

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES – **APPROVED**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
349-1200, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000 **6:00 P.M. — 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McCullough, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such
ABSENT: Trustee McGillicuddy
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Roger Buell, Police Chief Gary Gibbons, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Personnel Director/Assistant Manager Paul Brake, Attorney Brian Goodenough

1. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER

Supervisor McCullough called the Work Session to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. QUESTIONS FOR ATTORNEY (None)

DISCUSSION ON 7:00 AGENDA ITEM TOPICS

The following 7:00 p.m. agenda items were discussed:

- Placement of special comments from Board members in the minutes
- Corrections to minutes
- Resignation of Planning Commissioner
- Consent Agenda
- Alpine Holdings Special Use Permit request
- Establishment of Land Preservation Millage Task Force

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ingham County Park Board has announced entrance fees for parks; Ingham County Commission has not voted on this. Consensus of Township Board is to not support the effort to charge an entrance fee. This issue was added to the Treasurer's Report.

B. **Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the Township Board go into closed session to consider the purchase of real property pursuant to MSA § 4.1800(18)8(d).**

Motion **SECONDED** by Trustee **Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Treasurer Klunzinger, Clerk Helmbrecht,
Trustees Squiers, Such, Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None

Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

Supervisor McCullough recessed the Work Session at 6:25pm to go into Closed Session.

The Board adjourned to the Administrative Conference Room for a Closed Session.

Supervisor McCullough reconvened the Work Session at 6:50pm.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McCullough opened Public Remarks.

Albert E. Powis, 5673 N. Woodside Drive, Haslett; RE: Support for Richard "Dirk" Milliman for the open position on the Township Board.

Supervisor McCullough closed Public Remarks.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, WORK SESSION, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000*APPROVED*

6. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McCullough adjourned the Work Session at 6:55pm.

BILL Mc CULLOUGH
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Janis L. Haskell, Acting Secretary

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
349-1200, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000, **7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McCullough, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such
ABSENT: Trustee McGillicuddy
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Roger Buell, Police Chief Gary Gibbons, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Personnel Director/Assistant Manager Paul Brake, Attorney Brian Goodenough

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor McCullough called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION
 - a. Police Officer Introduction
Police Chief Gibbons introduced two new officers: Andrew McCreedy and Chad Houck.

Chief Gibbons announced March 10 is the beginning of the standardized seat belt law in Michigan and reviewed a brochure explaining the new law. He also highlighted new brochures from the Public Safety Department, one outlining what steps need to be taken in the event of an accident and the other outlines the complaint process for service offered by the Police Department.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED to approve the Revised Agenda as submitted with the addition of item #12.A. (Resolution Urging the Non-Implementation of User Fees at Ingham County Parks) and the Consent Agenda to include items: #4.A. & B. (Correction, Approval & Ratification of Minutes, February 15, 2000 Work Session and Regular Meeting); #5. (Communications); #13.A. Accept resignation of Planning Commissioner); #17.A. (Bills); #17.B. (Assessing Stipulation); #17.C. (Banner Permit – Okemos Fine Arts Festival); #17.D. (Discharge of CDBG Mortgage); #17.F. (South Fire Station Telephone Proposal); and #18.A.(2).a. (CATA Ready-Ride Proposal).

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Squiers**.

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.
4. CORRECTION, APPROVAL & RATIFICATION OF MINUTES (See Consent Agenda)
 - A. February 15, 2000, Work Session
 - B. February 15, 2000, Regular Meeting
5. COMMUNICATIONS (See Consent Agenda)
 - A. Board Deliberation (BD)
 - BD-1 Toni M. Ringlein, 1785 Michael Street, Haslett; RE: Resignation from Planning Commission
 - B. Board Information (BI)
 - BI-1 Martha J. Devlin, 5847 Bayonne, Haslett; RE: To Fire Chief Cowper complimenting paramedics on courteous and professional service
 - BI-2 Linda Thibodeau; RE: Professional behavior of paramedics
 - BI-3 Craig James Gunn, 2926 Mt. Hope, Okemos; RE: To Treasurer Klunzinger complimenting the professionalism of Lisa Grayson, Treasurer's staff

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000*APPROVED*

- BI-4 David J. Sonnenberg, Director of Traffic Safety, Ingham County Road Commission; RE: 2000 Traffic Signal Program
- BI-5 Eleanor V. Luecke, President, LINC; RE: To Robert Smith, Planning Commission Chair, RE: Zoning Amendment #99160
- BI-6 Gary Siegrist, President, Michigan Audubon Society, 6011 West St. Joseph Highway, Suite 403, Lansing; RE: Appreciation for use of facility for statewide meeting
- BI-7 James H. and Margaret Sitterson, 3635 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos; RE: to County Road Commission regarding Ember Oaks Development
- BI-8 Michigan Townships Association "Legislative Fax" for week ending February 18, 2000
- BI-9 Robert E. D'Alcorn, Managing Director, Ingham County Road Commission; RE: 2000 Local Road Improvement Program
- BI-10 Ferman A. and Dawn Badgley, 1517 River Terrace Drive, East Lansing; RE: ZBA Case #00-02237 River Terrace Church
- BI-11 Ingham County Road Commission; RE: Construction costs inadvertently left out of previous communication
- BI-12 Michigan Townships Association, Roads Update Memo; RE: Township's Voice on Roads
- BI-13 Michigan Townships Association; RE: Michigan Alliance Program
- BI-14 Sue Keegstra, 1084 Bonanza Drive, Okemos; RE: To County Road Commission regarding Ember Oaks Development
- BI-15 News release: Meridian Township Park Commission Announces Annual "Focus on Meridian Parks"
- BI-16 News release: Meridian Park Commission Recognizes Friends and Volunteers to Meridian Parks
- BI-17 Michigan Townships Association "Legislative Fax" for week ending February 25, 2000
- BI-18 Dean N. and Elizabeth A. Baker, 2139 Long Leaf Trail, Okemos; RE: interest-free loans for computer purchases
- BI-19 Gary F. Gibbons, Meridian Township Police Chief; RE: Letter to Community Member regarding March 15-16, 2000 problem solving training session
- BI-20 Albert E. Powis, Jr., 5673 N. Woodside Dr., Haslett; RE: Right of Appeal process
- BI-21 Michigan Townships Association "Urgent Action Needed" Memo; RE: Enforcement of Motor Vehicle Code for Commercial Vehicles
- BI-22 Carol A. Parry, Secretary to the City Council. City of East Lansing; RE: confirmation of joint meeting with Meridian Township and the East Lansing City Council on Monday, March 27, 2000
- BI-23 Deborah Isom, President, Briarwood Homeowner's Association; PO Box 210, Okemos; RE: Special Use Permit #99181 – Marriott Suites
- BI-24 Okemos Public Schools March 6, 2000 Board of Education Meeting Agenda
- BI-25 Robert D'Alcorn, Managing Director, Ingham County Road Commission, RE: ICRC position on roads annexed by cities and/or villages
- BI-26 Gary P. Boszak, 3796 Viceroy Drive, Okemos; RE: No objections to the granting of the Special Use Permit # 99181.

C. Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOI)

- FOI-00-04 Dirk H. Beckwith, Cross Wrock, Counselors at Law, 400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1900, Detroit; RE: ARC IceSports Arena

6. QUESTIONS OF ATTORNEY (None)

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McCullough opened Public Remarks.

Judith Hurst, 3418 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposes appointment of Clerk Helmbrecht to chair Land Preservation Millage Task Force and concerned about preservation of

wetlands in the Township.

Albert Powis, 5673 N. Woodside Drive, Haslett; RE: Board's image, right to appeal Special Use Permits; 300 foot rule.

Craig Hoshal, 3640 Beech Tree Lane, Okemos; RE: Opposes granting Special Use Permit #99181; supports legal efforts of Schroeder Homes to appeal the permit.

Ron Clark, Whitehills Development Corporation; RE: Representing Al White/Rezoning #99140 request.

Eleanor Luecke, President, L.I.N.C., PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: Urges repeal of 300 foot rule; opposes granting of Special Use Permit #99181; inaccuracies in Meridian Monitor.

Anita Fox, 1800 Yosemite, Okemos, representing Briarwood Homeowners Association; RE: Opposes granting of Special Use Permit #99181.

Supervisor McCullough closed Public Remarks.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED to adopt the Consent Agenda to include items: : #4.A. & B. (Correction, Approval & Ratification of Minutes, February 15, 2000 Work Session and Regular Meeting); #5. (Communications); #13.A. Accept resignation of Planning Commissioner); #17.A. (Bills); #17.B. (Assessing Stipulation); #17.C. (Banner Permit – Okemos Fine Arts Festival); #17.D. (Discharge of CDBG Mortgage); #17.F. (South Fire Station Telephone Proposal); and #18.A.(2).a. (CATA Ready-Ride Proposal).

Motion **SECONDED** by Trustee **Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

Therefore, the above actions were taken with the votes as follow:

A. CORRECTION, APPROVAL & RATIFICATION OF MINUTES (Agenda Item #4.A.B.)
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED to approve, with corrections, the minutes of the February 15, 2000 Work Session and Regular Meeting.

Motion **SECONDED** by Trustee **Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

B. COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item #4.A.B.)

Treasurer Klunzinger 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 or further disposition.

Motion **SECONDED** by Trustee **Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

C. RESIGNATION OF PLANNING COMMISSIONER (Agenda Item #13.A.(1.))
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED the Township Board accept the resignation of Toni Ringlein, Township Planning Commissioner.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
 Supervisor McCullough
 Nays: None
 Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

D. MANAGER'S BILLS (Agenda Item #17.A.):
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

General Fund/Special Revenue	\$485,611.68
Public Works	\$ 28,193.36
Total	<u>\$513,805.04</u>

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
 Supervisor McCullough
 Nays: None
 Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

[Bill list for 3/7/00 in Official Minute Book]

D. ASSESSING STIPULATION (Agenda Item #17.B.)
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a Tax Tribunal stipulation with American Multi-Cinema, Inc. on the following commercial property:

1999/1998/ 1997/1996	268753	1999 Central Park
<u>Assessment/Taxable</u>	1999	\$1,626,800/1,626,800
	1998	1,607,600/1,601,811
	1997	1,578,700/1,559,700
	1996	1,517,300/1,517,300
<u>Proposed Asmt/Taxable</u>	1999	\$1,438,010/1,438,010
	1998	1,390,685/1,387,568
	1997	1,366,259/1,351,090
	1996	1,314,372/1,314,372

RATIONALE: This Stipulation is recommended to correct the 1999 Assessed and Taxable Values. After extensive research, it has been determined that our Assessment exceeds 50 percent of the property's True Cash Value. Therefore the Proposed Assessment is recommended.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
 Supervisor McCullough
 Nays: None
 Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

- E. BANNER PERMIT – OKEMOS FINE ARTS FESTIVAL (Agenda Item #17.C.)
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Meridian Township has requested that Okemos Fine Arts Organization be allowed to hang a banner across Hamilton Road near the intersection of Hamilton and Ardmore from March 17, 2000 through March 25, 2000 to announce the Fine Arts Festival. The banner will not obstruct traffic signals and/or signs and will be 18 feet above the centerline of the road.

Therefore, the Township Manager’s Office is authorized to request the Ingham County Road Commission to allow Okemos Fine Arts Organization to hang a banner over Hamilton Road, near the intersection of Hamilton and Ardmore from March 17, 2000 to March 25, 2000.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

- F. DISCHARGE OF CDBG MORTGAGE (Agenda Item #17.D.)
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the Supervisor and Clerk be authorized to execute the appropriate documents to discharge the mortgage for the property known as Lot 47, Oak Grove Park, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

- G. SOUTH FIRE STATION TELEPHONE PROPOSAL (Agenda Item #17.F.)
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the Township Board authorize the Township Manager to accept the bid from Digital Resource Corp. for the used equipment in the amount of \$4,850 for the South Fire Station telephone system.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

- G. CATA READY-RIDE PROPOSAL (Agenda Item #18.A.(2).a.)
Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian hereby recommends to the Capital Area Transportation Authority that Scenario 3 be the chosen course for implementation and improvement of Redi-Ride service in Meridian Township.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Such noted his desire to have the Infrastructure Committee to work on cellular tower property rental concept.

Treasurer Klunzinger recalled he had predicted in November, 1996 that that was the most popular the Board would ever be. He announced his web site (developed with private funds), which recaps accomplishments in various endeavors.

10. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A. Establishment of a Task Force for a Land Preservation Millage

Trustee Such MOVED that the Township Board establish a Land Preservation Task Force for the purpose of evaluating and recommending an open space millage proposal. The Task Force will review the options and tools for purchase and preservation of open space, natural areas, developmental rights and other viable options and ideas with regard to preservation of property in the Township. The Task Force will be made up of seven members appointed by the Supervisor, with the Township Clerk serving as the Chairperson. The Task Force is directed to hold at least two (2) public hearings to receive comments from the public. Recommendations of the Task Force will be made back to the Township Board by June 20, 2000 and further authorizes the Supervisor to make the appointments to the Task Force.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Treasurer Klunzinger**.

Discussion on the motion included:

- Supervisor commended for making this a priority and listening to the residents
- Open space issues have been a priority of Clerk Helmbrecht since first serving on the Park Commission and she is thrilled to be chairing this Task Force.
- Currently only one other millage of this kind in Michigan
- Millage attempted in Washtenaw County but defeated
- Will be a difficult task
- A Task Force only, not deciding to spend tax dollars on land; any purchase of land will be decided by the people at the polls
- Important for people to participate in public hearings; citizens opportunity to explain to this Task Force exactly how they want open space preserved.

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Commented [pjcl]: Not unanimous 5-0.

The following residents were appointed to the Task Force by Supervisor McCullough:

- Clerk Helmbrecht, Chair
- Carla Clos, Chair of the Township Environmental Commission
- Eckhart Dersch, Member and Past Chair of the Township Park Commission
- Scott Fairmont, local developer recognized for his environmental stewardship efforts
- Irv Kebler, Township Planning Commissioner
- Gil White, local developer who has been active in statewide preservation efforts
- Tom Woiwode, attorney and former Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy

Treasurer Klunzinger moved to confirm Supervisor McCullough's appointments to the Land Preservation Millage Task Force.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

11. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Election Results

Clerk Helmbrecht announced a 28% voter turnout at the Republican Presidential Primary on February 22; this percentage surpasses any other 90's primary turnout in the Township. The

Democrat caucus is scheduled March 11th at Eastern High School. Helmbrecht reported the new state-mandated Qualified Voter File system was used in the election and Meridian Township and was the first in the county to implement the absentee voter module in its entirety. This saved election workers a vast amount of time on election day. The voter turnout was greater than expected and Helmbrecht commended both her staff and the election workers for their outstanding job.

12. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Klunzinger noted the Township is no longer collecting real property taxes; all overdue accounts were turned over to the county on March 1st. Late payments must be paid in Mason at the county office.

Klunzinger also announced the death of Ted Swift, the former Township attorney. In memory of Swift, Klunzinger read a tribute Swift had written commemorating the dedication of the new Township office building on April 4, 1972.

Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED to instruct the Township Manager to proceed in accordance with discussion in the closed sessions of February 15, 2000 and March 7, 2000.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED that the following resolution be approved by the Township Board:

Resolution Urging the Non-Implementation of User Fees at Ingham County Parks.

WHEREAS, a substantial amount of land in Meridian Township has been donated to the Ingham County Parks system with the understanding that it would be open and available for public use, and

WHEREAS, Lake Lansing has been enjoyed by residents of Meridian Township and Ingham County for over a century as the largest body of fresh water in the county, and, as such, has been a popular destination for several generations seeking recreational activity, and

WHEREAS, in 1997 many Township residents contributed thousands of hours in volunteer time, and the Township contributed \$15,000 to build the Playground on the Beach for the free and open enjoyment of children within the community, and

WHEREAS, all Township parks have been and continue to be free of admission charges or user fees, for the open enjoyment of all citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners has not yet taken official action to implement the Parks User Fees which have been announced for an effective date of May 1, 2000,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian hereby requests the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ingham not to implement the proposed user fees scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2000, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to all appropriate parties.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Commented [pjc2]: Not unanimous 5-0.

13. TOWNSHIP BOARD

A. Accept Resignation

(1) Planning Commissioner (See Consent Agenda)

Supervisor McCullough noted Commissioner Ringlein's resignation was due to a move out of the township. McCullough encouraged residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission to consider applying for the open seat. Forms are available at the Clerk's Office.

B. Appointments

Trustee Squires MOVED to appoint Richard "Dirk" Milliman to fill the vacated Trustee position for the remainder of the current term.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Treasurer Klunzinger**.

Discussion on motion included:

- Father of young family, good representation of majority of residents of the Township
- Lives on Lake Lansing, Lake Lansing Property Owner's Association is a big part of Meridian Township and will bring valuable representation from that part of the Township
- Great asset of communications skills to Board, background as a newspaper publisher provides a unique position in being able to observe and comment on public issues objectively
- Familiar with history and development of current policies
- Can hit the ground running
- All candidates were very qualified; fortunate to have such a good group to chose from
- Impressed with all candidates, as well as the large number of qualified people coming forward

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squires, Such, Supervisor McCullough

Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

14. SPECIAL HEARINGS/APPEALS

A. Special Use Permit #99181 (Alpine Holdings) request to construct a 100-unit, 3 story hotel south of Jolly Road and east of Okemos Road.

Director of Community Planning and Development Kieselbach provided background on the issue, noting the appeal was filed by Keith Schroeder, S.P. Investments Limited Partnership, and S.B.I. Limited Partnership. Kieselbach noted the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the Special Use Permit by a 5-3 vote.

David Pierson, McClelland & Anderson, LLP, 1305 South Washington Avenue, Lansing, attorney for Schroeder, noted his client and Alpine Holdings met and reached an agreement on modifications to the hotel development planned by Alpine Holdings. The agreement addresses concerns about the hotel's appearance, height and use of property to the east of the site.

Steve Martineau, 555 N. Main, Mt. Pleasant; Alpine Holdings legal representative, noted the new agreement provides a basis for development to be in harmony with the community.

Next step is for staff to review agreement with both parties. After that, this issue will reappear at a future board meeting for a decision to either approve the permit, deny the permit, or send the issue back to the Planning Commission for further review.

Trustee Such congratulated Schroeder and his attorney on reaching an agreement with most of the neighbors and the developer. Director Kieselbach was asked for additional clarification on the height and roof-line of the hotel. There being no further comments or questions, Supervisor

McCullough closed the special hearing.

B. Park Lake Road Sanitary Sewer Resolution #5, Cost Hearing

Director of Engineering and Public Works Buell provided background on this issue, noting it was the final hearing.

Supervisor McCullough asked for public remarks; there were no public remarks and McCullough closed the hearing.

Treasurer Klunzinger moved to suspend the agenda to allow Ingham County Commissioner Tom Minter to speak to the Board. .

Motion **SECONDED** by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Minter reported that a review of the proposed user fees was scheduled for a meeting earlier that evening, a meeting scheduled prior to the premature announcement in the media. Contrary to what may have been alluded to in the paper, Minter noted user fees have not been approved nor have they been scheduled to go into affect as reported. He explained a line item was put in the budget for user fees, with instructions to park commissioners to develop a proposal and bring it back to the Ingham County Board. No formal action has been taken by the commissioners. The recently approved Township Board resolution on the user fees was very timely and will be duly noted to the Board of Commissioners.

Treasurer Klunzinger asked Commissioner Minter how the erroneous information about the user fees ended up in the papers, including an announced start date of May 1st; Minter had no information on the question. Trustee Such noted his objection to user fees being considered for residents' use of land that was donated.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (None)

16. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

A. Unfinished Business

- (1) Rezoning #99150 (Diversified Financial) request to rezone approximately five acres north of Grand River Avenue, east of Jo Don Drive, East Lansing from RX (Duplex) to RC (Multiple Family-Medium Density) – FINAL ADOPTION

Director Kieselbach provided a background on the resolution before the Board for its Final Adoption, noting that, as directed by the Board, the Township Clerk has had the proposed Ordinance published in the form in which it was introduced. .

Treasurer Klunzinger moved that the Township Board approve for Final Adoption the Resolution for Rezoning #99150, Ordinance #2000-01.

Motion **SECONDED** by Trustee Squiers.

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Commented [pj3]: Not unanimous 5-0.

[Resolution on file in the Official Minute Book in the Clerk's Office.]

B. New Business

- (1) Rezoning #99140 (White) request to rezone approximately 10 acres on the northwest side of B.L.-69, East Lansing from RR (Rural Residential) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) and RDD (Multiple Family-Low Density) to CS (Community Service), PO (Professional Office) and RDD (Multiple Family-Low Density)

Director Kieselbach provided background on the rezoning request, noting Planning Commission held a public hearing, that they recommended unanimously all three areas be rezoned, that the recommendation is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan with the M-78

corridor study, and that the Planning and Development Committee reviewed the request and also recommended rezoning of the property.

Treasurer Klunzinger moved that the Township Board approve for introduction, publication and subsequent adoption the Resolution to Approve Rezoning #99140 (Albert A. White).

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Discussion on the motion included:

- Planning Commission voted 7-0
- Commended fact that rezoning is being done before lots are being sold so that potential owners are well-aware of how area is zoned

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

17. MANAGER'S REPORT, INVOICES & BILLS

- A. Bills (See Consent Agenda)
- B. Assessing Stipulation (See Consent Agenda)
- C. Banner Permit, Okemos Fine Arts Festival (See Consent Agenda)
- D. Discharge of CDBG Mortgage (See Consent Agenda)
- E. Nordic Electric Franchise Application

Manager Richards noted work is continuing on the completion of the application and it should be available at the next Board meeting.

Richards reported continuing interest from electric power suppliers and noted a proposed franchise agreement that could be used with these suppliers is in the development stage. Among considerations would be an application fee. Trustee Such asked for clarification on the intent of the proposed franchise agreement and to what extent it would be opening up the Township to electric and gas distribution. Manager Richards noted the Township is under some obligation to have/allow franchises under certain conditions. The Township Attorney will be reviewing the issue and obligations of the Township. Clerk Helmbrecht noted the Township's past opposition to putting in new lines and asked the Manager to provide the Board with additional information.

- F. South Fire Station Telephone Proposal (See Consent Agenda)
- G. Hamilton Road at Marsh Road, Utility Options

(1) Request A – Standard Street Lighting Contract

Director of Engineering and Public Works Buell provided a background on the request from the Ingham County Road Commission to install new overhead street lights at the proposed roundabout at Marsh and Hamilton Roads.

Treasurer Klunzinger MOVED the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township adopts the resolution to make changes in the street lighting contract and directs the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the Authorization for Change in standard streetlighting contract with Consumers Energy, on behalf of the Township in conjunction with the construction of the proposed roundabout.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Such**.

Discussion on the motion included:

- Installation of the new lights will be in conjunction with construction of the roundabout
- Roundabout will work best with plenty of good lighting
- New overhead lights have a residential nature/character yet still provide as much lumination as the current, larger lights
- Support getting cables buried
- Installation of lighting in conjunction with new construction is a good idea
- Provides a more pedestrian-friendly environment for new/unfamiliar area

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000*APPROVED*

- If roundabout is not approved by ICRC, this resolution to change the lights will not be forwarded for completion
- Concern about roundabout concept for that particular intersection
- Going from two poles to four poles; doubling opportunity for accidents

Voice vote: Motion **PASSED** 4-1 (McCullough)

Request B – Authorization to Bury Overhead Wire

Director Buell provided background on the plan to improve this same intersection by the removal of the overhead line and burial of the line.

Treasurer Klunzinger moved the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township hereby approve the cost to bury the overhead line at the intersection of Hamilton and Marsh Roads, at a cost of \$21,378, in conjunction with the construction of the proposed roundabout.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Trustee Squiers**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such, Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 5-0.

18. BOARD MEMBER, BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Standing Committee Reports

- (1) Physical Operations & Activities (None)
- (2) Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - a. CATA Ready-Ride Proposal (See Consent Agenda)
Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 13
- (3) Personnel (None)
- (4) Planning and Development (None)
- (5) Infrastructure
Next meeting on Thursday, March 20 at 5:15; RE: Master Pathway Plan.
- (6) Public Safety
Next meeting on Monday, March 13 at 5:15pm
- (7) Recreation
Second Meridian Skates night at ARC Ice Arena on February 26 had over 620 skaters, compared to 450 who participated in the first Meridian Skates.

B. Special Committees (None)

C. Liaison Representative Reports

Trustee Such announced the Meridian Business Expo, Saturday, March 11, Haslett High School, from 10:00am – 3:00pm; over 100 exhibitors scheduled; sponsored in part by the Township's Economic Development Corporation.

19. OTHER REPORTS

20. NEW BUSINESS

New Trustee will be assigned to Supervisor McCullough's former positions on Committees
Clerk Helmbrecht gave the oath of office to newly appointed Trustee Milliman

21. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McCullough opened Public Remarks.

Judith Hurst, 3418 Lake Lansing, East Lansing; RE: Land Preservation Millage Task Force, opposes people appointed to the Task Force.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000*APPROVED*

Craig Hoshal, 3640 Beech Tree, Okemos; RE: Alpine Holdings negotiations/reiterate negotiations are going in right direction, more needs to be done for visual/physical barriers.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma, Okemos; RE: comment on Meridian Monitor; no bylines/authorship noted in publication, omission is detrimental to effort to promote good communications.

Supervisor McCullough closed Public Remarks.

22. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Klunzinger noted there have been a number of people this year during Pubic Remarks exhaust all the adjectives for "bad" in characterizing the Board. Often it seems like the Board is unfeeling, just listening and then voting. The Board doesn't get into arguments with the public, it has to consider both sides in making its decisions. Some people are displeased, but the Board is following the ordinances and following the law. He hopes that the people who watch the proceedings on a regular basis learn to sort out the emotional rhetoric from the facts the Board has to base its decisions on.

Trustee Such commented on the passing of former Township Attorney Ted Swift. He wanted everyone to realize what a leader Swift was with regard to Township government and being a Township Attorney. When he started, he was the first Township Attorney that Meridian had and he really pioneered the concept of a township attorney. The Township is fortunate to have an affiliation with the firm and to have current township attorneys trained by Swift. Such worked closely with Swift at church on a number of projects and said he was a great guy to be around all the time. He referred to the poem read earlier by Treasurer Klunzinger written by Swift, and noted he once wrote an entire brief before the Supreme Court in rhyme. He feels a deep sense of loss with his death and wanted his family and friends to know that he was a great guy.

Trustee Squiers noted that, like Treasurer Klunzinger, he has watched week after week as people come up and spew their venom at the podium towards the Board, just trying to do their job. He likes open space as much as the next person, he has a family in this community and the Board can't just say no, it has to follow the law. At the last meeting, he asked the candidates for the open position on the Board if they think that as an elected official, they should follow the law or follow public opinion. One of them said they didn't think they should follow the law, so he knew he couldn't support that candidate. Because as noted in the oath new Trustee Milliman just took, he swore to uphold the Constitution of the State of Michigan, which includes all the laws. In response to a previous public comment that "I've never seen a developer lose", Squiers noted the Board has to follow the law. If it's legal for someone to develop their property, and use it the way its been zoned, the way they've been allowed to develop it, the Board can't stop it. Previous Boards have tried to say no and that's cost all of Meridian taxpayers thousands of dollars in litigation to end losing and having Courts zone our community. The Eyde property across the street, the Smith rezoning. . . so as he makes decisions as a guardian of the public trust, he asks, "What is more important: trying to just say no, or guarding the money that we're going to spend and end up losing in court anyway and having courts rezone. So as people come up week after week and call the Board 'bad guys,' keep in mind that they have to follow the law, and the Board is doing the best it can.

23. CLOSED SESSION – MANAGER'S EVALUATION

Trustee Squiers moved to go into closed session at the request of Manager Richards for the purpose of conducting his annual evaluation pursuant to MSA 4.1800(18)8(a)..

Motion **SECONDED** by **Treasurer Klunzinger**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such, Milliman, Supervisor McCullough

Nays: None

Motion **CARRIED** 6-0.

Supervisor McCullough recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:20pm to go into Closed Session.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000*APPROVED*

The Board adjourned to the Administrative Conference Room for a Closed Session.

Supervisor McCullough reconvened the Regular Meeting at 10:34pm.

Trustee Squires MOVED to amend Township Manager Richards' employment agreement to extend the term through March 8, 2001; the salary is to be \$84,000, effective January 1, 2000 and to amend Section 5c to remove the restriction for personal use within a thirty-five mile radius.

Motion **SECONDED** by **Treasurer Klunzinger**.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Klunzinger, Trustees Squiers, Such, Milliman,
Supervisor McCullough
Nays: None
Motion **CARRIED** 6-0.

24. ADJOURNMENT
Supervisor McCullough adjourned the meeting at 10:35p.m.

BILL Mc CULLOUGH
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Janis L. Haskell, Acting Secretary