

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra  
ABSENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Trustee Wilson  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, EMS Chief Bill Priese, Finance Director Miriam Mattison, Administration Intern Griffin Graham

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Dreyfus called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Milton Scales as Supervisor Pro Tem. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-0.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Okemos High School Michigan Tennis State Champions

Trustee Ron Styka introduced and recognized Okemos High School girls state tennis champions: Alisa Sabotic in one singles and Monika Francsics in two singles. He presented a certificate to each of the students.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, offered that hard copies of the ballot can be found at the Clerk's office and online and a list of (HOM-TV) debates can be found in the Municipal building lobby. He reviewed the ballot. Mr. Provencher noted the Republican ballot was "light" and most uncontested, so all candidates will move on to the November General Election. He stated the Township Supervisor race has two (2) candidates currently on the Board, Trustee Scales and Trustee Styka. Mr. Provencher then mentioned there are two (2) candidates for the Township Clerk race, one candidate he "doesn't know anything about" and one who is the current sitting Clerk who he "highly supports because he's done an excellent job."

Mr. Provencher commented no one is running against the Treasurer, as “everyone has been happy with what she has done, so it is hard to draw somebody out”. He noted there are six (6) candidates for Trustee, only one of which is a current Board member, adding there are five (5) candidates for the Park Commission, a race in which no Republicans put up anyone to run. Mr. Provencher announced he is supporting Milton Scales for Supervisor because, as of the 2010 census, 86% of Meridian’s population is white while 14% is non-white. He clarified that of the non-white population, 4% is African-American, 6.5% Asian, .3% Native American, .05% Pacific Islander, 2% Hispanic and 2.5% which he could not identify. Mr. Provencher believed that with a seven member Board, it works out appropriately that “one candidate of diversity representing diversity in our community would be good to have on our Board.” He indicated “Trustee Scales had demonstrated that over the last four (4) years and for that reason I am supporting him”. Mr. Provencher spoke to the Township renewal millage for the Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway, pointing out the cost comes to “less than \$13 per person.” He believed pathways are useful, whether used by all residents or not and encouraged support for renewal of the millage.

Brian McNitt, 5380 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, requested all entrances to Costco, including the one to the proposed gas station, be placed on Saginaw Highway. He requested delivery trucks not be allowed use of Park Lake Road.

Bill Collette, 2373 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing, voiced concern with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) BRT buses running down the center of Grand River Avenue, believing it a safety issue for disabled persons. He stated none of the business owners who participated in a business survey conducted by CATA employee Lane Masoud and a member of Township staff were in support of the BRT plan. Mr. Collette requested the results of that survey be made available to the public and presented to the Board. He requested a traffic impact study on Grand River Avenue for the BRT be conducted.

Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, Okemos, voiced opposition to the BRT. She asserted information regarding the BRT has been withheld. She believed the article in the *City Pulse* was not reflective of the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Ms. Korrey expressed concern with the alleged vilification of residents by pro BRT advocates. She requested the Board suspend its support of the BRT as information has been withheld and alleged lies have been circulated by pro-BRT advocates. Ms. Korrey stated she has not seen any impact statements on the BRT.

Patty McPhee, 5275 Thames Drive, Haslett, stated most people do not know about the BRT. She indicated The Big Green website article does not support a BRT route in Meridian Township. Based on personal experience, she disputed a previous comment that millennials do not own automobiles. Ms. McPhee voiced concern it will be too late if the Township waits to create a BRT ad hoc committee in the fall.

Jeff Neilson, 2450 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing, showed the *City Pulse* article on the overhead, objecting to its characterization of the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. He spoke in opposition to comments made by an individual who spoke at that meeting, stating they were disrespectful to the blind, senior and handicapped citizens in Meridian Township, and that those comments were “appalling and wrong.” Mr. Neilson stated two (2) Board members told that individual “no name calling.” He indicated he met with Lane Masoud from CATA and Peter Menser from the Township Planning staff and Mr. Menser had informed him he would be unable to report the information he had gathered from meeting with the business community along Grand River Avenue because he had not kept any notes. Mr. Neilson asserted he asked Mr. Menser if anything he (Jeff) had shared with him was different from what he had heard from the business community and Mr. Menser responded it was not. Mr. Neilson relayed he then told Mr. Menser it was his responsibility to share that information with the Board and was upset this information was not being presented in this venue. He also believed it disrespectful to have presenters speak to the Board with their backs to Police and Fire personnel who are seated behind the presenters.

Kathy DeVito, 470 Chimney Oaks, Okemos, indicated the recent article in the *City Pulse* mischaracterized the events which took place during the June 21, 2016 Board meeting. She believed CATA has not done its job in notifying business owners along the Grand River Corridor concerning the BRT.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, expressed concern Thomas Deits' reputation was "trashed" during the December 8, 2015 Board meeting in an effort to not have him reappointed to the Planning Commission after 12 years of service.

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales closed Public Remarks.

#### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- 2017 draft budget will be sent to the Board approximately the third week of August
- Recent management team meeting with MERS
- MERS meeting with union leaders on August 4<sup>th</sup>
- All parties need to work together to create a pathway out of the pension legacy debt
- Continued work with Ingham County to have the School Street property in the hands of Haslett Public Schools at no cost
- Park and Shaw Street project near the lake will now be designated as project #1 in 2017 due to a major drain project undertaken by Ingham County
- Staff to meet with Ingham County next week to designate what street(2) will be added to the list for 2016
- Appreciation to fire, police and Communications staff for its teamwork regarding postponing the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks
- 2016 budget amendments will be before the Board some time in the future

#### 7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Treasurer Brixie clarified for the public that she was not interviewed for the aforementioned *City Pulse* article, but her comments were garnered from a previous *City Pulse* radio show where she was interviewed.

Clerk Dreyfus reminded citizens of the upcoming primary election on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. He explained the process for citizens to submit an application for an absentee ballot, which must be submitted by Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Dreyfus explained that after July 30<sup>th</sup>, any resident wishing to receive an absentee ballot must submit their application to the Clerk's Office, have it processed to receive a ballot, and vote their ballot in the Meridian Municipal Building. He cautioned citizens regarding the timeliness of the US mail if they wait until the last week of July to request an absentee ballot be mailed to them. Clerk Dreyfus reminded residents that with a primary election, they should only vote in one political party in the partisan section of the ballot in order for their ballot to be valid.

Clerk Dreyfus noted his attendance at the annual Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk's Meeting. He reported his participation in the Imagine Mid-Michigan Economic Sustainability Bus Tour which was held Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, with a trip to Battle Creek and Marshall to look at their revitalized downtown areas. Clerk Dreyfus also noted his attendance at the Harris Nature Center Volunteer Celebration as well as volunteering for the Celebrate Meridian Event. He pointed to an article in the *City Pulse* regarding Haslett's Orlando Park Story Walk as well as an editorial in the *Lansing State Journal* where Meridian Township and East Lansing were praised for their collaborate work regarding the proposed Costco project. He thanked Trustee Styka and Township Manager Walsh for their hard work towards that effort.

Treasurer Brixie reported tax bills were mailed on July 1<sup>st</sup> which have a due date of September 14<sup>th</sup>. She announced payment options include pay in person with cash or check, by mail, drop box located outside of the Municipal Building and enrollment in automatic deduction. Treasurer Brixie stated more information regarding payment options are available on the Township's website, [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

Trustee Styka reported his attendance at the Haslett Community Meeting as well as the Planning Commission’s master plan work session on June 27<sup>th</sup>. He stated the Communications Commission listened to a presentation from ACD.net on June 29<sup>th</sup> regarding monopole antennas. Trustee Styka announced he attended the Redi-Ride Review Committee, along with Trustee Scales and Trustee Veenstra, on June 30<sup>th</sup> and the committee is making headway.

Trustee Veenstra noted the next Redi-Ride Review Committee will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Room. He expressed surprise concerning the *City Pulse’s* summary of the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Trustee Veenstra indicated CATA’s 2016 Report contained a diagram of the BRT, which consisted of seven (7) traffic lanes and a bus station in the center of Grand River Avenue. He voiced concern with the number of people the consultant to the master plan is designing the Township to hold.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Styka moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Agenda Item #13C, the Bus Rapid Transit. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

Board discussion:

- Board member concern with adding the BRT as a discussion item without it being advertised to the Township’s residents
- Board member recollection that the Treasurer brought forth a motion of support for the BRT that was added at the meeting and was placed as an action item on the agenda

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: Treasurer Brixie  
 Motion carried 4-1.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales reviewed the consent agenda.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda amended as follows:**

- **Move Agenda Item #9E: Enactment Day Resolution of Support to Agenda Item #12C.**

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Board discussion:

- Request for explanation as to why the most recent minutes were not included in both the June 21<sup>st</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> packet

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos; RE: Narrower lane width are safer for our Township road users
- BI-2 Nancy Krupiarz, 880 Moss Glen Circle, Haslett; RE: Restriping Park Lake Road to include bike lanes
- BI-3 James E. Jackson, 6232 West Reynolds Road, Haslett; RE: Park Lake road striping
- BI-4 Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Court, Haslett; RE: Campaigning
- BI-5 Bobbie Margolis, 36 Monarch Lane, Okemos; RE: BRT
- BI-6 Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to the BRT
- BI-7 Brian Baer, 225 N. Hayford, Lansing; RE: Support for the BRT
- BI-8 Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: Request for the Board to pass a resolution rescinding its support of the BRT
- BI-9 Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing; RE: Community conversations about CATA’s transportation issues

- BI-10 Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Request to be appointed to the BRT “Study Group”
- BI-11 Mary Hoenshell, 2341 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Copy of her letter to Sandy Draggoo, CEO/Executive Director of CATA expressing her opposition to the CATA-BRT
- BI-12 Sandra Draggoo, CEO/Executive Director, Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Copy of her response letter to Mary Hoenshell regarding the BRT project
- BI-13 Debbie Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Response to Donna Rose regarding a millage increase for the Redi-Ride program

(2) Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, Notice of Public Hearing of Apportionment for drains within Meridian Township

(3) On File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Material handed out at the June 21, 2016 Meeting

- John Wolenberg, 2459 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Revised Urban Cooperation Agreement with East Lansing (PA 108 Agreement, Costco)
- Sue Pigg, 3572 W. Hiawatha Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for the BRT
- Ann Zimmerman, 2344 Coyote Creek, Okemos; RE: CATA BRT Project
- Christopher G. Nugent, President, Horizon Bank Lansing Market, 1600 Abbot Road, East Lansing; RE: Support for the proposed BRT Project
- Brent Forsberg, 4725 Mohican Drive, Okemos; RE: Suggestion for the Township to set up an ad hoc committee on the issue of the BRT

Material submitted at the June 21, 2016 Meeting

- Tonia Olson, Granger, 16980 Wood Drive, Lansing; RE: Meridian Township, “Collecting Tomorrow’s Energy Report”
- Brian and Mary-Jean McNitt, 5380 Park Lake Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to the proposed Costco Store
- Kathy DeVito, 470 Chimney Oaks Drive, Okemos; RE: Signed petitions submitted by “STOP the CATA-BRT”
- Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Article featured from *The Big Green* website titled “CATA bus overcrowding is a seasonal, economic issue”

**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 Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 5-0.

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the June 7, 2016 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 5-0.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 398,221.57
Public Works	\$ 153,544.32
Trust & Agency	\$ 60.00
 Total Checks	 \$ 551,825.89
 Credit Card Transactions	 \$ 8,771.40
 Total Purchases	 <u>\$ 560,597.29</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 601,538.28</u>

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 5-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - Electronic Citation System  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the Police Department to apply for grant funding for an electronic citation system through the U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Memorial**

**Justice Assistant Grant for Technology enhancement Projects, with no matching funds required. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 5-0.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (Also see Agenda Item #12A)

Q. I wondered if you already prepared or how soon you will prepare the answer to the question put by the Redi-Ride Committee, “Is it legal for the Township Board to put a question on the November ballot that will reauthorize the millage for Redi-Ride given the fact that the current Redi-Ride authorization goes through 2018?”

A. We have been working on that, we should have an answer for you in terms of a formal opinion very shortly. We were waiting on some information that Administration was pulling together from CATA, including some documents out of the archives from when the millage was originally passed. I will tell you that there is not a lot of history out there as to how that language came to be that was on the ballot, but we will have our best shot at an answer for you within a week or two.

Q. I don’t know how much history you need; it’s a legal question. Is it legal to put a reauthorization of a millage on the ballot before the millage has expired?

SUPERVISOR PRO TEM COMMENT: I’m going to step in here. He has answered the question; we’re moving on.

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales opened Public Remarks.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, urged the Board to select Neil Bowlby to be a member of the Transportation Commission subcommittee as requested in the letter Mr. Bowlby sent to the Board. He discussed what he characterized as “shameful treatment” towards previous appointees Thomas Malik and Thomas Deits, despite their credentials and being faculty members at Michigan State University. Mr. Norkin urged those wrongs be rectified.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, stated the roadway of Park Lake Road between Haslett and Saginaw Highway is under the jurisdiction of the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD). He suggested truck access to Costco sites should only be off of interstates or state trunkline roads such as BL-69. He spoke in support of the Jolly Road Transportation Alternative Program as it will provide broader shoulders on both sides of Jolly Road which does not currently have a pathway system.

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales closed Public Remarks.

A. PA 108 Agreement (COSTCO)

Trustee Styka summarized the one change made to the agreement from the draft before the Board on June 21, 2016. He also highlighted the proposed agreement as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 30, 2016.

**Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, approves the future rezoning and issuance of all necessary land use permits with respect to a portion of the annexed area, subject to the conditions set forth below:**

1. **Zoning and Land Use Approvals.** During the term of the November 1, 2001 Urban Cooperation Agreement, as amended, the Township consents to and grants written land use approvals only for any uses permitted by right or by special use permit in East Lansing’s RA, R-1, R-2, R-3, or RM-8 residential districts, or in the B-2 retail sales business district, or in the B-4 restricted office business district of the East Lansing zoning ordinance, being Chapter 55 of the East Lansing City Code, except that as a condition of approval of a B-2 use for a Costco retail store, including all appurtenant uses, all property that is not utilized for the Costco retail store, its appurtenant uses and in certain described outlots shall be placed into a conservation easement as approximately depicted on the attached Exhibit B and as defined in Section 2140 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.2140). Further, such B-2 zoning classification shall only be available to a Costco retailer. Any uses permitted under the B-4 zoning classification shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the uses permitted in the annexed area.

Any rezoning of the annexed area for a Costco retail store shall also be subject to and conditioned upon the terms of this agreement and no site plan shall be approved and no development shall be allowed in the annexed area that would be required to be located in a B-2 district in the City of East Lansing, as such B-2 district requirements exist on the date of adoption of this resolution, unless the site plan meets or exceeds the most restrictive standards of both the City of East Lansing site plan standards applicable to B-2 retail sales districts and the Charter Township of Meridian site plan and development standards applicable to its C-2 commercial district including, but not limited to, the following Charter Township of Meridian Ordinances as they exist on the date of adoption of this ordinance:

- A. Chapter 22, Article IV Wetland Protection
- B. Chapter 38, Article VII, Outdoor Lighting
- C. Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 3, Section 86-402 Commercial
- D. Chapter 86, Article VIII, Off-Street parking
- E. Section 86-758, Landscaping

Zoning land use approvals and the determination of the most restrictive standards shall be considered and made through the following process:

- a. Applications for rezoning and site plan approval related to a Costco retail store to be located in the annexed area, together with supporting documentation, shall be forwarded by the City to the Charter Township of Meridian within three (3) business days of receipt.
  - b. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the receipt of the site plan and supporting documents, the Township shall transmit to the City the specific provisions of its ordinances that exceed the requirements of the comparable East Lansing ordinances for site plan review for the submitted application and the City shall require the applicant to comply with those provisions. The City Council of the City of East Lansing shall not approve a site plan until it has been certified to meet the above required standards by the Director of Community Planning and Development of the Charter Township of Meridian and the Director of Planning, Building & Development of the City of East Lansing. Any changes made by the City Council of the City of East Lansing shall not lessen any of the terms or conditions of the site plan approved and certified by the Director of Community Planning and Development of the Charter Township of Meridian and the Director of Planning, Building & Development of the City of East Lansing.
  - c. In reviewing the site plan, each jurisdiction shall act expeditiously and shall not unreasonably withhold certification. To the extent that documents are exchanged in order to achieve mutual certification, each jurisdiction shall endeavor to respond to the other within seven (7) calendar days. Either party may waive, in writing, further review of the site plan at any time and such waiver shall constitute certification.
2. Park Lake Road. Should improvements be required to Park Lake Road between the intersections of Park Lake Road with Haslett Road and with M-78 (Saginaw Hwy.), the cost of such improvements as are required shall not be borne by the Charter Township of Meridian without its expressed, written approval.

3. **Brownfield Redevelopment.** Should a request for funding under the provisions of a Brownfield redevelopment authority or a Brownfield redevelopment plan be made by the developer in connection with the construction of a Costco retail store or any appurtenant use located in the annexed area, if approved by the City of East Lansing, such funding provided pursuant to a Brownfield redevelopment authority or a Brownfield redevelopment plan shall not exceed the total sum of \$1,000,000.
4. **Building Permit Fees.** Should the annexed area be rezoned for the construction of a Costco retail store and should a Costco retail store be constructed on the annexed area, fifty percent (50%) of all building permit fees, shall be paid to the Charter Township of Meridian to defray its administrative costs associated with the reviews set forth above.
5. **Remedy for Breach.** In the event either party believes the other party has breached this agreement, they shall provide the other written notice of the specific nature of the breach. The parties shall meet within 14 calendar days to resolve any issues. If the issue cannot be resolved, the party may seek judicial relief in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all other terms and conditions of the original resolution and the November 1, 2001 Urban Cooperation Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this alteration to the conditions of annexation so made by this resolution and the vote of a majority of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan will not be effective until:

1. a corresponding resolution containing the same amendments is approved and consented to by the City Council of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan; and
2. The amendment to the November 1, 2001 Urban Cooperation Agreement providing for the extension of its term to December 31, 2039 with respect to the tax sharing provisions of paragraph 8 is approved by all parties and is in effect.

**BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED** that the changes made to the annexation resolution are contingent upon the filing of an application for rezoning and for site plan review and approval by Costco and subsequent approval of the same. Should Costco fail to file a rezoning application and site plan for review and approval within 180 days of adoption of this resolution, or should the site plan fail to be approved, this resolution shall be void and the original provisions of the November 1, 2001 Urban Cooperation Agreement and the annexing resolutions shall control.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Clerk is hereby instructed to notify the City Council of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, of the adoption of this resolution and to provide the City Clerk of said City with a certified copy of this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of this resolution, this resolution constitutes the written approval of the Charter Township of Meridian necessary for a land use rezoning to B-2 pursuant to the November 1, 2001 Urban Cooperation Agreement between the City of East Lansing and Charter Township of Meridian concerning this property.**

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Board discussion:

- Suggestion for neighbors of Costco to stay involved in the project's process by attending East Lansing Planning Commission meetings and East Lansing City Council meetings
- Board member preference to not allow Costco to place deed restrictions on the site which would affect our community if it became a dark store
- Board member belief Costco should not be given a "gift" of a \$1 million brownfield tax credit
- Board member statement previous brownfields show there is no relation between the cost of contamination cleanup and the amount of the brownfield credit granted by a local unit of government
- East Lansing City Council will decide whether or not to give Costco a brownfield tax credit
- Board member preference for the East Lansing City Council limited any brownfield tax credit to the actual cost of contamination cleanup, if any
- A majority of neighbors who spoke were supportive of the agreement because a conservation easement was put in place to protect nearby neighborhoods
- \$1 million brownfield tax credit limit was a compromise within the negotiated agreement
- Board member agreement with citizen comment regarding no cut through from the Costco gas station to Park Lake Road
- Board member preference for the gas station to be a stand-alone building
- Clarification that a brownfield is a reimbursement for work performed

**Trustee Veenstra moved to amend condition #3 by adding "or the actual cost of cleaning up contamination on the site, whichever is less" after "\$1,000,000".**

**The motion died for lack of a second.**

**Trustee Veenstra moved to amend condition #2 by deleting the language "without its expressed, written approval".**

**The motion died for lack of a second.**

Board discussion:

- Board member preference to have the provision included in the agreement for Costco to pay its employees at least 150% of the minimum wage
- Board member agreement with comments contained in a citizen's letter calling for all entrances to be placed off Saginaw Highway
- Board member preference to have all truck travel prohibited on Park Lake Road
- Board member preference not to have truck deliveries prior to 7:00 A.M.
- Board member preference for the delivery time to be addressed by the Township's Director of Community Planning and Development during site plan review
- Township does not currently have an ordinance governing delivery times so the Township's Director of Community Planning and Development could not apply a standard higher than what East Lansing puts in place

- Agreement between East Lansing and Costco is not within Meridian Township's purview
- Agreement by Costco to turn off its parking lot lights one hour after closing

ATTORNEY COMMENT: One thing I want to make clear, and hopefully the maker of the motion and the seconder will agree, that in your packet was the final draft and we didn't read the whole draft. We didn't read the whereas clauses and, to the extent that maybe a word was missed here or there in the reading, it should be clear that what you are voting on is the actual document in the packet, not the motion as it was read which only contained part of the total resolution. Both East Lansing and the Township need to be working from the final document.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] WHEREAS, the parties hereto entered into a November 1, 2001 Urban Cooperation Agreement to share, manage, and control 66.48 acres of property, the map and legal description of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to extend the term of that agreement to December 30, 2039.

#### Terms and Conditions

NOW THEREFORE, the City and the Township agree as follows:

1. Authority. This Addendum to the original agreement is made and entered into pursuant to the provisions of the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967, as amended, and after compliance with the terms thereof, as well as the general authority of each of the parties.

2. Paragraph 11 of the Urban Cooperation Agreement is amended to read as follows:

11. Term of Agreement. This Agreement shall continue in effect for a term of 34 years commencing January 1, 2002, and terminating on December 30, 2035. With respect to Paragraph 8 of the Urban Cooperation Agreement, this Agreement shall continue in effect for a term of 38 years commencing January 1, 2002, and terminating on December 30, 2039.

3. No other terms of the original Urban Cooperation Agreement are changed.

4. The change to this term of this Urban Cooperation Agreement is contingent upon the initiation of a site plan approval by Costco and subsequent approval of the same. Should Costco fail to initiate a site plan approval process within 180 days of the entry of this agreement by the parties or should the site plan fail to be approved, the above referenced revisions of the Urban Cooperation Agreement shall be void and the original versions shall continue in force as if unamended.

In Witness Whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Addendum to the Agreement as of the date and year first above written by authority of the respective City Council and Township Board.

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Correlation between the two resolutions: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10)

Q. I would ask our attorney to explain what this agreement does, and how it relates to the resolution we just adopted.

A. Back in 2002, there were actually two agreements that were passed by the communities in connection with this annexation. One dealt with the zoning issues which you have previously acted on; this one dealt with the term of the agreement in the revenue sharing piece. You really have to have two (2) documents in front of you. This resolution just deals with the revenue sharing, extending it by four (4) years.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 5-0.

## B. Jolly Rd-Transportation Alternative Program Resolution

**Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, that the Township Board hereby supports the Ingham County Road Department TAP application for the addition of paved shoulders along Jolly Road from Dobie Road to Meridian Road as identified in the Meridian Township Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan.**

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Paved shoulders are a safety improvement and will be used by pedestrians and bicyclist
- Board member belief most of the tree line will be cut down for shoulder placement
- Board member preference for new trees to be planted further from the road to replace the removed trees
- Feasibility of tree replacement as there is limited right of way and the Township must obtain approval of the adjacent property owners
- Meridian Township will need to bear the cost of tree replacement
- Assistant Township Manager/Director Perry walked the entire length of the subject area with ICRD Managing Director Conklin to look at every tree to make a determination what trees would be jeopardized by the project
- Existing guardrail will aid in preserving trees
- Some trees located on an up slope near homes have the potential to be preserved
- Walk along Jolly Road heightened the awareness of the ICRD regarding tree preservation
- Resolution is only to support the TAP application
- If the TAP funding is secured, the Township will work closely with the ICRD to mitigate as many tree removals as feasible
- Change to the tree ordinance to look at each tree on a site-by-site basis is working as the Board intended as the normal rules under which the ICRD operates dictate a large clear zone near the road
- Trees are a natural asset which contribute to our community
- Board member advocate of saving the oak tree near Meridian Road

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 5-0.

## C. Enactment Day Resolution of Support

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Board proclaims the year of 2017 as the 175th anniversary year of the establishment of Meridian Township by the Legislature of the State of Michigan;

AND FURTHER, THAT the Township Board in the Quartoseptcentennial year, hereby encourages all residents, clubs, organizations, institutions and businesses in Meridian Township either to join and to participate in the appreciation of the past; to celebrate and appreciate the present; and/or to plan, study and visualize magnificent opportunities to build for the future;

AND, FURTHER THAT encourages 175 Ways to Celebrate a Quartoseptcentennial.

AND FURTHER, THAT the Township Board encourage all residents, clubs, organizations, institutions and businesses to share their story, if they so desire, and share their specific educational, athletic, cultural, or entertainment project on the Quartoseptcentennial website, <http://www.meridiancelebrates175.com/>, for purposes of historic record, of Meridian Township, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

AND FURTHER, THAT the Township Board encourage all residents and organizations to put the following dates on their respective calendars:

- Saturday, December 31, 2016 6:00pm, 175th New Years' Eve Meridian Township-wide Fireworks at Central Park South, Central Park Road
- Saturday, December 31, 2016 4:00pm and 7:00pm, Kick off Celebration and History of Meridian Documentary and Pictorial Viewing at Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive
- Thursday, February 16, 2017, Celebrate Enactment Day at the Capitol Building in Lansing, MI, mid-day/noon time at the Legislature to celebrate Enactment Day
- Saturday, February 18, 2017, Winter Festival Quartoseptcentennial 1842 Birthday Bash at Central Park and the Historical Village
- Saturday, July 1, 2017 – Quartoseptcentennial Parade, Festivities, and Fireworks at Central Park

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board and staff discussion:

- Staff is working with business and non-profit organizations across the Township to be as inclusive as possible
- Additional dates are in the making and will be added to the Meridian Celebrates 175 website
- Staff is in the process of forming committees for this event and after the general election, staff will be including Board members
- 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an ideal opportunity to bring all Meridian residents together to create a unified community

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 5-0.

Without objection, the BRT issue will be moved to Agenda Item #13A.

### 13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales opened Public Remarks.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, voiced appreciation for bringing the BRT discussion forward during tonight's meeting. He spoke to the "mixing of apples and oranges" on this issue. Mr. Norkin addressed earlier Board member comment about the danger to pedestrians on Grand River Avenue, stating it is imperative to mitigate those risks, independent of the BRT. He did not believe the BRT is the only way to address those risks. Mr. Norkin noted the Grand Rapids model runs along the sidewalks on both sides of the street and was one-fifth of the cost projected for the Lansing region's BRT. He believed the Grand Rapids model is the one this regional should follow.

Bill Collette, 2373 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing, voiced appreciation that the Board takes its citizens opinions to heart relative to the BRT.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed his appreciation for adding the BRT resolution to tonight's agenda. He believed there are several transportation issues within the community and felt the Township has many qualified citizens who would be good members of a Transportation Commission if formed.

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales closed Public Remarks.

#### A. BRT Resolution

Trustee Styka summarized the concerns expressed in the draft resolution handed out to Board members as a result of citizen input on the BRT.

Board discussion:

- Board member clarification the total cost of the BRT project is \$143 million
  - No guarantee at this point in time the BRT will go to the Meridian Mall
  - Meijer has offered to provide a BRT terminal in its parking lot behind Belle Tire
  - Board member statement the number of bus stops will be reduced from 45 to 28
  - Board member preference for the Board to oppose the BRT until CATA offers details on the BRT funding and how it will be spent
  - Board member suggestion to send a copy of the resolution to the Federal Transit Authority
  - Board member belief the BRT is a solution in search of a problem
  - Board member belief the original concern was the need to reduce congestion along the Grand River Corridor from the Capitol to Webberville
  - Reducing a lane of traffic and installing a dedicated bus lane forces the high volume of traffic on Grand River forces the three (3) lanes into two (2) lanes
  - Benefits of reducing congestion include less automobile emissions being released into the atmosphere, reduction in driver stress (which increases safety) and reduction in travel time
  - Driver stress correlates directly with road safety
  - Board member belief timed traffic signals are the most direct means of reducing traffic congestion, can be accomplished with a small commitment of public funds, can be quickly implemented and improves the driver experience
  - Worst area of traffic signaling is the stretch on Grand River between Hagadorn and Harrison Roads
  - Times savings can be achieved through simple elimination of the bus stops shown in the BRT plan without the cost
  - Board member preference to rely on CATA's current placement of bus stops
  - Transportation Commission mandate should be to find creative solutions to maximize ridership and review the current bus routes
  - Based on statements made by individuals on both sides of the issue, more information needs to be put forth on the key issues regarding the BRT in Meridian Township
  - Meijer, the business located at the end of the line, is in support of the BRT project
  - During the charrette process, statements were made the BRT would possibly increase Meijer's business
- Board member request for the Township's CATA representative to convey the views of the Board as a collective body relative to the proposed resolution on the BRT

- Reminder there was initial consideration by previous Board members who desired to see light rail come to the region to address auto congestion on Grand River and overcrowding on buses
- When a BRT was first considered, it was to redesign, rethink and redevelop the region, which included recruitment of better jobs and more businesses
- Board statements that it wants to reduce reliance on the automobile, reduce our carbon footprint, create a more walkable community and reclaim our streets for all users
- CATA is a transit agency and its focus is on transit
- BRT is a complicated mass transit project and CATA needs to do a better job of educating the public as to the ramifications and the design elements of the project
- Comparison between Grand Rapids and Meridian Township
- Grand Rapids is comprised of city blocks with city streets whereas Meridian Township has large open areas where there are no intersections but many driveways
- A side running BRT would impact right turn movements
- Inclusion of many types of residents on the committee, including those who use the bus
- Suggestion for CATA representatives to explain to the committee each intersection in detail and what different options are available
- Preference to move forward with a group of interested residents to view a Meridian Township model
- Board member preference not to have a reduction of lanes, as it will drive traffic onto secondary roads
- Board member preference not to have a center running BRT
- Board member preference to retain the same number of bus stops in Meridian Township
- Concern with current bus riders having to walk further in inclement weather to catch the bus
- Board member preference for the strongest anti-BRT and pro-BRT residents to serve on the committee
- Board member belief the committee will only be effective if the BRT funding process is slowed down
- BRT does not just impact left hand turns, it prohibits left turns
- Need for separation between improving transit and improving traffic conditions
- Possibility of the Board writing a letter to the Michigan Department of Transportation encouraging the timing of traffic signals along Grand River Avenue
- If adding traffic lights and prohibiting left turns into businesses along Grand River improves safety as advocated by CATA, these items can be accomplished without the BRT expense
- CATA's theory that a reduction in bus stops will increase ridership can be put in place now
- Author of the resolution included consensus issues as WHEREAS clauses
- Necessity of sending a timely message to the Federal Transit Authority
- Sending something to committee takes a lot of time
- Clarification that a reduction of bus stops is due to substituting a stop in the east and west bound traffic lanes with one stop in the center

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the July 19, 2016 Board meeting.**

- B. Rezoning #16020, 1792 Hamilton Road, RC (Multiple Family) to PO (Professional and Office) Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed rezoning as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 28, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Rezoning makes sense
- Applicant has been a good neighbor
- Unanimous Planning Commission recommendation for approval

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the July 19, 2016 Board meeting.**

- C. 6 Month Goal Review-Process

Manager Walsh summarized the process for the six (6) month goal review as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 30, 2016.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member preference for a complete list of goals to be made available to Board members and the public
- Each member of the Management Team will provide an update for their department at the July 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- Report from the management team will be compiled into one document and included in the packet so it can be reviewed prior to the Board meeting
- Top ten (10) goals will be a focus of discussion
- Suggestion for Board members to provide the Manager with any questions regarding the objectives so that staff can be prepared to cover those topics

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the July 19, 2016 Board meeting.**

#### 14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed appreciation for the draft resolution on the BRT. He spoke in support of a balanced view being presented to the affected agencies.

Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the BRT resolution. She noted there is a segment of the population which would use public transportation if it provided longer weekday hours and weekend hours for its ridership.

Jared Wilson, 5443 Amber, East Lansing, expressed appreciation to both the Fire Department and Parks and Recreation Department for their aid during a fire in the building where his church was holding services.

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales closed Public Remarks.

#### 15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Clerk Dreyfus announced his office is looking for election inspectors for both the August 2<sup>nd</sup> primary and November 8<sup>th</sup> general election. He announced 10:00 AM and 5:15 PM training sessions for election workers will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, and hands on training with the electronic poll book will be available a week prior to August 2<sup>nd</sup>. In response to Trustee Veenstra's inquiry, he indicated the wage for an election inspector is \$10 per hour and a \$10 stipend for attending the training session.

Trustee Veenstra acknowledged an email at Board member's seats from Manager Walsh relaying Supervisor LeGoff's opposition to the BRT in its current form which took place in a phone conversation between the two.

**Trustee Styka moved to adjourn. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

#### 16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Pro Tem Scales adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

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MILTON L. SCALES  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR PRO TEM

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BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary