

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, EMS/Training Chief Bill Priese, Chief Engineer Younes Ishraidi

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. PUBLIC REMARKS  
Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Jean McDonald, 2019 Lac du Mont, Haslett, spoke to the implications of the notice by Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann regarding the Day of Review of the Raby Drainage District Boundaries scheduled for Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Mason. She expressed concern with changing the drainage district boundaries and the corresponding tax through special assessment which can occur with the boundary change. Ms. McDonald requested the public hearing be held within the Township during evening hours to allow residents an opportunity for thorough review. She also requested Township representatives with expertise in engineering and development attend the public hearing.

Mike Brooks, 601 Emily Lane, Haslett, expressed appreciation to the Board for its hard work in making difficult decisions which can be unpopular. He spoke to the importance of the park system and suggested the Board provide more money for the Meridian Parks Department as he believes it the best in the state.

Bobbi DuByne, 1918 Creek Landing, Haslett, spoke in support of the August 5<sup>th</sup> park and library millages and urged residents to cast a yes vote.

Heather Jones Clark, 1955 Penobscot, Okemos, expressed support for the proposed new central fire station and urged the Board to diligently work towards commencing its construction as soon as possible.

Matt Hagan, Okemos Road, LLC, 927 E. Grand River, East Lansing, requested Rezoning #14020 be removed from tonight's agenda to allow for further communication between the applicant and the Board as well as the applicant and residents of Briarwood subdivision. He outlined the Planning Commission's rationale for its continued recommendation for rezoning the subject parcel from RR to PO.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of the Capital Area District Library (CADL) millage renewal on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot, noting the library proposal was placed on the back of the ballots for Meridian Township. He spoke in opposition to the park millage request on the primary ballot, as it is an addition which he believed would be a three-fold increase

for two (2) years of the current park millage and a doubling of the current park millage for the remaining ten years, greater than the essential millages for police, fire and roads. Mr. Provencher alleged the current parks department has questionable goals, a lack of goals, plans to create a dog park on environmentally sensitive land, does not serve the needs of the senior population, and the director is gender biased.

Jane Rose, 4249 Hidden Meadows, Okemos, Executive Director of the Meridian Historical Village, spoke in support of the proposed park millage on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot as an investment in Meridian Township. She addressed the growth of the Historical Village due to residents' support of the parks. Ms. Rose added that in 2013, over 7,000 people visited the village of which nearly 25 percent traveled from other counties and other states, spending money in Meridian Township for lodging, meals and shopping. Ms. Rose urged citizens to vote yes on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Jones, 1955 Penobscot, Okemos, spoke in support of the new central fire station as originally proposed. He offered rationale against two of the objections cited by opposing views (i.e., noise, decline in property values) during previous meetings.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

5. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Quarterly code enforcement meeting held with neighborhood groups to discuss the 600 complaints to date
- Meeting with East Lansing on Friday to discuss the Lake Lansing Road pathway connection
- Wonch Park Pathway extension was unanimously approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals last week
- Current work on graffiti issues on the bridge near Ferguson and Wonch Parks
- Meeting next Monday of the utility tree cleanup committee
- Staff will attend Raby Drain public hearing at the ICDC office
- Bids across Michigan coming in 15-35% higher than estimated for roads, public buildings, libraries, schools, etc.
- Kinawa Drive and Bennett Road have been added to the road work list since it was approved by the Board

6. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Scales reported on the July 14<sup>th</sup> road committee meeting where bids were reviewed, some \$200,000 higher than anticipated, resulting in the need to complete the planned projects over the next two (2) years. He provided a report on construction activity for Bennett Road, and potential expansion of the Jolly/Okemos Road intersection, with funding from MDOT. Trustee Scales reported his participation in the long range plan review meeting of the County Road Advisory Board where the focus centered on large road projects over the next 25 years which would change traffic capacity, adding there was forward movement for Hagadorn at Mt. Hope in 2015-2020, Lake Lansing Road from Lac du Mont to Marsh Road in 2015-2020, Marsh Road from Central Park Drive to Tihart Road in 2020-2025 and Okemos Road from Central Park Drive to Haslett Road in 2020-2025.

Trustee Veenstra attended the Transportation Review Committee of Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) on July 9<sup>th</sup> where an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was approved to add additional turn lanes at the Jolly-Okemos Road intersection. He also reported his attendance at the July 9<sup>th</sup> Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting where a variance was granted to install a paved pathway in Wonch Park. Trustee Veenstra requested staff apprise the Board in the event there are significant changes to the drainage district boundaries as referenced in letters contained in the Board packet from the ICDC. He spoke in support of the park millage increase on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot as some park properties have not been developed due to budget constraints and millage money will help in that development. Trustee Veenstra spoke to the handling of a brush pile on Mr. Dwight Bell's property as outlined in Mr. Bell's letter contained in the Board packet.

Clerk Dreyfus reminded citizens to vote in the primary election on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. He indicated residents may request an absentee voter application up until Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 P.M., adding the Clerk's office will be open on that Saturday from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. for residents to request and receive an absentee voter ballot. Clerk Dreyfus spoke to a report issued by Prima Civitas entitled "Michigan Dream at Risk" and quoted data and statistics from that report. He noted the study pointed out that roads, city services, K-12 education and environmental protection across Michigan all showed serious decreases in quality and performance over the past ten (10) years, as well as the largest drop in family income in the nation.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:**

- **Remove Agenda Item #11A: Rezoning #14020**

**Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

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

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

A. Communications

(1) Board Deliberation (BD)

BD11A-1 Matt Hagan, Okemos Road, LLC, 927 E. Grand River, East Lansing; RE: Rezoning #14020

(2) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Jessica Moy, 2193 Butternut Drive, Okemos; RE: Appreciation for the Fourth of July Fireworks Display

BI-2 Dwight A. Bell, 2046 Belding Court, Okemos; RE: Nuisance Violation at 2046 Belding Court

BI-3 Michael D. Smith & Robin Gee, Conference Co-Chairs, SCAN NATOA, c/o CityTV, Studio 16, 1654 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica CA; RE: Appreciation for Meridian Township's participation as a presenter at the recent SCAN NATOA Spring Conference

BI-4 John P. Gardner, Senior Manager, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to Comcast's channel line-up effective July 17, 2014

(3) Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Button Drain Drainage District "Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries" to be held on July 21, 2014 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: Raby Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 21, 2014 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: Foster Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 21, 2014 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: Briarwood Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 25, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-5 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Jeffries Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 25, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office

(4) Staff Communication (SC)

- SC-1 Director Mark Kieselbach; RE: Response to Mr. Dwight Bell regarding nuisance violation at 2046 Belding Court
- SC-2 Martha Wyatt, Associate Planner; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of July 1, 2014

(5) On File in the Clerk’s Office

Material handed out at the July 1, 2014 Meeting

Jim Rypkema, President and Gus Breymann, Governmental Liaison Chair, Briarwood Homeowners Association, 2167 Heritage Avenue, Okemos; RE: Rezoning Recommendation for 3698 Okemos Road

Material received at the July 1, 2014 Meeting

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Maps of Urban Services Management District Area 4 & 5 for Point of Sale (POS) & Septic System Repairs

**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 Veenstra.**

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 July 1, 2014 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

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	\$ 225,738.30
Public Works	\$ 305,581.74

Total Checks	\$ 531,320.04
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 5,996.28
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 537,316.32</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 688,916.48</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

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)

9. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

10. HEARINGS

A. Perry Road Paving, Special Assessment District (SAD) No. 42

Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 6:42 P.M.

Chief Engineer Younes Ishraidi summarized the paving project as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 10, 2014. He offered history which led to the proposed establishment of this SAD through a valid petition process.

Treasurer Brixie requested staff inquire if the Township could request ten (10) foot lanes from the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) which would provide a larger shoulder. She asked for the capacity of the road.

Mr. Ishraidi responded he did not have road capacity information. He stated what is currently being looked at is to match what already exists in Bath Township.

Treasurer Brixie noted that when paved roads are designed too wide for a residential neighborhood situation, it encourages speeding.

Mr. Ishraidi added it is necessary to meet county standards, indicating the 11 foot lane was the county's recommendation.

Clerk Dreyfus believed the approximately 500 foot road is short enough that matching the existing width in Bath Township is plausible.

Trustee Scales asked for reassurance that the Township will pave up to the county line, since the welcome to Meridian Township signage is approximately 100 feet south of the welcome to Ingham County sign.

Mr. Ishraidi stated Bath Township paved its portion exactly to the county line and Meridian will meet that line.

Trustee Veenstra noted the Lake Lansing Advisory Board has advocated to contribute \$2,500 out of the special Lake Lansing assessment towards this paving project as it will greatly reduce the amount of polluted runoff into the lake. He indicated several residents spoke to the need for paved shoulders for bicyclists and pedestrians, requesting a minimum of three (3) feet for the shoulder. Since this is a residential neighborhood, narrower lanes are a traffic calming measure and Trustee Veenstra suggested striping for a ten foot motor vehicle lane with a three (3) foot paved shoulder. He offered a few alternatives to fund the shoulder paving.

Trustee Wilson spoke to the Cornell Road scenario and inquired if there is a vetting process for the plans prior to Perry Road being paved.

Mr. Ishraidi indicated Resolution #3 will come before the Board prior to commencement of the design and bidding process.

Trustee Wilson requested residents and the Environmental Commission be made aware of and involved in the process.

Trustee Scales walked the area and it is not a controversial issue. He inquired if striping is part of the plan.

Mr. Ishraidi responded that striping is not part of the plan; however, it could be added later to the Township's striping program.

Trustee Scales asked what is entailed in Resolution No. 3.

Mr. Ishraidi explained that Resolution No. 3 is passed by the Board and gives staff the "green light."

Township Manager Walsh outlined proper procedure for public hearings in order to have forward movement on the process.

#### Public

- Bill Wessels, 6437 Lake Drive, Haslett, spoke in support of the proposed SAD. He also expressed support for the ten (10) foot lanes with three (3) foot shoulders. He requested reconsideration be given to his parcel as he has extensive frontage on Perry Road, but his driveway goes out to Lake Drive. He noted he signed the petition with the proviso he would approve up to \$2,000 in assessments.

Mr. Ishraidi replied the final assessment is up for debate and will not be established until construction is completed. He indicated there is room for adjusting the assessment as long as it is justified and fair. Mr. Ishraidi stated Ingham County land also has frontage on Perry Road, but no driveway.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed support for the project. He believed the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards the ICRD will be held to will determine the width of the lanes.

**Trustee Styka moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 7:07 P.M.

#### 11. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, spoke to what he believed were the real reasons behind the escalating costs of the new central fire station. He stated the Township is not following its own ordinances relative to the special use permit process.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

#### B. Greater Lansing Visitor's Guide Ad

**Treasurer Brixie moved to spend a maximum of \$3,540 to place a Meridian Township advertisement in the 2015 Greater Lansing Visitors Guide. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board discussion:

- Visitor's guide is well used
- Guide is included in informational packets handed out by real estate agents to individuals looking to relocate in the Greater Lansing region
- Preference for the Township logo to be included in the advertisement

- Township does not use any means to track the effect of its advertisement in the guide
- Township's website needs revision as it is the key marketing and place making vehicle to drive people towards the Township
- Reminder that the Township is in the branding process and the website revision will be addressed during that process
- Creation of the ad should be performed by the Township's professional staff
- In the 2015 budget, Board members should look at dedicating economic development dollars for this initiative, the branding concept and website revision
- Rejoining the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce as part of the Township's economic development efforts
- Board member belief Lake Lansing is the Township's best natural feature and is a great picture in the Visitor's Guide as the face of Meridian Township
- Board member appreciation for inclusion of a map which shows where Meridian Township is located
- Information in the draft ad is more important than ensuring the Township logo is included at the sacrifice of other material
- Board member belief the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce is a partisan political organization with controversial policy positions
- Board member request that the account number be included in a motion whenever the Board appropriates money
- Inclusion of economic development in the Township's Strategic Plan

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

C. Fire Station Bid Status

Manager Walsh summarized the status of bids for the new fire station as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 10, 2014.

**Trustee Styka moved to reject the six (6) central fire station bids (July 9, 2014) and direct the Township Manager to work with staff and DLZ Engineering to redesign the building with a goal of reducing the size of the building from 15,000 square feet to approximately 10,000 square feet. The Manager is also directed to bring back the new design to the September 2, 2014 Board meeting for final Board approval. The Township Board agrees that the Township will not allocate more than the voter-approved \$3,500,000 for the new central fire station. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Current difficult building environment
- Need for reduction in the size of the proposed central fire station
- Reduction in the proposed features
- Possible reduction in the footprint to 10,000 square feet
- Wants v. needs
- Possible use of the Town Hall Room to hold a large regional training event in lieu of a community room in the proposed fire station
- Questionable need for a large community room, a day room and a conference room
- Community rooms at both libraries are heavily used and require substantial reservation lead time, showing there is a need for an additional community room in the Township
- Board member agreement to eliminate the fourth bay and two (2) offices
- Feasibility of eliminating one (1) bedroom
- Some money was "wasted" on legal fees
- Need for flexibility to allow small additional expenses (\$100,000) out of the General Fund in an effort to "do it right"
- Concern that if the Board increases the dollar amount \$100,000, then the bids will increase commensurately by the same amount

**Trustee Scales offered the following friendly amendment:**

- **Amend the motion by deleting “to the September 2” and insert “by the October 7”**

**The amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the main motion.**

Continued Board discussion:

- Bid opening “surprise” illustrates the economy has picked up in Michigan
- Preference for the training/community room to be salvaged in some form as the Township’s largest community room at the Meridian Service Center has been remodeled to accommodate the temporary fire station and will be turned into offices once the fire station is constructed
- Need for a community room as a result of community need
- Board members preference to allow staff to assess the needs of the Township for the redesign
- Motion on the floor is what was approved by the electorate
- Cost of a metal roof over the life of a building is much less
- Suggestion for the architects to draw the building in such a way that any future additions would not require major renovations
- Environmental Commission expressed a desire when the millage was passed for pre-design specifications for a green roof, solar panels, LEED certification, etc. as part of place making
- Possibility of generating on-site electricity for a 24-hour day load

**Without objection, Trustee Scales called the question.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**12. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Brent Forsberg, 2422 Jolly Road, Okemos Road, representing the company which owns the land on the NE corner of Jolly Oak Road and Water Lily Way, spoke in support of Rezoning #14060.

David Pierson, attorney for Boomer Group LLC, 1305 S. Washington, Lansing, gave an overview of the proposed conditional rezoning for the project intended to be constructed on property which is the subject of Rezoning #14060.

William Brehm, 2717 Tapestry Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #14060, addressing the increased development and traffic of the area over the last 27 years. He outlined the amenities of a Home2 Suites (extended stay hotel by Hilton), the business which will be placed on the subject property of the rezoning.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of Rezoning #14060, as it is a complementary project to the nearby existing businesses.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

**A. Perry Road Paving, Special Assessment District No. 42**

Board discussion:

- Way to devote more of the road surface to pedestrians would be a positive
- Four (4) foot wide paved shoulder would dramatically change the road side and would drive up the cost of the project
- Area is not currently on the Township’s Master Pathway Plan and those funds could not be used
- Process used by the Township for adjusting the assessment for a specific landowner (Mr. Wessels, 6437 Lake Drive)

- Benefit is greatly reduced for the homeowner at 6437 Lake Drive (Mr. Wessels) as there is no access to Lake Drive
- Reminder that the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee passed a motion to contribute \$2,500 towards the paving assessment
- The Township will adjust the estimated assessments prior to bringing Resolution No. 3 to the Board
- Petition would still be valid if the homeowner at 6437 withdraws his signature from the petition
- Board member request for information regarding trees and potential impact of the paving on those trees
- Township has 66 feet of right-of-way and there is sufficient room
- One area at the north end is crowded as the property owner pushed his rock landscaping 12-15 feet into the right-of-way
- Board member request to obtain the speed limit on Perry Road
- Board member desire for a four (4) foot paved shoulder, but three (3) foot is what is achievable
- Board member preference for two (2) ten (10) foot lanes with a four (4) foot area for pedestrians on the west side of the road
- Request for staff to explore all options with the county as there is 24 feet to work with
- Board desire to have substantial significant area for pedestrian or non-motorized movement
- Preference for ten (10) foot lanes with striping to slow traffic and wide paved shoulders
- Preference for assessments to be kept at a reasonable level for the residents
- County restripes every two years and Township staff will include the striping for next year

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at a future meeting.**

- B. Rezoning #14060 (Boomer Group, LLC), Request to Rezone Approximately 3.55 Acres on the NE Corner of Jolly Oak Road and Water Lily Way from PO (Professional and Office) to C-2 (Commercial)

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 10, 2014.

Board discussion:

- ICRD requirement that Water Lily Way be paved prior to acceptance as a public road
- Project will provide additional patrons for stores and restaurants in the Jolly/Okemos Road area
- Peak traffic will be less for the hotel v. office
- Possible hotel amenity for a one-third mile pathway north from Water Lily Way which would link to the Township pathway from Okemos Road to Hulett Road
- Farrins Parkway was designed as a private road and maintenance would be the responsibility of the property owner
- Agreement for shared users of Farrins Parkway
- Pathway map shows development of a seven (7) foot pathway on the east side of Water Lily Way
- MSU Federal Credit Union will be required to install the pathway to Jolly Road during construction
- Traffic in the area will increase due to receipt of federal grant money to upgrade the Jolly/Okemos Road intersection
- Numbers used for the traffic study is information supplied by the ICRD
- Sometimes traffic consultants will visit the area and perform their own traffic counts
- Reason #6 supplied by the Planning Commission highlights as part of the rationale for its decision there is an excess of comparable office space in the Township
- Need for the Board to remember Reason #6 when other rezoning issues are considered along Okemos Road

- Percentage of impervious surface stated by the applicant as 60%, well under the maximum of 75%
- Site plan is not part of the conditions and not included as part of the rezoning
- Site plan may change prior to application for a special use permit
- Sections of open space appear to be the northeast corner and along Jolly Oak Road
- Board member encouragement to maximize landscaping
- Conditions of the surrounding area have changed (i.e., excess office zoning) as rationale for why the present zoning is unreasonable
- Hotels in C-2 are an allowed use by SUP and the building is larger than 25,000 square feet
- Board member preference to “fast track” the SUPs
- Staff runs both SUPs in conjunction with each other and the applicant can file for the SUP when they deem it expedient

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its August 7, 2014 Board meeting.**

13. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed opposition to the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) millage request on the August 5<sup>th</sup> primary ballot.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, urged residents to attend the dedication of the Eleanor Luecke Memorial on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 12 noon in Central Park. He requested the closed central fire station building be torn down to utilize the space to accommodate parking for downtown community activities. Mr. Kincaid offered several comments on the alleged inappropriate new central fire station process, asking the Township to follow its own ordinances.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

14. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Wilson addressed the need for approval of the August 5<sup>th</sup> park millage request as it will make Township parks more accessible to all residents, including those with mobility and sensory issues. She stated the parks provide educational opportunities for school aged children. Trustee Wilson believed parks also contribute towards placemaking and benefit business owners' property values as well. She requested a status on the pedestrian crossing over the Red Cedar River at Okemos Road and the response was the Township is in final design just prior to bid letting.

Treasurer Brixie requested the Board change its agenda so that Board Comments and Reports become Board Reports and have Board comments kept until the end of each meeting, noting this would make the meeting environment friendlier to the public and applicants. She stated the CATA millage is a true renewal, as 38% of CATA's revenue comes from local millages, with the balance obtained from fares, state and federal funding.

Clerk Dreyfus reminded citizens the Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting was moved to Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> due to the August 5<sup>th</sup> Primary election. He stated one of the reasons for the Board to meet as a public body is to discuss issues of concern and that discussion should also take place at the beginning of the meeting as well, due to potential relevance of a subject on the agenda. Clerk Dreyfus noted according to the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), the purpose of a Board meeting is to conduct the business of the Township in a public body forum, acknowledging the Board attempts to be flexible to accommodate citizen requests. He believed it inappropriate to reduce Board discussion in an effort to accommodate citizens, and is not a best practice to be advocated.

Trustee Scales concluded his earlier report by listing road projects which will not be moving forward and offered the next steps relevant to Meridian Township roads.

Trustee Veenstra believed it friendlier to the public to offer responses to their inquiries during the first Board comment section. He requested the “correct” percentage of CATA’s revenues and expenses which come from the fare box be furnished to the Board and public for the next Board meeting. He clarified earlier Board member comment by stating the special voter approved millages for Police and Fire are not the only revenue spent on police and fire services.

Trustee Styka reiterated Board meetings are meetings of the Board held in public, not a meeting of the public. While acknowledging where practical, he indicated citizen requests to move items up on the agenda are accommodated. Trustee Styka believed it difficult to distinguish between what is characterized as a Board comment and a Board report and attempting to make that distinction may cause confusion. He believed citizens watching the televised Board meetings would be more likely to view comments given at the beginning of the meetings.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:54 P.M.

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ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary