

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer,
Sundland

ABSENT: Clerk Dreyfus

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Economic
Development Director Chris Buck, Police Chief Dave Hall, Principal Planner Peter
Menser, Fire Chief Lori Schaffer, Community Planning and Development Director
Mark Kieselbach,

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION (NONE)

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:05 pm.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beachwood, Haslett; Liaison for Interneighborhood Cooperation (LINC) representative, opposed to Rezoning #18050 (Agenda Item 13B). Stated that the Board had already set a precedent on not allowing the rezoning, and all surrounding properties are zoned RR. Showed concern about Project Lifesaver (Agenda Item 12E) being included on agenda with no details or alert to the public.

Leonard Provincher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, unhappy with the Board speaking on behalf of Haslett citizens in supporting a 5-story development in the four corners of Haslett; opposed to the Board's strong push for urbanism. We are a suburban community. Questioned if Township Economic Director Chris Buck is working on behalf of developers or is he a representative for the citizens. What should be the target population of Meridian Township? No one is addressing this question. Visited Farmington which had a vibrant downtown, even on a Thursday night, large number of elderly people present.

Kip Harrison, 6060 Columbia Street, Haslett, concerned with people growing medical marijuana in his neighborhood; wants matter to be discussed at a Township Board Meeting.

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Rollie Harmes, 5120 Cornell Road, Okemos, opposed to Rezoning #18050, stating that the Planning Commission has voted unanimously against approving the rezoning; had complaints about possibility of increased runoff water.

Jean Kaufmann, 5140 Cornell Road, Okemos, opposed to Rezoning #18050 based on concerns of traffic increases.

John Kaufmann, 5140 Cornell Road, Okemos, opposed to Rezoning #18050, believes that the east 1/3 of the Township needs to stay protected as rural.

Brad Brogren, 5004 Cornell Road, Okemos, opposed to Rezoning #18050.

Mark Clouse, 300 S. Washington, Lansing, supporting Rezoning #18050 on behalf of Eyde Family. Clarified that the Township had required for the sewer expansion at the Georgetown Development and approved of the payback district before the Master Plan was adopted.

Tom Voice, 5160 Cornell Road, Okemos, opposed to Rezoning #18050.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:32 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Farmer's Market Project ready to move forward in cooperation with Meridian Mall
- Police Chief candidates have been chosen and are moving to next round
- Robin's Way rezoning -new development application will be submitted to PC
- Rotary and Kiwanis clubs invited July 10th and 24th for presentations
- Thanked retiring interim Fire Chief Lori Schaffer for her service with the fire department; commended Chief Hall on his tenure with the Township.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Brixie reported:

- Summer tax bills will be mailed on July 1st and will be due on September 14th

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- Economic Development Committee (EDC) met in June on Burcham bond agreement
- Attended Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) golf outing
- Transportation Commission will meet Thursday June 21st

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) Board meeting June 20th

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Grand opening of Okemos Elevation Apartments

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland,
Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

A. Communications

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 Trustee Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

B. Minutes – June 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9th, 2018 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

C. Bills

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows, seconded by Trustee Deschaine:

Common Cash	\$68,114.80
Public Works	\$478,038.94
Trust & Agency	\$3,265.31
Total Checks	\$549,419.05
Credit Card Transactions April 26 to May 9, 2018	\$7,758.47
Total Purchases	<u>\$557,117.52</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$1,986,414.16</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

D. Grant Acceptance for Pavilion at Harris Nature Center – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Grant Acceptance for Pavilion at Harris Nature Center - Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

E. Grant Acceptance for Restroom at Harris Nature Center – Land and Water Conservation Fund

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Grant Acceptance for Restroom at Harris Nature Center – Land and Water Conservation Fund. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (NONE)

11. HEARINGS (NONE)

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Rezoning #18040 (Whiddon) 2112 Lake Lansing Road

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the attached resolution to deny Rezoning #18040, a request to rezone approximately 1.12 acres located at 2112 Lake Lansing Road from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RC (Multiple Family). Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board Discussion:

- Rezoning would be inconsistent with the Future Land Use Map (FLUM)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

B. Police Accreditation Process

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve Manager Walsh's recommendation to contract with Chief Dave Hall for the purpose of obtaining police accreditation from the Michigan Association Chiefs of Police (MACP). The terms of the six (6) month agreement are depicted above, as well as, in the May 31, 2018 police accreditation memo. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

Board Discussion:

- Stated that accreditation is important in continuing our promise to improve the Police Department
- Belief that the continuation of accreditation process by Chief Hall will expedite the process
- Noted the maximum contractual payment of \$26,000 to Chief Hall for this work.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

C. Fire Chief Appointment

Trustee Jackson moved that the board confirm the Township Manager's recommendation to appoint Michael Hamel to the position of Meridian Township Fire Chief Effective July 2, 2018. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6-0

D. 2018 Local Roads

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the 2018 local roads project list and authorize the Director of Public Works & Engineering to proceed with the projects. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Board Discussion:

- Concerns about if the acceleration of County funding will lead to shortage next year
- Support of project based on 37% of our roads in poor to fail condition
- Increase in cost of road work comes from construction cost increase for materials and labor, earlier bid acceptance could help lower price
- Road selection and road servicing is an objective matter to keep the process fair

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deshaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

E. Project Lifesaver

Trustee Opsommer moved to authorize the police department to participate in the tri-county Project Lifesaver program, fund the project at a cost of \$1,000 and authorize the Chief of Police to sign the operational agreement on behalf of the Township. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

Board Discussion:

- Monitoring wristbands are attached to individuals like a watch, exact details to be learned during training
- Wristbands cost \$300 at expense of caregiver; a cost assistance program could be created
- Meridian would enter the program as an associate member who would use tracking equipment provided by Sheriff Department
- Questions on if the cost is actual, or if additional costs would eventually be required
- Concerns on proprietary clause; Project Lifesaver would reserve rights to the program and Meridian Township would not be allowed to continue a similar program if they terminated
- Coordinated response times in program expected to be around 20 minutes

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ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Deschaine,
Treasurer Brixie, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

F. Tax Foreclosed Properties

Treasurer Brixie moved to acquire parcel ##33-02-02-10-452-007 from the Ingham County foreclosure properties list for the Land Preservation Program in the amount of \$3,547.02 including the estimated 2018 taxes of \$918.62 for a total of \$4,465.64 from the Land Preservation Fund; and for the Township Clerk to forward this information to the Ingham County Treasurers Office by the July 1, 2018 deadline, and we refuse the other parcels. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

Board Discussion:

- Ingham County allows local units of government the option to purchase any tax foreclosed property in their jurisdiction by paying the taxes owed
- Properties available have potential to be maintained and preserved in conjunction with the wetland preserve already established

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Tresurer Brixie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Opsommer,
Jackson, Deschaine, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

G. Emergency HVAC Replacement-Public Safety Building

Trustee Opsommer moved to authorize the Director of Public Works & Engineering to proceed with the Public Safety Building Emergency Condensing Unit and Coil Replacement project with an amount up to \$70,000. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board Discussion:

- Public Safety Building has one condensing unit that is quickly deteriorating
- Three contractors approached for quotes. Lowest quote was Pro-Tech: \$64,285
- Suggestion to reallocate budget funds for facility alarm panel updates, amended for additional costs, to cover the costs for this project

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer,
Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

H. Resolution Commemorating Juneteenth National Freedom Day

Trustee Jackson moved to recognize and commemorate the celebration of freedom from slavery represented by the remembrance of the events of Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and that the Township reaffirms its dedication to the protection of the rights and freedoms of all people and rededicates itself to its goal of fostering diversity within the Township and its government. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer, Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Zoning Amendment #18060 (Township Board) outdoor recreation in C-2 and C-3

Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach explained how the amendment to Section 86-404 of the Code of Ordinances would allow limited outdoor recreation activities by special use permit in the C-2 and C-3 district when ancillary to a bowling alley, indoor recreation facility, or health and physical fitness establishment.

Board discussion:

- Creating a special use permit process would help create uniformity and allow wider usage
- This change allows for the extension of a township business (City Limits) that would be a great addition to the community
- Transportation Commission concerned about safety impact once new Business I69 Corridor is completed
- Planning Commission will process special use permits with consideration to public impact
- Expanding use to C-2 and C-3 would be a good trial run to see if it would be beneficial to expand to other districts

Consensus of the Board to bring this item back at the next meeting for action.

B. Rezoning #18050 (Eyde) 5080 Cornell Road

Daniel Eyde has requested to rezone a 10.01 acre parcel located at 5080 Cornell Road from RR (Rural Residential) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density). The site is located on the east side of Cornell Road, south of Tihart Road, and east of the Georgetown subdivision.

Board discussion:

- Belief that eastern edge of the Township should remain rural
- The current zoning can be developed as-is and rezoning would be out of character
- Density and traffic increase concerns

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- The approval of 1 acre lot size at the Powell Road development set a precedent in the area that should be followed
- Planning Commission decision is consistent with Master Plan and should be considered
- The fact that the property lies within the payback district does not require that the zoning be changed, sewer lines can still be reimbursed if property is developed as zoned

Consensus of the Board to this item back at the next meeting for action.

C. Rezoning #18070 (M78 Insite Venture) 6365 Newton Road

M78 Insite Venture, LLC has requested to rezone a 41.04 acre parcel located at 6365 Newton Road from RD (Multiple Family) to C-2 (Commercial). The site is located at the northwest corner of Saginaw Highway (B.R. 69/M-78) and Newton Road.

Board discussion:

- Rezoning would be appropriate and contiguous with other properties around the area
- Planning Commission recommended that this property be rezoned
- Unsuccessful zoning and development in the past makes the rezoning appropriate
- This rezoning would not be consistent with Future Land Use Map
- Hesitation to approve rezoning due to the proximity to the North Ridge Reserve
- Applicant described project: mixed development, wants to see band of residential along “back side,” believes rezoning and development would allow for proper growth in the area

Consensus of the Board to bring this item back to the next meeting for action.

D. Redevelopment Ready Communities

Economic Development Director Chris Buck presented an update on the status of the Redevelopment Ready Communities project, and provided an Economic Development Strategy and Corridor Plan for Township Board approval -- as required by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Board discussion:

- Must be conscious in requiring commercial and retail developments on the appropriate road-frontage to avoid over saturation of residential in the downtown areas
- Need to consider nuances of blending vehicle and pedestrian traffic while maintaining status of quiet refuge from the Lansing/East Lansing areas
- Commends the goal to protect the “eastern third” of the Township from increased development
- Hopes to complete project by August 31st

Consensus of the Board to bring this item back at the next meeting for action.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:33 pm.

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Rollie Harmes 5120 Cornell Road, Okemos, commented on safety of Township workers that may face exposures such as Lyme Disease while working in the area.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:35 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board discussion on changes to 6-19-18 Board Packet regarding challenges of finding documents or agenda items, color-coded organizing, and two-sided printing.

Board consensus to change the packets back to version prior to the Township Board Meeting on June 19, 2018.

Trustee Opsommer Reported:

- Mid-Michigan Autism Association donated \$3500 for Project Lifesaver trackers to the City of Lansing through a grant that Meridian Township could apply for

Supervisor Styka Reported:

- Celebrate Meridian on Saturday June 30th from 11 am to 11 pm
- On June 25th Culver's Restaurant will participate in fundraiser for Harris Nature Center
- Met with Manager Walsh, Trustee Jackson, and Interim President of Michigan State John Engler

Trustee Jackson Reported:

- Attended the opening of the Beaver Lodge at Harris Nature Center

Township Manager Walsh Reported:

- Encouraged individuals to come meet the Police Chief candidates on June 20th

Treasurer Brixie Reported:

- Encouraged the public to attend an open meeting of the Community Wide Sexual Assault Prevention Program on Friday, June 22nd.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.

17. POSTSCRIPT – PHIL DESCHAINED

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK