

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018 **6:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Economic  
Development Director Chris Buck, Police Chief Dave Hall, Principal Planner Peter  
Menser, Fire Dept Bill Priese, Finance Director Miriam Mattison

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Okemos High School State Champion Quiz Bowl Team

Supervisor Styka read the resolution commending Okemos HS students for winning the State  
Championship, and the team was introduced to the Board. Moved by Supervisor Styka, seconded by  
Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,  
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

B. 2017 Township Audit – Yeo & Yeo

Finance Director Mattison introduced Ali Barnes and David Youngstrom, auditors from Yeo & Yeo.  
The auditors gave the Township high marks for an excellent audit, with no material deficiencies.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:25 P.M.

Brian Azar, 6040 Sleepy Howell Lane; member of Sierra Ridge Homeowners Association, opposed to Rezoning #18040. Spoke about decreased property values if rezoning is approved, "fit and aesthetics" of a multistory building, traffic flow and safety.

Meghan Block, 2104 Isaac Lane; opposed to Rezoning#18040 (Agenda Item 13.A), inappropriate location, overflow parking.

Spencer Soka, 2103 Isaac Lane; opposed to Rezoning #18040.

Fred Rodammer, 2139 Isaac Lane; opposed to Rezoning #18040.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:35 P.M.

#### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Reported on Fire Chief selection process – down to two finalists; Police Chief selection process – received 31 applications; neighborhood meetings.

#### 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Jackson reported:

- Attended CATA Community Meeting at Township Municipal Building
- Discussed expansion of Redi-Ride program
- Attended neighborhood leaders meeting with retiring Police Chief & Captain

Clerk Dreyfus reported:

- Conducted the 24th Annual Memorial Day Service at Glendale Cemetery May 28
- 125+ attendees, 32 members of the Meridian Community Band, special guest speaker moved the audience with his stories, overall very successful event

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- Attended MT Transportation Commission meeting May 17, focus is now roads, Bill Conklin of Ingham County Road Dept updated group on county road projects
- Economic Development Corporation meeting on June 7, Burcham Hills payment to EDC will remain at \$10,000
- Attended Meridian leadership breakfast, presentation on millage for new county jail
- Attended neighborhood meeting, community policing is working and citizens are engaged

Treasurer Brixie reported:

- Attended ribbon cutting for Rotary-sponsored educational signs in Meridian Historical Village
- Attended neighborhood leaders meeting
- Attended American Legion Memorial Day Service in Haslett
- Attended Chamber of Commerce Intergovernmental meeting

Trustee Sundland reported:

- Attended the Meridian leadership breakfast

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Accompanied Police Chief Hall at Ingham County ceremony to honor his retirement

- Police Captain Frenger also honored recently
- Attended Burcham Hills Public Hearing regarding bonding
- Attended Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) meeting
- Attended press conference for potential redevelopment of downtown Okemos

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda amended: Agenda Item 13.B → Now Agenda Item 12.D

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,  
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,  
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

A. Communications

**Trustee Opsommer 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 Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine,  
Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

B. Minutes – May 15, 2018 Regular Meeting

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2018 as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

C. Bills

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Treasurer Brixie:**

<b>Common Cash</b>	<b>\$243,029.07</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$64,258.97</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$307,378.04</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions April 26 to May 9, 2018</b>	<b>\$19,308.15</b>
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b><u>\$326,686.19</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	<b><u>\$584,222.71</u></b>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

D. Celebrate Meridian – Outdoor Assembly License

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Outdoor Assembly License for the Celebrate Meridian Festival to be held on June 29 & 30, 2018 in Central Park. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

E. Fireworks Display Permit – Celebrate Meridian

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the fireworks permit for Celebrate Meridian Festival on Saturday, June 30, 2018, by Pyrotechnic Operator Night Magic Displays. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

F. Celebrate Meridian Liquor License Resolution

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the attached resolution supporting the application of a one-day liquor license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for sale of beer and wine at the Celebrate Meridian Festival on June 30, 2018. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

G. Wayfinding Signage Resolution of Support – Ingham County Trails Millage

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the attached resolution of support for Ingham County Parks Department to apply for funding to the Michigan Transportation Alternative Program for implementation of the Ingham County Wayfinding Signage Plan. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (NONE)

11. HEARINGS (NONE)

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Acceptance of 2017 Township Audit Findings

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the 2017 audited financial statements as presented by Yeo & Yeo. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

B. Extrication Equipment (Jaws of Life)

**Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the purchase of extrication equipment for the Fire Department in the amount of \$18,555.00. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

C. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) 2017 Annual Report

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Downtown Development Authority 2017 Annual Report as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

D. Final Preliminary Plat #17012 – Silverstone Estates (Mayberry Homes)

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the resolution for Final Preliminary Plat #17012 (Mayberry Homes), a request to construct Silverstone Estates, a single family subdivision consisting of 25 lots located on the east side of Powell Road, north of Grand River Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board Discussion:

- Concern about developer-led vision vs. Township proactive planning
- Belief that original development plan was unnecessarily upzoned without justification for the increased density, desire for additional greenspace buffer along Powell Rd

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus

Motion carried 6 – 1

**13. DISCUSSION ITEMS****A. Rezoning #18040 (Cynthia Whiddon) – 2112 Lake Lansing Road**

Senior Planner Menser presented information on the proposed rezoning of a 1.12 acre parcel located at 2112 Lake Lansing Road from RA (Single Family – Medium Density) to RC (Multiple Family).

**Board discussion:**

- Applicant described project –8 upscale townhouses. Addressed concerns she’s heard about “transients, taxes, and turf.” Believes process is hypocritical, not given due consideration due to being a small developer, Meridian Township historically “caves” to big developers
- Criteria used for rezoning, comparing rezoning proposal with eight criteria
- Inconsistency of Board land use decisions, Board decisions show lack of adherence to the Meridian Future Land Use Map (FLUM), Board “favoritism” towards large-scale developers
- Other potential locations for 8 townhouses, inappropriate use of “transient” for renter
- Density concerns, rezoning not justified, current zoning is appropriate
- FLUM does not support rezoning, other areas in FLUM could serve as better location, maybe better suited to be adjacent to commercial property, parcel size

**Consensus of the Board to place this item on the agenda at the next Board meeting for Action.****C. Police Accreditation Process**

Township Manager Walsh presented background information on police accreditation and Meridian Township’s history of interest in obtaining accreditation.

**Board discussion:**

- Accreditation history since 2000, benefits of becoming accredited, process can result in an “unbiased review” of the Police Department
- Only 10 police departments in Michigan are accredited, more may become accredited
- Two phases of accreditation: self-assessment and on-site assessment
- Retiring Police Chief vs. new Police Chief to lead accreditation process
- Township Manager recommends hiring soon-to-be retired Police Chief part time until Dec 2018 for \$26,000; discussion on possible position funding
- Program is 2 years old, approximately 100 standards to meet in Michigan, 460 for national accreditation, Meridian had Recognition Level form of national accreditation in 2004
- Township saves money by having accreditation process done as part of new Police Chief duties – no part time position needed
- New Police Chief should spearhead accreditation – process brings out leadership skills and gives opportunity for involvement in all areas of the Police Department
- New Police Chief can start project later in year after they settle into position, no need for rush
- Accreditation is a commitment to excellence and professionalism, greater accountability, reduction in liability, enhances public confidence in police, independent assessment of police policies every three years
- Other communities not contacted yet regarding their accreditation experiences
- Discussion of police personnel planning to retire, department will be younger than it has been in the past, comfortability with retired Police Chief managing this special project

- New Police Chief will be busy getting familiar with Department, better to have retiring Police Chief handle accreditation

**Consensus of the Board to place this item on the agenda at the next Board meeting for Action.**

D. Review of 2108 Action Plan

Township Manager presented a summary of the Board's 11 Goals listed for 2018, and discussed various activities and accomplishments related to those goals.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:37 P.M.

Tim Krzys, 5588 Marsh Rd; stated he was a nurse who supports medical marijuana, elderly patients teach him about its benefits, should be regulated like a health-care issue. Concerned about police accreditation, noted that Board did not question how accreditation will benefit citizens who interact with police, believes Meridian police need further training in various areas, including people with mental health issues. Mr. Krzys was upset with police for insensitivity to being in his home – police tracked mud on their shoes, directed him to remove his dog from their presence. Commented on need for police to overcome negative media attention. He also voiced concerns about having a retired manager involved in decision-making when a new manager is in charge of a department.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:41 P.M.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion passed 7 – 0

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

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RONALD J. STYKA  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK