

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** –
PARK COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg,
Veenstra
ABSENT: Clerk Helmbrecht

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Wilson, Commissioner Dersch
ABSENT: Commissioners Aronoff, Banas, Stephens

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Deits, Commissioners Cordill, Goodale, Hildebrandt (6:36), Jackson, Norkin,
Scott-Craig
ABSENT: Commissioners Honicky, Scales

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRESENT: Chair Madle, Members Allen, Brixie (Ex-Officio), Ochberg, Richards, Tenaglia, G.
White, W. White, Yuan
ABSENT: Members Barr, Morrison, Rowlee

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Members Deschaine, Jackson, Ochberg
ABSENT: Chair Hershiser, Members Beauchine, Ohlrogge

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Members Bagdasarian, Donahue, Jackson, Thomas
ABSENT: Members Finley, Kielbaso, Scherbarth

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Member Hatfield
ABSENT: Members Helmbrecht, Kielbaso, Sink, Smith, Stephens, Webster

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Chair White, Members Delind, Hagen
ABSENT: Members Carpenter, Dale, Fisher, Korrey, Lewis, Raynak, Spanos, Weaver

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning and Development
Mark Kieselbach

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Erik Furseth, 5082 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, spoke in opposition to the late February deer hunt.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy presented certificates of appreciation to the following citizens:

- Art Vine – over 25 years of service on the Economic Development Corporation
- Arthur Andrews – over 8 years of service on the Assessing Board of Review
- Wayne Beyea - over 3 years of service on the Planning Commission
- David Caszatt - for 7 years of service on the Land Preservation Advisory Board

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her presentation of awards to participants of the National Junior Figure Skating Competition held at the Suburban Ice Arena in December. She also reported her attendance at the East Lansing-Meridian Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Trustee Ochberg noted members of the Zoning Board of Appeals, at their last meeting, came upon the potential for studying modern fuels, indicating the Township's Code of Ordinances has no current regulation for "plug-in stations" for electric cars. She suggested the Board request the Planning Commission review this issue in order to be ready when applications for this type of facility are received by the Planning Department.

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the December 14, 2011 regular meeting of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC). He noted TCRPC members approved a 1.75% salary increase for staff.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the December meeting of the Tri-County Groundwater Management Board (TCGMB). She noted the TCGMB is moving forward with recent grants obtained and working on applying them to the groundwater management in the Tri-County area.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment to Agenda Item #7E:

- Add "8. NORTHWEST LAND PRESERVE (TOWAR WOODS) – 125 ACRES

Board members discussed the following:

- Deer Management is on a trial basis
- Ground has not been walked to establish locations for blinds
- Insufficient number of approved hunters at this time to add an additional property
- Approval would be needed to change the Township's agreement with the Department of Natural Resources
- Land was hunted prior to becoming Land Preservation property

The motion died for lack of a second.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Definition of anniversary date relative to the 2012 non-union wage schedule

- Atypical for an employee to be appointed to a new position and then receive a significant pay increase through the next step increase within a few months of that appointment
- Hire date v. anniversary date
- Anniversary date should apply to the position for which an employee has been appointed
- Contract language specifically states “the employees anniversary date of hire”
- Uniformly interpreted across all union contracts and non-union personnel that the definition of anniversary date is the date of hire
- Hire date is considered the date an individual becomes an employee of Meridian Township
- Previous positions held by the two employees in question allowed for overtime pay and salaried positions do not
- Since the Assistant Manager left the end of June, these two individuals having been performing the functions of the new positions
- Township Manager request that any suggested policy change transpire after the 2012 non-union wage schedule is approved
- New part-time positions are included in the 2012 non-union wage schedule
- Unnecessary to change the nature of the Deer Management Plan

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

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 Ochberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 827,093.04
Public Works	\$ 18,538.50
Retainage	
Check #1041 – Oak Construction	
Concrete Repair Contract	\$ 5,937.06
Total Checks	\$ 851,568.60
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 17,972.35
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 869,540.95</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 569,974.01</u>

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

C. 2012 Non-Union Wage Schedule

Treasurer Brixie moved approval of the 2012 non-union wage scale as proposed by the Township Manager in a memorandum to the Board dated December 28, 2011. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

D. Increase DDA Board Membership

Treasurer Brixie moved to set the appointed membership number for the Downtown Development Authority Board at 12. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

E. Extend Deer Hunting Season

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Meridian Township Board, recognizing that controlled hunting in Township-owned Land Preserves and Parks may help control the overpopulation of white-tailed deer, authorizes staff to conduct managed hunts during a special extended 2012 season for the following properties:

1. Davis/Foster Land Preserve – 109 acres (bow)
2. Red Cedar River East Land Preserve (“Howe”) – 9 acres (bow)
3. Southwest Meridian Uplands Preserve (“Sturk”) – 60 acres – (bow)
4. Central Meridian Uplands Preserve (“Rysberg”) – 60 acres – (bow)
5. Hubbel Land Preserve – 58 acres – (bow)
6. Red Cedar Natural Area (Park) – 56 acres – (bow)
7. Property located on the southeast corner of Okemos Road and Central park Drive – 28.5 acres – (bow)

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

F. 2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No. 12 - **Resolution #5**

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the 2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 12 – Resolution #5, which approves the special assessment roll, designates the project as “2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 12,” the assessment roll as the “2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 12 Special Assessment Roll”, and the district as the “2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 12”; adopts the amount of \$23, 369.06 as the final amount for the assessment roll; and orders and directs the assessment roll to be paid and collected. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

8. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commission
Supervisor McGillicuddy explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to promote alignment within our community among boards and commissions and to discuss future goals of each body. She requested the various Boards and commissions discuss 2011 accomplishments of the respective bodies, as well as goals for the ensuing year.

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

Planning Commission:

- Continuing interest in looking at the economic state of the Township
- New paradigm of compact development, continuing work toward the goal of a walkable community
- Creation of policies which make it possible and desirable for developers to work within the existing Township framework to develop properties
 - Flexibility in the mixed use planned unit development
 - Concept plan review
- Equate green roofs with permeable surfaces
- Continued work on the Master Plan
- Discussion regarding alignment of the Board's policy ends with listed goals and objectives in the Master Plan
- Focus within the Master Plan on transportation and sustainability
- Greater interaction between Township government and leadership of its two school districts
- Update of antiquated language within the Code of Ordinances to "plain English"

Economic Development Corporation (EDC):

- Development of a strategic work plan in 2011
 - Prioritization of projects in 2012
- EDC business advisory role used to encourage open lines of communications between the business community and government
- Continued working relationship with regional and state partners (LEAP, Inc. and Michigan Economic Development Corporation, etc.)
- Focus on marketing strategy to promote the EDC within the Township through improvements in the welcome packet and the EDC website
- Formation of a Chinese student initiative work group to address an influx of Chinese students to MSU (900 Chinese freshmen) in an effort to serve this segment of the population
- Launch of the micro loan program through the Entrepreneur Institute (\$10,000 available)
- Continued support for the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) and the Meridian Asset Resource Center (MARC) in their efforts to support entrepreneurs in the business community
- Importance of economic development in the Township as it drives a "sense of place" and identity
- Virtually none of the requested recommendations made by the EDC were implemented by the Board
- Creation of the MUPUD Ordinance
- MSU Chinese student faction opening businesses in the Meridian area

Downtown Development Authority (DDA):

- Growth of the DDA size
- Greater business involvement within the DDA
- Continued effort towards the development of an Arts and Culture Center in the downtown area
- New streetlights, lit snowflakes and banners help identify the downtown Okemos Area
- Plans to extend the Art Walk over the historic Camelback Bridge
- Work towards having the foot bridge identified in the national historic registry
- Regional cooperation with Williamston for the Red Cedar Jubilee "River Float" in June, 2012
- 2012 Art Show will be held the same weekend as the East Lansing Art Fair

Land Preservation Advisory Board:

- Continued acquisitions and evaluations
- Continued development of stewardship and management plans through boundary surveying, signage, etc.

- Appreciation to the Township and its voters for foresight in preserving land through the Land Preservation Program

Park Commission:

- Continued work on planning for an off leash dog park
- Construction of a Fishing Dock on the Historic Village Pond in Central Park in the fall of 2011
 - Official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in Spring, 2012
- Groundbreaking for the North Meridian Road Year-Round Restroom Facility
- Continued efforts to seek funding opportunities for the development of Towner Road Park
 - Final loan contract payment on this site will be made this year
- Completion of grading and seeding for Newton Road Park in 2011
- Partnership between the Park Commission and the Harris Nature Center Foundation to construct a river overlook at the Harris Nature Center which will provide additional outdoor educational opportunities with the Red Cedar River
- Continued trail surface improvements, adding directional signage
- Concern with maintenance of the current park system given staff shortages due to the poor economy
- Concern that current economic conditions create a lack of matching funds for grant applications
- Continued nurturing of volunteers and volunteer groups
- Challenge in 2012 is to resolve the controversy surrounding the off-leash dog park proposal

Environmental Commission:

- Public Education
 - Brochure on phosphorous fertilizer
 - Wetlands
 - Continue addressing issues (e.g., handling disposable chemicals from garages, pet waste, etc.)
- Continuation of green themes presentations
 - Joint green themes presentations with other Boards and Commissions – televised talks
 - Upcoming presentations on controlled burns of invasive species and “walkability” and planned weed pulls in the Spring
 - Suggestion to have a presentation on deer management
- Sponsorship of Environmental Stewardship Awards
- Seeking nominations for 2012 Environmental Stewardship Awards
- Continued interface with other Boards and Commissions
- Appreciation for the Interurban Bicycle Pathway

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

- Appreciation to Manager Richards for his significant role in the Haslett Library Move
- Major type of cases before the ZBA are variances to the sign ordinance
- Michigan State University Land Policy Institute Forum near Saline, MI on January 12th
- MSU Land Policy Institute sponsors very useful educational opportunities for Board members and appointees

Board members discussed the following:

- Request for the Planning Commission to look thoughtfully at appropriate zoning, particularly for infill development, when working on the Master Plan
 - Proper placement of public fountains, gathering spaces, meeting spaces etc. to be a welcoming community
 - These types of amenities should be included in the Master Plan
 - Need for creative thinking to make the Township a vibrant community
- Smart streets and its associated components
- Redevelopment of properties in Haslett
- Encouragement by the Planning Commission to take advantage of opportunities throughout the Master Plan process to participate in its formation by sharing information
- Planning Commission currently starting the “background” work on the Master Plan
- Substantial opportunity in the future for public input
- Possible use of form based v. zoning based design
- Appreciation for the caliber of public servants on the various Boards and Commissions
- Board member preference to end term limits on the Land Preservation Advisory Board

- Board member preference for a change in the ordinance to allow green roofs to be considered pervious surface, especially for infill development on small sites
- Board member encouragement for appointees to offer input to other Boards and Commissions via attendance at those meetings and/or e-mail
- Need for more publicity on the green themes presentations through Board announcements, postings on the Township's website, in libraries, etc.
- Concern with the Township's "PR"

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Kim Emery, 1075 Nautical Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of extending the deer hunting season.

Larry Harb, 3973 Shoals Drive, Okemos, thanked the Board for taking the initiative to create a deer management program and spoke in support of extending the deer hunting season. He believed more harvesting needs to be accomplished in 2012, noting it takes 12-14 hours of bow hunting for him to harvest one deer.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, spoke to the need for a funding source for the arts. He indicated the federal government and Michigan State University mandate a certain percentage per construction to go to the arts.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

10. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra apologized for his "inappropriate language" in characterizing a Nakoma Drive address for a prospective appointee during the last Board meeting.

Supervisor McGillicuddy expressed appreciation for the success in holding Joint Meetings over several years. She announced she will not be seeking reelection as Township Supervisor in 2012; instead seeking a seat in the State House of Representatives.

Trustee Ochberg also noted she will not be seeking reelection to the Township Board in 2012. She encouraged Board and Commission appointees to seek out people who would like to serve, either as a Board appointee or to run as a Township trustee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:39 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILlicuddy
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary