

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JANUARY 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, 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, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx

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. Dave Hall-Chief of Police-Introduction of New Police Officer

Chief Hall introduced the Township's newest police officer, Loudore Brutus.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced concern the Township is moving away from transparency, as the Supervisor has cut public comment time at Board meetings by 50%. He also pointed out the Township Manager has drastically cut his "Manager Reports", changing from semi-monthly to semi-annual reporting, which has resulted in lost details and information from the various departments.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the ratio of public comment time v. Board meeting time as noted in his letter to the Board, indicating it averaged 4 minutes of public comment per hour of Board meeting during "big topic" action and discussion items. He believed the input from the public could be beneficial as Board members deliberate on specific topics. Mr. Bowlby suggested the progress of the 2017 Action Plan be assessed on a quarterly basis and suggested the use of text files produced by HOMTV in the compilation of meeting minutes.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Walnut Hills rezoning has been delayed approximately two (2) to three (3) months
 - Due to the delay, property owners within 300 feet of Walnut Hills were renoticed
 - Walnut Hills rezoning will be before the Planning Commission on January 23rd
 - Walnut Hills rezoning tentatively to be before the Board at its March 7th Board meeting
- Hannah Farms East will be before the Planning Commission on February 13th and tentatively before the Board on March 7th
- Brownfield initiative discussion before the Board on February 21st
- Township Master Plan will be before the Board on February 7th
- Chief Hall and Director Kieselbach will staff the Transportation Commission

- Development of the property located at the northwest corner of Powell Road and Grand River Avenue will be before the Planning Commission on January 23rd
- Ten solar panels approved by the previous Board have been ordered
- Contract for the Township's auditing services is up this year
- Two year contract for prosecutorial services expires in April of 2017

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Deschaine reported his attendance at the most recent Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting where discussion took place regarding its 2017 goals, the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA), revision of the Township's sign ordinance and revitalization of the Township's commercial districts.

As the Board representative to the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) organization, Trustee Jackson contacted LEAP and learned they are searching for a Lansing poet laureate. She urged any poets within our community who are interested in taking part of this competition to contact LEAP. She also reported her participation with HOMTV staff in welcoming the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament to Meridian Township in July, 2017 as part of Meridian's 175th Anniversary Celebration.

Treasurer Brixie reminded residents that winter property taxes are due by 5:00 P.M. on February 14, 2017. She relayed the various methods in which residents can pay their taxes.

Supervisor Styka reported the Distributed Antenna System (DAS) Committee met last week and this issue will be one of the items discussed at the Board's upcoming study session to be held January 24, 2017. He also reported his attendance at his first quarterly meeting with other area Supervisors. He noted his attendance at a Welcoming webinar last week relative to welcoming communities where definition of a sanctuary community was discussed.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Deliberations (BD)

BD 12E John Scott-Craig, Planning Commission Chair, 5244 Wardcliff Drive, East Lansing; RE: Review of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance in 2017

(2) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Thomas Archipley II, President and CEO, Centurion Medical Products Corporation, 100 Centurion Way, PO Box 510, Williamston; RE: Copy of letter to Mr. Stewart McKenzie of the Federal Transit Administration concerning the Bus Rapid Transit

BI-2 Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Court, Haslett; RE: January 3rd Board Meeting

- BI-3 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: AirBNB Suggestion
- BI-4 Lynn Ochberg, 4383 Maumee, Okemos; RE: Making Meridian a Winter Wonderland
- BI-5 John P. Gardner, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Price Changes effective February 15, 2017
- BI-6 Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Meridian Township Transparency

Material handed out at the December 13, 2016 Board Meeting

Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Items for the December 6, 2016 Board Meeting
Mike Jenkins, 6030 Skyline Drive, East Lansing; RE: Support for Karla Hudson's appointment to the Transportation Commission
Jim Buscetta, 3898 Trailwood Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for Karla Hudson's appointment to the Transportation Commission
Department of Community Planning and Development; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of December 1, 2016

Material handed out at the January 3, 2017 Board Meeting

Steve Vagnozzi, 2144 Woodfield Drive, Okemos; RE: Transportation Commission Appointment
Maple Ridge Condominium Association Board of Directors, 5493 Maple Ridge Road, Haslett; RE: Business Venture at 5465 Maple Ridge Road

Treasurer 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 Opsommer.

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

B. Minutes

(1) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 28, 2016 Special Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

(2) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 3, 2017 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 161,060.12
Public Works	\$ 304,397.79
Trust & Agency	\$ 6,593,995.74
Total Checks	\$ 7,059,453.65
Credit Card Transactions (December 29 th to January 10 th)	\$ 6,640.24
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 7,066,093.89</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 436,144.80</u>

Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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]

D. Disposal of Surplus Vehicle

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicle at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:

2005 Dodge Dakota VIN #1D7HW22K555262545

Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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. Adopted Welcoming Community Resolution-Amendment

Treasurer Brixie provided background on the proposed amendment, which would include persons with disabilities.

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Board of the Township of Meridian adopts the Welcoming Community Resolution and respect Meridian Pledge, as amended, to include persons with disabilities. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Board discussion:

- Amendment would include “persons with disabilities” in the resolution

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Zoning Amendment #16050 (Planning Commission) Amendment to Industrial Zoning District-**Final Adoption**

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 6, 2017.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-01 pursuant to zoning Amendment #16050 and to adopt the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-02 pursuant to the amendment to Chapter 38, Article IV, Division 3 Mobile Food Units. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Uses are expanded and compatible with the Board's desire for industrial districts

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Annual Performance Review of Township Manager

Trustee Jackson moved that the Meridian Township Board adopt the 2016 Annual Performance Review of Township Manager Frank Walsh. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Appreciation for the Manager's hard work over the past year and his preparation for incoming Board members to take office
- One meaningful measure of a leader is how they respond to the unexpected and different types of crisis situations
- Excerpts from the summary report
- Overall review is near-excellent
- Manager's expression of appreciation to his MTEAM, the current Board members, previous Board members and the citizenry

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Extension of Employment Contract of Township Manager

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and enter into the employment contract between Manager Frank Walsh and the Township Board dated January 17, 2017 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign on behalf of the Township. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

Supervisor Styka summarized the three (3) changes to the Township Manager's existing contract: One year extension (from January 16, 2018 to January 16, 2019), two (2) percent raise and an increase in the severance settlement from six (6) to nine (9) months.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

E. 2017 Action Plan

Trustee Deschaine moved to adopt the 2017 Action Plan as developed by the Township Board. Seconded by Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Township Manager Walsh summarized the 2017 Action Plan as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 12, 2017.

Board discussion:

- Action plan as proposed by the Manager was reviewed and modified at the January 3, 2017 Goal Setting Session

Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment to Goal B of the 2017 Action Plan:

- **Insert “and improve walkability of” after “redevelop”**

Seconded by the maker of the main motion.

Board and staff discussion:

- Discussion on the need for additional language about walkability
- Language is redundant as the Master Plan speaks to walkability as an issue ingrained in our community objectives
- Walkability is one of the factors that are part of redevelopment
- Inquiry if part of the goals is to include walkability to the Grand River Corridor
- Economic benefits of improving walkability include the trail from Michigan State University (MSU) to the Grand River Corridor
- Action plan updates will be provided to the Board on March 24th, June 23rd, September 22nd and December 15th

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VOICE VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (None)

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, inquired about three of the bills concerning performance guarantees contained in the packet.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed the amount of overtime paid for minutes taking (.1 of 1% of the total budget) is little to pay for good transparency to the public, especially in relation to the amount spent for police and fire overtime.

Kathy DeVito, 470 Chimney Oaks, Okemos, requested Meridian Township show support in the form of a monetary donation towards the fundraising efforts of the Lansing Everett Band so they can attend the Presidential Inauguration. She added contributions can be made to the Lansing Everett Band Boosters, Everett High School, 3900 Stabler Street, Lansing or via Paypal.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Brixie responded to earlier public comment by defining performance guarantee refunds and fund allocation.

Township Manager Walsh discussed trimming operational costs by not having a staff person attend the Planning Commission and Board meetings to take minutes. He believed it to be a different scenario when compared to police and fire overtime, currently \$200,000 per year, excluding holiday overtime pay.

16. CLOSED SESSION – Contract Negotiations

Treasurer Brixie moved to enter into closed session to discuss negotiations in connection with our collective bargaining agreements as permitted by Sections 8(C) and (E) of the Open Meetings Act. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

Supervisor Styka recessed the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

The Board adjourned to the upstairs conference room for a closed session.

Treasurer Brixie moved to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Supervisor Styka reconvened the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Deschaine moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary