

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, October 15, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser, Economic Development Director Buck, Communications Director Guthrie, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. PRESENTATIONS

A. MSU Solar Project-Wolfgang Bauer, Associate Vice President for Administrative Services – Absent

B. Introduction of New Police Officer – Cancelled

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:03 pm.

Amber Clark, 1348 Bayshore Drive, Haslett; requested approval of her appointment to Township Planning Commission.

Kelly Rogers, 2974 Briarcliff Street, East Lansing; spoke on Rezoning #19080, supports rezoning to Professional/Office (PO), opposed to Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD).

Dave Rogers, 2924 Briarcliff, Okemos; Supports PO zoning but not a Mixed Use Planned Unit Development; traffic study needs revision due to analysis based on only office buildings on site.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:11 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager spoke on Bennet Road rezoning, bond sale for road improvement on October 29, Meridian hosted new MSU President Stanley at breakfast meeting, union contract negotiations with five of seven bargaining units, Brownfield Authority meets Oct 17 to discuss Elevation Apartments Brownfield request and the Village of Okemos development.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended Oct. 3 EDC meeting.
- Facilitated second consumer education seminar Oct. 8 sponsored by Attorney General.
- Attended ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 8 for new Senior Center outdoor plaza.
- Staff training on Brownfield Redevelopment reporting of tax capture, and filing reports.
- Attending Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association conference Oct. 13-15, was updated on new Tax Increment Financing reporting requirements.

Trustee Sundland:

- Attended Oct. 2 Communications Commission meeting, discussed Township policy changes in Township Communications Department.
- Noted change in policy – including cable franchise fees now going directly into Township General Fund, and putting together a subcommittee to update policies.
- Attended EDC meeting on October 3.

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Attended ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 8 for new Senior Center outdoor plaza. Great resource to partner with, Clerk's Office uses Senior Center as an election polling location and for recruiting election inspectors.

Trustee Opsommer:

- CATA Board Policy Committee met to discuss draft advertising policy. Lower third of the bus could have advertising, internal advertising inside the bus, and ads on tickets.
- Transfer tickets in university towns often advertise local restaurants.
- Bus station advertising in downtown E. Lansing, concealed from motorist view in order to prevent distractions.
- Stated that more shelters create placemaking and improves ridership experience.
- Bus station cost paid for by advertising vendor. Need to look at right of way issues.
- Estimate of 1.5 million in annual revenue.
- Attended Meridian breakfast with MSU President Stanley October 11.

Supervisor Styka:

- Attended Oct 17 Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Okemos project anticipated coming to fruition. DDA recommended membership appointment before Board.

Motion carried 7-0

C. Bills

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Common Cash	\$ 257,352.28
Public Works	\$ 60,409.51
Trust & Agency	\$ 171,924.42

	Total Checks	\$ 489,686.21
Credit Card Transactions		\$ 12,027.11
Sept. 26 - Oct. 9		
	Total Purchases	\$ <u>501,713.32</u>
ACH Payments		\$ <u>793,562.17</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

D. Ratification of New Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

Clerk Dreyfus moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Kelsi Gemalsky to Part-Time Paramedic.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

E. Resolution for Fire Prevention Month

Clerk Dreyfus moved that Meridian Township does hereby proclaim October, 2019 as Fire Prevention Month. Further, we urge every resident to be aware of their surroundings, look for available ways out in the event of a fire or other emergency, respond when the smoke alarm sounds by exiting the building immediately, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the Meridian Township Fire Department during Fire Prevention Month 2019.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Tentative Preliminary Plat #19012 (Giguere Homes)

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt resolution approving Tentative Preliminary Plat #19012, a seven lot subdivision (Sanctuary 3) located on the north side of Robins Way, east of Hulett Road. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

Board discussion: Conditions offered by the applicant include two additional 10-foot wide tree buffer areas on Lots 3, a portion of Lot 4, and Lot 5, planting seven 16 ft Spruce trees within the 10 foot tree buffer area on Lot 4.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments

Amendments to the 2019 General Fund include tax revenue increases, revenue from Medical Marihuana Fees, Local Revenue Sharing, recycling revenue, and Interest totaling \$462,900. Larger expenditures include street lights, contractual services, Fire Dept overtime, and capital outlays totaling \$200,400.

Treasurer Deschaine moved approve the 3rd QUARTER 2019 BUDGET AMENDMENTS with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the general fund in the amount of \$262,500 which projects a use of fund balance of \$336,360. Based on the results of the 2018 audited financials, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2019 be will be \$7,624,937. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Wisinski, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Public Comment Policies

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the Public Comment Policies as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

D. Franchise Fees – **Final Adoption**

Trustee Jackson moved the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-15 pursuant to the amendment of Section 70-28(c)(7) of the Cable Television ordinance eliminating the requirement that 80 percent of franchise fees be allocated to the Cable Television fund. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Opsommer, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

E. DDA Appointment

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka of Thomas Stanko to the Downtown Development Authority for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2022. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: candidate qualifications, well-suited for appointment, represents geographic diversity since he does not reside within DDA boundaries.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Wisinski, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

F. Planning Commission Appointment

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka of Amber Clark to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term ending December 31, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Board discussion: Trustees Jackson and Sundland met nominee at conference and suggested she applying for Planning Commission (PC) opening.

Board member appreciation for nominee coming to Board meeting and introducing herself, question about existing vacancy on PC and criteria for nomination, Supervisor response that he seeks geographic diversity – Haslett resident sought due to high level of Okemos representation, also seeking gender and race diversity, commended nominee’s background.

Clerk Dreyfus stated concerns about the length of term of appointment and whether it is permissible; PC appointments are set by State law for 3 years and this PC appointment is for 3 years and 2 months. Supervisor stated Board goal to have all appointments expire at end of year, with only 2 months till end of year PC appointment made sense, same situation with DDA having new member appointed for 3 years and 2 months. Clerk stated he would look into issue of term of appointment exceeding timeframe set by State law, Supervisor stated we can fix it later if necessary.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Wisinski, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Okemos Road Bridge Replacement

Director Perry noted that at the September 17, 2019 meeting, the Township Board was presented with a recommendation from the Transportation Commission on a “preferred alternative” for the Okemos Road Bridge Replacement project over the Red Cedar River.

Kelly Jones, Director of Engineering, Ingham County Road Department, explained that the Preferred Alternative is a single bridge option replacing the two existing bridges.

Board discussion: 4 alternatives for replacing Okemos Road bridge, description/history of preferred alternative, analysis of two bridge design vs. one bridge, 2 bridge option provides more greenspace and visual appeal for drivers headed north into redeveloped downtown Okemos, higher costs include potential property acquisition, one bridge option viewed as safer for turning into Ferguson Park, concerns regarding bridge options and impact on pedestrians crossing underneath the Okemos Rd bridge, bridge options and impact on greenspace, traffic safety issues regarding deceleration lane, turn lanes, lane tapering, road elevation / grading, traffic speed, guard rails. Environmental Assessment (EA) process and funding / timeline implications, concerns about rushing through decision-making process.

Request for staff to contact Ingham County and others to provide the Board with additional information regarding issues raised during discussion.

Board consensus to place this item on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

B. Ordinance Prohibiting Animal Sales at Pet Stores

Director Kieselbach stated that staff has visited pet stores located in the Township, none sell dogs or cats for profit, they partner with local pet rescues, humane societies, and adoption events. Ordinances prohibiting animal sales at pet stores have been adopted nationwide. The majority of ordinances reviewed follow the sample ordinance provided by The Humane Society. Staff prepared a draft ordinance for the Board's consideration.

Board consensus reiterated that the primary issue is to address overpopulation, and improve humane treatment of pets, and more information is needed to know if all retail stores use pet mills to get their puppies and kittens.

Board consensus to place this item on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

C. Trash Receptacle Ordinance

Staff has prepared draft ordinance language which mirrors the one adopted by the City of St. Joseph. The ordinance prohibits trash and recycling receptacles from being placed at the curb no earlier than 5:00 p.m. the day preceding the scheduled collection day and requires retrieval of receptacles no later than 10:00 a.m. the day following the scheduled collection day. It also requires receptacles to be stored either indoors or in a side or rear yard.

Board discussion: Supervisor Styka suggested changing the timeframes to noon the day preceding collection until 1 pm the day after to accommodate people with unusual working hours, Board Member example: Tuesday morning for a garbage pickup, receptacles can be placed at curb on Monday at noon, and can be retrieved by noon on Wednesday.

Board consensus to place this item on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

D. Amendment to Truck Route Ordinance for Hamilton Road

The Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) requested the Township amend its truck route ordinance which currently designates Hamilton Road from Okemos Road to Marsh Road a truck route. The Okemos / Hamilton intersection is being redesigned due to Okemos development project, ICRD proposing an amendment to prohibit trucks on eastbound Hamilton Road between Okemos and Marsh Road. Meridian Township Transportation Commission recommended approval of the ordinance amendment.

Board discussion: Board member belief that prohibiting trucks would be a minor impact due to majority of trucks using road are Meijer-based, access still available but have to go around Hamilton.

Board consensus to place this item on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

E. Update to Land Division Ordinance

The State Land Division Act, Section 109, has recently been amended. To remain consistent with the Act staff has drafted an update to the Township Land Division Ordinance. Changes involve additional criteria that needs to be considered by the Township in order to proceed: All property taxes and special assessments due on the parcel or tract subject to the proposed division for the five years preceding the date of the application had been paid; or, if property taxes or special assessments due on the parcel or tract subject to the proposed division have not been paid, the unpaid property taxes or special assessments have been apportioned by the Township Assessor as provided by the General Property Tax Act.

Board consensus to place this item up for action at the next Board meeting.

F. Newton Road Sanitary Sewer SAD #54

Director Perry stated the Township Board adopted a resolution on June 18, 2019 which approved the extension of sanitary sewer along a section of Newton Road north of Lake Lansing Road, approved the plans and cost estimate, established Special Assessment District (SAD) #54 to fund the project, and directed an assessment roll be made. Property owners in the SAD were proposing a 15-year payback district with an annual 5% interest.

Board discussion: typical length of time for a SAD, good idea to discuss details with property owners and get their support first, need for consensus from the Board to move forward, no action needed at this time.

Board consensus to place this item up for action at a future Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:43 pm.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:43 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus noted that there is no General Election in Meridian Township on Tuesday, November 5, so Supervisor Styka recommended the Board amend the Board meeting schedule and change the date of the Board meeting from Thursday, November 7th back to the regular date of Tuesday, November 5th.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to change the date of the Regular Board Meeting from Thursday, November 7, 2019 to Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Trustee Jackson asked Fire Chief Hamel if the information in the Fire Prevention Month Resolution could be disseminated to the community, he said he could put out a press release.

Trustee Opsommer noted CATA Board of Directors approved putting the CATA operating mileage renewal on the Meridian Township ballot for the March 10th Presidential Primary election. 5 year millage period, beginning with December tax bill 2021 – 2025.

Treasurer Deschaine stated the October 24 Transportation Commission meeting was canceled. Appreciative of MSU President presenting to Township stakeholders.

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK