

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: Supervisor LeGoff
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Information Technology Stephen Gebes, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Human Services Specialist Darla Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Dreyfus called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Trustee Styka as Supervisor Pro Tem for this evening's meeting. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Darla Jackson, Human Services Specialist – Meridian Cares Program

Ms. Jackson explained her role as the advocate for needy residents who live in Meridian Township, providing resources whenever possible. She outlined the Meridian Cares Program and the various opportunities for giving this holiday season.

Trustee Scales announced Henry Kwok, proprietor of Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Road, will donate 15% of his profits for Thursday, December 10 with a goal of a \$500 contribution.

Treasurer Brixie announced the Rotary Club is assisting Ms. Jackson with a Turkey Basket Program. She reported the Treasurer's office staff meets the residents who need the Township's assistance to meet basic needs on a daily basis and it is gratifying to be able to refer them to the Human Services Specialist to receive assistance.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, addressed two (2) items in the Board packet which were not in the public packet. He addressed the manner in which the Aldi project was graded, stating runoff flows from the Aldi property onto the pathway where the newly constructed portion of the pathway meets the older pathway.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, showed calculations regarding solar energy panels based on 100 kilowatt installation, demonstrating the amount of time to pay back the installation cost and the subsequent return on investment based on an average of 14 cents per kilowatt hour.

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Revised potential move in date at the new central fire station is estimated to be December 24th
- Kinawa School project has had work for the pathway and the crossing section put in; waiting on Consumers to place the streetlight
- Request to have the Board move the health care plan forward tonight in order to enroll the 101 employees who utilize the Township's insurance
- 2016 goals will be placed on for discussion at the December 8th meeting in the format discussed by the Board
- Met with East Lansing on the wastewater treatment plant last week where it was determined there are significant upgrades which need to be made that will ultimately affect future Township sewer rates
- All members of the Redi-Ride workgroup who had been selected by the subcommittee have been notified

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Clerk Dreyfus addressed remarks he had made relative to rezoning of 5458 Okemos Road at the last Board meeting, apologizing for his remarks which may have appeared critical of the Planning Commission. He voiced appreciation for the Planning Commission's diligence and hard work in researching all of the issues which come before it.

Treasurer Brixie reported the winter tax bills were mailed today and are due on February 16th, noting the last day to pay in 2015 is December 30th. She encouraged residents to either pick up forms in the Treasurer's office or download the online form for electronic automatic recurring payment in order to avoid long lines. She reported the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board has approved a contract to revamp the CATA website to make it more user friendly. She announced a portion of pathway has been installed on the south side of Mount Hope Road which runs from the CATA bus stop east to Okemos Road.

Treasurer Brixie indicated the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) met and continues to work on more meaningful names for land preservation properties, noting the Northwest Preserve has been renamed to Towar Woods. The new Land Stewardship Assistant, Kelsey Dillon, was introduced to LPAB Board members.

Trustee Veenstra attended the regular meeting of the Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) last Thursday, noting information was released that the region needs to make a major increase in its rate of recycling, currently at approximately 15%. He noted this region's recycling rate needs to increase to 30% in order to have a regional recycling processing center in the area. Trustee Veenstra indicated the Township must mandate apartment complexes make recycling available to its residents. He agreed with Mr. Provencher's comment that the Township Attorney's response to the questions raised about the new personnel policy should have been made available to the public. Trustee Veenstra agreed with Mr. Bowlby that the Township should "invest" in the installation of solar panels as it helps clean up the environment.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at this evening's Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) meeting where its 2016 budget was approved. She announced LEAP's direct impact to the region was \$122 million in new private investment for 2015, which created 408 direct jobs in the region. Trustee Wilson added there were eleven highlighted projects which LEAP was directly involved in, noting Mitten State Malt was a LEAP project here in Meridian Township. She indicated she was appointed as an at large member of the 2016 steering committee for LEAP.

Trustee Scales reported he testified at the Ingham County Commission meeting on November 24th in support of the Ponderosa subdivision residents desire to not allow Forsberg Drive to go through. He offered information on how the meeting was conducted, and questions asked of the Director of the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD). Trustee Scales believed indicators point to a decision by December 8, 2015, adding a resolution has been prepared by the ICRD in support of the position of the Ponderosa residents.

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Move Agenda Item #12A to a discussion item or be made an action item at the December 8, 2015 Board meeting.**

The motion died for lack of a second.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-1 (Trustee Veenstra).

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Jerry Fedewa, GS Fedewa Builders, 5570 Okemos Road, East Lansing; RE: Sierra Ridge Lift Station Payment Extension

BI-2 Joyce Van Coevering, 5530 Strawberry Lane, Haslett; Feedback regarding the Kansas Road Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District

BI-3 Thomas J. Dart, Jr., 3569 Cabaret Trail, Okemos; Re: Ponderosa Estates Connection

(2) Staff Communications (SC)

SC-1 Associate Planner Wyatt; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of November 19, 2015

SC-2 Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; RE: Ingham County Board of Commissioners' Resolution Authorizing Deer Hunting on the Ingham County Farm, 3860 Dobie Road, Okemos

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

Material handed out at the November 17, 2015 Board Meeting

Steven Freemire, 3622 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Kansas Road Sanitary Sewer Project

Material submitted at the November 17, 2015 Board Meeting

Linda Kraai, 3657 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to the sewer project on Kansas Road

Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road; RE: Additional petition signatures in support of Rezoning #15060

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: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 144,805.00
Public Works	\$ 14,745.95
Trust and Agency	\$ 30.00
Total Checks	\$ 159,580.95
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,971.45
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 166,552.40</u>

ACH Payments \$ 59,183.95

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

C. Disposal of Surplus Equipment

Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the Director of Information Technology to dispose of decommissioned computer equipment requested as follows:

- A. Two (2) Compac Proliant ML-370 servers purchased 2005
- B. Five (5) Compac Proliant ML-350 servers purchased 2003-2004
- C. One (1) Dell PowerEdge 1800 server purchased 2004
- D. Three (3) Dell PowerEdge 2650 servers purchased 2002
- E. One (1) Compac Proliant 7000 server purchased 1999
- F. One (1) Promise RM8000 Disk array purchased 2004
- G. One (1) Dell Prevision 370 workstation purchased 2005
- H. Twelve (12) Dell Optiplex 745 personal computers purchased 2003-2004
- I. Five (5) Dell Optiplex GX 270 personal computers purchased 2002
- J. Three (3) CF-18 Panasonic Toughbook laptop computers purchased 2002
- K. One (1) Dell Optiplex GX 260 personal computer purchased 2001
- L. Four (4) HP VL 420 Personal computers purchased 2001
- M. Five (5) 17" Cathode Ray Tube PC SVGA monitors purchased 2000-2002

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Ernie Shafter, Campus Village Communities, 919 W. University, Suite 700, Rochester, reported findings on the site known as The Square which was previously approved by the Board. He noted poor soils, buried concrete and other issues were discovered on site. Mr. Schafer requested the Board schedule a public hearing and "special meeting vote" as his company would like to close and purchase this property prior to the end of the year. He added brief testimony will be given at the hearing by Eric Helzer from Advanced Redevelopment Solutions on conditions of the site as well as brownfield information.

Bob Pena, 2100 Vine Street, Lansing, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060 which would allow Mr. McCurdy to keep pygmy goats on his property.

Eric Helzer, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions, PO Box 204, Eagle, gave a brief overview of the property known as The Square. He noted all three parcels have contamination on the site, subsurface fill and debris and, in its current state, the site is not buildable. He outlined several other known problems, including a landfill in one corner of the property.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced appreciation for placement of the Personnel Policy in the public packet, in support of Rezoning #15060 and in opposition to the brownfield for the development known as The Square, as he believed it a loss of tax dollars owed to the citizens of Meridian Township.

Ghulam Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060, which would allow Mr. McCurdy to retain the pygmy goats on his property. He spoke in support of final adoption for his rezoning request, Rezoning #15030.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, continued to ask for a definition of an illegally controlled substance mentioned in the Personnel Policy. He spoke in opposition to the brownfield for the development known as The Square, characterizing it as a \$5 million “tax grab.” Mr. Bowlby stated the Township should take the approximate \$300,000 from taxes and use it for solar energy array, which he believed would benefit the Township more than the aforementioned high density student apartment complex which will increase traffic on Grand River Avenue

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

A. Personnel Policy Manual – Final Document

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Personnel Policy final document dated November 24, 2015 as presented to the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Appreciation to all staff who diligently worked on this update
- Appreciation to staff for incorporating the values of the Board into all facets of the work produced
- Staff has incorporated the Board goal regarding the environment through direction for an energy efficient workplace
- Board member reminder the Personnel Policy is a living document, subject to revision and amendment in the future

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the Personnel Policy by deleting the phrase “or illegally controlled substance” at the top of page 15.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board member concern the second bullet point on Page 24 is an unworkable policy
- Second bullet point on Page 24 does not discourage individuals (citizens, developers, contractors, etc.) from speaking with employees in their work areas but controls who comes into Township offices
- Board member preference for smoking by employees to be banned on Township property
- Board member preference for qualified employees to be allowed to use medical marihuana currently prohibited as noted in the second paragraph on Page 14

Clerk Dreyfus offered the following amendment:

- **Amend the second bullet point on Page 24, by deleting “management” and inserting**

“staff”

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member concern another Board member is attempting to “wordsmith” this language into something that is not the interpretation of the personnel manual
- Staff does not have the authority to allow people “in and out” of Township offices
- Management will handle this issue with common sense
- The Personnel Policy is subject to discretion by management
- Strict interpretation of this language is not practical
- Board member belief the practical application would be a blanket management approval for allowing the public to enter the premises

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 2-4. (Trustees Styka, Scales, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie)

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board member’s previous suggestion to set up a schedule of reimbursements and amounts relative to employee travel and reimbursement instead of as an attachment (Page 24, subsection L) did not appear in the Board packet
- Staff obtained state reimbursements and amounts and is working to update the form used by the state for employee travel reimbursements and amounts to be attached to the personnel policy
- Board member request for paid maternity leave to be added to the Personnel Policy
- Public policy (e.g., maternity leave) should be separated from the personnel policy
- Board member belief paid maternity leave should be addressed during contract negotiations
- Appreciation to Director Marx for her diligence is updating a policy which was more than 20 years old
- Board member belief adoption of the Personnel Policy is setting public policy

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 5-1.

B. Rezoning #15030 (Sumbal) – Final Adoption

Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2015-08 entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15030” from RR (Rural Residential) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition which would allow the property to revert to RR (Rural Residential) if the applicant was not successful in obtaining a variance to allow a shared driveway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief this rezoning solves a problem created by Township staff’s interpretation of Township ordinances

- Board member's opposition to the applicant's condition placed on the approval (reversion back to a RR zoning designation if the variance is not approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals)
- Future Land Use Map has this property zoned RA
- Variance for a shared driveway could cause problems in the future if the lot is split and the second parcel is sold
- Appreciation to staff for enforcing the Township's rules and regulations

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Wilson
Motion carried 5-1.

C. Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy) – Introduction

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15060" from RAAA (Single Family- Low Density) to RR (Rural Residential).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- RR is an appropriate zoning designation for this parcel as it is compatible with other zoning designations in the area
- Rezoning addresses a proven community need (the desire for rural character in this area of the Township)
- This Board action is a solution to the problem of goats on Mr. McCurdy's property
- Significant public support exists to allow the McCurdy's to keep the pygmy goats on their property
- Board member quote "government works best when those doing the governing are listening to those who are governed."

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

D. Sale of Township Property Adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby authorizes the Township Manager to proceed with an agreement to sell the 0.09 acre parcel adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive to Mr. Brian Fleming, subject to the following conditions:

1. **The buyer is responsible for all closing, recording, and transfer fees.**

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board discussion:

- Property owner's only access to his home is across this Township owned "landlocked" parcel

Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:

- **Amend condition #1 by deleting the “and” before “transfer fees” and adding “and any other costs incurred by the Township including legal fees”**

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Township attorney has reviewed the deed received from the state which contains specific language prohibiting inclusion of legal fees for this transaction

Trustee Styka withdrew his motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

- E. The Square, 2655 Grand River Avenue – Brownfield (Set Public Hearing Date)
Treasurer Brixie moved to hold a public hearing on the proposed brownfield plan for The Square on Grand River as an agenda item for the January 5, 2016 Board meeting.
Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- Difficulty for the Board to call a special meeting on such a large issue around the winter holidays
- Board member confidence the seller will allow the buyer an extension on his option to purchase as there is considerable contamination on the property
- Adoption of a special meeting on December 17th would not have resulted in the proposed buyer meeting the seller’s deadline for sale by the end of the year as the Board would still have to adopt the plan at a subsequent meeting
- Board member opposition to “giving away” \$4.6 million of taxpayers money
- Board member inquiry if the Project Summary sheet in the packet was written by the applicant

The Chair ruled Trustee Veenstra out of order.

Clerk Dreyfus called the question.

VOICE VOTE: 5-1 (Trustee Veenstra)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra

Motion carried 4-2.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Scott Fairmont, 4429 Apache Drive, Okemos, availed himself for questions on Rezoning #15040 when discussed by the Board.

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

A. Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes)

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 24, 2015.

Board, staff and developer discussion:

- Explanation of a community septic system
- Plan calls for a community septic system in the northeast corner of the property to be shared by all property owners contained in this proposal
- Inquiry as to how a community septic system would be maintained
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is the agency which would regulate the community septic system
- Developer comes to the Township and asks if the homeowners association cannot maintain the community septic system in the future, would the local unit of government “accept” it
- If the Township’s response is no, the homeowners association submits a plan to the MDEQ for maintenance of the system in the future
- Board member inquiry if there is a regular inspection maintenance schedule for a community septic system and who oversees that schedule
- MDEQ, as the regulatory agency, has reporting requirements
- Board member request for more information
- MDEQ has a specific program for community septic systems
- Developer must hire a certified engineer, establish a five (5) year plan, and place three (3) years’ worth of maintenance into an escrow fund
- The homeowners association must submit an annual plan which is reviewed by the MDEQ
- Northeast corner has fine sand which will absorb the liquid
- MDEQ requires maintenance of financial assurance
- Condition makes the rezoning request consistent with the Future Lane Use Map
- Board member suggestion to look at the sewer map and contemplate public sewer for the site
- Area is outside of the proposed urban services management area (USMA)
- Courts have affirmed the MDEQ cannot compel a local unit of government to maintain a community septic system
- 17 homes could be placed on the site by right with RR zoning, subject to the established Township process
- Board member inquiry if the RAA zoning designation impacts the greenspace priority corridor
- Unruh Drain has an easement across it so the developer could not plat into the drain easement
- A planned unit development requires 50% of the developable land to be set aside as open space
- Board member preference to have the 25 homes clustered, which would allow for more preservation of land with the possibility of no impact to the priority corridor
- Intent by the developer to have a minimum lot width of 100 feet as a result of public interest
- RR zoning requires 200 feet of frontage and would result in wetlands within the lots
- Intent by the developer for the wetlands to remain intact with homeowner association ownership to preserve the wetlands
- Concern with homeowner ownership of wetlands
- Size of lots in Ember Oaks (a PRD with RAAA zoning) are 100 feet in width and 20,000 square feet in area
- Purview of the Board whether to adopt a policy to not accept responsibility in the event of failure of a community septic system

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

- B. Essential Wetland Determination - Sierra Ridge Subdivision
Director Kieselbach summarized the essential wetland determination for Sierra Ridge, Phase III, Lots 62-64 as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 20, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Township’s wetland consultant has indicated this wetland is not essential
- Storm drainage will be looked at when plans for the pathway are submitted
- Board member inquiry if the wetland will be filled in order to construct the pathway
- Desire for safe passage by pedestrians and bicyclists while protecting wetlands
- Board member deference to the paid wetland consultant’s opinion
- Design and construction of the pathway is subject to approval of the Engineering Department

- Board member opinion the entire wetland will not be filled in order to allow water to flow from east to west to maintain the health of the larger wetland across Newton Road
- Statement by the developer that it is in his best interest to ensure water moves off the site onto the larger wetland to the west
- Applicant's promise to work with the Board to help maintain the health of the larger wetland across Newton Road
- Property owners will own all the way to the right-of-way
- Wetland does not meet any of the ten (10) listed criteria for an essential wetland

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

C. Proposed Mobile Food Units Ordinance

Director Kieselbach summarized the mobile food units issue as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 23, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- No good way to apportion a fee which simulates a brick and mortar operation
- Concern with hours since this is an "outside" business with customers outside near a residential use
- Board member preference to adjust the hours from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM to protect nearby residents
- Board member inquiry as to the vendor fee for the Farmers Market
- Farmers Market charges a fee to its vendors
- Board member preference to keep the hours as written (6:00 AM until midnight) and then revisit the hours if a problem arises
- Board member consensus to limit the hours from 6:00AM until 11:00 PM

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

D. Zoning Amendment #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 24, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board agreement to bring the Township into compliance with state law
- Planning Commission discussed placing a map into the ordinance regarding site locations in the future
- Language in Section 86-438 (a) (1) c was language recommended by the Township attorney which the Planning Commission did not feel necessary to include
- Board has the option to insert the language recommended by the Township attorney
- Allowing wireless communication facilities in residential areas is currently in the ordinance
- Zoning amendment brings the township in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act of 2012
- Colocation is allowed by right under this amendment
- Timing of colocation approval once the application is deemed complete to comply with the state law
- Planning Commission intention to review the township's wireless communication ordinance in the future
- Board consensus to add language in Section 86-438 (a) (1) c as recommended by the Township attorney

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

E. 2016 Township Health Care Plan

Director Marx summarized the challenge of providing consistent health care coverage for 2016.

Justin Spewak from Ballard Benefit Works, Inc. provided a Powerpoint presentation on comparisons between the cost of the Township renewing its current employee health care plan to the cost of self-funding the plan in order to provide the same benefits and Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions to employees as in 2015.

Board and presenter discussion:

- If there are no catastrophic claims, the costs for self-funding will be lower than the projected \$1,514,070
- Mr. Spewak has not had a client hit the aggregate in his 20 year career
- With self-funding, clients with catastrophic claims have the majority of the cost go to the stop loss pool and experience average or flat renewals
- Township Board has the right, on an annual basis, to review health care and stay with the hard cap or go with the 80-20, where the Township pays 80% of the premium and the employee pays the remaining 20%
- The proposed self-funded plan comes in under the hard cap
- Employee compliance with the hard cap by moving to a high deductible plan which allowed for significant savings
- Township was able to contribute money (Health Savings Account) to help employees with their high deductible and still stay under the hard cap
- Self-funding, through stop loss insurance, does not significantly increase the financial risk
- No need for added Board involvement as \$35,000 is not a significant additional monetary risk
- Risk award ratio is excellent as there are potential significant gains which can be captured
- A properly structured stop loss limits the risk by individuals to a family total of \$35,000 instead of \$35,000 for each family member through a private insurer
- Board member inquiry as to the challenges of a self-funded health program
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) is unique in that it owns its stop loss pool which is community rated and funds its self-funded product by running the stop loss product across its entire product line
- Downside of self-insurance is improper budgeting
- Ballard Benefit Works considers BCBSM the vendor of choice for self-funding
- “Tipping point” would be if BCBSM changed the underwriting methodology on its stop loss pool from community rating to experience rating
- Change did not occur when BCBSM went from a public entity to a mutual fund
- “Specialty prescriptions” (new drugs) have greatly impacted the cost of prescription coverage
- Presenter belief this product is the best performing product in the industry today
- Proposed product does not limit employee or retiree access to health care

Trustee Scales moved that the Board authorize the Manager to move forward with health care that is self-insured. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board and staff discussion:

- Bringing the issue to the Board provides outside oversight
- This process makes the issue transparent
- Self-insured and self-funded are interchangeable terms
- Two of the three staff people involved in assessing health care do not take the Township’s health insurance
- Board member declaration of her intent to abstain from voting
- Board member reminder that the Board must approve any member’s abstention from voting
- Employee healthcare costs were budgeted by the Board and it is a function of management to sign the healthcare contract

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, offered history on public access to federal employees. He indicated when he visits Township offices, he stands at the counter to conduct business unless invited by staff to enter specific work areas. He addressed the fact there is no seating allowed for mobile food units, specifically focusing on pedestrians and bicyclists.

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka announced Supervisor LeGoff has made her recommendations for the 2016 Board and Commissions appointments and the list will be contained in the December 8, 2015 packet for Board action.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:14 P.M.

TRUSTEE STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR PRO TEM

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary