

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** –
PARK COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, January 6, 2009 **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:17 P.M.)
ABSENT: None

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Banas, Commissioners Aronoff, Dersch, Stephens, Wilson
ABSENT: None

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Wilcox, Commissioners Jackson, Jorkasky, Reicosky
ABSENT: Commissioners Deits, Honicky, Klemans

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRESENT: Chair Madle, Members Richards, White
ABSENT: Members Gillette, Morrison, Rowlee, Thiel, Vine

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Chair Hershiser, Members Ohlrogge, Ochberg, Stier
ABSENT: None

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Gregory, Members Jackson, Kielbaso, Kuhn, McConnell
ABSENT: Members Macklem, Scherbarth

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Members Caszatt, Dersch, Helmbrecht, Kielbaso, Thomas
ABSENT: Members Webster, T. Woiwode

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Member White
ABSENT: Executive Director Paul Brake, Members Korrey, Raynak, Carpenter, Fisher, Russell,
Weaver

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy

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. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provenchur, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the ongoing periodic flooding of Okemos Road between Central Park Drive and Gaylord C. Smith Court.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of Adrienne Domas' application for appointment to the Planning Commission.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. Presentation of Updated Regional Aquifer Study

Christine Spitzley, Environmental Programs Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 913 W. Holmes Road, Suite 201, Lansing, gave a presentation on the updated Regional Aquifer Study. She offered the following highlights:

- Aquifer study conducted several years ago to examine availability of water resources
- Regional aquifer model for most of Clinton, Ingham and Eaton Counties
- Clinton, Ingham and Eaton Counties are served by one aquifer, the Saginaw Formation
- Saginaw Formation provides nearly 100% of the tri-county water needs
- Mission of USGS is to provide water information that benefits the nation's citizens through publications, data, maps and applications software
- Idea behind the partnership is for the protection of water quality and quantity
- USGS and Tri-County relationship approximately 40 years old
- Regional activities include wellhead protection, Children's Water Festival hosted at MSU, seminars for local businesses, local ads and presentations at community and civic groups
- Model can be used to show movement of contamination plumes

Carol Luukkonen, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Michigan Water Science Center, 6520 Mercantile Way, Suite 5, Lansing, gave additional highlights as follows:

- Original 1996 groundwater flow model designed to simulate flow in the Saginaw aquifer
- Saginaw aquifer is the bedrock unit in the area beneath glacial deposits
- Model uses actual well logs, water-level measurements and pumpage data
- Regional flow is from south to north
- Model used for:
 - Wellhead protection delineations
 - Pumping rates and location changes produce changes in wellhead protection areas
 - Change in pumpage or recharge conditions
 - Look at new well fields
 - Create climate change scenarios to see how water levels might change
 - Contaminant movement
- New challenges
 - Increased demand with record high summer pumpages
 - Upward movement of poor water quality in some areas
 - Changes in recharge
- Current project activities
 - Update of contributing areas
 - Change in how recharge is represented
 - Looked at how urban areas impact water supply through impervious surfaces
 - Simulation of transient conditions
 - Use of multiple layers for variable well opening depths and characterization of the connection between aquifer units
 - Change of stress periods
 - Management and optimization scenarios
 - Examination of geochemistry of the water quality
 - Analyze historical and current water-quality data

- Use of “piper” diagrams

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Study area contains part of the Looking Glass, Red Cedar and Grand River watersheds
- Study area covers 75 municipalities, three (3) counties and at least three (3) watersheds
- Primarily a groundwater model and does not address several surface water features
- Model looks at urbanization and reduces recharge rates
- Boundaries allow a view of amount of water which flows out of an area
- Use of model to ascertain permeable pavement options
- Model as a study of water movement, not water quality or water changes as it moves through different soils
- Model cannot currently address contamination movement to specific wells

Director Severy responded to earlier public comment by stating that the flooding on Okemos Road (a primary road) falls under the jurisdiction of the Ingham County Road Commission.

Trustee Veenstra asked staff to respond to Mr. Willems’ communication contained in the current Board packet regarding the assessment of Mrs. Willems’ property as lakefront.

Trustee Ochberg added that a thorough reading of the Willems’ file revealed that Mr. Willems had received an answer; however, it was not in his favor.

Trustee LeGoff agreed with previous public comment that an individual’s application to a Board or Commission should be considered regardless of the applicant’s primary address.

Clerk Helmbrecht noted that certain footage in front of the Willems’ property was originally Township property and was quit claimed to the Willems in 1996 or 1997.

Trustee Dreyfus announced that Trustee Ochberg and he attended a meeting at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s office to discuss several issues. He requested the Board discuss the role of the Township as a municipal enforcement agency at the next Board meeting.

Treasurer Brixie announced a community forum regarding the future of Okemos Schools will be held at Okemos High School on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Trustee Ochberg noted that Section 20 drainage areas in Meridian Township are paid for by the general population of the Township but serve only the commercial core of the Township. She stated there is a process to create a new drainage district for the future maintenance of these areas which would be assessed only to the commercial establishments which benefit from the maintenance. Trustee Ochberg encouraged the Board to discuss this issue in the near future.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Charles Willems, PO Box 184, Haslett; RE: Designation of Parcel #33-02-02-11-176-002

BI-2 Gail Torreano, President, AT&T Michigan, 444 Michigan Avenue, 17th Floor, Detroit; RE: AT&T Michigan’s Video Service Notification to the Charter Township of Meridian

(2). Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 Joy Thrun, 4767 Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: Resignation from the Downtown Development Authority Board

(3) Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Maxine Berman, Director of Special Projects. Office of the Governor, 3022 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 14-150, Detroit; RE: Congratulatory letter to Deborah Guthrie, Cable TV Coordinator, on receiving a \$25,000 Centers for Regional Excellence Grant

(4). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

SC-1 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated December 12, 2008

SC-2 Article submitted by Cable TV Coordinator Deborah Guthrie from the December 2008 edition of *Multichannel Video Compliance Guide* entitled “Video Law Preempted, Court Rules”

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 Helmbrecht.

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

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 16, 2008 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 169,270.29
Public Works	\$ 364,490.25
Total Checks	\$ 533,760.54
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 10,786.44
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 544,546.98</u>

ACH Payments

\$1,051,979.22

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously .

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

8. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commission
Supervisor McGillicuddy explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to promote alignment within our community among the boards and commissions and to discuss future goals of each body. She requested the various Boards and commissions discuss current goals of the respective bodies, as well as goals for the ensuing year.

Meeting participants discussed the following goals and objectives as well as ideas for Board goals:

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

- Growing challenges with redevelopment of aging structures using newer ordinances written for new construction
- Appreciation for good staff support to the ZBA

Environmental Commission (EC):

- Conducted eight (8) wetland use permit reviews
- Seeking Environmental Stewardship Award nominees
- One member as liaison to the Land Preservation Advisory Board
- One member as liaison to the Park Commission
- Environmental Education subcommittee work on eco sound bites to run on HOM-TV
- Meridian Green Theme speakers at Environmental Commission meetings
- Diversity of Environmental Commission member backgrounds
- Future development of an environmental information website
- Recycling committee to work with constituent based groups

Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB):

- Meridian Township Land Preservation Program the only program in Michigan to use ecologically based screening criteria
- Program recognized by the EPA as a model for community open space programs
- Acquisition of over 600 acres of land since 2000
- Development of a Land Preservation webpage which would include downloadable applications, stewardship plans, program information, etc.
- Plan for public educational events around the Township
- Communication with the Michigan Stewardship Network to provide assistance in organizing and training public participation in land maintenance
- Continue partnership with public agencies and non-profit organizations to enhance environmental value and public enjoyment of the Township's preserves
- Collection of seeds from the Davis Preserve to plant and expand the woodland
- Joint venture with LPAB and Ingham County Parks on creating the stewardship plan for 120 acres adjacent to Lake Lansing Park North

Economic Development Corporation (EDC):

- 2009 goals:
 - Identify and support redevelopment of existing commercial properties
 - Promote revitalization of the business areas
 - Promote and facilitate better communication between business owners and the Township
 - Support existing business retention programs

- M-TEAM goals:
 - Increase community awareness of activities of the M-TEAM
 - Development of a M-TEAM website
 - Week-long youth entrepreneur camp to be held in August, 2009
- Continued working relationship with the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA)
- Yearly MABA Expo to be held March 14, 2009

Planning Commission:

- 2009 goals based on citizen values related to government:
 - Protection of public welfare (includes public health, safety and natural resources)
 - Legally based decision making process which is open
 - Balance of consideration of public interest and individual rights when considering recommendations to the Township Board
- Encourage use of permeable pavement in development projects
- Encourage development projects to achieve national LEED certification
- Continued encouragement of water retention ponds during development
- Need for a faster redevelopment process
- Consideration of overlays for older areas in the Township
- Consideration of site specific incentives for redevelopment of non-conforming site

Downtown Development Authority:

- Creation of more informal town hall meetings

Park Commission:

- School-park partnerships to bring children outdoors through round table discussions with educators
- Development of the Towner Road property to address shortage of athletic fields in the northern section of the Township
- Community outreach by increasing membership in the Friends of the Parks Program
- Government transparency through improvement of website, including interactive use
- New Central Park Master Plan
 - Inclusion of a community center
 - Inclusion of a splash pad
 - Improved Farmers Market
- Five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Community survey regarding concerns and desires
- Appreciation of the Parks and Recreation support staff
- Work to combat loss of chestnut, elm and ash trees on various park and Land Preservation properties
- Work to combat invasive plant problem on Township park and Land Preservation properties
- Need for extensive maintenance of the Township's trail system

Trustee Ochberg expressed appreciation to Leslie Kuhn for her dedication in raising funds for purchase of a 120 acre parcel adjacent to Lake Lansing Park North.

Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie and Clerk Helmbrecht all voiced appreciation for Board and Commission efforts to make Meridian Township a richer place to live.

Supervisor McGillicuddy suggested the Park Commission create "weed-it-out" days for community volunteers to assist in the maintenance of the Township's trail system.

Trustee Ochberg suggested creation of local community gardens and encouraged entrepreneurship of Township based produce which would help promote the Farmers' Market.

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Will White, 2142-1/2 Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke to the recommendations which came out of the 2006 Red Cedar Watershed Management Study, two of which are the parking ratio and use of pervious materials. He also stated a need for better integration of the various web pages on the Township website.

Mr. White added that due to budget constraints, consideration should be given to the concept of a public safety department.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, expressed appreciation to members for their service on the various Boards and Commissions. He requested the Township Board mobilize residents to address the safety issue of Okemos Road between Central Park Drive and Gaylord C. Smith Court.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary