

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg (6:02 P.M.), Veenstra
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief
Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Assistant Manager/ Human Resources
Director Paul Brake, Director of Finance Diana Hasse, Director of Parks & Recreation
LuAnn Maisner, Director of Information Technology Stephen Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

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.

Mary LaPorte, 2176 Seminole Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station and in opposition to the Okemos Road Enhancement Project.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station, in opposition to the Okemos Road Enhancement Project, in opposition to LEAP membership and in opposition to the DDA streetlighting project. He requested projections on future operating and maintenance costs if the streetlights are installed on Okemos Road and stressed fiscal responsibility.

Will Tyler White, 2142-½ Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) budget.

Lynne Page, President, Briarwood Homeowners Association, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, requested the Board carefully consider its budget priorities for 2009 and 2010. She expressed a desire to have the Okemos Road Enhancement Project discussed in conjunction with the 2010 budget and not as a third quarter budget amendment.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported several Board members attended the Lansing Chamber of Commerce regional community meeting last week.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the Groundwater Management Board meeting. The group continued to work on amending its bylaws, adding the function of the Groundwater Management Board as the de facto large water users group board.

Trustee Dreyfus reported his attendance at the Michigan Townships Association "On the Road" Meeting yesterday during which budget cuts and legislative actions were discussed.

Trustee Veenstra noted correspondence from Dan Miller regarding flooding of this property. He reported his attendance at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on September 23rd where the Commission adopted its budget for the coming fiscal year. Trustee Veenstra objected to the Okemos Road Enhancement Project being included in the 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments.

Clerk Helmbrecht announced her office has received the ballots for the November 3rd Election, on which will be the Okemos School Board, the LLC Board and Meridian Township's Redi-Ride millage.

Trustee Ochberg attended a special meeting of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to consider the option of a business policy subcommittee. The EDC intends to increase the number of its Board members.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Remove Agenda Item #10B: Donation/Purchase of Property – Initiate Planning Commission Review**
- **Add Agenda Item #10B: Okemos Road Enhancement Project**

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

Clerk Helmbrecht 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 Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the September 8, Budget Deliberations Meeting as amended, subject to verification. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the September 15, Regular Meeting as amended, subject to verification. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the September 29, Budget Deliberations Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:

Common Cash		\$ 286,579.64
Public Works		\$ 190,524.70
Flexible Spending Account		
Check #1007 Meritain	\$ 819.80	
Check #1008 Meritain	2,296.61	
Check #1009 Meritain	549.20	
Check #1010 Meritain	449.98	
Check #1011 Meritain	662.14	
Check #1012 Meritain	478.08	
	TOTAL	\$ 5,255.81
Total Checks		\$ 482,360.15
Credit Card Transactions		\$ 9,995.59
Total Purchases		<u>\$ 492,355.74</u>
ACH Payments		<u>\$ 907,631.76</u>

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Assessing Stipulations

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Dan and Sharlyn Premuda on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>	
2008	0352491	5539 White Ash, Haslett, MI 48840	
2009			
<u>Assessment</u>	2008	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$215,000/215,000
	2008		\$211,000/211,000
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2008	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$208,500/208,500
	2009		\$193,200/193,200

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Ivan and Josephine Bartha on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>	
2008	0347893	5896 Shaw, Haslett, MI 48840	
2009			
<u>Assessment</u>			
	2008	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$251,500/163,445
	2008		\$239,500/170,636
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>			
	2008	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$200,000/163,445
	2009		\$200,000/170,636

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Malcolm and Elizabeth Mead-O'Brien on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>	
2007	0340582	4199 Hulett, Okemos, MI 48864	
2008			
2009			
<u>Assessment</u>			
	2007	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$101,000/96,086
	2008		\$100,000/98,295
	2009		\$ 86,500/86,500
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>			
	2007	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$80,000/80,000
	2008		\$78,000/78,000
	2009		\$71,900/71,900

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with William and Florella Mueller on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2009	0360586	6241 Fenwick Court, East Lansing, MI 48823
<u>Assessment</u>	2009	<u>AV/TV</u> \$192,900/190,008
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2009	<u>AV/TV</u> \$175,000/175,000

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS

A. 2010 Proposed Budget

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the public hearing at 6:30 P.M.
 Todd Cordill, State of Michigan Plan Review Chief, Bureau of Construction Codes, 1484 Forest Hills Drive, Okemos, spoke to adoption of a Township ordinance to administer and enforce the construction code for mechanical, electrical and plumbing. He stated the fees to be charged for those permits cannot be used in other areas of the Township’s operating budget. He spoke in opposition to spending funds on the Okemos Road Enhancement Project in lieu of law enforcement, code enforcement and fire protection.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Okemos Road Enhancement Project being included in the 3rd quarter budget amendments. He emphasized the need for transparency in government and felt that fiduciary control is an important oversight of the Board. Mr. Reddy reminded the Supervisor of her campaign promise to make all positions on the Board part-time. He requested the 4th of July Celebration remain in the budget and the Downtown Development Authority Summer Festival be eliminated. Mr. Reddy reiterated his request to reorganize Township departments and eliminate executive positions.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed the public hearing at 6:40 P.M.

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.
 Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Okemos Road Enhancement Project and in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. 2009 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the 2009 Amended Budget as reflected on Page 3 of the memorandum to the Township Board from the Finance Director, dated October 2, 2009, excluding the \$142,000 for the Okemos Road Enhancement Grant match. Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Pay-off of the Meridian Activity Center will save a significant amount of money in interest
- Information received at Groundwater Management Board meeting regarding possible grant money for sewer projects forwarded to the Director of Public Works and Engineering

- Full amount of North Interceptor Sewer contract must be in the 2009 budget in order to let contract
- Work not completed and paid for this year on the North Interceptor project will be carried over to the 2010 budget
- North Interceptor has been in the Township's Capital Improvement Projects for over seven years with an original estimated cost of \$1.5 million
- Consultant's proposal based on the actual design for this project was \$2.5 million
- Approximate \$80,000 contract awarded for the design work and construction engineering for the Okemos Road Enhancement Project encumbered in 2007-2008 and carried forward
- Request for documentation when the Township Board approved appropriating money for the Okemos Road Enhancement Project
- If the amendment for the Okemos Road Enhancement Project does not pass, the purchase order and the remaining \$42,000 would not be necessary and the amount would be reversed

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Okemos Road Enhancement Project

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve funding in the amount of \$142,000 for the Okemos Road Enhancement Grant match for the 2009 amended budget. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

Board members discussed the following:

- Okemos Road as the gateway to Meridian Township
- Functionality of left turn movements has been improved by the addition of a 5th lane on Okemos Road
- Functionality of Okemos Road for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles is not complete
- Enhancement Project will help complete the functionality of Okemos Road for those not traveling in an automobile
- Addition of streetlights, landscaping, benches and planters will slow down cars
- Streets are designed for cars and leave out an important segment of the population (i.e., pedestrians and cyclists)
- Creation of a community where all modes of transportation are utilized is creating a healthy community
- Enhancement as a safety issue for bicyclists, pedestrians and the aging population who use Okemos Road
- Number one Board goal for 2009 is to advance the economic sustainability of the Township
- Need for Okemos Road to be a complete street
- Concern that if grant money from the state is not utilized, state will not award monies for future projects
- Okemos Road Enhancement Project a good idea, but the wrong time to take funds from the fund balance given economic uncertainties
- Main goal during the planning of the road enhancement was to insure the safety of children walking to school
- Original concept was for a median on Okemos Road
- Enhancement project a luxury the Township cannot afford
- Perception there is little or no visible community support for this project
- No proof this project would spur economic development
- Unconvinced this project will spur pedestrian use
- Belief that support for the enhancement project indicates support for the \$200,000 loan by the DDA
- Suggestion for a volunteer organization to "take" the Okemos Road Enhancement as a community project which would have the added benefit of creating ownership

- Belief that good public relations would be generated with the state by not using grant money from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Clarification that \$142,000 is not coming out of the General Fund but being transferred into the General Fund from the fund balance

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht,
Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-3.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Tom Vogel, Skyline Hills Association, 6037 Skyline Drive, East Lansing, spoke in support of the zoning amendment to modify golf course uses.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to Board passage of funding for the Okemos Road Enhancement Project as an amendment to the 2009 budget.

Mary LaPorte, 2176 Seminole Drive, Okemos, expressed her dismay at how businesses are treated in Meridian Township.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. 2010 Proposed Budget

Board members discussed the following:

- Revisions to 2010 Recommended Budget as outlined in staff memorandum dated September 29, 2009
 - Soil Erosion Permitting
 - Current Engineering staff trained and licensed in the permitting process
 - Will streamline the process for applicants
 - Retention of qualified and competent employees
 - Current Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) enforcement standards will be maintained
 - Use of expert help where needed on the more complicated projects
 - Similar fees as currently charged by the ICDC
 - Efficient delivery of services by local government
 - Possible trial period of one year
- Request for alternative options for keeping open the Central Fire Station (\$40,000) and keeping the 4th of July Celebration (\$25,000)
- Possible elimination of one Police and one Fire position effective July 1st in order to balance the budget
- Preference to eliminate \$35,000 LEAP membership
- Suggestion for dialogue with firefighters and the public on how best to close the Central Fire Station
- Budget decisions should be based on facts, not fear
- Proposal to close the Central Fire Station would actually improve service and response time to the part of the township with the largest number of calls
- Suggestion to only fund pre-millage general fund park maintenance for 2010 and not fund pre-millage park improvements
- Possibility of placing the closing of the Central Fire Station on the 2010 ballot
- Suggestion for residents to contact state legislators requesting state revenue sharing remain at the 2009 levels
- Township population is aging and will equate to more EMS runs
- Request for itemization of costs for keeping the Central Fire Station open
- Request for itemization of costs of the 4th of July Celebration

- Increase operating costs for pathway maintenance and reduce capital items accordingly
- DDA Art Walk Festival revenue for 2009 came from advertisements and sponsorships for Art Walk Festival
- Concern that solicitation of funds for the Art Walk Festival impedes contributions to the 4th of July Celebration
- Elimination of \$6,000 in personnel costs for DDA budget
- Elimination of debt service for DDA budget
- Suggestion for the DDA Board to reduce the percentage of eligible funds captured from Meridian Township and Ingham County
- Request for the Township Board to pass a resolution asking the DDA to reduce its capture amount to 50% of eligible funds
- Recommendations as presented by the Township Manager in the 2010 Proposed Budget Executive Summary

It was the consensus of the Board to:

- **Hire a full-time in-house attorney**
- **Reduce the number of vehicles in the motor pool**
- **Reduce contracted janitorial services to township office buildings**
- **Reduce transfer station hours to 20 hours**
- **Eliminate summer recreation programs at Towar and Central School neighborhoods**
- **Have pay ranges for non-union positions remain at 2008 levels and all union contracts open for renewal budgeted for 2010 at 2009 levels**
- **Perform permitting and inspection services for plumbing, electrical and mechanical installations by contracting with qualified inspectors**
- **Eliminate a bookkeeper position from the Accounting and Budgeting Department on April 1st**
- **Eliminate a network administrator position from the Information Technology Department**
- **Eliminate a Clerk Typist II position from the Clerk's Office**
- **Reduce the transfer station attendant position from the Public Works Department to half-time**
- **Eliminate the custodian position from the Public Works Department**
- **Eliminate the vacant Director of Assessing position**
- **Keep vacant an Assessing clerical position for part of the year (expected retirement)**
- **Eliminate the vacant Senior Planner position in the Department of Community Planning and Development**
- **Eliminate the Fire Marshal position in the Fire Department (expected retirement) and rehire incumbent as a part-time Administrative Assistant with no benefits**
- **Keep vacant an unfilled Firefighter/EMS position**
- **Keep vacant a Firefighter/EMS position for part of the year (expected retirement)**
- **Keep vacant an unfilled Police Sergeant position**
- **Reduce a Police Records Clerk position to part-time for part of the year (expected retirement)**
- **Implement Soil Erosion Permitting**
- **Freeze wage step increases**
- **Allocate 5% Director costs to Cable**
- **Eliminate one issue of the Meridian Monitor**
- **Reduce professional services for the Board**
- **Reduce costs for cell phone use**
- **Reduce Other Post Employee Benefit (OPEB) contribution**

B. Zoning Amendment to Modify Golf Course Uses

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 1, 2009.

Board members discussed the following:

- Ancillary uses needed to help golf course owners remain economically viable
- Several allowed uses usually associated with commercial zoning would go into a residential area

- Suggestion to require commercial zoning enables several uses other than the proposed ancillary use list
- Ancillary uses by special use permit would allow the Board to ensure harmony with the residential area the golf course is in on a case-by-case basis

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the October 20, 2009 Board Meeting.

- C. Zoning Amendment #09060 (Township Board), an amendment to permit outdoor cafes by right in the C-1, C-2, and C-3 (Commercial) Districts
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 2, 2009.

Board members discussed the following:

- Zoning amendment will simplify procedures and make the Township more business friendly
- Recent Zoning Board of Appeals approval for variances mirrors this proposal

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the October 20, 2009 Board Meeting.

- D. Zoning Amendment #09050 (Township Board), an amendment to permit medical offices by right in the RP (Research Park) Zoning Districts
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 1, 2009.

Board members discussed the following:

- Minimal Research Park (RP) in the Township
- Support for reduced regulation

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the October 20, 2009 Board Meeting.

~~E. Amendments to the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance~~

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, urged the Board to walk the Okemos Road streetscape to ensure streetlight locations will not impede sight triangles and urged caution in implementing modification to golf course uses by right. She spoke as Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee formed by the Okemos High School Parent Group in requesting Board support for an Okemos/Hulett/Jolly Road Speed Limit Study.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, urged the Board to protect the health and safety of Township residents by not reducing fire and police personnel. He suggested an alternative of reducing one or two executive positions. Mr. Reddy spoke in opposition to contracting for electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Ochberg stated the Okemos Road Enhancement Project will impact the economic viability of the Township. She added that all Meridian Township Police personnel have received first responder training.

Trustee Dreyfus requested a brief summary of Land Preservation activities be provided to the Board for public discussion in the near future.

Trustee Veenstra clarified an alleged mischaracterization of his earlier statement regarding a zoning amendment to modify golf course uses, announced his intent to request a rescission on the Okemos Road Enhancement Project vote, and spoke to the reduction of the 2009 budget in July due to revenue sharing reductions, lower interest earnings and lower building permit revenue. He added the Township's 2010 income will be below the 2009 income.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary