

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD BUDGT DELIBERATIONS - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie (6:02 P.M.), Such (6:08 P.M.), Veenstra (6:02 P.M.), Woiwode  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Finance Diana Hasse, Director of Parks & Recreation LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 BUDGET

Director Hasse reviewed the budget process. Each department head in attendance offered an overview of their respective department's activities and responsibilities. Director Hasse summarized the 2009 Budget Highlights for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Public Works and Engineering Funds and the Motor Pool.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Public Safety represents over half of the general fund budget
- Personnel costs represent approximately 73% of the budget
- Frequency of police officer use of medical first responder training
- Increase in rental housing units due to foreclosures, transfers, lack of salability, etc.
- Increase over time in liability for post employment retirement benefits
- Requirements of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45 reporting prefunded with a portion of General Fund fund balance
- Post employment retirement benefits will be established as a separate trust fund administered by ICMA
- Post employment retirement benefit trust fund would act like a pension fund and options are available to invest the funds
- Actuarial evaluation of prefunding costs for post employment retirement benefits will be recalculated every three (3) years using a comprehensive formula
- Township budget reflects reduction of seven (7) staff positions, reduction of the vehicles in the Township fleet and funding of post employment benefits
- Change in providing code enforcement services
- Budget contains limited capital improvements
- Temporary hold on Police accreditation process largely due to staff time commitment
- Possible addition of passport services by the Clerk's office to generate revenue
- Goal of staff reduction is to be accomplished through attrition
- Reduce energy consumption by programming computers for sleep mode when not in use
- Consideration of paying off debts with a higher interest rate with money earning a smaller investment return
- Concern with including local road millage as a budget item prior to voter passage
- Footnote in budget to address road millage money if issue is passed on the ballot
- Possibility of including private project erosion control permitting by staff
- Contact other Townships who perform erosion control permitting for information regarding the

process

- Decrease in Water Fund revenues due to reduction in water connection fees as a result of less development
- Board policy on fund balance reserve is two (2) months
- State budgeting guidelines require more money cannot be spent than budgeted in all categories
- Most, if not all, of the Township budgets have been underspent
- Fund balance can only increase if less money is spent than is taken in
- Appreciation to Department Directors and staff for a balanced budget

**The consensus of the Board was to remove the revenue and expense from the Special Revenue Funds associated with the November 2008 road repair millage ballot question.**

5. OTHER POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ITEMS (None)

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Ganesh Reddy, 3514 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, requested the proposed budget be placed on the Township website and the Township have a long term integrated information technology (IT) strategy plan. He spoke to the number of eliminated staff positions this year and alleged violations of the campaign finance law by the current Supervisor.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

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SUSAN McGILlicUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary