

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
WITH EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL - **APPROVED** -
410 Abbott Road, East Lansing, MI 48823-3388
East Lansing Municipal Building – Courtroom 2, 54th -District Court
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1999, **7:00 P.M.**

MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor Little, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees McCullough, McGillicuddy, Such
ABSENT: Trustee Squiers
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Engineering & Public Works Roger Buell, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper

EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Meadows; Council Members Douglas Jester; Bill Sharp; Samir Singh; Beth Schwarze (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: City Manager Ted Staton, City Public Works Director Peter Eberz, Fire Chief Phil Vorlander.

Call to Order

Mayor Meadows called the East Lansing City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Little called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows welcomed the Meridian Township Board and staff members and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have a joint meeting, something that had not happened for many years. Additionally, Mayor Meadows suggested we might consider having such a meeting at least once every year.

Meridian Township Supervisor Bruce Little thanked Mayor Meadows for his welcome and reiterated his belief that more joint meetings such as this could potentially be beneficially to both communities.

First Discussion Topic: Potential Fire Cooperation

Discussion took place regarding the potential for either a functional or full merging of the two EMS/Fire Departments and the memorandum from Chief Cowper dated 2/25/99. The first paragraph of the memorandum referencing E. Lansing Fire Union opposition to closest unit response concept was discussed and Chief Vorlander, as well as East Lansing City Council members agreed the closest response concept would remain on the table as a future item for discussion.

Further discussions took place among all parties present with the resulting MOTION made by Meridian Township Treasurer Tom Klunzinger, seconded by East Lansing City Council member Sam Singh:

IT IS THE GOAL OF THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING AND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN TO ACHIEVE A FUNCTIONAL CONSOLIDATION OF OUR RESPECTIVE EMS/FIRE SERVICES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TIME AND HOLD DOWN EXPENDITURES. THIS GOAL WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A CONTINUING PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING AND COORDINATING PROCEDURES, POLICIES AND SERVICES OF THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS. THE FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THE SIX ITEMS LISTED IN CHIEF COWPER MEMO OF FEBRUARY 25, 1999.

Following are the six items listed in the February 25, 1999 memorandum:

1. Joint training will enhance our mutual aid pact as we increase efficiencies in the area of EMS

- and fire ground operations.
2. Operating policies and fire ground standard operating procedures (SOP).
 3. Equipment purchases
 4. Fire reporting (software)
 5. Joint fire investigations and inspections
 6. Forming specialized rescue teams such as confined space and high angle rescue.

Decision was made that each body would vote separately on the motion. Agreement was reached by both bodies to have the two (2) Fire Chiefs' issue an interim report within ninety (90) days, and that the two (2) bodies would meet in approximately six (6) months to review progress made in addressing the six (6) points listed above.

East Lansing City Council:

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Mayor Mark Meadows; Council Members Jester; Sharp and Singh
NAYS: None
Motion carried 4-0.

Meridian Township Board:

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees McCullough, McGillicuddy, Such, Clerk Helmbrecht,
Treasurer Klunzinger
NAYS: Supervisor Little
Motion carried 5-1.

Second Discussion Topic: Community Center Updates

East Lansing City Council Members as well as Meridian Township Board Members each discussed the list of surrounding communities currently considering development of cultural/art/theatre opportunities for residents. East Lansing described their plans for renovation of the former Hannah Middle School for this purpose and suggested that Meridian Township may want to consider joint use of this facility.

Third Discussion Topic: Family Aquatic Center

East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows provided all present an update on the status of the new aquatic Center to be developed off Abbott Road.

Fourth Discussion Topic: Public Comment Practices

E. Lansing Council members noted they were aware of the "three minute rule" for public comment in Meridian Township and asked for further explanation as to how this is accomplished. Meridian Township Trustees provided explanation that the three-minute rule had been placed in the Township Board Rules and Procedures as well as being prominently noted on each agenda. Township Trustees further noted that every attempt is made to request only agenda items be discussed during the first public remarks, with the second public remarks agenda item being opened to any topic.

Fifth Agenda Topic: Board of Water and Light Proposal for Water Connection

Scientific and technical details of past, present and projected water usage were discussed. The Board of Water and Light proposes to sell the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority some of the excess capacity via tie-ins with our water mains. This is still in the discussion stage.

Public Comment

Public remarks were provided by:

Larry Sawdy, Meridian Township Resident
Fred (Sonny) France, Meridian Township Resident
East Lansing Resident speaking in support of using part-paid firefighters to supplement full-time personnel.

Adjournment

Supervisor Little adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Meadows adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

BRUCE A. LITTLE
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT
TOWNSHIP CLERK