

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD BUDGET DELIBERATIONS MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus (6:05 P.M.), LeGoff, Veenstra (6:02 P.M.)
ABSENT: Trustee Ochberg
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Assistant Manager/ Human Resources Director Paul Brake, Director of Finance Diana Hasse, Director of Parks & Recreation LuAnn Maisner, Director of Information Technology Stephen Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Marilyn Britten, 1874 Birchwood Drive, Okemos, raised questions regarding return received from membership dues paid to Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) and spoke to several issues relative to closing the Central Fire Station.

Bill Richardson, 1083 Haslett Road, Haslett, spoke in support of keeping the Central Fire Station open.

Brian Town, 1112 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

Sonny France, 4932 Grandview, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

Penny France, 4932 Grandview, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station, in opposition to the DDA borrowing \$200,000 and in opposition to additional compensation for the Executive Director of the DDA.

Sherry Corwin, 2021 Tomahawk Road, Okemos, expressed concern with closing the Central Fire Station.

Vance Poquette, 2226 Kent Street, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station and in opposition to elimination of the 4th of July Celebration. He believed the Board should look at ways to be creative in balancing the budget.

Holly Triestram, 4303 Tacoma Boulevard, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station, and in opposition to the Okemos Road Enhancement Project.

Laurie Sommers, 4292 Tacoma Boulevard, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

Robert Luebke, 4300 Tacoma Blvd., Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

Tammy Lemmer, 5950 Buttonwood, Okemos, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

6. 2010 BUDGET

Finance Director Hasse and staff summarized Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Public Works Water and Sewer Funds, Motor Pool Revenue and the Downtown Development Authority budget.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- CATA millage fund assumes a renewal approved during the November election
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway millage fund monies must be spent for the purpose in which they were collected
- Local road millage is ¼ of a mill for 6 years
- Road Commission as the agency who contracts for road repair work
- Administrative fee charged by the Road Commission is based upon actual costs v. a percentage of the total contract
- \$10,000 for the annual sidewalk repair program included in the local roads fund
- Distinction between park millage parks and general fund parks maintenance
- Revenue collected from Harris Nature Center programs
- Slight increase in Cable TV's personnel costs
- New lift station will alleviate back-up problems for Ottawa Hills residences
- New pump station will have approximately the same capacity as the main lift station and will provide approximately 40% relief for the main lift station
- Approximately 12,000 water customers in the Township
- Proposed increase of .10 per 1,000 gallons for sewer rates
- Replacement of two administrative vehicles within the Fire Department
- Motor Pool Fund as an internal service fund
- Motor Pool allows vehicles to be maintained and replaced on a schedule
- One component which makes up the charge for a vehicle is depreciation for the replacement of the vehicle
- If Fire Department administrative vehicles were not purchased, the money would remain in the Motor Pool and would be available to purchase other vehicles
- Equipment rental for vehicles is based upon a specific life cycle and cost of insurance, gas, oil and maintenance
- Each Township Department has its own idling policy
- Possible environmental component to the idling policies
- 2010 reduction in the number of vehicles
- Motor Pool funded by all departments which use vehicles
- Vehicle replacement considers type of vehicle and type of use
- Rate reductions determined by the previous year's usage
- Periodic review of vehicle standards for economic efficiency
- Request for mileage information on surplus vehicles to be disposed
- Vehicle insurance has a \$1,000 deductible through a replacement cost policy
- Reduce Motor Pool costs on an annual basis by removing the vehicle from the department
- The cost of the vehicle to be maintained and replaced must be covered as long as a vehicle is in the Motor Pool
- Restrict Downtown Development Authority (DDA) funds to be spent primarily in the public road right-of-ways to enhance aesthetics in the area to encourage business development
- Half of the money from the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds would be spent to pay back the \$200,000 DDA loan
- Ten-year loan would be sought through a bank due to its small size
- Tax sharing agreement with Ingham County based on the development plan that is part of the TIF
- Belief that Ingham County cannot reconsider the agreement when it chooses to stop the DDA from capturing tax increment funds

- 2010 DDA budget projections are derived from the assessment roll generated from the December 31, 2008 valuation
- DDA projects are based on what has been assessed
- DDA Executive Director position should be part of the Assistant Township Manager's regular job responsibilities
- Personnel costs are a reimbursement from the DDA to the Township of the Executive Director's time and effort
- Primary concept behind the creation of a DDA is economic development
- Recent Township survey showed over 80% of residents favored increasing economic development ventures in the Township
- DDA investment in the streetscape makes the Township more attractive to prospective businesses
- Concern that proposed \$200,000 ten-year loan is speculative based on future growth
- Timely advantage for the DDA to purchase streetlights with included irrigation lines from the Board of Water and Light at a reduced cost due to a similar project with the City of Lansing
- Public investment in the DDA area will produce private investment
- DDA loan should not be considered if the Okemos Road Enhancement Project does not continue
- Projected 2010 state revenue sharing for the Township reduced an additional \$110,000
- Request to reconfigure the budget to keep the Central Fire Station open
- Incorporation of revisions to the 2010 recommended budget through Board consensus after the public hearing and discussion on October 6, 2009
- Board is bound to follow the procedures and policies of the Township in the implementation of the budget
- Built-in controls that govern the budget offer limited discretionary expenditures
- Additional budget concerns may be sent to the Township Manager

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed appreciation for the local road millage, spoke in opposition to closing the Central Fire Station and addressed several other budget items.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

8. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT (None)

9. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary