

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Associate Planner Peter Menser

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Rotary Presentation – Community Room at the Central Fire Station

Carrie Hindmon, President, Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club, PO Box 133, Okemos presented Chief Cowper with a check for \$5,000, half of the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Foundation's commitment of \$10,000 towards the central fire station community room. Chief Cowper graciously accepted the check, voicing his appreciation of the funds towards a room which will serve residents of Meridian Township for many years to come.

Zach Krieger and Tiffany Dowling, M3Group, 614 Seymour Ave, Lansing, offered history on the M3 Group. Ms. Dowling noted M3 Group is a full service branding agency, adding she is also a publisher for three (3) mid-Michigan magazines. She defined branding as the Township's promise to who it is serving, what it stands for and the residents' perceptions of the Township. Ms. Dowling characterized the first part of the process as a lengthy information gathering phase, speaking with stakeholder groups and making telephone calls. She indicated the second phase is to create messaging as there is likely a "gap" between where the Township is today and where it wants to be, adding visuals will help bridge that gap. Ms. Dowling noted the last step is the refinement process, ensuring all supporting materials fulfill the brand piece.

Board and presenter discussion:

- Branding is important because it is about how the Township projects itself to the community
- M3Group believes there may be a disconnect between what the community perceives the Township does and what the Township would like residents to perceive
- Branding will help figure out how the Township can be more relevant to the stakeholder groups

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Larry Bryan, KEBS, Inc., 2116 Haslett Road, Haslett, availed himself for Board questions on the Final Plat for Georgetown No. 3.

Dan Opsommer, 1804 Sherbrook Way, Haslett, expressed appreciation for Supervisor LeGoff's recommendation of his appointment to the Planning Commission. He requested Board support for his appointment. He offered family history and employment background information.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the issue of firearms used in workplace homicides. He offered information on workplace safety and spoke to the fact there is no ban on bringing weapons to the workplace in the new personnel policy. Mr. Bowlby spoke to Township installation of solar arrays on Township buildings as a form of return on investments.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, requested the Ingham County Drain Commissioner meeting of December 15th at 6:30 PM regarding the Smith Drain Drainage District be placed on the calendar located on the homepage of the Township's website.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Results of the 2015 Citizen Survey are in and will be presented to the Board three (3) weeks in advance of the next Board meeting
- Work on the sidewalk in front of Aldi will take place in the Spring due to the nature of the problem with Aldi bearing all the cost of the work
- Anticipated move in date for the new fire station is December 24th with fire department setup on approximately January 15th
- Central Fire Station ribbon cutting to take place February 1st
- Meeting with Mayor Meadows and Manager Lahanas from the City of East Lansing on Friday to discuss mutual issues

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance last week, along with Deputy Clerk Horvath, at the Train the Trainer sessions mandated by the state's Bureau of Elections. He noted the goals of this session are to stay up to date on changes in election law and receive tips, ideas and suggestions on how to train Meridian Township's 150+ election inspectors. Clerk Dreyfus announced the first election of 2016 will be both a Republican and a Democratic Presidential Primary, held on March 8th. He reported his attendance at the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting last Thursday as the Township Board representative where discussion took place on the following issues:

- Expansion of outreach efforts to potential new businesses
- Welcome packets and brochures for specified groups
- Expansion of Celebrate Okemos to a community wide event
- Use of unexpended Meridian Area Resource Center (MARC) funds
- Food truck ordinance

Treasurer Brixie reported that as the treasurer to the EDC, she attended the most recent meeting where members are beginning the EDC's budget process. She reported that as the Board's Land Preservation representative, she attended a site visit for possible land acquisition. She noted her attendance at the 35th anniversary of HOM-TV Annual Awards Banquet last night, along with Trustee Scales, where interns were honored for contributing over 10,000 hours of service to Meridian Township this year.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance, as the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) representative, at the most recent EDC meeting, where she gave her LEAP report. She reminded Board members she had forwarded her LEAP report to each of them last week.

Trustee Styka reported the Cable Communications Commission met last week and discussed a possible name change in the near future, as it addresses broader issues than just cable companies.

Trustee Scales reported information was received from Consumers that the streetlight at Marsh and Tihart Roads is scheduled to be installed on December 18th.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

Trustee Wilson requested Agenda Item #9B (2) (November 17, 2015 Minutes) be moved to Action Item #12K.

Board discussion regarding the 2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule:

- Concern regarding the definition of “Anniversary Date” with respect to salary increases, particularly when the Anniversary Date falls close to the schedule annual step increase
- Board member belief the Township’s definition of anniversary date being the date an employee is hired by the Township is not appropriate when the employee is promoted to a new position
- The date the employee assumes a new position should become the new anniversary date
- The State of Michigan does not follow this Township personnel procedure
- Board member assertion that large salary increases have occurred in the past due to this inappropriate definition, and occurs again several times in 2016
- One position goes from approximately \$45,000 to \$48,000 per year as of January 1st due to a step increase, and then increases again to \$51,000 within 30 days due to the definition of anniversary date
- Another position goes from approximately \$83,000 to \$86,000 on January 1st due to the step increase, and then increases to over \$89,000 per year in less than four (4) months
- Board member concern these anniversary date salary increases are not a wise use of Township funds

Trustee Veenstra requested Agenda Item #9F (2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule) be moved to Action Item #12L.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

Trustee Styka 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: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

(1) Trustee Styka moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 16, 2015 Special Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor
LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

~~(2) moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by~~

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 437,942.22
Public Works	\$ 320,384.83
Total Checks	\$ 758,327.05
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 3,356.82
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 761,683.87</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 495,817.21</u>

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

D. Ratification of Police Officer Appointment

Trustee Styka moved to ratify the appointment of Daniel King to the position of police officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment

Trustee Styka moved to ratify the appointment of Bryant Zamensky to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

~~F. 2016 Proposed Non Union Wage Schedule~~

G. Resolution for Charitable Gaming License – Listen & Believe Charitable Fund

Trustee Styka moved that the request from Listen & Believe Charitable Fund of Haslett, requesting they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a gaming license or registration be approved. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Dan Lee, 5445 Okemos Rd, East Lansing, spoke in opposition to Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy). Mr. Lee lives across the street and south of the McCurdy property. He stated he contacted several neighbors and they knew nothing about the rezoning issue until the sign went up. He said he “guessed” the letters supporting the rezoning are not from the surrounding area, particularly the Keystone Subdivision. Mr. Lee questioned if comments made by the applicant referring to “bigger and better things” might mean cows, crops or tractors on the property. He felt the subject property, as well as the land to the north of his property, should be “cleaned up.” Mr. Lee expressed concerns about property values and additional rezoning requests due to this potential rezoning.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, voiced his disappointment that current Planning Commissioner Tom Deits was not recommended for reappointment to the Planning Commission. He spoke to Commissioner Deits’ extensive experience and planning knowledge and urged the Board to reappoint Mr. Deits in opposition to the Supervisor’s recommendation. He maintained the Board has opposed Supervisor nominations in the past, and that reappointing Mr. Deits is in the best interest of the Township.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Daniels Drain

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan, as follows:

- 1. The Township Board tentatively designates the properties more particularly described in the attached property description as a special assessment district against which all or a part of the cost of said public improvements is to be assessed by special assessment, fee, or charge whether pursuant to the Drain Code of 1956, as amended, or the Public Improvement Act, Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan 1956, as amended.**
- 2. The Township Board shall conduct a public hearing at the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, on the 26th day of January, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., local time, for the purpose of discussing the proposed drain project, to hear objections to the proposed special assessment district, to review the estimated cost of the proposed project, and to address the special assessments, fees, or charges, and to hear objections thereto. Alternative plans of financing the proposed project will also be on the meeting agenda as part of the public hearing. Notice of the public hearing shall be provided by first class mail and by publication as required by the Drain Code, Act 188, and other applicable laws.**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering summarized the need for the public hearing as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 4, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Legal description has changed and the new Exhibit A is the correct one
- Board member concern the assessments in the subdivisions not be too high
- Board member belief the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and The Ponds should bear the major share of the cost as they are the primary beneficiaries

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Budget Amendments

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the 2015 End of Year Budget Amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$61,000 which projects a use of fund balance of \$1,058,911. Based on audited 2014 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2015 will be \$6,054,119. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka summarized the 2015 end of the year budget amendment request as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 3, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Board member concern with the state revenue sharing reduction of \$200,000 in the middle of the year
- Fluctuation was based on projected revenue from the state sales tax collection

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy) – Final Adoption

Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2015-09, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15060” from RAAA (Single Family- Low Density) to RR (Rural Residential).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board discussion:

- Board member statement 100 people have expressed to the Board support for the goats
- Applicant has paid the proper rezoning request fee
- Under the RR zoning designation, there is no limit on the number of goats and chickens, but horses, cattle, sheep and pigs are limited by number (a total of 4 potential livestock; i.e., combination of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs)
- Applicant does not have ten (10) acres on this parcel, so does not qualify as a commercial farming operation
- Board member inquiry if there is a special use permit (SUP) process needed for a commercial goat operation
- Once it becomes a commercial operation, it falls under the Right to Farm Act and is a use by right
- Board member preference for retention of the goats to have been handled in a different manner which did not require rezoning to RR

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes) – **Introduction**

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15040” from RR (Rural Residential) and CR (Commercial Recreation) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Board member preference for a map to be placed on the overhead for the public to have better comprehension where the property is located
- Board member preference for the pathway to the subdivision west of Powell Road to be installed by the applicant
- Developer is proposing to keep the wetlands by developing a small number of homes on one (1) acre lots
- Map was included in the Board packet when this item was on for discussion
- Developer has been recognized as an environmentally award winning builder and is known for his innovative development in the past
- Board member preference for the property to retain its RR zoning designation and build 17 homes, while allowing for wetland protection, rather than 25 homes under RAA zoning
- Area borders the rural third of the Township

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 6-1.

E. Essential Wetland Determination - Sierra Ridge Subdivision

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, pursuant to Section 22-156 of the Township Code of Ordinances, hereby identifies Township Wetland #4-46, located along and east of Newton Road and north of the Lake Lansing Road as non-essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Charter Township of Meridian. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Subject wetland does not meet any of the ten (10) criteria listed
- Board member belief the subject wetland has no value
- A larger wetland exists on the west side of the road which would be more than sufficient for the purposes of drainage

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

F. Proposed Mobile Food Units Ordinance – **Introduction**

Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____ entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article IV, by amending Division 1, Section 38-121; Division 2, Section 38-151; and by adding Division 3, Section 38-165 through Section 38-180.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it was introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Mobile food units are an item not currently covered in the code of ordinances
- Attorney recommendations clarify some language as outlined in the updated staff memorandum dated December 8, 2015
- Most recent version included Board requested change in hours of operation from 6:00 AM until 11:00 PM
- Prohibition of outdoor seating in Section 38-177, subsection 4 makes it difficult for patrons to eat at the site of the mobile food unit location
- Concern with competition for parking spaces with brick and mortar businesses
- Mobile food units are leasing space and should be allowed to offer seating if the property owner chooses to permit seating or tables
- Mobile food units are located in a parking lot only through permission by the property owner

Trustee Veenstra moved to delete Section 38-177 (4) which reads:

- **“Outdoor seating, including but not limited to table, chairs, booths, stools, benches, or stand up counter, shall not be permitted.”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Planning staff will make the determination on the amount of allowed seating based on available space
- Staff preference not to remove subsection 4 without standards being established
- Inclusion of the prohibition is restrictive

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Brixie

Motion carried 5-2.

Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment:

- **Create Section 38-177 (4) to read: Outdoor seating, including but not limited to tables, chairs, booths, stools, benches, or standup counters may be permitted with the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.”**

Trustee Scales offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend proposed Section 38-177 (4) by deleting the word “may” and inserting the word “shall”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie

Motion failed 3-4.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief including the various types of outdoor seating is unnecessary
- Staff language was all encompassing to avoid an argument of what constitutes outdoor seating
- Seating issue is in the vending ordinance and the vendor would be responsible for any violations by patrons
- Concern that the vendor would be responsible for policing the parking lot for any potential seating violations by patrons if the Director of Community Planning and Development said no to outdoor seating
- Board member concern there is a violation of due process to hold the vendor accountable for actions by its customers
- Township will manage this issue with “common sense”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustee Scales

Motion carried 6-1.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend Section 38-177 (5) by deleting the word “flags”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board and staff discussion:

- Concern with interpretation of the language contained in subsection 5 which would prohibit a US flag on the site where the mobile food vending unit is parked
- Inclusion of all types of flags is related to the mobile food unit
- Board member belief subsection 5 deals with advertising, and the insertion of that word after “No” at the beginning of this subsection would solve the problem

Trustee Veenstra revised his amendment to read:

- **Amend Section 38-177 (5) by inserting “advertising” after the word “no” and deleting the word “flags”**

The revised amendment died for lack of a second.

Continued Board discussion

- Need to urge caution with legislating “at the table” as language does matter
- Board member suggestion to table this ordinance and apprise the Director of Community Planning and Development of each Board member’s concerns
- Intent of this subsection is to avoid “blinking lights and strobe lights”
- Suggestion by the Township Manager for two Board members to sit down with the Director of Community Planning and Development to work out the issues and bring this ordinance back to the Board in January
- Board member belief there is no need for a committee and this should be voted upon tonight in order to move forward

Trustee Scales moved to table. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra

NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

Motion failed 2-5.

Continued Board discussion:

- A committee is unnecessary and this matter should be voted upon tonight

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra
NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 2-5.

**Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment:
Amend Section 38-177 (5) after “parked” by inserting “, unless expressly allowed
elsewhere in the ordinances.”**

Board discussion:

- Amendment provides a reasonable balance
- Concern language still prohibits banners, flags etc. on the truck or site where the mobile food unit is parked
- Staff interpretation that the prohibition on flags on the truck or adjacent on the property that are put up by the vendor
- Staff interpretation would not take away the zoning right of the property owner to have a flag on the owner’s site
- Board member belief the Board frequently legislates “from the table” at its meetings
- While in agreement with the intent of not having excessive strobe lights, blinking lights, etc., current language is much more restrictive
- Board member suggestion to add language to subsection (5) which refers directly to the mobile food vending unit

Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:

- Amend Section 38-177 (5) by inserting “portion of the” after “or on the”

The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker.

Continued Board discussion:

- Amendment, as drafted, still prohibits a food truck which serves Mexican food from flying a Mexican flag

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra
Motion carried 5-2.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:

- Amend Section 38-168 to insert “CR (Commercial Recreation)” after “C-3 (Commercial)”

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member concern the ten (10) foot setback minimum from any right-of-way line is overly restrictive

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- G. Zoning Amendment #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication – **Introduction**
Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, DIVISION 4, by amending Section 86-2 Definitions and Section 86-438 through Section 86-438(f) Wireless Communications Facilities Overlay District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Planning Commission is working on further amendments to the Wireless Communication ordinance
- Proposed changes to the ordinance are to comply with existing state law

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- H. Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)
Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN shall hold a public hearing to discuss the creation of a CIA at its meeting on January 26, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Letter of encouragement from LEAP about the creation of a CIA in Meridian Township
- Board member preference for the subsequent resolution of approval to contain language that a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District will not be created
- Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) letter objected to residential areas at the east end along Grand River Avenue being included in the CIA boundary
- Setting the public hearing does not preclude changes to the boundary

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 6-1.

- I. Final Plat – Georgetown No. 3
Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN approves the Final Plat of Georgetown No. 3. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Reapproval keeps Georgetown No. 3 “alive”
- Board member concern the pathway easement is not shown on the plat
- Board member belief the developer should pay for the cost of paving the pathway
- Easement documents have already been received from the developer
- State Plat Act prevents this type of easement from being placed on the plat
- Several areas on the maps are labeled as parks and will be used for stormwater detention as most of them are wetland areas

- Wetlands will not be cleared but remain in their natural state
- Planned Residential Development (PRD) requires 20% of the developable area to be left as open space

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 6-1.

J. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Supervisor’s list of appointments to Boards and Commissions as follows:

PUBLIC BODY	POSITION	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	EXPIRES
Building Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Potterpin	Peter		12/31/2018
Building Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Wallin	Charles	C	12/31/2018
Building Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2018
Board of Review (2 year term)		Galbraith	Diane		12/31/2017
Cable Communications Commission (3 year term)		Lathrop	Andrew		12/31/2018
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Brouse	Suzanne	H	12/31/2017
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Friedland	Arlene	L	12/31/2017
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Langhals	Kathleen		12/31/2017
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Lincoln	Katherine	N	12/31/2017
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Spanos	James		12/31/2019
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Weaver	Scott		12/31/2019
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2017
Downtown Development		Vacant			12/31/2017

Authority (4 year term) Downtown Development Authority (4 year term) Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2019
		Vacant			12/31/2019
Economic Development Corporation (6 year term)		Barr	Malinda		12/31/2021
Economic Development Corporation (6 year term)		Walsh	Frank	L	12/31/2021
Environmental Commission (3 year term)		Dickman	Donald		12/31/2018
Environmental Commission (3 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2018
Land Preservation Advisory Board (4 year term)		Harmes	Roland		12/31/2019
Land Preservation Advisory Board (4 year term)		Mayes	Jon	E	12/31/2019
Land Preservation Advisory Board (4 year term)		Lee	Yuman		12/31/2019
Local Officials Compensation Commission (5 year term)		Holda	Amy		12/31/2020
Pension Trustees (3 year term)	Ex Officio	Brixie	Julie		11/20/2018
Pension Trustees (3 year term)	Employee Rep.	Keiselbach	Mark		12/31/2018
Planning Commission (3 year term)		Ianni	Dante		12/31/2018
Planning Commission (3 year term)		Jackson	Patricia		12/31/2018
Planning Commission (3 year term)		Opsommer	Daniel		12/31/2018
Zoning Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Ohlrogge	Carol		12/31/2018

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- The Board cannot perform all of the work of the Township it is statutorily required to do without the help of residents in the Township who volunteer to serve on various Boards and Commissions
- Inquiry as to why Commissioner Deits was not reappointed to the Planning Commission
- Supervisor's rationale given was that Commissioner Deits missed approximately one-third of Planning Commission meetings
- Commissioner Deits frequently makes amendments to motions for purposes of clarity
- Commissioner Deits is an articulate individual with great institutional knowledge on planning issues
- Richard Searls requested not to be reappointed to the Environmental Commission
- Board member concern there are four (4) vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

K. November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Wilson moved to have the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting come back to the Board at the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2016 amending the public comment of Mr. Tim McCarthy that reflects what he said during public comments. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Importance of having the minutes reflect what the public is saying to the Board which then becomes public record once adopted
- Board member belief the minutes sum up Mr. McCarthy's statement
- Mr. McCarthy's comments were critical of specific Board members which were not reflected in the minutes
- All Board member are treated equally with respect to praise or criticism
- Some of Mr. McCarthy's statements were not specific and difficult to discern
- Comments critical of Board members or Township staff are usually edited for clarity and to avoid unnecessary personal attacks
- Reminder that minutes are not a transcript of Board meetings, but a record of Board action
- Board member preference for Mr. McCarthy to come back to the Board at its next meeting if he feels the minutes do not adequately express his point of view
- Need for consistency when Board members are named by the public
- Mr. McCarthy also encouraged the public to come to Board meetings and/or watch Board meetings and that should be included in the minutes
- Board member preference for a policy to decide whether Board member names will be mentioned or excluded from the minutes
- Under state statute, minutes are under the authority of the Clerk to produce and disseminate

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

L. 2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the 2016 non-union wage schedule, with a 1% wage adjustment as presented. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief Township personnel have the right to have their personnel issues discussed in closed session
- Suggestion for no names to be mentioned to alleviate concern
- No promotions are contained in the proposed salaries for non-union employees

- Township Manager stated the 2015 reorganization, which included the reduction of three (3) positions down to two (2) (with improved customer service) resulted in an annual savings of \$109,000
- Reorganization resulted in the reduction of two (2) vehicles from the Township's fleet
- Township Manager statement that eight years of this reorganization will result in a \$1 million savings
- Board member suggestion that the aforementioned savings can be doubled by using it to pay down on the pension obligation over an eight year period

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, voiced support for the 2016 Goals Document, but believed the completed and ongoing heading could be improved by separating them out from one another and include a percentage of completion for the ongoing items.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, believed some of the confusion in the 2016 Goals Document is due to the Board's request for one single document which would summarize what was accomplished in 2015. He outlined his interpretation of the timeline laid out by the Township Manager at a previous meeting. Mr. Bowlby believed it was the Board's intention to take the list of 150 goals provided tonight and pare out the pieces which aren't a board goal (e.g., maintaining the sewer system to prevent backup). He noted several goals suggested by various Board members at the last meeting (e.g., smoking ban in the common areas of private facilities, electrical charging stations in Township parks, form based code, etc.) were not included. Mr. Bowlby suggested getting rid of items imminently done, take out the fluff, and define the major items to be completed this year, placing them in order of priority.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. 2016 Goals Document

Board discussion:

- Agreement with the public to separate out the completed and ongoing goals and provide a percentage of completion to the ongoing items
- Agreement with the public that some items on the list are unnecessary because they are not Board goals
- Board member preference for the grandfathering not to expire in three (3) months as it is too short relative to homes
- Amend Goal # 5 (y) to remove the word woefully
- Amend Goal #5 aa to read: Seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs as the current language is more of an accomplishment than a goal
- Appreciation to the Manager and his team as the document captured the vision of seven (7) Board members
- Board member preference to create two (2) documents out of this document; one of which is a strategic plan (long-range goals) and the other is an action plan (short-term goals)
- Board member preference to "not throw the baby out with the bath water"
- Need to include management team's order of prioritization
- Some items have been completed in 2015 (e.g., provide public safety services to Alaiedon and Williamstown Townships) but will continue on an ongoing basis until decided otherwise
- Board member suggestion for a change of prioritization in Goal #9 relative to (n): Provide focused oversight of all vacant homes
- Requested clarification from the Manager as to the difference between the action plan and the rest of the document

- Manager's belief the 2016 goals document is as much a document for the entire community as it is for the Board
- Action plan are the top ten (10) items of importance
- Township Manager's view that the nine (9) listed goals are the Board's strategic plan
- Board member suggestion to not include #10 on the 2016 Action Plan list as it is not realistic to review all aspects of our planning and development ordinances, especially those relative to the mixed use planned unit development (MUPUD)
- Board member preference to bring "Provide focused oversight of all vacant homes" up to the 2016 Action Plan page
- Board member preference to change Action Plan #10 to Review of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD)
- Board member clarification Township ordinances deal with the consequences of vacant homes
- Board member preference that staff resources not be expended to deal with the private sector issue of oversight of vacant homes; problems with vacant homes can be addressed through nuisance provisions in Township ordinances
- Board member appreciation the management team made good choices in the items listed on the action plan
- Change #2 on the 2016 Action Plan from "...finalizing the 2010 Master Plan" to "...updating the 2005 Master Plan"
- Board member preference to change Goal #4 (dd) from "Review the Redi-Ride public transportation system" to "Improve the Redi-Ride public transportation system"
- Acknowledgment that the majority of Board members are removing items off the list
- Board member belief #10 on the Action Plan should be removed and placed in the Strategic Plan; change the language as previously mentioned
- Manager's suggestion to file this document "as is" and "redo" another one
- Previous suggestion by Mr. Provencher to provide columns was implemented in this document
- Manager's request for Board members to submit their written items which were not included in this rendition of the document so they can be incorporated when the document is next discussed at the January 5, 2016 Board meeting
- Major upgrades to the City of East Lansing's wastewater treatment plant should be included as an item in the 2016 Action Plan
- Board member preference to retain the review of the MUPUD on the action plan as the Board encourages development of MUPUDs when it is not an appropriate situation to do so
- Grandfathering issue previously mentioned deals with the non-conforming use of the property, not the structure

It was the consensus of the Board to have the Township Manager move forward as directed during discussion of this item.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, suggested the Township Manager remove the language highlighted in red and post the document titled "2016 Goals Document", renaming it the 2015 Plan. He further suggested changing the "2015" to "2016", eliminate what has already been accomplished, reinsert the language in red and post this document to the website. Mr. Bowlby believed his suggestion will eliminate any confusion.

Mr. Bowlby reminded Board members that at the last meeting, Trustee Scales read the title of Goal #2 as "Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance public health, safety and welfare" and that change needs to be made. He stated Trustee Scales read in Goal #6 as "Meridian Township shall promote and enhance diversity across the Township" which was not reflected in this most current edition of the 2016 Goals Document. Mr. Bowlby noted no Board member commented on weapons and firearms in the workplace. He commended Trustee Styka for the manner in which he ran the Board meetings as Supervisor Pro Tem, adding he would do an excellent job as Supervisor.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed concern overregulation relative to the mobile food units defeats the purpose of placemaking and enhancing the community. He voiced apprehension with leaving action to the discretion of staff relative to outdoor seating.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Veenstra agreed with Mr. Provencher it is important to make the mobile foot unit ordinance attractive to vendors and should not be overly restrictive.

Trustee Scales urged residents to join him for lunch at Asian Buffet on Thursday, December 10th, where the proprietor will donate 15% of profits on that day to the Meridian Cares Program.

Trustee Wilson pointed out new artwork by Cornell Elementary School students (K-4th grade) was placed in the Town Hall.

Treasurer Brixie voiced appreciation to Rotary District 6364 for awarding a grant to the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club in the amount of \$2,150, adding this amount was matched to provide the Township with the \$5,000 check presented this evening. She welcomed the newest Planning Commissioner, Dan Opsommer. Treasurer Brixie thanked prior and current residents for their service on the Township's various Boards and Commissions.

Trustee Styka wished everyone Happy Holidays.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:29 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary