

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING – **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, October 17, 2017 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Public Works & Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Finance Director Miriam Mattison

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

New Employee introduction:

Maggie Rodgers-Sanders, new Administrative Assistant in the Clerk's Office.

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION (None)

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

John Fraser, Grewell Law PLLC, 2290 Science Parkway, Okemos, spoke regarding clients seeking to open medical marihuana facilities in Meridian Township under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Act. He stated that the Township has yet to take a position on the matter and encouraged the Board to keep an open mind throughout this process.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported on the Skyline Neighborhood community meeting on October 16th to the Golf Course Amendment, with almost 30 residents present, Trustees Opsommer and Jackson, Clerk Dreyfus, and Director Kielselbach were present to address questions from the community.

Quarterly meeting with MSU. Manager Walsh, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Jackson and Director Buck met with MSU President Lou Anna Simon.

Manager Walsh addressed the audit process and the bid process and the bids are in and will be reported to the Board in due time.

Chief Hall and Manager Walsh interviewed a new candidate for the police department.

Costco ribbon cutting will be Friday, October 27th at 8 a.m.

Quarterly meeting with the East Lansing School District in regards to Donley School and who will do the building permits for schools.

Meeting on October 26, 2017, with union to talk about the Fire Chief search. Interim Fire Chief is a possibility.

Garden club event on October 16, 2017, with over 50 people attending. Treasurer Brixie attended. They have a Pink Garden in the Meridian Historical Village.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland reported:

- Attended Communications Commission meeting, discussed Township website and need to work out the kinks, excited about the Township's 175th Anniversary events.
- Discussed conducting a communications survey within the Township, what it would encompass and the goals of the Communications Commission.

Trustee Brixie reported:

- Attended the reinstallation of the "disco fish;" they are now located at Wonch Park by the river off Okemos Road.
- Examined bill-paying software in Delta Township, along with the Deputy Treasurer, Finance Director, and the IT Director. Changes to the Township billing system could take place within the next 6-12 months.
- Attended a meeting with the President of the East Lansing School Board regarding the remodeling of Donley School and building permits.

Clerk Dreyfus reported:

- Held an Election Committee meeting for the November 7, 2017 election, with Trustees Deschaine and Sundland present. The Commission approved Absentee Voter Counting Boards, the Receiving Board election workers, and the Precinct Election Inspectors.
- Clerk's office is fielding a high volume of phone calls regarding the Ingham County Millage Proposal on the ballot. Voters are given referrals with contact information for the Ingham County Controller's Office.
- Participated in the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) annual Legislative meeting, discussed issues such as election law and voter registration.
- Attended the Skyline Hills Homeowners Association meeting. He addressed property owner concerns regarding proposed development issues, discussed different density scenarios based on zoning changes and/or lawsuit settlement.

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- Transportation Commission meeting scheduled October 19, looking at ways to expand the Redi-Ride service.
- The Okemos Kiwanis Club and the Haslett Kiwanis Clubs are merging, looking at working on park project together.
- The Kiwanis Club would like to do a large event at the new Farmers Market location, will fundraise over the next two years, event will occur perhaps in 2019.

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- Attended CATA meeting, focus on search for new CEO, in place by the first of the year.
- Participated in the Skyline Hills Neighborhood Association meeting, provided background information and addressed citizen issues involving the Golf Course Ordinance Amendment and rezoning request for Walnut Hills Country Club.

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Adventures at the Harris Nature Center this weekend. Crafts, pumpkin decorating and treats for guests.
- Nov 3rd, Meridian Cares Event at Old Chicago, eat, drink and karaoke night. 20% of all proceeds going toward the Meridian Cares Fund.

- Planet Pink Garden is to honor those who suffer from breast cancer or have lost their battle with this illness.
- Planning Commission Master Plan meeting October 23, 2017
- The moving of the Farmers Market is still in the works.
- He and the Township Manager met with East Lansing officials regarding new schools being constructed.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

Supervisor Styka moved to amend October 3, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Bill and Norma Sheathelm, 6093 W. Longview Drive, East Lansing; RE: Walnut Hills
- BI-2 Covert Law Firm, 1129 N. Washington Ave, Lansing; On behalf of Wisam (Sam) Shango; RE: Michigan’s Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMMFLA)

Clerk Dreyfus 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.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 570,571.99
Public Works	\$ 432,786.44
Trust & Agency	\$ 279,158.33
Total Checks	\$ 1,282,516.76

Credit Card Transactions (Sept. 14 to Oct. 11, 2017)	\$ 9,722.39
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Total Purchases	<u>\$ 1,292,239.15</u>
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ACH Payments	<u>\$ 454,266.54</u>
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Seconded by Trustee Jackson

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS

A. Sleepy Hollow Proposed SAD - Public Hearing and Resolution #2

Director Perry introduced and summarized the proposal of providing public water and sewer into the Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood and adjacent area.

Supervisor Styka opened the Public Hearing at 6:27 P.M.

- Public:

Tom Pinnavaia 5901 East Sleepy Hollow Lane. Mentioned working with Planning Department, making sure the drainage in the neighborhood is addressed. The question that was not answered; who is responsible for maintaining the drainage district adjacent to the road? Standing water undermines the road and is responsible for part of the deterioration of the road. Drain Commission or Road Commission should be brought in on these issues.

- Staff and Board Discussion:

Director Perry stated that the ditching is maintained by the road commission. If the ditches take on additional water from the neighborhood, then the Drain Commission may get involved. Road fund may redo Sleepy Hollow East and West to make sure the ditches flow the right way and make the proper changes to the ditches.

Trustee Deschaine mentioned resurfacing Sleepy Hollow Road was one of the roads planned to be resurfaced, and asked that it will happen in tandem with the water and sewer work. Director Perry confirmed that it made more sense to do it while the water and sewer service was being brought into the neighborhood.

Supervisor Styka closed the Public Hearing at 6:31 pm

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Zoning Amendment #17030 Allow Golf Courses as Open Space in PUD and in PRD

Director Kieselbach stated that this plan was initiated by the Township Board and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission consider a golf course -whether in a Planned Unit Development (PUD) or Planned Residential Development (PRD)- to be counted as part of the open space that is required if either of those zoning districts is selected for development.

Board Discussion:

- Residents questions were in nature of timing and the origin of the amendment and didn't see the original board discussion, in the work session and later meeting
- The community seemed happy with possible outcomes of this ordinance change on their neighborhood and other neighborhoods that may be developed in the future.

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Resolution for introduction of Zoning Amendment #17030. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

B. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Appointment

- Board members shared support for Jade Sims being appointed for a term that expires on December 31, 2017
- This is a short-term because other individuals were given short terms to coincide with their terms in office in their other positions
- Board member stated that Jade Sims is well qualified for position
- Board members attended the EDC meeting and Jade Sims appointment was discussed

Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the EDC recommendation. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. September 2017 Budget Amendment Request

Director Mattison explained the amendments:

- \$1,100,000 additional pension payment to MERS, which were approved during the 2018 budget approval process

- Elections Division requested \$19,100 for August and November elections, which were not scheduled at the time budget preparation began
- Accounting Department requested \$3620 for auditing services and professional services
- Parks requested \$15,500 for unbudgeted expenses and contract changes
- Community activities requested \$72,100 but are offset somewhat by community donations
- Fire Department requested \$8,200 for contract agreements and repairs to special equipment, which will be recovered from insurance claim
- Fire Restricted Fund transfer from the General Fund for a FEMA safety grant
- Amendments create a decrease in the General Fund of \$933,190 which projects a Use of Fund Balance of \$1,480,070, and a projected Fund balance of \$5,945,633 at December 31, 2017

Treasurer Brixie moves to approve the September 2017 Budget Amendments. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board Discussion:

- Election question regarding health insurance expenses related to overtime for elections
- Director Mattison explained that it was all related to the employees who worked on elections and it is their part of the time for the elections
- Board member stated that the additional \$1.1 MERS payment is exceptional
- Township Manager stated that the original year-end projection and the amended year-end projection was within \$7000 of the original projection
- Township Manager stated that the revenue side of the budget overlooks the amount of revenue (\$200,000 in building permits) that Community Planning and Development Department added, which helps offset some of the losses for the year
- Inquiry about the amount of donations that offset the expenses for community events
- Director Mattison stated that these donations were from the 175th Anniversary and the Gus Macker Tournament

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Sleepy Hollow Special Assessment District (SAD) Resolution #2

Treasurer Brixie made a motion to adopt the SAD Resolution #2. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

- Parcels were combined last year and new parcel numbers have been assigned
- Notifications were sent to the owners of the properties within the SAD
- Calculations of the SAD estimates were based on the parcels within it being combined
- New parcels will be included in the SAD taxroll
- Larger parcels mean larger assessments for the properties

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

E. White Cane Day Resolution

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the Resolution in recognition of White Cane Safety Day.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

White Cane Safety Day recognizes the White Canes significance in advancing independence and opportunity for the blind residents in Meridian Township.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP)

- Board member desire for Plan to be used when making development decisions and help Township move in a sustainability direction
- Board member stated the Plan has a focus on sustainability and include it by reference with the Master Plan
- Desire to use the recommendations and suggestions in this document as Meridian Township moves forward with growth and development
- Recognition for all the hard work that went into the writing the CSP
- Board member stated almost all the energy used in Meridian Township is imported
- Board member stated Meridian is hoping to obtain 50% of electricity by 2025 from renewable energy and 100% by 2035

Trustee Opsommer moved to suspend rules and recommended adoption of the Climate Sustainability Plan by reference in the Master Plan. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Opsommer moves to adopt the Climate Sustainability Plan by reference in the 2017 Master Plan. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development ordinance (MUPUD)

- Amenities: definitions, 1% of project cost, categories, metrics
- Board Approval of MUPUDs., discretion, willingness to deny or modify proposals
- Parking requirements, difficulty in reducing spots, off street and shared parking
- Timeframes: changing Township Board decision-making deadlines
- Dwelling Units/Acre definition and impact on density
- MUPUD project boundaries- adjacent development & density bonus concerns
- Form-based Code: could align with some MUPUD goals
- Infill development vs suburban sprawl

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Heidi Porter, 2335 Huron Hill, Okemos; stated she appreciated the Climate Sustainability and Paris Climate Accord resolution.

Judy Kindel, 2915 Margate Lane, Meridian Township; stated support of the Climate Sustainability Plan. She thanked Board members for meeting with residents of Skyline neighborhood and how much people appreciate the understanding.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus spoke on the November 7th Election. Voters can still vote via absentee ballot until November 6th and turn in absentee ballots to the Clerk’s Office until the polls close on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Clerk Dreyfus reported that due to the Tuesday election, the Board meeting is moved to Thursday, November 9th in the Township Board Room.

Trustee Deschaine mentioned that the Autumn Classic was hosted at Lake Lansing. He believes Playmakers is one of the best running stores in the country. \$30,000 was raised for Special Olympics.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Maggie Rodgers-Sanders, Secretary