

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson,  
Opsommer, Sundland

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works  
and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark  
Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Finance Director Miriam  
Mattison, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie, Human Resources Director Joyce  
Marx, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Associate Planner/  
Economic Development Coordinator Ben Motil

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Dave Hall, Chief of Police-Introduction of New Police Officers

Police Chief Hall introduced Tori Klewicki-McNutt as Meridian Township's newest police officer.

B. 175<sup>th</sup> Township Celebration-Deborah Guthrie

Director Guthrie announced 2017 is Meridian Township's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She offered a brief history and highlighted the series of events to take place in the year-long celebration.

C. Resolution of Appreciation for Patrick Cannon

**Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN extends its best wishes to Patrick Cannon and expresses its gratitude for his service to the community. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cannon expressed his appreciation and offered history of his nearly 40 years of service to Meridian Township.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos, voiced appreciation for the Supervisor's nomination of him to serve on the newly created Transportation Commission.

John Veenstra, 320 Piper Road, Haslett, objected to cutting in half the opportunity for public comment during a Board meeting. He expressed his desire for the Board to reverse this action. Mr. Veenstra voiced opposition to the recommendation of Gerald Richards to the Planning Commission.

Patty McPhee, 5275 Thames Drive, Haslett, asked the Board to take time in making appointments to the Planning and Transportation Commissions. Relative to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), she asked new Board members to remember the history and messages from the public as they move forward on this issue.

Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing, expressed her views on appointments to the Transportation Commission. She voiced appreciation for the creation of this Commission. Ms. Rose requested Board members not approve the Walnut Hills rezoning request when it comes before them.

Karla Hudson, Skyline Drive, East Lansing, voiced appreciation for Board consideration of her as an appointee to the Transportation Commission. She offered a brief history of her transportation experiences while working at the Rehabilitation Center and use of public transit over the last 25 years of residency in the Township.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

#### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh noted that 13 Costco stores have been built in Michigan, a state of 570 Michigan communities, and pointed out the extensive work undertaken by Meridian Township and the City of East Lansing into the prospect of bringing Costco to the area. Manager Walsh stated people want to invest in Meridian, highlighting several new projects currently under construction.

#### 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus offered an extensive recount report for the November 8, 2016 General Election in Meridian Township. He demonstrated the three (3) chamber seals used to secure the ballot bags were identical in form and function and he addressed the total unrecountable votes. Clerk Dreyfus added that in the precincts where votes could not be recounted, election law dictates the original votes stand. Clerk Dreyfus spoke to an article in the *Lansing State Journal* and the series of evens regarding communication by the Ingham County Clerk's Office.

Board discussion:

- Number of total precincts in Ingham County
- Meridian Township's participation in the recount effort
- Board member belief the mathematics used varies according to precinct

Clerk Dreyfus noted that in precincts recounted in Meridian Township, the results showed virtually all precincts had either no change in the vote count, or were plus or minus one or two votes. He indicated what that meant was the original vote count in the November, 2016 General Election in Meridian Township was extremely accurate, and the recount proved it. Clerk Dreyfus concluded by stating he reached out to the Michigan Bureau of Elections, the *Lansing State Journal*, and the Ingham County Clerk's Office in order to clarify seal requirements from the State of Michigan, provide information to the general public and improve communication between the County Clerk and the Township.

#### A. Treasurer's Quarterly Report-Julie Brixie

Treasurer Brixie reported on delinquent personal property tax collection totals for 2011 through 2015 tax years, total 2016 tax year collections as of December 7, 2016, 2016 tax year distributions total as of November 10, 2016, and current fixed and non-fixed investments as of October 31, 2016.

#### 8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Deschaine moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Robert Francoeur, 6095 Horizon Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition the proposed Walnut Hills development
- BI-2 Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing; RE: Concern with the Walnut Hills rezoning request and her previous application for appointment to the Transportation Commission
- BI-3 Lindsey and Russell LaForte, 4577 Van Atta Road, Okemos; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution
- BI-4 Laurie Dawson, 2369 Seminole Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution
- BI-5 Ellen Rzepka, 1840 Sunhollow Court, Haslett; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 Lise Schools, 2300 Kewanee Way, Okemos; RE: E-mail of intent not to seek reappointment to the Environmental Commission

Material handed out at the December 6, 2016 Board Meeting

John Wolenberg, President, Wood Creek Homeowners Association, 2459 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Wood Creek Homeowners Association requests and recommendations for the Least Lansing Costco Store

Erica Wolf, 4965 Hillcrest Avenue, Okemos; RE: Letter of support for appointment of Diana Paiz Engle to the Transportation Commission

Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Susan J. Masten, 1320 Ivywood Drive, Okemos; Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Char Brooks, 2526 Dustin Road, Okemos; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road, East Lansing; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Alexia Mansour, 4354 Hulett Road, Okemos, RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Terri McElhinny, 4588 Van Atta Road, Okemos; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Tom and Winifred Motherwell, 1153 Haslett Road, Haslett; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

Anne Woiwode, 5088 Powell Road, Okemos; RE: Support for Meridian Township's Welcoming Community Resolution

**Trustee Deschaine 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 Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

B. Bills

**Trustee Deschaine moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:**

Common Cash	\$	139,674.50
Public Works	\$	330,219.27
Trust & Agency	\$	---
Total Checks	\$	469,893.77
Credit Card Transactions (Dec. 1 to Dec. 7, 2016)	\$	9,596.12
Total Purchases	\$	<u>479,489.89</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>394,899.89</u>

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

C. 2017 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule

**Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the 2017 Non-Union Wage Schedule, with a 2% wage adjustment, as presented. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Board discussion:

- Board member preference to not act on appointments since the list of appointments was not available to the public
- Only two (2) Boards are being requested this evening for appointments: Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission
- Supervisor reviewed all applications submitted for these two Commissions, examining the background of all applicants

**Treasurer Brixie moved to delay Transportation Commission appointments until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Board discussion:

- Board member noted four applications for public service were missing and they should be provided to the Board

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Supervisor Styka).

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to postpone the appointment of Planning Commission members until the January 3, 2017 Board meeting. The motion died for lack of support.**

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Samantha Baruah to the Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2019. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Clerk Dreyfus).

**Trustee Jackson moved to appoint Holly Cordill to the Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2019. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Jackson moved to reappoint Brett DeGroff to the Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2019. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Deschaine moved to appoint David Premoe to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2018. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to appoint Gerald Richards to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2018. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

Board discussion:

- Concern with the alleged lack of leadership when Mr. Richards was the Township Manager relative to lack of maintenance for the former central fire station, resulting in the need for a new fire station
- No discussion under Mr. Richards leadership concerning the pension liability
- Previous Board recently did not approve a recommendation for his appointment to the Planning Commission
- Board member belief there is a conflict of interest as Mr. Richards' firm has had an existing engineering contract with Meridian Township
- Township Manager stated there is no conflict of interest between he and Mr. Richards
- Township Manager stated there is no conflict of interest between the Township and any firm that employs Mr. Richards
- Conflict of interest issue was researched and the Supervisor believed none existed

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Clerk Dreyfus).

**Trustee Jackson moved to appoint Trustee Opsommer as the Township Board representative to the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) and Trustee Jackson as the Board representative to the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP).**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Clerk Dreyfus).

**Trustee Deschaine moved to appoint Treasurer Brixie as the Board representative to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC). Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board discussion:

- Interest expressed by the Treasurer to serve as the Board representative to the TCRPC
- Several letters received by the Supervisor in support of Clerk Dreyfus as the Board representative to the TCRPC
- Clerk currently serves on TCRPC’s Rural Services Management Committee

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 4-3 (Trustee Sundland, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka).

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Trustee Deschaine as the Board liaison to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board discussion:

- Trustee Deschaine is a member of the Meridian Area Business Association and has been a proponent of local small businesses for the last 30 years
- Trustee Sundland had expressed interest in serving in this position and offered her credentials

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 4-3 (Trustee Sundland, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka).

**Trustee Deschaine moved to appoint Trustee Sundland as the primary delegate to the Groundwater Management Board. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

**Trustee Sundland withdrew her name for consideration as the primary delegate to the Groundwater Management Board.**

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to appoint Trustee Sundland as the ex-officio member of the EDC. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.**

Board discussion:

- The treasurer of the EDC is required to serve as the ex-officio member

**Clerk Dreyfus withdrew his nomination.**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to appoint Clerk Dreyfus, Trustee Sundland and Trustee Deschaine as members of the Board Election Commission. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Deschaine moved to appoint Treasurer Brixie as the Board liaison to the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LBAP). Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to appoint Supervisor Styka as the regional linkage to local governments and school districts. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Clerk Dreyfus as the Board representative to TCRPC's Rural Services Management Committee and as the primary delegate to the Groundwater Management Board. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

Board discussion:

- Some meetings are held during the day and are not conducive for a Board member who holds a full-time job

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Deschaine moved to appoint Trustee Sundland to the Communications Commission. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to appoint Trustee Jackson as the Board representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Trustee Deschaine as the Board representative to the Transportation Commission. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to appoint Supervisor Styka as the Board liaison to the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Trustee Deschaine moved to appoint Treasurer Brixie as the ex-officio member to the Board of Pension Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Urban Cooperation Agreement Amendment**

Township Manager Walsh summarized the amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 8, 2016.

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the Agreement Further Amending the Resolutions Amending the Conditions of Annexation. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board discussion:

- Appreciation to the Township Manager and the Supervisor for their negotiation efforts
- Residents' concerns were taken seriously and considered during the site plan review process
- Adoption of this amendment reconfirms what was already agreed to

- Appreciation for Director Kieselbach’s diligence throughout this process to hold Costco and East Lansing to Meridian Township standards
- East Lansing City Council is also meeting tonight to consider this agreement
- Appreciation for the inclusion of the conservation easement and building fees in the agreement
- Request for the Treasurer’s office to receive a copy of the amended brownfield plan in order to properly administer the exchange of funds
- Three out lots on this property were included which prevents further brownfield liability which may result in a quicker pay down than 15 years

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

C. 2016 End of Year Budget Amendments Request

Finance Director Miriam Mattison summarized the end of the year budget amendments as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 7, 2016.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the December, 2016 budget amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$26,050 which projects a use of fund balance of \$1,353,251. Based on audited 2015 results, the projected Fund Balance at December 31, 2016 will be \$6,250,731. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board and staff discussion:

- In 2013, the Township set a goal of a \$5,250,000 fund balance
- Township will receive a check for state revenue sharing
- \$1 million of the \$1,353,251 is a payment to MERS for pension liability approved by the previous Board
- Capital outlay costs in 2016 were for pavement work at the fire stations

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Study Session

Township Manager Walsh summarized the topic of Board study sessions as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 8, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Informal quarterly meetings with one or two topics of discussion determined by the Supervisor
- Preference to hold quarterly meetings during a third Tuesday night in a month
- Value of holding such discussions which would benefit new Board members
- Examples of topics include medical marijuana, pensions and planning tools
- Necessity of holding one in January which would deal with the Township Manager’s evaluation
- Board member suggestion to hold the first study session on January 24<sup>th</sup> with the complicated topic of pensions

**It was the consensus of the Board to discuss the dates at the Board’s goal setting on January 7, 2017.**

B. Township Branding

Communications Director Guthrie summarized the Township Branding project as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 7, 2016.

Zach Krieger, M3 Group, 614 Seymour, Lansing introduced Amy Iceman-Haueter, Brand Manager, who provided a brief overview of their research on the overhead projector. Ms. Iceman-Haueter concluded her remarks with a display of two options for the Township seal.

Board and M3 Group representative discussion:

- Appreciation the shape of the seal is not traditional
- Use of the word “prime” did not come up in association with a negative connotation
- Prime is a play on what individuals know in terms of prime Meridian being located in Meridian Township
- Use of the word prime serves a dual function as well as identifying areas in the community (i.e., schools districts) which offer prime services
- Appreciation for incorporation of water from the river and lake as well as greenspace
- Possibility of incorporating both prime and community first with the logo
- Inquiry as to the rationale for the choice of color palette for the seal
- Board member preference to add more blue to represent the amount of water within the Township
- Seal will “show” well on the website
- Seal is a modern approach to representation of Meridian Township
- Township website, publications, stationery and business cards are pending based on the Board’s selection of a logo and tag line
- Request for proposal (RFP) included the logo, slogan and roll-out of the entire branding campaign, anticipated to continue throughout 2017

**Treasurer Brixie moved to suspend the rules. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board discussion:

- Preference not to rush the process and allow time to receive input from the public
- Necessity of allowing departments to move ahead
- Logo, color and brand has implications on the final design and artwork contained in the Master Plan
- Majority of members prefer the prime community logo
- Suggestion to allow staff to move ahead in the next three (3) weeks and take a vote on January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Appreciation to M3 Group for their hard work

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 1-6 (Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland)

#### C. Investment Policy

Treasurer Brixie highlighted the primary objectives of the Township’s investment activities in priority order as outlined in Agenda Item 13C.

Board discussion:

- Board will vote on the investment policy at its next meeting\
- Treasurer has taken a conservative approach with Township investments
- Potential for higher rates of return through hiring an active investment manager for a portion of the portfolio

- Treasurer is seeking input from the other Board members regarding any changes to the existing investment policy
- Even mix of smaller communities who use active investment manager services as to those who do not
- Township should take advantage of any potential for growth in the market without significant risk
- Dramatic change in the commercial paper market within the last few weeks
- Appreciation the Township has the luxury of an ever-increasing tax base

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

- D. Zoning Amendment #16050 (Planning Commission) Amendment to Industrial Zoning District  
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 9, 2016.

Board discussion:

- One of the generalized features of the Master Plan is the promotion of more flexibility in the Township's land use categories
- Proposed zoning amendment helps accomplish the promotion of more flexibility in land use categories in an existing zoning district
- Meridian Company is a separate industrial site
- Four areas in the Township are zoned for industrial use: along Saginaw Highway, Dawn Avenue (location of Ellison Brewery), west side of south Okemos Road next to the railroad tracks and on Jolly Road near Kansas Street
- Education centers are currently allowed in commercial, office and research park zoning categories
- Suggestion to liaison with career centers and local schools
- Mobile food vending ordinance is a non-zoning ordinance and would not go before the Planning Commission for action
- Amendment to two ordinances - Chapter 38 for licensing and the zoning amendment for industrial zoned property
- Brewing companies and distilleries are unique secondary uses for old industrial sites which may otherwise be underutilized or unutilized
- Currently high schools in the Township do not offer shop or hands-on building trades

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

#### 14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, thanked the Clerk for his extensive election recount report. He expressed a continued desire for Board decorum to be exercised at Board meetings.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

#### 15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Deschaine announced Gayelord Mankowski's Annual Christmas Party will be held this Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and is in need of volunteers.

Trustee Jackson thanked Clerk Dreyfus for addressing the question regarding the results of the election recount reported in a *Lansing State Journal* article.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

---

RONALD J. STYKA  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

---

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary