reduce the pressure for subdividing the property thus protecting the environment
- Three (3) parcels in the Township are fifty (50) acres or more
- Amendment will provide for preservation of open space

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

- C. Appointment to the Community Resources Commission
Trustee Veenstra moved to **appoint Carolyn Ahlbrand to the Community Resources Commission for the term ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

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

- D. Ingham County Permit Variance – Cornell Road
Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:**

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian desires that Cornell Road continue to retain the attributes of, and be maintained as, a Natural Beauty Road, and hereby requests a permit variance from the Ingham County Board of Commissioners to preserve the 36” diameter oak tree on the west side of Cornell Road north of proposed Chaggal Lane.

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- In this instance, one hundred feet is sufficient sight distance
- Under Ingham County Road Department regulations, sight distance is determined by the speed limit of the road
- Board member suggestion to have residents write their County Commissioners to encourage their approval of the necessary permit variance at the county level
- Subject tree creates a large canopy over Cornell Road as part of the road’s natural beauty status
- Appreciation to the Eyde Co. for its willingness to work with the Township on this issue

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

E. Ingham County Permit Variances – Various Locations

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian hereby requests a permit variance from the Ingham County Board of Commissioners to plant street trees in the right of way between the pathway and street in front of Aldi on Marsh Road and in front of The Willows along Central Park Drive.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Hearing for the Aldi site plan review was last week and creates a narrow window for action on this issue
- The Willows is the new center located on the east side of Central Park Drive
- Planting of street trees between the sidewalk and road must take line of sight into consideration as they will grow and mature
- Township ordinance contains a sight distance and sight triangle
- Interplay between the Township’s Engineering and Planning staff as well as the Ingham County Road Department staff when sight distance is first determined
- Blanket “clear zones” equates to no trees on the Township’s major streets due to the speed limits which then requires a variance to be applied for at the county
- Approximately 11 street trees were “called for” on the approximate 800 foot frontage of the Aldi project

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

F. Tree Ordinance Revision

Treasurer Brixie moved to initiate revision of the Tree Ordinance to include guidelines for retaining existing trees in the right of way during new construction projects and new road projects; and to plant trees in the right of way between the street, sidewalk and pathway along all streets in Meridian Township. Staff should seek input from the Environmental Commission regarding the desired species and sizes of trees to be retained, and work with Engineering and the Road Department to come up with the guidelines for the planting. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- Ordinance revision will come back before the Board for a complete discussion of the acceptable sight distance and sight triangles to ensure safe roads within the Township
- Appreciation for the possible planting of trees along much of the frontage at the Willows as only a small portion is needed for proper sight distance near the driveway on Central Park Drive

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

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Scott Bowers, Bowers & Associates, 2400 S. Huron Parkway, Ann Arbor, availed himself for Board questions on Special Use Permit #14091.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. 2015 Recommended Budget

Board discussion:

- Board member support for bringing the payroll in house
- Board member support for increasing the employee wellness program
- Support for the additional pathway projects to be included in the budget
- Need for revision on page 48 to reflect capital items in the Police Department budget
- Concern with inclusion of \$11,500 to purchase picnic tables, grills, etc., for our parks as a Special Budget request when an additional park millage was just passed
- Long-standing agreement that funding for developed parks prior to adoption of a parks millage would come from the General Fund and parks developed “post-parks millage” would be funded through the parks millage
- Board member preference to have a reference printed in the budget for the special budget request for the Parks Department
- Clarification regarding the 3.5 bookkeeper positions listed on Page 115 titled Staffing Plan
- Training of firefighters in the Blue Card program at an additional cost of \$13,000 (selected Fire Department leadership for universal training program/shared services with other regional entities)
- Board member opposition to the addition of a part-time code enforcement officer
- Effect of delaying roof repair at the north fire station

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its October 21, 2014 Meeting.

B. Special Use Permit #14091 (Boomer Group), Request to Construct an Approximate 55,561 Square Foot Hotel on the Northeast Corner of Jolly Oak Road and Water Lily Way
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed special use permit request as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 2, 2014.

[Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 9:00 P.M].

[Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 9:10 P.M.]

Board and staff discussion:

- Large buildings impact walkability within a community
- Street trees planned to be planted between the back of the curb and the parking area

[Clerk Dreyfus reentered the room at 9:11 P.M.]

Continued Board staff and applicant discussion:

- Five (5) foot sidewalk on both Farrins Parkway and Jolly Oak Drive and a seven (7) foot pathway on Water Lily Way
- Preference for the street trees to be located between the pathway and the street
- Staff will determine if there is sufficient room between the sidewalk and the street
- Plans currently show a bigger green buffer area on the north side of the sidewalk
- Explanation of the location for various types of materials on the exterior of the building
- Entrance to the hotel is on the east side of the building
- Landscape will be considered during site plan review
- Sidewalks on Jolly Oak are close to the curb line
- Concern over distance between the curb and sidewalk on Jolly Oak for proper snow removal
- Preference to obtain an easement to push the sidewalk back to ten (10) feet
- Applicant to provide 116 parking spaces for 107 rooms

- Ordinance does not require parking for staff
- Hotel will not have full occupancy and all staff on location during check-out time
- Hilton business model for the number of rooms would not have insufficient parking spaces
- Explanation of rip rap and its function as broken concrete or cobblestone which slows down water and filters sediment
- Board member belief Meridian Township's ordinance requires too many parking spaces
- Movement throughout the country to reduce the number of parking spaces to encourage other uses in transportation
- Board member suggestion to round up the number of allowed square feet in the resolution to allow for some flexibility
- Potential pathway on Water Lily Way to connect with east-west pathway from Okemos Road to Hulett Road on the Master Pathway Plan as an amenity
- Interior building lights and parking lot lights will be LED lights
- Applicant consideration of bicycle parking under the canopy
- Inclusion of bicycle parking at the employee entrance

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its October 21, 2014 Meeting.

C. 2015 Township Board Goal Setting

Township Manager Walsh introduced the topic for discussion.

Board discussion:

- Potential cost of a consultant to aid the Board in the goal setting process
- Preference to use the Township Manager's experience and work with the existing six (6) major broad goals previously identified by Board
- Confidence in the Township Manager to assist the Board in the goal setting process
- Possible goal setting meeting during day time hours to help facilitate schedules
- Board member concern that meeting during the day is not an accessible time for the public and violates the spirit of the Open Meeting Acts
- Board member belief one key aspect of the Open Meetings Act is notification to the public of where and when the public body is meeting
- Board member belief the essence of the Open Meetings Act is to deliberate before the public
- Open Meetings Act does not mandate that the noticed meeting be held in the evening
- Purpose of Board meetings is to conduct Board business and the time of that meeting may not always be when it is most convenient for the public
- Necessity of "tying" new performance factors with goal setting
- Setting goals and having the ability to ensure they are reached and accomplished are distinctively different
- One Board member's belief that only evening meetings are accessible to the public
- During the previous Policy Governance Meeting on Saturday morning, different individuals attended than those who regularly come to the evening Board meetings
- Most legislative sessions and state commission meetings are held during the day and do not violate the Open Meetings Act
- Filming the goal setting meeting and airing it on HOMTV will allow individuals to review Board deliberation at their convenience
- Board member preference to have the goal setting meeting on a Saturday

It was the consensus of the Board to begin the goal setting process at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 13, 2014.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT (None)

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:55 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary