

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra  
ABSENT: Trustee Wilson  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Finance Director Miriam Mattison, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx

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. PRESENTATION

A. Officer Brian Canen-Ingham County Courthouse

Police Chief Hall bestowed a citation for valor to Officer Brian Canen for his heroism at the Ingham County Courthouse on August 2, 2016. Lisa McCormick, Ingham County Chief Assistant Prosecutor, explained the circumstances which took place at the courthouse where Officer Canen's life-saving action on behalf of Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Roth transpired.

Trustee Scales presented Officer Canen with a proclamation of honor from the Township Board for his actions during the August 2, 2016 incident at the Ingham County Courthouse.

B. Water Boil Advisory-Overview

Clyde Dugan, Operations Manager, East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA), 2470 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, highlighted the events which led to the water boil advisory set in place from Friday, August 5, 2016 to Sunday, August 7, 2016. He indicated two (2) rounds of water samples taken every 24 hours showed negative for bacteria and the advisory was lifted. Mr. Dugan noted two operators must now be present to perform filter backwashes, modifications are proposed to filter controls to provide interlock protection and recommendations will be presented to the ELMWSA Board for a closed-cycle backwash recovery system as well as a second two (2) million clear-well reservoir as an alternate water source.

[Prepared statement in Official Minute Book]

Treasurer Brixie inquired as to the time lapse from the incident's occurrence to issuance of the advisory.

Mr. Dugan replied the original incident happened at 2:58 A.M. and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) needed to be notified within 24 hours, which actually occurred at 8:35 A.M. The MDEQ recommended the ELMWSA send out the boil water advisory which was ultimately issued at 11:35 A.M.

Treasurer Brixie inquired about any emergency communication system in place for the MDEQ to have made a decision earlier in the process.

Mr. Dugan explained under federal regulations, this specific incident is considered a Tier 2 public notification (no imminent threat against public health) which allows up to 24 hours for notification to the MDEQ.

Treasurer Brixie asked if the lower level of alert was due to the science behind the time it takes for the bacteria to grow and multiply in the system.

Mr. Dugan responded it is a lower alert level because the risk of contamination is very low and the ELMWSA maintains multiple barriers in its treatment process against microbial contamination. He added the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers the risk to be low in an incident of this nature.

Trustee Scales asked if the ELMWSA has a procedure for who notifies the MDEQ.

Mr. Dugan responded MDEQ notification is the responsibility of the operator in charge which would be him.

Trustee Scales inquired as to how long it took for him to be notified by his employees.

Mr. Dugan responded he was notified at approximately 5:30 A.M., at which time he implemented ELMWSA's emergency response plan and the surface water treatment rule requirements on the appropriate response for this event.

Trustee Scales suggested ELMWSA reevaluate its procedures relative to the time lapse between the original "mistake" and when the appropriate party notifies MDEQ. He suggested ELMWSA procedures allow a person on site to notify MDEQ as soon as there is an awareness in order for the process to commence more quickly.

Trustee Styka voiced appreciation for the systems put in place to prevent another such occurrence in the future. He expressed concern with the length of time between the original occurrence and notification to Mr. Dugan by the operator who made the "mistake."

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering expressed appreciation for Mr. Dugan's experience at the Township's water treatment plant.

Treasurer Brixie expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Communications Department and others involved in notifying Meridian citizens of the water boil advisory.

Township Manager Walsh publicly voiced his appreciation to Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry for his efforts the weekend before last to deal with the water boil advisory issue.

## 5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Erik Lindquist, 4436 Copper Hill Drive, Okemos stated he is the only experienced and qualified financial professional running for the position of Township Treasurer in the November Election. He highlighted his experience in the accounting field over the last 34 years. Mr. Lindquist alleged Treasurer Brixie has mismanaged the Treasurer's office by not ensuring that cash reserves have been invested appropriately, pension liabilities have been adequately funded and all taxpayers are treated equitably and fairly in payment of their taxes. If elected, he promised to bring the highest ethical standards of his profession to the position by investing wisely, spend prudently and protect the future of the police and firefighters pension.

Ken Lane, 540 Juneberry Lane, Okemos, thanked the Board for their consideration of him as a candidate for the vacant Planning Commission position. He noted he has been an attorney who practiced municipal law throughout his career, much of which dealt with planning and zoning issues.

Cecilia Kramer, 4560 Oakwood, Okemos, expressed appreciation to the police and fire department for the National Night Out Event. She noted that while she was appreciative of the email alerts regarding the Water Boil Advisory, she voiced concern procedures were not already in place for this type of occurrence. Ms. Kramer noted the rust shown on the top of the tanks which hold the Township's drinking water, and requested an investigation be conducted to ascertain if any of the rust on the containment units has permeated into the drinking water held in the tank.

[Prepared statement in Official Minute Book]

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered statistics on the number of riders along Route 1. Factoring in weekends and the summer session of MSU, he challenged the 1.7 million ridership calculation used by Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) for that route. He spoke to the excellent qualifications of Mr. Lindquist to serve as the next Township Treasurer.

Rhonda Bueche, 4126 Leeward Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to making the CATA Board appointment at tonight's meeting, as the public has not had an adequate amount of time to "receive" candidates for this position. She alleged that despite many requests by the public for transparency in funding allocated for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System, nothing has been forthcoming from CATA.

Patty McPhee, 5275 Thames Drive, Okemos, requested a postponement of the CATA Board appointment scheduled for tonight's meeting. She indicated there is a lot of controversy surrounding the BRT and believed CATA is not listening to Meridian residents when they have spoken regarding the flawed BRT system.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, spoke in support of Erik Lindquist as the Township's next Treasurer. He believed it would be insensitive to rush into a CATA Board appointment at tonight's meeting. Mr. Norkin indicated someone from the disabled community should be considered for appointment.

Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing, announced her continued interest in being appointed to the CATA Board as she is "tired" of people who don't ride the bus making decisions for bus riders. If elected, she believed she would be the only Board member who currently uses all three (3) CATA services: Redi-Ride, Spec Tran and the regular bus. Ms. Rose alleged today's CATA community conversation meeting was an insult to the intelligence of its attendees. Ms. Rose requested the Board postpone its decision on an appointment to the CATA Board.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

## 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- 2017 draft budget will be delivered to the Board on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Budget will be discussed during the Board meetings of September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Brownfield portion of the Okemos Pointe development will be before the Board on September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Local roads plan is underway, with completion scheduled for the end of September
- Ardmore will not be paved this year, due to an existing sewer issue
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> ribbon cutting for Wonch Park at noon
- Next Meridian leadership meeting will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 A.M. and Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon will be the guest speaker

## 7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

### A. Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Treasurer Brixie reported on delinquent personal property tax collection totals for tax years 2011-2015, 2016 total tax year collections as of August 10, 2016, 2016 tax year distribution totals as of July 29, 2016, and current fixed maturity investments and non-fixed investments as of July 31, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Quarterly report is for the third quarter
- Treasury staff must work with a combination of time frames for the different statements, the tax year and the calendar year
- "Quarterly reports" are presented to the Board four times a year but do not mimic the quarters of a calendar year
- Board member concern the current non-fixed investments show over \$1 million invested in accounts which yield only a .2% return
- Low rate of return results in less money for other needs
- Other countries (e.g., Germany) have citizens accepting negative interest rates for banks to keep their money
- Number one investment policy priority approved by the Board is safety and security of Township assets

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the BRT community conversation outreach this afternoon, expressing disappointment with how the meeting was handled. He believed CATA should have been prepared to answer the top ten (10) questions asked by the public over the last five (5) to six (6) months. Clerk Dreyfus indicated the citizen sentiment at that meeting was one of complete frustration.

Trustee Scales also reported his attendance at the BRT community conversation and was "underwhelmed". He announced the August 18<sup>th</sup> Redi-Ride Review Committee (RRRC) meeting has been cancelled and urged the Board to create a Transportation Commission and make appointments for a term of two (2) years.

Trustee Styka reported his attendance at the BRT community conversation and was dismayed with the meeting's structure. He believed the experts which were brought in should have been prepared to offer responses to the most pressing questions which have been regularly repeated over the last several months. Trustee Styka expressed his desire to have CATA prepare proposals to present to the Board.

Trustee Veenstra believed CATA hosting a second BRT community conversation at the same time as tonight’s Township Board meeting was poor scheduling. He addressed the data presented by Mr. Bowlby which alleged CATA inflated ridership numbers it submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in an attempt to secure a grant.

Trustee Styka reported he met with Director Perry and representatives from Consumers Energy regarding the LED streetlights along Okemos Road which have not been lighting properly for quite some time.

Treasurer Brixie reported the Township held an employee appreciation event last week where employees were treated to a Lugnut game, voicing her thanks to Manager Walsh.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

- **Move Agenda Item #12C to Agenda Item #13B**

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustee Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 ON THE AMENDMENT: NAYS: Trustee Scales  
 Motion carried 5-1.

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

**Trustee Veenstra requested Agenda #9D: Communications Commission Appointment be moved to Agenda Item #12E.**

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Bobbie Margolis, 36 Monarch Lane, Okemos; RE: Smear Campaign
- BI-2 Brenda Henige, 6247 Endenhall Way, Apt. 11, East Lansing; RE: Meridian Redi-Ride
- BI-3 Ciney Rich, 5538 Silverleaf Court, Haslett; RE: Condition of 1211 Teakwood Circle
- BI-4 Beth Boyce, 200 Friendship Circle, Apt. 220, Lansing; RE: Special Meeting/BRT
- BI-5 Kathy DeVito, 470 Chimney Oaks Drive, Okemos; RE: Disappointing dirty politics
- BI-6 Christina Jones, Bickford Senior Living and Memory Care, 3830 Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: CATA

- BI-7 Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Court, Haslett; RE: Water/CATA Transportation
  - BI-8 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Bad Problem Solving
  - BI-9 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Bus Announcements Not Working
  - BI-10 Sandy Draggoo, CEO/Executive Director, Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Reply to Donna Rose regarding Main Street Bus Announcements
  - BI-11 Matt Johnson, 1124 Woodwind Trail, Haslett; RE: Lake Drive Resurfacing
  - BI-12 Rhonda Bueche, 4126 Leeward Drive, Okemos; RE: Citizens' Rights
- (2) Commission Linkage (CL)
- CL-1 Pat Cannon, 2700 Marfitt Road, #307, East Lansing; RE: Resignation from the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board effective August 4, 2016
  - CL-2 Holly Cordill, 1484 Forest Hills Drive, Okemos; RE: Resignation from the Planning Commission effective August 9, 2016
- (3) Regional Linkage (RL)
- RL-1 Treasurer Julie Brixie; RE: Notice of a special CATA Meeting Call
  - RL-2 Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann; RE: Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Day of Review of Apportionments for Sections of the Costigan Drain, Kierstead Drain, Sloan Creek Drain and the Whitehills Lakes Branch of the Remy Chandler Branch #5 Drain to be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2015 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM at the Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl, Mason
- (4) Staff Communications (SC)
- SC-1 Director Deborah Guthrie; RE: Comcast Press Release titled "Comcast and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Collaborate to close the Digital Divide for up to 2 million HUD-Assisted Households in Major Internet Essentials Program Expansion"
  - SC-2 Department of Community Planning and Development; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of August 5, 2016
- (5) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)
- Material submitted at the August 4, 2016 Board Meeting
- Doris Schwartz, 2209 Kent Street, Okemos; RE: Potential Meridian Township Vacant and Abandoned Property Registration Program
  - Deb Wiese, LAC Chair, 500 Woodingham, Apt. 19, East Lansing; RE: Letter in opposition to a ballot initiative to "remove" CATA as the transportation provider for Redi-Ride service

**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 Styka.**

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

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the August 4, 2016 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

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

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Common Cash                  | \$ 986,258.86              |
| Public Works                 | \$ 40,841.87               |
| Trust & Agency               | \$ 400,161.05              |
| <br>Total Checks             | <br>\$ 1,427,261.78        |
| <br>Credit Card Transactions | <br>\$ 8,122.88            |
| <br>Total Purchases          | <br><u>\$ 1,435,384.66</u> |
| <br>ACH Payments             | <br><u>\$ 372,396.62</u>   |

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

~~D. Communications Commission Appointment~~

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of either Thomas Deits or Lynn Hildebrandt for appointment to the Planning Commission vacancy.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, concurred with Mr. Provencher’s selection.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Ember Oaks Final Preliminary Plat

Director Kieselbach summarized the final preliminary plat as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 11, 2016.

**Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby approves Final Preliminary Plat #00012, Ember Oaks, for a period of two years, from August 16, 2016 to August 16, 2018, with the following condition:**

- 1. All previous conditions placed on the approvals of the final preliminary plat and preliminary plat extension approvals shall remain in effect.**

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Changes made to the plat since it was last before the Board based on Board comments
- Lot sizes are consistent with what was shown in the planned residential development (PRD)
- State and local land division ordinance mandates the Township has 20 days to accept the application once complete and submitted to the Township
- Applicant has not met with the neighbors to the east or south
- Applicant, his legal counsel and Trustee Scales met with a representative for the current residents of Ember Oaks and they were accepting of the proposed changes
- Ponderosa residents had issues with the connection at Forsberg Drive, so the Township worked with the ICRD and the County Board of Commissioners to abandon the road
- Once the Township grants the final preliminary plat, the engineering work can commence
- Under the PRD, the applicant can be reduce the current RR zoning to RAAA
- Board member belief Ember Oaks should pay the cost of paving the access from its boundary to Stagecoach Drive in the Ponderosa subdivision
- Map does not show a requirement for the pathway to be paved past the Ember Oaks boundary
- Pedestrian pathway was to be paved to the Ember Oaks boundary for school aged children to use
- Board member recollection this pathway was not to be paved as the Fire Department had determined they could turn their fire equipment around on Stagecoach Drive
- Board member preference for a pathway connection between the two (2) subdivisions
- Two flood zone areas on the map are within the 100 year floodplain
- Rolled curbs are an ICRD requirement to slow down traffic
- Pathway width will be ten (10) feet which connects the two subdivisions
- Pathway is labeled as an emergency access drive on the final preliminary plat plan
- Township needs to have an emergency access in the event the street is blocked off
- Ten foot width is the size of many of the Township’s pedestrian bicycle pathways
- Ponderosa subdivision already has two ingresses and egresses (Ponderosa as well as Bonanza), so there is no need for an emergency access
- Ember Oaks subdivision also has two ingresses and egresses

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:**

- **Amend the fourth WHEREAS clause by inserting “to be 1,950 feet” after “Wandering Way”**

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS: Trustee Scales

Motion carried 5-1.

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:**

- **Amend the fifth WHEREAS clause by inserting “to be 2,030 feet” after “Bandera Lane”**

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

**Treasurer Brixie moved to add condition 2 to read as follows:**

- 2. Replace the ten (10) foot wide emergency asphalt access shown on the plan with a seven (7) foot wide concrete pathway.**

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

MOTION: NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Discharge of Mortgage 5987 Martinus**

Treasurer Brixie summarized the discharge of mortgage for 5987 Martinus Street as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 16, 2016.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve discharging the Rental Property Rehabilitation Program Mortgage from 5987 Martinus Street, Haslett, MI 48840, Parcel #33-02-02-10-204-012. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Board discussion:

- There is not an issue of noncompliance with the requirements of the program for this parcel

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

~~C. CATA Board of Directors Representative~~

**D. Planning Commission Appointment**

**Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Ken Lane as a member of the Planning Commission to fill a vacancy for the term ending December 31, 2017. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board discussion:

- Under state law, appointment to the Planning Commission is made by the Supervisor and the Board can either approve or reject the applicant
- Candidate is a municipal attorney and well qualified to be a member of the Planning Commission

- Board member interest in having more diverse representation on the Planning Commission with the appointment of Samantha Baruah
- Possibility of additional appointments after the November General Election
- Mr. Lane has aptly served on the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Board member request for the new Supervisor to reappoint Thomas Deits if additional appointments become available at the end of the year

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

E. Communications Commission Appointment

**Trustee Styka moved to appoint Kevin Thatcher to the Communications Commission to fill a vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2017. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board discussion:

- Board member desire for Mr. Thatcher’s expertise to be used to implement Township wide wi-fi for residents

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

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Ahsan Sumbal, 900 Gulick Road, Okemos, stated he is agreeable with the Board’s desire to keep the frontage on Newton Road residential while rezoning the RD and PO parcels to commercial relative to his rezoning request.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, suggested either Thomas Malik or Erik Lindquist be appointed as the Township’s representative to the CATA Board of Directors.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, suggested the Township use outreach to make it known there is a vacancy on the CATA Board of Directors for the representative from Meridian Township. He requested the Board offer direction to the CATA representative that it mirror the Board’s viewpoint relative to transportation matters before CATA. Mr. Bowlby asked under what circumstances the Board has initiated rezonings in the past and inquired if the proposed rezoning request is consistent with the justification for the Board initiate rezonings. He asked if the Township would then become the applicant if it approved the proposed rezoning request and would include the condition previously agreed to by Mr. Sumbal. Absent some compelling reason, Mr. Bowlby believed the rezoning process should be handled in the same manner other residents have their property rezoned. He also requested final public remarks be allowed prior to the Board going into closed session.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Sumbal Rezoning Request

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 12, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Appreciation for the property owner's willingness to work with a Board request to retain the C-2 zoning designation along Saginaw Highway (M-78) and retain the RA designation along Newton Road
- Red lines on the map indicate the zoning boundaries
- Black lines on the map indicate the parcel boundaries
- RA zoning designation has a minimum lot width of 80 feet and the RA parcel is approximately 400 feet in width which would equate to five (5) lots
- Each of the lots would front along Newton Road
- Depth of the RA parcel is such that it would allow for single lots along Newton Road
- RD parcel: 3 acres at 8 units per acre for a total of 24 lots
- RD zoned parcel is land locked and would require road access either through the adjacent RA parcel or from the "back side"
- PO parcel: 2 acres with the potential of approximately 2,000 square feet of PO development with associated parking
- History of either the Board or the Planning Commission initiating rezoning requests usually stem from an error in the zoning map or changes to bring parcels into consistency with the Master Plan
- Subject rezoning is inconsistent with the current Master Plan
- Board member belief the Board is attempting "to do the work of the Planning Commission" without the benefit of all the information the Planning Commission has before it when it deliberates (i.e., Future Land Use Map, etc.)
- Board member statement the Township needs single family development for families to enroll children in our schools which would be eroded by this commercial and office rezoning
- Property owner has committed to a berm and a double row of conifers as buffer to the north of the property
- Board member belief the property owner should initiate the rezoning request
- Board member clarification that building residential whenever feasible to support schools is only one component involved in proper land use decisions as only 40% of Meridian Township residents have children enrolled in the school system
- Board member preference for this item to be placed on the September 6<sup>th</sup> agenda as an action item in order for the property owner to receive a definitive answer
- Board member belief it is appropriate for the Township to initiate a rezoning to correct a Township "mistake" which applies to this rezoning request
- Request does not meet the standard for a Board initiated rezoning

**It was the consensus of the Board not to initiate this rezoning request.**

B. CATA Board of Directors Representative

Board discussion:

- Preference to allow time for additional applicants to come forth
- Efforts by the Township to publicize the vacancy on the CATA Board
- Board member preference to appoint Donna Rose this evening as she uses three (3) types of public transportation and has had previous experience serving on a transit board in Ann Arbor
- Board member analysis the CATA Board does not ask enough questions and "rubber stamps" whatever staff wants
- Concern with the CATA Board adopting a \$52 million budget as a consent agenda item

- Ms. Rose submitted an application for public service via email
- Board member preference to make an appointment tonight which will end September 30, 2016 to have full representation at the next CATA Board meeting and then reappoint Ms. Rose or select another applicant
- Board member preference to make an appointment which ends September 30, 2019
- Board member concern with making an appointment which equates to attendance at one (1) CATA Board meeting

**Trustee Scales moved to suspend the rules. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Veenstra  
 NAYS: Trustee Styka, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 Motion failed 2-4.

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the September 6, 2016 Board meeting.**

**By unanimous consent, the Board chose to allow final public remarks as the next agenda item.**

**14. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Board enter into a closed session for the purpose of discussing strategy and direction in connection with the negotiation of our collective bargaining agreements. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

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

Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 9:20 P.M.

The Board adjourned to the upstairs conference room for a closed session.

**Trustee Scales moved to return to open session. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 10:39 P.M.

**15. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS**

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Way, East Lansing, objected to the application for public service not being computer “accessible” to all Meridian residents. She spoke to her disappointment with the BRT meeting held at the same time as the Board meeting this evening. Ms. Rose outlined her alternative ideas which she provided CATA (e.g., faster boarding times with new fare boxes which use a smart card system). She expressed disappointment there is not a better door-to door transportation service for Meridian residents who rely on public transit to be mobile.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, indicated Truscott and Rossman public relations firm was hired by CATA to provide a “venting session” which was afforded to residents this evening. He noted the one unanswered question asked by a member of the public was whether or not the BRT in Meridian Township was a “done deal.” Mr. Norkin voiced his frustration that despite all the effort made on the Redi-Ride Review Committee (RRRC), nothing moved in 18 months. He stated his desire that solutions be found for the community.

Ghulam Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos, highlighted the history of the property which was the subject of a rezoning on tonight’s agenda, noting the Planning Commission overwhelmingly approved it during one meeting.

Ahsan Sumbal, 900 Gulick Drive, Okemos, voiced disappointment with the treatment he has received over the circumstances regarding his rezoning request, noting how much of his time the Board wasted having him go through this process.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, thanked the Board for its recognition of Officer Canen. He believed the BRT plan as currently proposed is a “done deal,” but CATA must go through the entire federal process. He believed there is sufficient opportunity for residents and the Board to convey their sentiments on the BRT plan. Mr. Bowlby indicated the BRT is a bad idea for Meridian Township and there are simpler solutions to the identified transportation issues.

Mr. Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed CATA should provide answers to all the questions posed by the Meridian citizenry relative to the BRT project. He requested the Township Manager provide information to the public regarding the unfunded pension liability after contract negotiations conclude. He requested there be efforts made to communicate to all interested members of the public about the cancellation of the RRRC’s scheduled August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Jeff Neilson, 2450 Barnsbury, East Lansing, stated a different presentation concerning the BRT was given at the second CATA community conversation which took place during tonight’s Board meeting. He stated CATA is including the ridership which comes out of the MSU campus on Collingwood Road as part of the ridership for Route 1 and is a false number which was submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mr. Neilson stated the MSU campus ridership is a separate contract negotiated between Worldpac and CATA. He explained fire trucks with a 45 foot wheelbase need 82 feet to turn around, precluding the ability for them to turn around on Grand River and go back to a business which may need either ladder or hazmat rescue. Mr. Neilson alleged that if CATA falls short of the \$20 million being requested by the State of Michigan, they do not have to ask anyone for permission to take whatever portion of the \$35 million in its budget that is needed. He relayed that Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon told CATA in 2013 to take a more comprehensive and less aggressive approach to the BRT and now is in opposition to it as proposed. Mr. Neilson expressed the Board must do whatever it can to stop funding at the federal level.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

16. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT (None)

17. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Veenstra moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 10:40 P.M.

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ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary