

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting (6:11 P.M.), Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra (6:01 P.M.)
ABSENT: Trustee Woiwode
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, Director of Finance Diana Hasse, Attorney Andria Ditschman

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Greg Crockett, 4390 Congdon, Williamston, introduced himself as a candidate for Ingham County Probate Court Judge.

Ann Alchin, 2227 Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the road repair millage issue.

Virginia White, 1641 Birchwood Drive, Okemos, announced September 17th as Constitution Day and the week of September 17th-23rd as Constitution Week. She stated that Bells Across America will be rung at 4:00 P.M. on Constitution Day.

Elizabeth Le Goff, 5189 E. Brookfield Drive, East Lansing, spoke to a possible cut in the rental housing inspector position contained in the 2009 Recommended Budget and urged the Board to reconsider.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy announced that Trustee Brixie and she attended the walk-through of the Hamptons at the corner of Mt. Hope and Hagadorn Road.

Trustee Veenstra expressed a desire to place an announcement in the Meridian Monitor requesting homeowners clear sidewalks through trimming of tree branches and other landscape maintenance to aid in pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

Trustee Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Add Agenda Item #7F: Revised Property Acquisition Resolution – Sower Blvd. Parcel**

Seconded by Trustee Such.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 4-1.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Chris Farougi, 6285 Reynolds, Haslett; RE:
- BI-2 Dave Card, 6045 E. Lake Drive, Haslett; RE: Pedestrian/bicycle pathways
- BI-3 Joseph and Johanna Aquilina, 6275 Mereford Court, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Whitehills Public Road Improvements SAD #41
- BI-4 Katie Kim, 6231 Pine Hollow Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Whitehills Public Road Improvements SAD #41
- BI-5 Thomas Gallagher, 6459 Island Lake Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Whitehills Public Road Improvements SAD #41
- BI-6 Mary Jo Gallagher, 6459 Island Lake Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Whitehills Public Road Improvements SAD #41
- BI-7 Theresa Hahn, 2314 Knob Hill Drive, Apt. 5, Okemos; RE: Appreciation for good sidewalks in Meridian Township

(2). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

- SC-1 Memorandum from Principal Planner Oranchak RE: Commission Review #08083 (Township Board)
- SC-2 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated August 27, 2008

Trustee 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 Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 4-1.

B. Minutes

Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the August 19, 2008 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 4-1.

C. Bills

Trustee Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 178,052.54
Public Works	\$ 106,932.15
Public Safety Bldg. Debt	\$ 7,125.00
Payments – Bank of New York	
Total Checks	\$ 292,109.69
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,889.56
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 298,999.25</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 515,383.45</u>

Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 4-1.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Assessing Stipulation

Trustee Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Casey and Kay Gomez on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>	
2006	0327363	4254 Hulett Road, Okemos, MI	
2007			
<u>Assessment</u>	2006	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$100,700/ 100,700
	2007		\$ 92,800/ 92,800
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2006	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$ 89,000/ 89,000
	2007		\$ 90,000/ 90,000

Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 4-1.

E. Champion Woods Streetlighting SAD #322

Trustee Brixie moved to approve the Champion Woods Streetlighting Special Assessment District #322 – Resolution #3, authorizing the installation and maintenance of twenty four (24) streetlights, traditional fixture with cut-off, and black standard poles, along Sophia Parkway, Laforet Circle, Rain Forest Circle and Benham Way and defray the cost of operation and maintenance by special assessment against the 51 benefiting lots. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 4-1.

- F. Revised Property Acquisition Resolution – Sower Blvd. parcel
Trustee Brixie moved to approve the Revised Property Acquisition Resolution (Sower Blvd. Parcel) by deleting the words “Land Bank” and inserting the word “Treasurer”.

Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 4-1.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

9. HEARINGS

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

- A. Purchase of Land Preservation Property (Whitcomb)

Clerk Helmbrecht moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, Ingham County, Michigan, does hereby approve the purchase of a 3.83 +/- acre portion of parcel # 33-02-02-06-215-004 for a price of \$19,000 plus Township expenses toward closing expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Township Board authorizes the Township Supervisor, Township Clerk and Township Manager to ratify an agreement entered into with Joan and David Whitcomb and to take further actions deemed necessary to close such transaction for acceptance of this parcel as defined by the attached legal description.

Seconded by Trustee Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Okemos Road Enhancement Project, Revised Scope
 Director Severy summarized the revised scope of the Okemos Road Enhancement Project as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 29, 2008.

Trustee Brixie moved to approve increasing the project limits for the Okemos Road Enhancement Project to: from Jolly Road to Clinton Street, and approving the deletion of the colored concrete pavement from the project, adding dark sky streetlights on both sides of Okemos Road within the project limits, and adding benches, trash receptacles, and street trees as appropriate. Seconded by Trustee Such.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Friction factor of colored concrete
- No high volume road could be found that has colored concrete
- Ingham County Road Commissioners skeptical of approving colored concrete
- Amenities at the CATA bus stops
- Proposed streetlights will be low level with dark sky fixtures
- Current high level streetlights may or may not be removed
- Streetlights will aid children walking to Kinawa School in the morning
- Street trees will not be placed between the pathway and the road due to ICRC requirements
- Street trees will require obtaining easements from property owners if placed behind the sidewalk

- Township match of \$141,994 approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Engineering costs not included in the grant
- Grant amount of \$331,319
- Disappointment with citizen opposition to safety and beautification enhancements contained in the original Board leadership plan
- Appreciation to the administration for its perseverance on this project in the face of criticism

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 5-1.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

A. 2009 Recommended Budget

Township Manager Richards noted the 2009 budget is a leaner budget and attempts to take into account the fiscal realities of our local and state economy as well as new accounting measures. He indicated the budget proposes to keep current expenditures equal to current revenues, acknowledging that revenues are basically flat. The proposed budget will have seven (7) fewer positions (achieved through attrition) and five (5) to eight (8) less vehicles in the Township motor pool. To work toward a Board priority of energy efficiency, there is money allotted to hire consulting services or a consultant who will recommend energy projects which will be cost effective.

Manager Richards added that in response to concerns expressed about the need to have the Township website more user friendly, the budget proposes to contract out web design services. He indicated the largest financial recommendation is the use of the fund balance to comply with GASB 45, the post retirement benefit liability, which requires governmental units to project and estimate future costs of providing paid health coverage to retirees. Manager Richards noted the actuarial showed a liability cost of \$4 million over time for making health insurance payments to our current retirees and future eligible retirees. This budget proposes to take \$1 million out of the general fund balance and establish a separate fund which would lower the amount which would be annually contributed from \$400,000 to \$350,000. In previous years, between \$100,000 and \$120,000 had been budgeted to pay retiree health insurance premiums.

Manager Richards stated the Township received bids for health insurance this year (effective September 1st), and was able to keep current health care costs relatively flat by changing health insurance carriers.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Look of property tax revenues in 2010 projected to be flat up to a small percentage increase
- Approach of lowering expenses to stay in line with projected revenues
- Appreciation for the approach of moving toward a sustainable size government
- Proposed budget is fiscally conservative
- New concept of future liability

B. New Planning Enabling Act

Director Kieselbach summarized the effect of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act on Township ordinances as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 28, 2008.

Board members discussed the following:

- Board to assume responsibility of the Public Improvements Program (PIP)
- Move PIP to an administrative function

- Reduce the number of Planning Commission members to seven (7) to achieve sustainable government
- Number of Planning Commissioners to remain at nine (9)
- Possible Board liaison to the Planning Commission
- Obtain comments on the PIP from the Planning Commission regardless of changes
- Necessity of the Planning Commission meeting once per month
- Requirement of at least four (4) meetings per year
- Flexibility of allowing the Planning Commission to meet whenever necessary
- Integration of PIP approval into the budget process

The consensus of the Board was to reduce the number of Planning Commission members to seven (7), reassign the Capital Improvements Program as a staff responsibility and reduce the number of Planning Commission meetings to a minimum of four (4) per year.

C. Local Road Repair Options

Director Severy summarized local road repair options as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 28, 2008.

Board members discussed the following:

- Citizen initiated petitions for special assessment districts if they wish to have roads fixed
- Options on how to use the \$115,000 money available from the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC)
- Township must match Act 51 money from the ICRC
- Burcham, Van Atta, north section of Hulett Road, Hatch, Cornell, Tihart, eastern section of Newman, Towner, Newman, Towar, Birch Row and the north end of Hagadorn Road are examples of local roads
- Distribute special assessment costs to include residents who must use the road for ingress and egress but do not own frontage on the road
- Possible traffic count on a road to aid in determining who is using the road and then assign a percentage accordingly for the assessment
- Suggestions from the residents on how to repair Township roads
- Residents should contact their state legislators to pass a gas tax increase

The consensus of the Board was that resident initiated petitions would be the method for financing street maintenance projects in the future.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Ann Alchin, 2227 Hamilton Road, Okemos, expressed confusion whether the proposed millage language would cover Hamilton, Lake Lansing and Mount Hope Roads.

Richard Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, stated he believed the thrust of the Okemos Road Enhancement Project was to foster walkability. He suggested command buttons on pedestrian crossings and no right turn on red when pedestrians are present signs. Mr. Harrington felt it should be a Township priority to repair Cornell Road.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, believed the Board was wasting money on the Okemos Road Enhancement Grant which would be better used for road repair. He spoke to the seven (7) employee positions scheduled to be eliminated from the 2009 Recommended Budget (including one police officer position) and believed the health and safety of the residents should be the Township's priority.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILlicUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary