

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, 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. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. MARC Appreciation Resolution-Marsha Madle and Malinda Barr

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan hereby recognizes and celebrates the leadership of Marsha Madle and Malinda Barr in the development of the MARC. The Township Board also recognizes the other many volunteers that were recruited by and contributed to the MARC including but not limited to Craig Allen, Randy Willet, and Thomas Hamp. Further, the Township Board thanks Marsha and Malinda for their years of service and business advocacy and remains committed to supporting entrepreneurialism in Meridian Township.

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Clerk Dreyfus, as Board Liaison to the Meridian Economic Development Corporation, thanked Marsha and Malinda for their dedication and passion towards promoting entrepreneurialism in our community. He noted a creative brainstorming session the three (3) of them engaged in back in 2001 to discuss Township branding and placemaking, demonstrating the many years of thought and effort put towards these goals.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Introduction of Full-Time Firefighter Daniel Ackles

Fire Chief Fred Cowper introduced the newest full-time firefighter, Daniel Ackles.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Beth Bechtel, 1165 Cliffdale, Haslett, requested the Board pass a resolution in support of House Bill 4916, state legislation to allow residents to retain analog utility meters for gas and electricity.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, addressed the crushed limestone temporary patch to the pathway in front of the Aldi's under construction on Marsh Road as it can cause problems for individuals with disabilities.

Ann Alchin, 5972 Cypress, Haslett, voiced concern with funds which have been diverted to the Okemos Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and use of those funds. She offered figures of how much tax money has been diverted to the DDA, how much has been spent and the debt still owing.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed appreciation for Board action on moving Board comments and reports as well as the Township Manager's Report to the beginning of the agenda, referral of the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) to the Planning Commission and holding the meeting on Township Goals and Objectives in the evening. He voiced appreciation for the increased sewer cleaning as reported in the Manager's Report for the 3rd quarter. Mr. Bowlby again addressed the issue of hiring employees for a CIA.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Concrete for the new central fire station is being poured before cold weather sets in
- Expectation that the asphalt base for the parking lots will be complete by the end of the week
- Mid to late January, 2016 move-in date
- Central fire station building dedication scheduled for February 1, 2016
- Closing of the MARC sale took place and the Township received \$492,127, of which \$35,000 will be held in abeyance
- Remainder of funds from the sale of the MARC has not been budgeted as revenue in 2016 and their allocation will be a future Board discussion
- Work continues on a significant Haslett project
- All road projects will be completed by week's end, well ahead of last year's schedule
- 2016 employee health care costs are being reviewed, including self-funding through Blue Cross

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

As a result of discussion with the Managing Director of the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD), Trustee Scales requested the Township Manager convey the message to the ICRD that the Board supports the petition by Ponderosa residents to abandon Forsberg Drive. He stated that if this message is received, the ICRD Director has indicated the department will comply with the Township's desire. Trustee Scales added he believed the hearing on Forsberg Drive is scheduled for November 12th ** so Board intent for Forsberg Drive should be sent to the ICRD, including the preference for a walkable trail to be made out of Forsberg Drive.

Trustee Veenstra posed several questions surrounding the abandonment of Forsberg Drive.

Treasurer Brixie suggested the abandonment of Forsberg Drive be placed on the November 3, 2015 agenda.

Trustee Veenstra voiced support for earlier public comment that a resident has the right to choose an analog utility meter. He noted a communication from Dr. Horn addressed the problem of second hand smoke in the common areas of apartment buildings, and believed the Township should pass an ordinance prohibiting smoke in those areas. Trustee Veenstra spoke to another letter from Dr. Horn regarding climate change and requested the Township should do all it can to contribute to energy conservation, including the use of LED lights in any new buildings constructed. He corrected a statement in the third quarter report regarding Planning Commission action on the cell tower located at 4980 Park Lake Road.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the Ingham County Regional Trails and Parks Plan input session held in Meridian's Town Hall Room on October 15, 2015. She announced the Carriage Hills shopping center has reached an agreement with a new long-term tenant, Spartan Dance Academy. Treasurer Brixie gave a Township update to the Haslett Kiwanis at its meeting this morning and members inquired if the Township would be interested in participating in their Flags over Meridian program, a 20 flag subscription for \$720.00.

** Clerk clarification the date has been set for November 24, 2015**

Trustee Styka reported Trustees Veenstra, Scales and he convened the Redi-Ride subcommittee meeting last week where a date of October 27th at 2:00 P.M. was selected to receive public input to further understand the issues regarding the Redi-Ride and transportation for members of the community. He noted the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is also hosting an event dealing with public transportation on Thursday, October 22nd. Trustee Styka indicated a statewide Broadband Conference was held today in Lansing, and will share a brief synopsis of the conference in the near future. He mentioned the numerous Halloween Events sponsored by the Township scheduled for October 24th and October 31, 2015.

Clerk Dreyfus announced the next Meridian Township election will be held on March 8, 2016 for the Presidential Primary. He reported his attendance at a tour for public officials hosted by Granger Landfill building out a new section in an effort to educate officials about the end of the waste stream cycle. Clerk Dreyfus added electricity is generated as part of the process which delivers electricity to 14,000 homes in Lansing. He reported his attendance at Tri County Regional Planning Commission's (TCRPC) Urban Services Management Area (USMA) committee meeting where it was announced there will be a bus tour on November 5th to Frankenmuth, which has one of the state's leading urban services boundaries. Clerk Dreyfus announced there is still time to provide public input on the Ingham County Regional Trails and Parks Plan as ideas generated will be vetted and connected to available funding.

Clerk Dreyfus stated a citizen approached him, with petitions, about developing a quiet zone for the two (2) railroads which pass through Meridian Township. He noted there is a federal process communities must follow in order to implement a quiet zone. Clerk Dreyfus requested quiet zones be placed on the November 3rd agenda as a discussion item.

Trustee Veenstra voiced support for placing quiet zones on the November 3, 2015 agenda as a discussion item. He noted it is extremely difficult to create new landfills, and an alternative is to reduce the amount of trash being generated and ultimately sent to landfills by increasing the rate of recycling. Trustee Veenstra suggested one way to accomplish this is to require recycling be available in all apartment complexes. He reported he has received criticism for the time set for the Redi-Ride subcommittee from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. as it prevents residents from attending due to work schedules.

Trustee Wilson announced the Meridian Fire Team won the Great Divide with a winning time of 1 minute, 24 seconds. She offered an update on the Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA), noting Lt. Scott Wigglesworth from the East Lansing Police Department has been designated as the GLTA'S Hearing Review Officer for all appeals of licensing denials for the 2016 licensing year which ends June 30, 2016. Trustee Wilson reported the GLTA now includes Lansing, East Lansing, Meridian Township, Delhi Township, Delta Township and Lansing Township. She stated there have been both reductions and increases in some of the fees, as well as language updates for clarity during the application process. Trustee Wilson added the Lansing Regional Airport is a non-voting member of the GLTA.

Trustee Scales reported there are "severe" cost overruns being experienced by the ICRD with paving of its roads. He announced October 26th begins temporary bridge repair on Marsh Road, south of Haslett Road, which will entail the closing of one lane in each direction until, approximately, Thanksgiving. Trustee Scales added the permanent bridge repair will take place in 2016. He reported the October 27th Redi-Ride subcommittee meeting from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. will allow an opportunity for residents who have not yet weighed in on this issue to voice their opinion to the Township Board.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Styka moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Remove Agenda Item #13D: Sale of Township Property Adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive**
- **Add Agenda Item #12D: New 2016 Goal Setting Date**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Dr. B. Ray Horn, 2790 Sirhal Drive, Apt. 115, East Lansing; RE: IISD Reporting Summary of the International Conference on Climate Action held October 1-2, 2015 in Hanover, Germany

BI-2 Dr. B. Ray Horn, 2790 Sirhal Drive, Apt. 115, East Lansing; RE: Secondhand smoke at Stratford Place Senior Facility located at 2790 Sirhal Drive, East Lansing

BI-3 Beth Bechtel, 1165 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett; RE: Request for the Meridian Township to pass a resolution in support of House Bill 4916, a bill to allow residents to have the option to keep their utility analog meter

BI-4 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Comments on the October 6, 2015 Board meeting

BI-5 Ody Norkin, Michigan Flyer LLC, 333 Albert Street, Suite 205, East Lansing; RE: Application for Meridian Redi-Ride Workgroup

BI-6 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Meridian Township Redi-Ride Committee

(2) Regional Linkage

RL-1 Supervisor LeGoff and Treasurer Brixie; RE: Letter to Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing relative to the transfer of foreclosed property located at 6201 Lake Drive in Meridian Township

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: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

(1) **Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the September 29, 2015 Special Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

(2) **Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 6, 2015 Regular Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, 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	\$ 728,364.09
Public Works	\$ 335,928.85
Total Checks	\$1,064,292.94
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 9,398.35
Total Purchases	<u>\$1,073,691.29</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 389,161.55</u>

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

D. Disposal of Surplus Vehicle

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicle at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:

2001	Ford Explorer	1FMZU72E92UA36323
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Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Ron Calhoun, Meridian Investment Group, 1427 W. Saginaw, East Lansing, spoke in support of MUPUD #15034 and SUP #15121, stating that after Board input, the applicant has added a sidewalk to the Hobby Lobby center, placed additional bicycle parking spaces between the three (3) residential buildings, provided LED lights for the project and with the assistance of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, added affordable housing units to the project.

Ken Stockwell, 4277 Okemos Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #15050.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, East Lansing, requested Board members refrain from criticizing the applicant for MUPUD #15034 and SUP #15121 regarding the proposed amenities, as they meet the criteria outlined in the Township's Code of Ordinances.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #15034 (Red Cedar Flats)

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby approves Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) #15034, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Approval is based on the Cover Sheet, Amenities Plan, and Proposed Impervious/Pervious Plan, prepared by KEBS, Inc., dated September 1, 2015; Site Rendering Plan (dated September 9, 2015) and Building Elevations (dated July 31, 2015), prepared by Progressive AE, subject to revisions as required.**
- 2. MUPUD #15034 shall be contingent on the approval of Special Use Permit (SUP) #15121.**
- 3. Approval is subject to one or more amenities. Four or more additional unique and extraordinary amenities are required for a density of up to 18 dwelling units per acre. The applicant proposes the following amenities as identified on the Amenities Plan (Sheet 6): rehabilitation of a degraded site; site recycling of trash; foot and bicycle pathways connecting to the Township pathway system; covered bicycle storage on site; outdoor gathering resource; seating plazas visible to the street; and LED exterior lighting. The applicant also offered to provide the following additional enhancements: install an additional 30 covered bicycle parking spaces between the residential buildings (10 spaces per building), for a total of 168 bicycle parking spaces on the site; extend the sidewalk (south of Building 3) to connect the subject site and the adjacent shopping center to the east; LED lighting for interior lighting in the residential units; and four apartment units will be designated as affordable housing units for residents with income below 80 percent of the median income for the area.**
- 4. Waivers shall be granted for those sections of the Code of Ordinances as follows: building setbacks for Building 1 (Section 86-402(1)(b.)) and (Section 86-432(d)(3)b.), a waiver to allow Building 1 (southeast corner) to be located approximately 9.67 feet from the property line (required setback is 15 feet); building setback for Building 2 (Section 86-432(d)(3)c.), a waiver to allow Building 2 (southwest corner) to be located approximately 41.80 feet from a residential district boundary line (required setback is 50 feet); parking area and recycling center setbacks (Section 86-756(14)), waivers to allow the parking area (northeast of Building 1) to be located 5 feet from the east property line; the parking area (southeast of Building 1) to be located zero feet from the north property line; and the recycling center enclosure to be located zero feet from the north property line (the required setback is 15 feet for parking and recycling enclosure); and number of parking spaces (Section 86-755), a waiver to allow a total of 295 motor vehicle parking spaces for the project, and 314 motor vehicle parking spaces are required (with bike parking reduction allowance included).**
- 5. Any future building additions or expansions to the buildings will require modification to the MUPUD #15034 and SUP #15121.**

6. Exterior building materials shall be consistent with the preferences of the MUPUD ordinance which include, but are not limited to, wood, brick, clapboards, glass, and stone. Other materials, such as vinyl, aluminum, and other metals shall be avoided. The character and quality of the exterior building materials and general architectural design of the buildings shall be consistent on all four sides of each building.
7. The final building elevations and building materials shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.
8. Apartments may be occupied by a family, or, no more than two unrelated persons may occupy the one and two bedroom units; no more than three unrelated persons may occupy the three bedroom units; and no more than four unrelated persons may occupy the four bedroom units.
9. The applicant shall apply for and receive all applicable variances from the Zoning Board of Appeals which may include articulation of the façade every 50 feet; window coverage of the street level façade of a non-residential building (Building 1); and the elimination of curb and gutter in the parking areas.
10. All utility service distribution lines shall be installed underground.
11. The final design of the two recycling enclosures shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.
12. Site accessories such as railings, benches, trash and recycling receptacles, exterior lighting fixtures, and bicycle racks shall be of commercial quality, and complement the building design and style. Final design and location shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.
 - b. Northwind Drive shall be restriped with 10 foot lanes and bike lanes, consistent with our complete streets policy. Striping shall be maintained annually.
13. Landscaping shall generally comply with the provisions of the Code of Ordinances, including the mixed use planned unit development standards as outlined in Section 86-440(f)(4) and other applicable sections of the Ordinance pertaining to landscaping.
14. Site and building lighting shall comply with Article VII in Chapter 38 of the Code of Ordinances and shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development, including the height of any new parking lot light poles.
15. A final sign program shall be submitted as part of site plan review and shall be subject to the review and approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.
16. All mechanical, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and similar systems shall be screened from view by an opaque structure or landscape material (if at street level) selected to complement the building. Such screening is subject to approval by the Director of Community Planning and Development.
17. The applicant shall combine the three parcels into one tax parcel.

18. **The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits, licenses, and approvals from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Township. Copies of all permits and approval letters shall be submitted to the Department of Community Planning and Development.**
19. **The utility, grading, and storm drainage, and sidewalk construction plans for the site shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works and Engineering and shall be completed in accordance with the Township Engineering Design and Construction Standards.**
20. **A copy of the site plan information that exists in a computer format for the development project and construction plans shall be provided to the Township Engineering staff in an AutoCAD compatible format.**

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board and applicant's engineer discussion:

- ICRD has allowed striping of streets with ten foot lanes to allow for a small bicycle lane
- Engineer's statement there needs to be a minimum of four (4) feet for a bicycle lane
- Although there is 28 feet for the road, three (3) feet will be lost (18" on each side) for curb and gutter
- Concern that curb and gutter leaves only 2-1/2 feet for a bicycle lane
- Concern with a striped bicycle lane which creates a safety issue for users through use of asphalt for the road and concrete for curb and gutter which creates a "lip" between the two
- Hannah Boulevard is a shared lane and does not contain a striped bicycle lane
- Preference by the applicant's engineer to discuss the issue with both the Township's traffic consultant and the applicant's traffic consultant regarding the proposed width of the bicycle lane
- Only portions of Northwind Drive have curb and gutter and the width of the road fluctuates
- Board member preference for striping of ten (10) foot lanes with sharros
- Board member belief the purpose of the striping with ten (10) foot lanes is to make the cars travel at slower speeds and to make room for bicycles
- There is currently no striping on Northwind Drive
- With the addition of several hundred residents, it is necessary to provide multi-modal transportation opportunities
- Applicant will need to have a discussion with all property owners and traffic consultants on the best way to stripe Northwind Drive
- Suggestion to have only one bike lane on the east side of Northwind Drive

Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend Condition #12 b. by deleting "bike lanes" and inserting "a bike lane"**

The friendly amendment was not accepted by the maker.

Continued Board and applicant's representative discussion:

- Bicycle lane on only one side of the road causes safety issues and bike riders will continually cross the road
- East side also has a sidewalk
- Board member assumption the bike lane would only be used by bicyclists traveling north and those traveling south would use the road

Trustee Scales moved to strike Condition #12b. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved to add Condition #12b as follows:

- 12b. Northwind Drive shall be restriped with ten (10) foot lanes and bike lanes, or sharros, consistent with our complete streets policy, subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development. Striping shall be maintained annually.**

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Continued Board member preference if only one bicycle lane is possible, the lane has arrows on it to establish only one direction of travel for bicyclists
- Board member belief sharros do not accomplish anything
- Appreciation for changes proposed by the developer after listening to previous Board comment (i.e., LED lighting, additional covered bicycle parking and affordable housing)
- Ordinance currently requires curb and gutter in the parking areas
- Applicant has the right to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals to request a waiver for curb and gutter in the parking areas
- Applicant needs to demonstrate water can be controlled on site without curb and gutter
- Redevelopment of a site requires either lowering the asphalt six (6) inches or raising the rest of the site six (6) inches to butt up against existing ground
- Board member preference to reference the letter of October 1, 2015 in condition #1

Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend condition #1 to add the letter of October 12, 2015 from Eckhart and Associates**

Board and staff discussion:

- Additional conditions proposed in the October 12th letter were referenced in condition #3

The friendly amendment was not accepted by the maker.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend condition #1 to add the letter of October 12, 2015 from Eckhart and Associates**

The motion died for lack of a second.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Use Permit #15121 (Red Cedar Flats)

Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby approves of Special Use Permit #15121 (Meridian Investment Group) for a group of four buildings totaling more than 25,000 square feet in gross floor area subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Approval of the special use permit is in accordance with the Cover Sheet, prepared by KEBS, Inc., dated September 1, 2015 and Building Elevations prepared by Progressive AE, dated July 31, 2015, subject to revisions as required.**

2. **Special Use Permit #15121 is subject to all conditions placed on Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #15034 (Meridian Investment Group, LLC) by the Township.**
3. **The gross square feet of all buildings on the site shall not exceed 125,200 square feet unless the applicant applies for and receives an amendment to Special Use Permit #15121 (Meridian Investment Group, LLC).**

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend the NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSE to delete “of” after the word “approves”**

The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

Board discussion:

- Appreciation to the applicant for making an investment in the Township
- Intent of the applicant to tear down the buildings yet this year

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

C. Rezoning #15050 (Stockwell) – Introduction

Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15050” from PO (Professional and Office) to C-2 (Commercial).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- Parcel is located northwest of the intersection of Powell Road and Grand River Avenue
- Township has an excess of PO zoned property within Meridian Township
- Board member preference to label staff reports as “Introduction” when appropriate

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

D. New Goal Setting Date

Treasurer Brixie moved to reset the goal setting date to Monday, November 16, 2015 from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Meetings held during the work day draw a different group of members of the public

- Goal setting during the work day allows Department Directors to attend without requiring them to stay after work
- Prioritization of goal setting is an important part of the process
- Issue was thoroughly vetted during the previous Board meeting and a majority of members voted in favor of an evening meeting
- Board should not be scheduling its meetings to accommodate staff members
- Citizens who work second and third shift may wish to attend this meeting during the day
- Board member concern four (4) hours is not sufficient time to thoroughly vet the Board's goals for an entire year
- Board member preference to keep both November 10th day and this proposed date to complete Board discussion on its goal setting
- Board member preference to place a time table on all the goals so each year the Board will consider only the goals placed within that year's timetable
- Reminder that currently, Redi-Ride only runs until 5:00 P.M. and some residents rely on that mode of transportation
- Board member suggestion to commence the goal setting meeting at 3:00 P.M and run into the evening as a compromise and "solution" to day v. evening dilemma

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

Clerk Dreyfus moved to reset the goal setting date for November 16, 2015 from 3:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Continued Board discussion:

- One Board member is not available Monday, Wednesday or Friday evenings
- Another Board member cannot meet on November 19th
- Continually pushing this meeting back makes it "out of sync" with the Township Manager's annual performance review

Clerk Dreyfus withdrew his motion.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to reset the goal setting date for November 12, 2015 from 3:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Continued Board discussion:

- Preference for the motion to not set an ending time

Clerk Dreyfus modified his motion to the following:

- Reset the goal setting date for Thursday, November 12, 2015 beginning at 3:00 P.M.
- Concern with other committee obligations (which are the business of the Board) which conflict with times being discussed
- Board member preference not to hold multiple meetings on this issue

Clerk Dreyfus withdrew his motion.

Trustee Styka moved to reset the goal setting date for Monday, November 16, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Need for Board members to use best Board practices which include respect for one another

- Board member belief November 16th at 10:00 A.M. was the only date and time which worked for all Board members
- Township Manager belief there will be three (3) additional meetings for the Board to continue work on its goal setting
- Township Manager is voluntarily waiving the November 1st deadline for his evaluation as noted in his contract to allow the Board the time needed to finish its goals

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Charles Barbieri, Foster Swift, 313 S. Washington Square, Lansing, legal counsel for The Ponds Cooperative Homes, Inc. requested the Board act on a notice of intent to file a drain petition for improvements of the Daniels Drain.

Cecilia Kramer, 4560 Oakwood, Okemos, President, Forest Hills Homeowners Association, indicated Township staff has some authority in shaping the design and construction of the Daniels Drain and urged great scrutiny. She suggested continual review, throughout the process, focusing efforts to ensure the benefit derived is accurately calculated prior to costs being assessed each homeowner within the drainage district. Ms. Kramer believed there is no other way, from a public policy viewpoint, for the Board to protect the public utility other than approve a notice of intent to file a drain petition for improvements to the Daniels Drain.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered comments on the draft Personnel Policy. He requested an explanation of the phrase “illegally controlled substance” noted on page 15, inquiring if medical marihuana was considered an illegal drug with regard to the workplace safety policy. Mr. Bowlby noted the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act does not provide an exemption for the use of medical marihuana at work, but does prohibit discipline for use of medical marihuana by qualified medical marihuana patients. He questioned the verbiage of producing prescribed medication in a container labeled by the licensed pharmacist if asked, stating that language should only apply if an employee was taking the medication while at work. Mr. Bowlby also questioned whether a qualified medical marihuana user could not be employed by the Township or a current employee could be fired for failing a random drug test. He, contrary to interpretation by one Board member, did not read the personnel policy to mean possession of cigarettes on Township property was a violation; only that an employee is prohibited from smoking and using tobacco products while at work.

Judith St. King, 5180 Madison Avenue, Okemos, availed herself for Board questions regarding Rezoning #00150.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Daniels Drain Improvements

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Perry summarized the process to date for possible improvements to the Daniels Drain as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 20, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Issue has been on the agenda seven (7) times
- Board member belief The Ponds Cooperative Homes, Inc. should be assessed the major portion of the cost of the project
- Board member preference for more specificity in the language of the Township’s Notice of Intent to File Petition
- Three toll gates in the Chapter 20 drain process: Step 1 (Notice of Intent), Step 7 (after the public hearing) and Step 11 (Drainage Board) of the 20 step process
- Board must hold a public hearing in order to reserve the right to pass along the assessments

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the November 3, 2015 meeting.

B. Proposed Mobile Food Vendors Ordinance

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed mobile food vendors' ordinance as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 15, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief a fee of \$60 per month currently in the vending ordinance is reasonable
- Board member preference to issue the permit for 120 days
- Board member concern with interpretation of Section 38-297 (1) c. relative to "all persons" with ownership interest in the event the entity is a corporation
- Board member concern Section 38-297 (1) g. is open ended
- Board member preference for the maximum number of mobile food units per parcel to be limited to three (3) in the event of a celebration at Meridian Mall
- Board member preference for the freestanding portable signs to be no more than eight (8) square feet and four (4) feet in height
- Sec. 38-304 (5) should allow a mobile food unit to fly the US flag
- Concern with banning the location of food trucks based on their proximity to existing restaurants
- 120 days is a good license period of time
- Suggestion to include language which requests the name of a responsible party as part of the application (Section 38-297 (1) c.), similar to state licensing laws
- Request for the cost of regulating this ordinance
- Board member belief the maximum number of units varies dependent upon the size of the property with a minimum number of feet between units
- Addition of a recycling receptacle to the required waste receptacle in Section 38-304 (1)
- Preference for hours of operation be defined as 7:00 A.M. until 11:00 P.M.
- Preference for hours of operation be defined as 7:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M. as many applicable sites have existing special use permits in place
- Concern with the approval being contingent upon the number of required parking spaces as our parking requirements result in spaces which are not utilized
- Board member preference to give the authority to the Director of Community Planning and Development to evaluate the number of units on a per parcel basis
- Board member preference not to force a mobile food vending unit to move
- Board member belief East Lansing's fees are too high
- Vendor has a right to utilize the appeal process if aggrieved by a decision or determination made by the Director of Community Planning and Development
- Fee schedule should be based on the different types of mobile foot unit operations: stationary and mobile
- Flat fees are easier for the Township to enforce
- Need for application fee equity with taxes paid by brick and mortar restaurants
- Length of license v. remaining at the same location
- Shorter license period with an easy renewal process would allow a vendor to test the market
- Mobile food unit v. non-traditional restaurant within a trailer
- Mobile food units utilize the Township's infrastructure without being connected to the normal property tax base
- Mobile food units are a diversity of food choice
- Movement of the mobile food unit allows the owner to have access to different customer bases throughout the area
- Concern with the timing of selecting prime locations for a "permanent" spot
- Board member preference for duration of the license to be limited to 60 or 90 days
- Application fee of \$1,000 would provide parity with brick and mortar restaurants
- Some mobile food units will offer breakfast and should be allowed to start at 6:00 A.M.
- Board member suggestion to add a Special Events section to provide flexibility for the Township
- License period will be different from the fee period
- Board member preference for flexibility in the fee based on the amount of time a vendor operates at a specific location
- Suggestion to increase the appeal notice to ten (10) days to account for slower mail
- Board member preference for the Township to have a similar application fee to East Lansing's because of proximity

- To some extent, the Township needs to allow the business community to take care of some of these issues (e.g., a property owner would not allow a mobile food unit near the location of a tenant who runs a restaurant)
- Suggestion to have a somewhat higher application fee to cover Township costs and lack of property taxes
- Food trucks add interest and diversity to the Township

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

C. Personnel Policy Manual – Draft

Director Marx summarized the draft Personnel Policy Manual as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 15, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief Meridian Township should not ban employees from using medical marihuana since it is legal in the State of Michigan
- Board member concern with the reasonableness of the provision that prescribed medication must be carried in the container labeled by a licensed pharmacist when multiple medications are necessary
- Board member suggestion to provide paid maternity leave for the mother who gives birth
- Board member suggestion to include a provision in the harassment policy when the Supervisor or Township Manager is the harasser
- Appreciation to staff for work on this comprehensive document
- Staff will summarize all comments and questions posed by Board members and distribute to the entire Board
- Board member preference to ban employees from smoking on Township property

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for continued discussion at the November 3, 2015 Board meeting.

E. Rezoning #00150 (St. King)

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 16, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Rezoning is appropriate as it fits with other uses in the area
- Township has an abundance of PO zoned land in the Township
- Rezoning would allow the owner to better utilize the space currently not in use

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the November 3, 2015 Board meeting.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Scales announced his 50-10 birthday benefit for the Haslett High School Black Student Union will be held tomorrow evening at Xiao Asian Bistro beginning at 5:30 P.M. He indicated the first \$500 raised will go toward purchasing a seat at the new Haslett High School auditorium.

Trustee Styka encouraged residents to purchase seats for the Haslett High School Performing Arts Center. He also announced Okemos High School is raising funds for new uniforms, and information regarding both these fundraising events are available on their respective websites.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Without objection, Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary