

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra (6:01 P.M.), Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Lt. Kenneth Plaga

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of Promoted Fire Department Team Members – Fire Captain Derek Burcham, Fire Lieutenant Al Diaz, and Full-Time Firefighter Dustin Farhat
Chief Cowper introduced the newly promoted fire personnel.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Michael Nordmann, 631 E. Sherwood Road, Williamston, Haslett and Okemos Rotary Club, announced a fundraiser will be held at Fiesta Charra on June 11, 2015 from 5:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. to raise money for some major projects in the Township; i.e., weekend survival kits, Harris Nature Center and the Community Room at the new central fire station. Tickets are \$50 and entertainment will be provided.

Richard Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, commended Clerk Dreyfus for the brief description included in the public notices published in the newspaper regarding new ordinances adopted by the Township.

Phil Parmalee, 1392 Haslett Road, Haslett, voiced concern with traffic on Haslett Road (including truck traffic) continuing to ignore the 25 mile per hour speed limit in downtown Haslett.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed appreciation to all involved in making the Board packet fully text searchable on the Township website. He inquired as to when the Board will continue discussion on the urban service boundary.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Working on a franchise agreement with Comcast, with a meeting scheduled for Friday
- Progress with the fire station going vertical
- Fire station is currently on schedule to open in December, 2015
- Meridian Township Police Department is hosting a Child Safety Seat Inspection on June 6th from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 P.M.

- Okemos Pedestrian Pathway Bridge has been erected and will be ready for public use in approximately two (2) weeks
- Preliminary discussion this Friday (June 5th) with the Township's bond underwriter regarding unfunded pension liability
- Township is working on completing replacement of the Heritage Neighborhood signs in Cedar Bend Heights

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the May 27th Tri County Regional Planning Commission's Meeting (TCRPC) where a presentation was given by Joe Quick on the importance of having a sense of place in your community. The alleged contradiction in the financial plan for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) was also discussed (at the request of Trustee Veenstra). He indicated it is Capital Area Transit Authority's (CATA's) plan to obtain \$75 million from the federal government's Small Starts Program, which requires a \$25 million match from the state. He noted the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT's) 2014-2018 Transportation Plan does not designate any state funding for the BRT. Trustee Veenstra pointed out the letter contained in the Board packet from Thomas Repasky regarding traffic in Ember Oaks subdivision, which reminded him that the Consumers Energy east/west corridor travels through the Ember Oaks subdivision and there should be a pathway on that Consumers Energy easement in the future. He requested a written summary of the major topics, which came out of Master Plan Public Input Forum, be provided to the Township Board.

Trustee Scales announced the US census data estimates came out March 21st revealing the fourth largest growing community in the state was Meridian Township, which increased its population by 865 residents. He recognized the Haslett Girls soccer team and Haslett Girls tennis teams for their championship victories.

Trustee Styka reported he is working with Steve Schultz and Frank Walsh on finalizing the details of the legal services agreement. He announced the topics of highest interest expressed by those who attended the Master Plan Public Input Forum on May 21st included: housing mix, code enforcement, rehabilitation of the Haslett and Okemos business districts as well as the Meridian Township business district bordering East Lansing, connectivity, community policing, complete streets, infill development and the urban service boundary. Trustee Styka reported a meeting was held on the chronic wasting disease (CWD) issue which resulted in the need to cull deer in Meridian Township in an effort to save the deer herd. He announced a blood drive will be held in the Township Hall on June 11th from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. He announced a Fishing Derby on June 14th at the Central Park Pond for children.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the Master Plan Public Input Forum on May 21st where stakeholders from many different venues offered ideas on a variety of topics. He stated over 100 individuals attended the Memorial Day Service at Glendale Cemetery on Monday, May 25th at noon where a speech was given by Retired Army Lt. Colonel Louie Burgess and music was provided by the Meridian Community Band. He noted Okemos Boy Scout Troop 109 continued its yearly service project of placing flags on all veterans' graves within Meridian Township.

Treasurer Brixie informed residents that approximately 800 special assessments have been mailed this week. She reported her attendance at the Master Plan Public Input Forum where it was very well attended by the public and appointees from various Boards and Commissions. Treasurer Brixie expressed appreciation for members of the community who solicited stakeholders to attend the forum.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the Master Plan Public Input Forum. She reported that on May 20th she served lunch to veterans as part of the 12th Annual Capital Area Standown for Homeless Vets as well as attend the Indian Hills Homeowners Association meeting where code enforcement issues were discussed. Trustee Wilson noted the Groundwater Management Board will be reviewing its bylaws at tomorrow's meeting. She reported her attendance at this afternoon's Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) meeting, where she learned the Lansing region is ranked #1 among Midwest communities in job growth within service industry companies.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Thomas Repaskey, 3663 Stagecoach, Okemos; RE: Planned Residential Development #15-97015 (SP Investments)

(2) Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Carriage Hills Estates Drain Drainage District "Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries" to be held on June 3, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner's Office

RL-2 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Heritage Hills Drain Drainage District "Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries" to be held on June 3, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner's Office

RL-3 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Indian Hills Drain Drainage District "Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries" to be held on June 3, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner's Office

RL-4 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Trails at Lake Lansing Drain Drainage District "Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries" to be held on June 3, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner's Office

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

Material handed out at the May 19, 2015 Board Meeting

Sam Singh, Democratic Floor Leader, 69th District, Michigan House of Representatives; RE: Support for the Township Board to approve the resolution to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission regarding use of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to support the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Clarke Anderson, A.J. Boggs & Company, 4660 S. Hagadorn road, Suite 290, East Lansing; RE: Support for development of the BRT

Lyle Marshall, 2134 Lagoon Drive, Okemos; RE: Request for an amendment to the Vegetation Ordinance relative to the language "within 75 feet of a structure"

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 Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 208,996.85
Public Works	\$ 157,235.82
Retainage	
Ck #2003-J Rank/Wildwood Lift Station	1,003.85
Total Checks	\$ 367,236.52
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 9,571.44
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 376,807.96</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 381,668.14</u>

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

A. Rezoning #15010 (Forsberg Family, LLC) – Rezoning Request for Approximately 39.46 Acres – **Final Adoption**

Trustee Scales 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. 2015-05, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15010” from I (Industrial), PO (Professional and Office), RR (Rural Residential) and C-2 (Commercial) to C-2 (Commercial) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting development to a mixed use planned unit development with a restriction of not more than 18 units per acre as allowed under the density bonus provisions in the ordinance.

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 Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Appreciation for the applicant's use of the concept plan to solicit comments from the Board
- Appreciation to the applicant for listening to and acting upon concerns from both the Board and the neighbors
- Redevelopment plans for a degraded site
- Good location for a large apartment complex
- RC zoning category allows 14 units per acre and is the appropriate designation for a large apartment complex
- Board member belief C-2 is not the appropriate zoning for this project
- Drainage issues underneath Jolly Road are not due to the proposed development
- Proposed fitness center will be open to the public at large

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

B. Preliminary Plat #03012 (Sierra Ridge) Plat Extension

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby grants the extension of Preliminary Plat #03012, Sierra Ridge Estates, for a period of two years, from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2017, with the following condition:

All previous conditions placed on the preliminary plat approval shall remain in effect.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board and applicant discussion:

- Sales are improving and nearly all lots in Phase II have been sold
- Commencement of Phase 3, which contains 20 lots, is in process
- Applicant is currently working through some issues for Phase 3 with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) and the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD)
- Board member belief the extension is for the remaining 50 of the original 99 lots
- Seven (7) foot pedestrian/bicycle pathway along Lake Lasing Road was constructed as part of Phase 1
- Planning Commission granted variances from the subdivision standards when the preliminary plat was approved in July, 2003
- House noted in condition #22 of the original preliminary plat has been removed
- Board member belief the language contained within the conditions of the July, 2003 preliminary plat approval should be updated, deleting conditions which have already been met
- An edge drain is located behind the curb in anticipation of handling additional storm water and to extend the life of the road
- An edge drain may be used in an area where there is a high water table or poor draining soils
- Board member inquiry if there is a greenways connection from the subject property to the property on Towner Road recently acquired by the township park system as noted in condition #25
- Applicant response that he has not developed a greenways connection as required in condition #25 of the original preliminary plat approval
- Applicant does not believe the subject land connects to the Towner Road property recently acquired by the Township park system
- Staff to verify if the subject land is directly adjacent to the Towner Road property recently acquired by the Township park system

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend condition #25 of PP #13012 by deleting "if the property is acquired by the township park system." and insert "Township" before "property on Towner Road"

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Continued Board and applicant discussion:

- Township process of taking the original preliminary plat and approving an extension which is subject to all existing conditions delineated in the original preliminary plat approval
- Confidence in the planning staff that it will ensure all conditions of the original preliminary plat approval are met by the developer
- Township Board as the interface to determine if there are changing conditions and that those conditions are being met each time a plat extension comes before it
- Suggestion to review with the township attorney the concept of revising conditions of the original preliminary plat approval
- Board member belief extending a preliminary plat which had previously been approved requires that any conditions originally included are still required and those conditions which have been met have been completed
- Another option available to the Board is to deny the extension and start the process over
- Staff memo indicates the Township Board has an option to approve the extension with modifications
- Board member request to eliminate only the first sentence in condition #9
- Benefit of maintaining the original preliminary plat language as approved in 2003 for historical purposes
- Board member suggestion to delineate any changes to the original preliminary plat approval conditions in condition #1 of the subject resolution of extension
- Board member belief the conditions which have been completed should be removed from the conditions contained in the 2003 preliminary plat approval
- Staff need to review all conditions prior to having the tentative and final plat approval come before the Board in the future

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
Motion failed 3-4.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

- C. **Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program FY 2015 Competitive Grant**
Trustee Veenstra moved to authorize the Police Department, in conjunction with the East Lansing Police, to apply for grant funds for body-worn cameras through the U.S. Department of Justice Body-worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program Competitive Grant, with a required fifty percent match not to exceed \$25,000 coming from the General Fund fund balance. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board and staff discussion:

- Video of the event as testimony to what actually happened
- Public services conversation during the Master Plan Public Input Forum dealt with the suggestion of Meridian Township police personnel wearing body cameras
- Grant also covers the cost of policy implementation and training
- Various costs for body cameras
- Video storage is not included in the grant
- Vendor being considered is the same vendor which currently provides the Police Department with its in-car camera system and the current storage would suffice for body camera storage
- Policy will address the Freedom of Information (FOI) portion of the body camera video

- House Bill 4234 has been introduced which outlines exemptions for police worn body camera videos in places of privacy
- Vendor being considered by Meridian Township has a price range for body cameras between \$400-\$500 per unit dependent upon features and storage

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

With permission from the Board, Lt. Plaga offered an update on the CWD deer culling program in Meridian Township with assistance and direction from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff.

Board and staff discussion:

- Several properties in Meridian Township have been identified by the DNR as locations to which it would like to have access to cull deer which will then be tested for CWD
- Several private land owners have also offered access to their land to cull deer
- Four highly trained sharpshooters may begin the culling process tomorrow
- Sharpshooters will use suppressed rifles for noise control
- Collection of deer will determine how widespread the disease has become
- Reduction of the herd size diminishes deer-to-deer contact, one of the ways in which CWD spreads
- Police personnel working with this issue will contact the emergency dispatch center and conservations officers to alert them as to the sharpshooters location(s) and duration of time
- Culling typically will take place the last two (2) hours of light and the first three (3) hours of darkness to optimize on herd movement
- Police personnel are working on a process of turning deer carcasses as a result of deer-car accidents over to the DNR for testing
- Police personnel will assist wildlife biologists in removing injured or killed deer in high traffic areas
- Police personnel will assist biologists by putting down deer who are displaying symptoms of CWD
- DNR will not be harvesting the meat from the culled deer, as they will not be field dressed prior to testing
- Board member inquiry regarding refrigeration for subsequent donation of venison to the food bank
- Sheriff's Department has been involved in the process since there are 11 Townships involved
- CWD was detected through report of a sick deer from a Haslett resident
- 22 other states have deer suffering from CWD

D. Refinancing of Bonds for Towar Snell and Towar Gardens Drains

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. **The Supervisor, the Township Manager, the Clerk and the Treasurer of the Township, or any one or more of them (the "Authorized Officer"), are authorized to participate in the preparation of preliminary official statements and final official statements for the Refunding Bonds and to sign such documents and give any approvals necessary therefor.**

2. **The Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to execute certificates of the Township to comply with the continuing disclosure undertakings of the Township with respect to the Refunding Bonds pursuant to paragraph (b)(5) of SEC Rule 15c2-12 issued under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and amendments to such certificates from time to time in accordance with the terms of such certificates in such form as the Authorized Officer shall approve, and the Authorized Officer is hereby authorized and directed to sign the disclosure certificates.**
3. **The Authorized Officer is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or desirable for the issuance of the Refunding Bonds and to execute any documents or certificates necessary to complete the issuance of the Refunding Bonds.**
4. **All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby rescinded to the extent of the conflict.**
Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Roger Swets, Dickinson Wright, 200 Ottawa Ave., N.W., Suite 1000, Grand Rapids, addressed the significant projected savings of the two drainage districts. He indicated his firm is acting as bond counsel for the issuance of bonds by the two drainage districts. Mr. Swets noted federal law states where a municipality has at least 10% responsibility for payment of a bond issue, then the issuer of the bonds (i.e., drainage districts) must obtain agreement of the municipality through "disclosure in an official statement" and then provide annual updates to that continued disclosure. He noted he has worked with Township bond counsel to ensure there are no additional responsibilities placed on the Township to provide new agreements which mirror the existing obligations.

Board and bond counsel discussion:

- Township will save approximately \$186,000
- Residents will also realize savings through smaller assessments
- Principal owed for Towar Gardens is \$4.397 million; Towar Snell is \$1.25 million
- New bond issues will be lower because of prepayments on the special assessments
- Fund balance being held by Ingham County until the call date which allows for refinancing
- Refinancing could not occur for a ten (10) year period
- If the new bond issue saves 2-3% of the present value savings, it is deemed appropriate from a financial perspective
- Amount of savings is 7.34% & 8.03% of present value of the outstanding debt service
- Availability of new bonds for purchase by local investors
- Bonds are being sold through a negotiated sale to Fifth Third Securities
- Interested parties could contact Fifth Third Securities
- Appreciation for Mr. Swets continued service to Meridian Township

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

13. **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered grammatical critique on the proposed Investment Policy. He expressed support for the proposed Okemos Road redevelopment project.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. **Okemos Road Redevelopment**

Chris Buck, 2642 Loon Drive, Okemos, Chair of the Economic Development Corporation, summarized the proposed Okemos Road redevelopment project as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 27, 2015.

Board discussion:

- All three projects for this property would have served the Township well
- Board member appreciation for the proposed owner's successful restaurants throughout Michigan
- Size of the proposed project is a good fit for the downtown Okemos village area
- Board member appreciation for the reuse of the existing MARC building
- Concept plan is forward thinking and true mixed use
- Mixed use above parking maximizes use of the land and frees up green space
- Location of the outdoor seating needs to be a reasonable distance from Okemos Road

Without objection, this item will be placed on the June 16, 2015 agenda for action.

[Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 8:01 P.M.]

[Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 8:09 P.M.]

[Treasurer Brixie reentered the room at 8:10 P.M.]

B. Investment Policy

Treasurer Brixie summarized the proposed amendment of Investment Policy as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 27, 2015.

[Trustee Wilson reentered the room at 8:11 P.M.]

Board discussion:

- Township Board approved the current Investment Policy in 2009
- Past practice of the Township has been not to invest in commercial paper or repurchase agreements although allowed under state law, so that language is being recommended for removal from the Township's investment policy
- Language of the proposed investment policy was taken directly from state law
- Safety of the principal is the number one objective of the investment policy as delineated in state law
- 512 banks have failed during the current Treasurer's tenure

Without objection, this item will be placed on the June 16, 2015 agenda for action.

C. Northwind Drive Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Concept Plan

Director Kieselbach highlighted the location of the Northwind Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) as shown in the staff memorandum.

Ron Calhoun, 1427 W. Saginaw, East Lansing, summarized revisions to the MUPUD concept plan as attached to staff memorandum dated May 28, 2015.

Board and applicant discussion:

- Percentage of impervious surface with the current use and proposed use have not yet been calculated
- One of the current buildings will be eliminated which will increase pervious surface
- Number of parking spaces is now calculated at 323 spaces
- Property is a good location for student housing
- Developer will meet the Township's building and fire safety codes
- Building materials will constitute a combination of metal studs, wood studs, concrete and steel structure
- Board member appreciation the developer listened to the Board's previous comments and brought back an altered concept plan
- Board member appreciation for the greenspace at the front of the development
- Fire rated separation between floors will be required for safety reasons

- Staff will research whether sprinkling within the building is required for the proposed number of floors (3)
- Board member appreciation for removal of the drive through bank
- Suggestion to pull the sidewalk back from the road for pedestrian comfort and to make the street more inviting
- Suggestion for possible use of the building next door as a feature in the base and placing the buildings south of it and elevate it so it looks like and mixed use building
- First floor apartments on that side would not have windows on the north side
- Buildings need to relate to other spaces around it to create an interior streetscape inside the site
- New foundations would be laid using the existing footprint
- Providing diversity of housing as a regional goal
- Configuration of the units does not lend itself to a diversity in population
- Concept plan shows two, three and four bedroom units
- Student housing currently exists to the west and south
- Current senior housing project to the southeast
- Board member reaffirmation that the concept plan process is a good one which saves the developer money in the long run
- Concern with previous Board member comment apologizing for the Township's ordinance which allows use of a development tool which provides for changes
- Preference for the location of covered bicycle parking to be either in the building or next to the building
- Board member suggestion for the applicant to provide bicycle lockers
- Trash and recycling conveniently located for each building
- Applicant more than meets the parking requirements
- Request for the Board to hold a formal discussion on the amount of apartments in the Township
- Use of the existing building footprints allows the applicant to use the current drainage system
- Possible reduction in parking to provide more greenspace
- Suggestion to use pervious material in some of the parking areas

The Township Board provided additional feedback on the proposed plan.

D. 2015 Township Citizen Survey

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Perry summarized the proposed 2015 Citizen Survey for the Township as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 2, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Inquiry if any Michigan survey companies were considered
- Use of this survey model allows for the Township to benchmark itself and other communities
- Use of standardized questions allows for comparison to prior years
- Suggestion regarding issuing debt for pension obligation as a custom question
- Custom question regarding the ratio of apartments to single family homes
- 1,400 surveys are randomly mailed to residents
- Low response rate (20%) presents a biased view as only the residents with the strongest opinions will respond
- Questions are not specific enough and the national benchmarking is not really useful as it does not impact public policy making
- Civic engagement in Meridian Township is lower than the national average and has decreased over the last several surveys
- Board member belief the space allowed for up to four (4) custom questions is not adequate to obtain information which can be quantified and relevant to making public policy
- Suggestion for a detailed relevant survey developed by Meridian Township which would include social media in the mix of mediums used
- Careful wording of surveys by professional companies are scientific and prevent biased responses
- Good policy decisions can be made by extrapolating data from responses received to the same questions over the last four (4) surveys

- Social media can be used to encourage a larger response rate
- One way to increase response rates is to offer something in return
- Trends are established by reviewing responses to the same questions over the last several surveys
- Communications Department is not adequately staffed to conduct a survey
- Survey performed in the summer would give a biased response
- Survey should be sent the same time of the year as the previous surveys
- Board member request for a compilation of results from each of the last (4) surveys prior to moving forward
- Current company provides graphs which show trends

Without objection, this item will be placed on the June 16th agenda for continued discussion.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed appreciation for the new Okemos Road Pedestrian Pathway Bridge. He also expressed appreciation for the mowing of the Interurban Pathway, requesting the cables be put back in place to prohibit vehicular access. He addressed the need for greater accuracy in Township publications.

Manager Walsh added there was a serious safety issue surrounding the use of cables for a bicyclist on one of the Township's pathways and the Township's risk management company has requested an alternative for bicyclist safety.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, in referencing the Township Treasurer's Investment Policy, requested the Township produce documents which are grammatically correct. He voiced appreciation that tall buildings along Grand River Avenue are set back from the road. Mr. Bowlby offered comments and suggestions relative to the Citizen Survey.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Scales noted he is wearing orange today in support of National Anti-Gun Violence Day.

Trustee Veenstra believed it useful to know what time of year the previous surveys were conducted and select the time of year when the greatest percentage of the community will be in residence.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the Haslett Memorial Day ceremony conducted by the American Legion. She requested her colleague provide the Board with an electronic copy of MDOT's 2014-2018 Transportation Plan which he quoted several times during the meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary