



To: Board Members
From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
Date: April 22, 2022
Re: Manager's Report

ASSESSING

Board of Review

March Board of Review was conducted March 14-16th with no significant issues. There were less than 30 value appeals, the majority of which were residential properties.

Entire Tax Tribunals

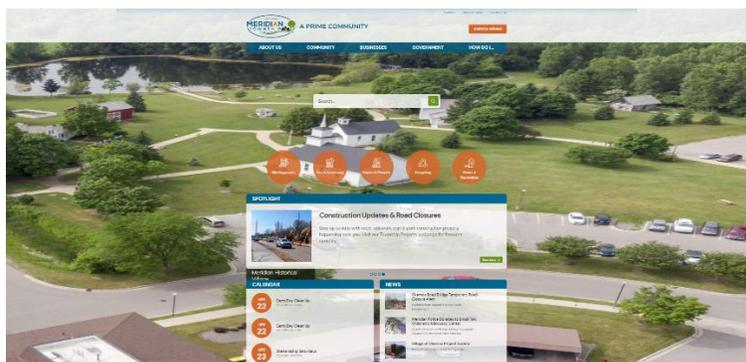
Of the initial 16 appeals for the 2021 tax year, seven remain, three of which are nearing settlement. We've defended taxable appeals with vigor, some cases withdrawn and others settled when appropriate. Of the resolved cases, there was 2,729,129 taxable value in contention. Settlement has resulted in 708,034 reduction to 2021 taxable values, and over 2 million of value preserved.

Re-Inspection Program

We are collecting resumes for the summer interns to assist with the required re-inspection program. We have received numerous qualified candidates and look forward to interviews in early May.

COMMUNICATIONS

Meridian Township Website



The Communications Department continues significant design and content revisions to the Township website with a deliberate effort to improve search engine optimization (SEO) and accessibility. Mobile settings have also been reconfigured. Live web forms is another area of improvement that continues to be a priority. Highlighting new features of the Township website to encourage additional use and strengthening awareness is a goal of the Department. The reimplementation of QR Codes in print marketing materials have been successful in redirecting traffic to information on the Township website.

Staff encourages everyone to share the friendly redirect URLs with community members to help them quickly find information on the website:

- Solar - www.meridian.mi.us/Solar
- Celebrate Meridian - www.meridian.mi.us/CelebrateMeridian
- Wetlands - www.meridian.mi.us/Wetlands
- Bill Payments - www.meridian.mi.us/BillPayments
- Calendar - www.meridian.mi.us/Calendar
- Meetings - www.meridian.mi.us/Meetings
- Goals - www.meridian.mi.us/TownshipGoals
- News - www.meridian.mi.us/News
- Development Projects - www.meridian.mi.us/DevelopmentProjects
- Construction Projects - www.meridian.mi.us/TownshipProjects
- Recreation & Sports - www.meridian.mi.us/Recreation
- Election Information - www.meridian.mi.us/Elections

Broadband



The Ingham County Board of Commissioners have committed a portion of the County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to surveying residents and businesses to identify gaps in internet service. The Ingham County Broadband Task Force has partnered with Merit Network to create a survey to gather this valuable information. The survey launched on April 4. The Communications Department has created a broadband webpage, shared the information and will continue to promote the survey across our platforms to encourage Meridian Township residents to participate.

- Survey: <http://MichiganMoonshot.org/Ingham>
- Additional Information: <https://bit.ly/MTwpBroadbandSurvey>

The information resident's provide will only be used to explore broadband access options. Understanding which households are connected to the internet at broadband speeds (25/3 mbps) is the critical first step towards addressing needs throughout the community. A member from each household in Ingham County should complete this survey, whether they pay for internet access at their property or not. Responses to the survey are due by June 3, 2022.

Town Hall Room A/V Upgrades Project

The purchase orders have been finalized and equipment for the Town Hall Room A/V Upgrades Project has been ordered. Due to supply chain issues, equipment is anticipated to arrive mid to late summer. The project install is slated for between the 2022 Primary and General Elections. Smart Homes/Smart Offices engineers will be meeting with the electrical vendor, HR Electric LLC, to finalize the electrical work needed before all the new equipment is installed. This work is anticipated to take place in early summer.

Marketing & Communications



The Prime Meridian Magazine 2022 Edition was finalized and mailed to homes on April 21. The extra copies will be distributed to all the Township buildings and departments. Approximately 800 copies will also be dropped-off to MDOT for distribution to four Welcome Centers in Michigan that requested copies.

The Community Engagement & Communications Survey launched on January 28 showed a lot of strengths for the Communications Department, as well as some opportunities for improvement. Overall the residents had a positive response to the survey. The most popular ways residents receive their information is from our Township website, Email Notifications and Digital Newsletters. Also, 45% of our residents feel the communication they receive is effective. Areas with opportunity include adding accessibility features to our communications, for instance alt text on photos. We also plan to increase the frequency on educational and informational campaigns. The survey received 241 responses from January 25-February 8. Survey results can be found at www.meridian.mi.us/GetConnected.

The Communications team continues to work with the Harris Nature Center team to highlight the 25th Anniversary of the center. Multiple times a month, historical posts are scheduled on social media to show the many enhancements that have been made over the years. Additional coverage and promotions will take place throughout the year.



The Women in Business campaign that kicked off in March for Women's History Month was well received by the community and improved the Township's engagement on social media. As business owners saw other local businesses recognized on social media, they began to contact the Economic Development Department to have their business recognized. Twenty local women owned businesses were featured. This campaign was a great way to build relationships with community members and business owners. For photos from the series, visit <https://bit.ly/MTwpWomenInBusiness>. The Departments plan to work together on future business milestone feature campaigns of this nature.

The Communications team continues to work with the Economic Development team as they launch a new campaign “Support Local During Construction” to highlight local businesses during construction on Grand River Avenue and Okemos Road. The new campaign will include street signs and social media posts directing traffic to Downtown Okemos businesses and Grand River businesses. The street signs are being sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority and Economic Development Corporation.

Staff is excited to announce that Social News Desk, the Communications Department’s social scheduling provider, has another new feature that the Department will be launching in the next month. The new feature is an automation process for social media posting through an RSS feed straight from the Township and HOMTV websites. This will free up staff time and increase productivity for team members.

Communications Manager Brandie Yates and Marketing & Public Relations Specialist Andrea Smiley were asked to do a presentation at the April Michigan Township Association Conference. The presentation take place on April 26 and will be about “Using Social Media to Engage and Serve Your Community”.

HOMTV Operations & Equipment

Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist Diehl and local broadcast engineer continues to trace and label the cables in the HOMTV Server Room. In preparation for the Town Hall Room A/V Upgrades Project to take place in 2022, new schematics were created outlining the cables and ports from the Town Hall Room to the HOMTV Control Room to identify any issues before new equipment is installed.

HOMTV’s internet bandwidth is insufficient for the streaming capabilities needed to produce live productions. In order to address that issue, staff will be upgrading the internet plan with Comcast. At the moment, the podium laptop/doc cam in the Town Hall Room does not have a working signal back to the HOMTV Control Room. This means any presentations or documents shown in the Town Hall Room are not able to be aired for viewers tuning into the meetings. This issue will be fixed once the Town Hall Room project is under way, but until then there is a work around that will allow for HOMTV to access the video from the podium/doc cam. Before this can be accomplished though, HOMTV’s internet will need to be upgraded to a higher plan.

HOMTV Programming & Internship



On March 22, HOMTV recorded the Harris Nature Center’s Native Plants class for an exclusive two week playback. The class received 107 views on YouTube. HOMTV produced a promotional video with the Green Meridian team about the Solarize Meridian program encouraging residents to invest in solar. Before the end of April, HOMTV will be releasing a special feature called “Women Behind the Badge”, which highlights women working in emergency services from the Meridian Township Police and Fire Departments. At the end of the month, staff will be working with the Parks & Recreation Department to film a wetlands educational video.

2022 means the return of HOMTV’s election coverage. Staff is working with the Clerk’s Office to ensure “Your Choice 2022” election programming will help Meridian Township residents be aware of the upcoming 2022 election information, candidates and ballot proposals, as well as precinct and district changes in the Township. Primary election programs will begin in early summer.

The Spring 2022 semester of the HOMTV internship is coming to a close on May 6. The Summer 2022 semester will begin on May 16 with 5 new interns. Interns continue to be a valuable asset to the community by providing local news and information through interviews, programs, news stories, online articles, promos, meeting crew and more. Staff is working on revising the structure of the HOMTV Internship Program to attract more prospect interns to apply.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Building

- Building permit issuance for Trader Joe's aboveground construction is imminent, pending some final clarifications.
- Buddy's Pizza work was finalized out and the restaurant is now open for business.
- Staff has seen a substantial uptick in the number of new single-family homes under construction or prepping for construction, with nearly 20 permits having been submitted in the last six weeks.

Planning

- The Planning Commission and Staff have reviewed and recommended for approval six ordinance amendments so far this year, with another four coming shortly, including a complete overhaul of the Township's sign ordinance.
- The Haslett Village Square project is in the initial stages of review, with the Planning Commission holding the first public hearing on April 25th.
- Special Use Permits have been reviewed for an expansion of both the Radmoor Montessori School on Mount Hope and the Bickford Senior Living building on Okemos Road.

Code Enforcement

- With grass season just around the corner, Staff has been working on lining up a grass mowing vendor for 2022 to be prepared for any issues that will arise. Additionally, the Township Attorney's Office is finalizing recommended changes to our grass ordinance, after last year's court case that determined the ordinance was somewhat ambiguous in certain circumstances.
- Staff continues to work with potential new owners of Winslow Mobile Home Park to ensure that the work we expect to be done is completed, once the sale is finalized.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MABA 2022 Business Awards

Best New Business- Lil Emil's

Established Business- Orthopedic Rehab Specialists

New Businesses

- B-12 Vitamin Store
- Buddy's Pizza
- Gym Kind

Businesses Opening Soon

- Evergreen Vet Clinic and Animal Rescue 4737 Marsh Road
- Nothing Bundt Cakes 2090 W Grand River Ave
- Imachinations Meridian Mall
- Icy Dental
- King Pho Vietnamese Restaurant 4749 Central Park Drive

Haslett Pine Village

Pine Village Developers have begun value engineering related to construction of the mixed used 55+ senior community at 1673 Haslett Road. Fall of 2021 the developers planned to demolish the building and instead held off

due to the volatile market fluctuations in construction. 2022 did not show promise in the area of lumber, labor, supply and demand as prices for lumber soared to record highs. Gas prices are now at their highest in a little over a decade, the pressure for the development to begin is increased. A proposal for 1655 Haslett Road could see the Pine Village Development Team push full steam ahead. A demolition application was picked up by the general contractor for 1673 Haslett road project. Conversations with Redico, the new operator, indicate a new project name and new ownership of the property to come soon. We will be seeing demolition within 30 days and construction to follow soon after.

Village of Okemos Project

The Village of Okemos Development Project first approved in May 2019 has seen two amendments to the MUPUD to allow for the developer an ability to finance the project. A request in June 2021 to reduce the overall nonresidential space was partially approved to no less than 32,000 square feet of commercial space along Hamilton road. The removal of the surface parking deck and reduction in the height of the building to four stories was approved July 2021. Forward progress on the project must be seen by EGLE, for the project to remain eligible for the approved grant and loan. The Village of Okemos Development Team submitted their second request for the use of the Meridian Redevelopment Fund (MRF) for about \$3.3M for infrastructure improvements in the public right of way. These improvements will not be constructed until 2023; the recommendation from the Meridian EDC is not to exceed \$1.25M for improvements in 2022 and to allow the developer another opportunity to request funding at a later date. The public hearing for MRF is at the April 26th Township Board meeting and may discuss for additional meetings until they adopt a resolution establishing the project. Execution of a development agreement is my recommendation.

Business Retention Program

There are primary celebrations for businesses in Meridian Township. We have elected to provide free ribbon cuttings and promotion for any new business within the boundaries of the Township. We also provide promotional celebratory milestones for businesses should they desire. May 9, 2022 launches the start of “Small Business Week.” If a business was not celebrated during March is Women’s Month, we will highlight them on social media through the listing of information submitted by business owners.

Match on Main Meridian

Happy to report the Match on Main Meridian has an interested business owner in the DDA. Keller Williams of Okemos may be looking to do some work on the property and could use the Match on Main program! Details to come.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hiring and Promotions

Since February, the Fire Department has hired three new firefighters, two which filled the increased staffing positions approved by the Township Board.

- Jared Gentner
- Michael Weber
- Timothy Brighton

The Department is continuing to seek and recruit qualified candidates for vacancies in June 2022 and January 2023.

The Captain promotional process was completed on 4/19/2022. Two lieutenants completed the process with Lt. Chris Johnson selected to fill Capt. Bill Richardson’s position in June.

Damage Assessment Plan

The Damage Assessment Plan was completed and approved. Several Community Planning and Development employees have already been trained on the plan. Additional documents are being developed for use during a disaster.

Purchasing

The purchasing process and internal expenditure tracking systems are being updated. The Department is also working with Delhi Township Fire Department to explore joint purchasing for EMS equipment as a cost-saving measure for both departments. This will also help our Police Department save dollars with medical equipment expenditures.

HUMAN RESOURCES

COVID-19

Covid-19 cases for Township employees have decreased since January, but we are still working through occasional positives and close contacts. Employees have been good about communicating with our Coordinators regarding testing and masking protocol in those instances.

Employee Traffic

Since mid-March, we have had several employee traffic updates:

4/22/2022	Departure	Finance	Finance Director
4/21/2022	Hire	Engineering	Engineering Intern
4/12/2022	Departure	Parks	Temporary Assistant Naturalist
4/12/2022	Departure	Police	Cadet
4/12/2022	Hire	Engineering	Engineering Intern
4/4/2022	Hire	Fire	Firefighter-Paramedic
4/1/2022	Retirement	Fire	EMS Training Chief
3/28/2022	Rehire	Parks-HNC	Temporary Seasonal Worker
3/21/2022	Hire	Police	Cadet
3/25/2022	Hire	Parks-HNC	Temp Part-Time Assistant Park Naturalist
3/25/2022	Hire	Parks-HNC	Temp Part-Time Assistant Park Naturalist
3/21/2022	Hire	Administration	Director of Project Management & Operations
3/21/2022	Hire	Administration	Information/Security Front Desk Monitor
3/18/2022	Departure	Administration	Information/Security Front Desk Monitor
3/14/2022	Promotion	Fire	Lieutenant (Promotion)

We completed the promotional process for Fire Captain and a selection has been made and we have also completed interviews for Finance Director. An offer has been made and we anticipate that the selected candidate will begin work in May.

Benefits

HR met with our current benefits consultant for our annual strategy meeting to go over 2021 costs, benefit selections, hard cap allowance updates, and benefit planning for 2023.

Union

Contract negotiations begin for four of our unions whose current contracts will term at the end of this year. We will begin negotiations with each group in early May. The Township is working on recruitment and retention initiatives for our Police Department, preparing to implement a 1-time lump sum payment that is being called a Stimulus Inflationary Payment (SIP) for all Township employees, and otherwise continuing to prepare for upcoming contracts.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT Projects in Conjunction with Brightline IT

Brightline will be closing the IT evaluation project with a brief presentation to the Township Board at their May 3, 2022 meeting. Technology staff members continue working with the third party company as we transition into the identified priority projects for the remainder of 2022: firewall, internal network switches, and a replacement of our aging storage area network disk server.



2021 Audit Information

Staff is working with the Department of Accounting & Budgeting to provide backup and system information to the team conducting our 2021 Audit.

Replacement Computers for Police Cars

IT continues to assist the Police Department with replacement of computers for the two new patrol cars delivered earlier this month. All twelve cars and two motorcycles should be using identical computer setups by early summer.

Replacement Computers for Public Works - Engineering Field Work

IT staff has begun configuration of four new in-car computers received earlier this month. The initial unit has been successfully deployed, and the other two should be in use before the end of the month.

Additional Computer for the Fire Battalion Chief

In response to recent promotions at the Fire Department, IT staff has realigned resources to allow a semi-rugged Dell computer to be installed for the Fire Department in their Battalion Chief vehicle. This will replace the existing iPad and improve two-way information flow between the vehicle and the 911 Dispatch Center.

Redeployment of iPads for New Board Members

IT has assigned managed iPads to the two new Township Board members: Marna Wilson & Scott Hendrickson. The devices have been linked to their Township Microsoft 365 accounts to facilitate access to email, Township Board packets, and other official resources. Staff will continue work with Board members to make sure that they also have access to Township resources on their personal devices.

Assistance with NFIRS Fire Reporting System Data Submission

The Township is in the process of taking over the Fire Records Management System previously shared with the City of East Lansing. Issues with the vendor has caused a small glitch in reporting of fire call information for the past several months. IT will assist with correction of the information to allow for successful submission. This assistance will continue until the new system is up and running later this year. If everything goes according to plan, this should be in July.

Support for Ingham County Radio Update System

The Wi-Fi system intended to be used for updating police & fire radios unexpectedly requires direct connections to Ingham County in order to push updates. IT staff has a temporary work-around in place while we work with the County IT & Dispatch Team to determine the best long-term path forward.



PARKS & RECREATION

Parks

- Demolition has begun on the house located at 5280 Okemos Road. The Park Commission will soon begin the site planning process.
- Love a Park Day took place on Wednesday, April 20 with 30 volunteers, Park Commissioners and staff participating. Other organizations such as the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club and Forest Hills Neighborhood Association and others will conduct clean-up activities on an alternate date.
- Floating Biologic Islands for the Central Park South Pond have been ordered. The purpose of these islands is to purify the water as this pond collects runoff from Central Park Drive and the Meridian Mall parking lot.
- Maintenance Division has begun opening park restrooms for the season.
- Small Dog Park has 521 members and Large Dog Park has 604 members
- The Park maintenance staff recently:
 - Upgraded the pole barn at the Okemos Road property with a new roof as our plan is to utilize the existing structure for programming and storage. More work is scheduled for this renovation.
 - Built 2 Dumpster Corrals (Central Park/Marketplace) in order to hide the dumpsters for a better aesthetics
 - Completed laying brick pavers around the Gazebo at Historical Village as part of an overall renovation project

Stewardship Activities

- 8 stewardship workdays and/or educational opportunities have been held for the public
 - 74 volunteers engaged with Wetland Walks, Stewardship Saturdays, Trailblazers Workday, and Weekday Warriors
- Vernal Pool Patrol launched with 12 new volunteer monitors for 2022 and two training days held
- Earth Day Cleanup along Central Park Drive scheduled for April 22nd
- Conducted our First Annual Staff Invasive Species Field Training for the park maintenance staff to promote outreach and awareness of invasive species in the Township
- Conducted a successful woodland prescribed burn at Lake Lansing North on April 10, 2022



Harris Nature Center

- Annie's Big Nature Lesson started in March and continues for the entire month of April (5 schools, 8 classes, 189 students)
- Participated in MSU Science Festival Virtual Wildlife Programs: 11 classes, 264 students
- All staff is hired for Summer Camp
- Preparing for the trail paving project to the new observation deck this spring
- Planning for 25th Anniversary Event on July 23rd
- Native Plant Sale orders due next week for delivery in May. This has been an excellent fund raising event for the Center for a number of years. This program is done in partnership with Designs by Nature, LLC.

Recreation

- Spring Youth Sports – 202 registered in baseball, 149 registered in t-ball, and 758 registered in soccer
- Sporties for Shorties – 245 currently registered for summer sessions (classes all full)

Farmers Market

The annual Vendor Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 21st in preparation to kicking off the Spring/Summer Market Season on Saturday May 7th!

Special Events

- Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt – took place on Saturday, April 16th with 410 children participating
- Mom to Mom and Kid to Kid Garage Sale at Marketplace on the Green is scheduled for Sunday May 1st with 31 participants confirmed so far
- Celebrate Meridian – Planning continues for this event scheduled for Saturday, June 25th. You're your calendars!
- Music at the Market Concert Series will take place every Wednesday evening in June through August, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. We have a great line-up, including Garage Sale Band, Showdown, Sea Cruisers, School of Rock and Atomic Annie!
- Meridian Heritage Festival – Planning is underway to bring back the Heritage Festival. Meetings are underway with the Friends of Historic Meridian and Nokomis. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2022.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is anxious for the graduation of two new officers from the Mid-Michigan Police Academy. Isabela Acker and Jack Akers will be sworn in on May 9th at 3:30 pm. This will bring our staffing level to 35 sworn.

The Department continues to work with the FBI on the currency courier robbery that occurred on Okemos Road near Methodist St. Three suspects have been identified. Prosecution of this case will be done through the U.S. Attorney's Office in Grand Rapids.

The Department has completed the investigation of the death that occurred on Lake Lansing. The report is being sent to the Ingham County Prosecutors Office for review and determination if any charges should be issued.

The Department is participating in the Okemos Safe Routes to Schools Study with a kick off meeting on April 26th. Our School Resource Officer Bryan LeRoy will be working with the District on this project. This project focuses on transporting children to and from the middle schools in a safe and efficient manner.

Haslett High School and Okemos High School will be hosting prom night soon. Our Department has sent letters to liquor selling establishments in the township alerting them of the prom dates and reminding them to be observant of suspicious activity involving minors with alcohol. In addition, our Department uploaded prom safety tips to social media.

The Department continues to address traffic concerns in the Indian Hills subdivision and on Dobie Road by deploying directed patrols when resources allow. Officers are also preparing for the Grand River and Okemos Road intersection work.

PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING

2021 and 2022 Township Road Projects

We released the RFP for our 2022 milling road projects (i.e. reconstruction) last Monday. Bids are due in on Friday, April 22.

We did not complete any of the 2021 preventative maintenance road projects last year. We recently held a pre-construction meeting with our contractor for the 2021 preventative maintenance road projects. We were able to get our contractor to take on our 2022 projects at the same cost as their 2021 bid. This will save the Township a lot of money by avoiding inflation costs over the past year and help get us back on schedule.

2021 and 2022 crack seal work will occur in May and June. 2021 and 2022 cape sealing work will be completed in August.

Our engineering consultant, Mannik and Smith, is working on the draft RFP for our 2022 crush-and-shape road projects (i.e. resurfacing). Once this RFP is completed in one to two weeks, we will have our 10-year road program back on schedule.

We are in the process of finalizing a list of 2023 road projects, with and without ARP funding, so that we can bid them this November when we expect to get the lowest bids.



Daniels Drain Update

We have conducted about 80 one-on-one meetings with residents regarding their prospective assessment for the Daniels Drain project since November.

We are prepared to bring Resolution 5 to the Township Board May 3. Resolution 5 will reflect an intensive overhaul of the assessment roll for the Daniels Drain based on all of the public input and meetings with property owners. This overhauled assessment roll is backed up by extremely precise data. We have literally examined each bid item and cross referenced it against the construction plans for the Daniels Drain project. We believe this new assessment roll will address the vast majority of concerns being expressed by residents.

Chapter 20 Drain Conversion

We have held two meetings with the Ingham County Drain Commission office regarding converting our Chapter 20 drains to Chapter 3 or 4 drains. We are currently having internal discussions about the pros and cons of converting our Chapter 20 drains.

It is clear that the Board would lose any and all authority to petition, or not petition, drain improvements for Chapter 20 drains if we convert them. Meaning the Board would no longer be able to prevent drain improvements it deems as unnecessary. If the Board converts the Chapter 20 drains, this authority would be solely held by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner.

We are working to determine what controls we would have over the Chapter 20 drains moving forward, outside of choosing to petition or not petition the improvements, if we were to keep them as Chapter 20 drains.

2022 Solar Project

The solar RFP to construct two 20 kW solar arrays on the carports at the public safety building was successful.

We received two bids, one of which came in under the budgeted amount of \$100,000. We just received the signed contract back from the winning bidder and will be scheduling a pre-construction meeting with the contractor soon before they begin construction.



This is the Township's fourth consecutive year of completing a solar project to help us meet our goal of 100% renewable energy use by 2035.

Grand River Ave Project

We successfully completed our water main work in conjunction with the Grand River Ave construction project at the end of March.

Successfully Negotiated a Letter of Agreement with the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM)

This process has been collaborative and has helped build trust and relationships. I believe this has helped raise morale across the union.

This letter of agreement is designed to compensate our lead workers appropriately for their supervisory responsibilities. Under this letter of agreement, effective March 17, 2022, lead workers will receive a \$4.81 hourly wage increase, which amounts to \$10,000 annually.

This letter of agreement is also designed to help compensate and incentivize our Department of Public Works and Department of Parks and Recreation employees for serving on-call and responding to emergencies after-hours. Our employees sign up to serve on-call for one-week shifts throughout the year. They are paid a \$250 stipend for serving an on-call shift and receive an additional \$100 for holiday weeks. This LOA increases the stipend to \$300 per week, \$400 for holiday weeks. It also establishes a new \$40 stipend for each after-hours response.

Okemos Road Bridge Project

On March 2, 2022, the Ingham County Road Department informed the Township that the Okemos Road Bridge Project is one month behind due to delays caused by AT&T. We worked with the Ingham County Road Department on a plan to get the project back on schedule, which the Board approved. The plan allows work, only on this specific project, between 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (i.e. the normal hours we permit construction work Monday through Saturday under our ordinance), on Sundays, but not holidays, until May 23, 2022.



This will help the contractor to meet EGLE’s May 1 deadline for removal of old abutments and piers as well as installation of new abutments. It will also allow the bridge deck to be poured during the proper conditions for the concrete to cure.

North Water Tower Construction Project

We held our pre-construction meeting with the contract on April 20. The repainting of the North Water Tower will be completed before the end of May. Our new Township brand will be prominently displayed on the North Water Tower.

We will be asking the Board to waive our prohibition on Sunday construction as we need to get the North Water Tower operational again in the shortest timeframe possible.

Meridian Township Recycling Center Update

We continue to work internally on a long-term solution to our transfer and recycling center. We submitted a grant application to EGLE on April 20 for a new recycling center behind the Service Center.

We also just completed 2022 grading work on the service drive to the transfer and recycling center.

MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Update

Finalized acquisition of the property on Dawn Ave to help complete the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail.

Customer Service

We have worked diligently to address all inquiries from residents, which ranged from 2:00 p.m. water main breaks to getting a “Do Not Block the Intersection” sign installed for the Sylvan Glen neighborhood off of Dobie Rd.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

We have a completed sign plan with corresponding draft RFP for the Municipal Complex, Central Park, Central Park South, Historical Village, Marketplace on the Green, Towner Road Park, Newton Road Park and the four welcoming signs at the borders of our Township.

We own the parcel for the northern welcoming sign on Marsh Rd. This is the parcel where our existing welcoming sign is located. We are working to secure easements for the east, west and south welcoming signs. Letters have gone out to the property owners of our three desired locations.

We will be taking the digital message Board signs to the Planning Commission for their approval in May. Our Township ordinance requires special use permit approval from the Planning Commission for all digital message board signs. Our application is on file with the Planning Commission.

The final sign plan will come before the Board during the second meeting in May, at which time we will bid the project. The Board will also be asked to approve a second quarter budget amendment for this project.



Okemos Library Roof Project

We have a draft RFP that is nearly ready to issue. We are in the process of proofing the final draft.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Items List

We have compiled a list of items, broken down by department, as to where we believe the ARPA funds could be best allocated. This list will be presented to the Board at the April 26 board meeting.

IT Assessment with Brightline

We have received cost estimates from Brightline for the items we are needing to replace to improve our bandwidth and overall network health. Implementation timeframes for some items are as soon as 30 days, while some are as far out as 2 to 4 months.