

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra,
ABSENT: Trustee Wilson
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public
Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Assistant Police Chief Ken Plaga, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director
of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Director of Finance Miriam Mattison,
Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Administration Intern Griffin Graham

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. PRESENTATION

A. Shelter & Evacuation Plans-Tavis Millerov, Doug Vander Hulst, and Joyce Marx

Director Marx highlighted Human Resources 2015 goal to evaluate loss prevention and safety awareness by updating all of the evacuation and shelter notices across the Township. Fire Inspector Millerov went through the analysis used to update the evacuation plans for Meridian Township buildings. GIS Specialist Doug Vander Hulst noted he used aerial photographs of the Tri-County area and engineering plans for the Township buildings to create maps for use by both employees and the public in the event of an emergency. Director Marx indicated this was the first challenge taken on by the newly created Safety Committee.

Trustee Scales requested the Board be supplied with evacuation procedures for the Township Hall in the event it transpires during a Board meeting.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Sandra Draggoo, 6154 Columbia Street, Haslett, and CEO/Executive Director of the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), believed now is not the time to place language regarding CATA providing the Redi-Ride service on the November ballot. She indicated CATA has been working to make changes and improvements to the Redi-Ride service. Ms. Draggoo stated only 2% of ridership are denied a ride because the bus is full. She stated most of the customers are happy with the current service and requested the Board wait until the expiration of the current Redi-Ride millage to place the Redi-Ride issue on the ballot again.

Debbie Alexander, 2535 Capeside Drive, Okemos, stated her husband is a regular rider of Redi-Ride due to being wheelchair bound. On his behalf, she urged the Board not to place Redi-Ride on the ballot. Ms. Alexander stated it is imperative to use a service provider whose obligation it is to meet the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements as not all disabilities or mobility devices are equal. In her role as Assistant Executive Director of CATA, she noted 30% of those who reserve a ride either cancel the ride or are a no show. Ms. Alexander requested the Board allow the recommendations it passed which came out of the Redi-Ride Review Committee (RRRC) to be put into place and monitor their impact.

James Liebbe, 1835 Nemoke Court, #5, Haslett, noted his satisfaction with both the Redi-Ride and SpecTran service through CATA.

Katie Kelley, 2710 Belaire, Lansing, President of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1039, highlighted the specific training each bus driver and maintenance staff receives. She voiced appreciation to the members of the RRRC for their hard work. Ms. Kelley stated the strongest voice on the committee was from someone who she believed stood to profit from a change in the Redi-Ride millage language. She stated CATA is a non-profit organization which puts people ahead of profit.

Debra Woodhams, 1637 Lake Drive, Apt. 75, Haslett, stated Redi-Ride is the only transportation she has and she must rely on it for all her transportation needs.

Joe Frazier, 3900 Willow Ridge Drive, Holt, spoke to his mother's physical confinement to a wheelchair and her reliance on Redi-Ride to get around. He talked about the friendly employees and the care they take with passengers.

Tom Pinnavaia, 5901 E. Sleepy Hollow Lane, East Lansing, addressed the proposed Sleepy Hollow Infrastructure Improvements. He noted the deteriorating condition of his neighborhood's road, well water and septic systems. Mr. Pinnavaia stated there was general support for the concept of installing a sanitary sewer and water main, while acknowledging the exceptional cost. He requested a 20 year payback assessment which would allow residents to afford the needed improvements.

Jerome Jackson, 1829 W. Grand River, Apt. I-8, Okemos, voiced opposition to replacing CATA as the service provider for Redi-Ride. He indicated he serves on the Lansing Advisory Council supporting CATA, the Tri-County Office on Aging and the United Cerebral Palsy Michigan Board of Directors, all of which are dedicated to ensuring independence and improved quality of life for persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

Diana Engle, 2164 Karry, East Lansing, noted she was one of the four RRRC members who did not vote to place Redi-Ride funding language on the November ballot as there is currently a Redi-Ride millage in place which will expire in 2018. She believed such an act would risk Township residents losing the current great service. Ms. Engle indicated the mood of the electorate does not support a transportation millage proposal on the November ballot. She also stated the RRRC has not yet completed its charge.

Margery Wakefield, 6086 Taylor Court, Haslett, spoke in support of CATA's transportation services. She urged the Board not to change anything about the service provided. Ms. Wakefield stated that if it was not for CATA, she would not be able to be mobile or see her 93 year old mother who lives at Marsh Pointe.

Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing, stated the current situation with CATA does not allow for rides past 5:00 P.M. She indicated the RRRC is working with CATA to improve transportation service by extending Redi-Ride hours into the evening. Ms. Hudson expressed her frustration with the inability to reserve a ride through Redi-Ride within CATA's marketed four (4) hour window and bus "no shows." She requested an explanation as to why Ms. Draggoo made the statement that now is not a "good time" to place Redi-Ride millage language on the ballot.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the disrespect he received from a staff member during intermission at the last Board meeting. He noted that based on the response to an inquiry he made of that individual, he must now go through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request process.

Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing, addressed the way CATA gathers data at a time when it is not the most helpful. She stated the problems with Redi-Ride are not nearly as prevalent in the summer when school is out. Ms. Rose noted it is the focus of the RRRC to obtain extended service for Redi-Ride, do some different things for the school children with the existing millage and provide rides for all residents who have a desire to use the Redi-Ride service. Ms. Rose stated that as a RRRC member, the committee has not received any creative ideas from CATA on how to facilitate transportation for school aged children and still free up rides for the rest of the patrons who would like to utilize the Redi-Ride service after 2:00 P.M. She requested the Board vote to place the Redi-Ride millage on the November ballot to provide Meridian Township residents with options, stating the service will run as the status quo until the millage expiration in 2018 if “something” is not done. Ms. Rose addressed the personal difficulty she has had with obtaining a ride, adding many residents just give up trying.

Fred Wertzel, 1212 N. Foster, Lansing, representative for the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, reported his organization has an interest in providing the most transportation for the least amount of money. He noted information has been provided that CATA does not have a current contract for services with the Township and each ride costs approximately \$22 per ride. Mr. Wertzel alleged more service can be provided at a lower rate. He stated good governance calls for tax dollars to be used in an ethical and moral way and contracts should be let out for bid. Mr. Wertzel spoke to the timing for placing millage requests on the ballot, adding citizens are willing to support amenities in their community if properly explained. He indicated he believed Meridian citizens would support a renewal of the existing millage. Mr. Wertzel believed putting this issue out for bid could provide improvements based on newer technology.

Doris Schwartz, 2209 Kent Street, Okemos, addressed the number of vacant homes in the Cedar Bend Heights Neighborhood and the length of vacancy relative to the Board’s ends statement #9. She noted East Lansing has a vacant/abandoned property statute which includes a registration process. Ms. Schwartz requested the Township consider a no cost inventory registration of all vacant homes.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to campaign literature which “cast aspersions” on the Clerk and Trustee Veenstra’s voting record. He addressed the specific allegations both Board members voted to allow a medical marijuana clinic across from Chippewa Middle School and overtime in the Clerk’s office is a result of mismanagement and chronic absenteeism. Mr. Bowlby noted the campaign piece was produced by Residents for a Better Meridian, adding several of the charges were also included in a campaign brochure from one of the candidates. He characterized the allegation about voting to place a medical marijuana clinic across from Chippewa Middle School as “ridiculous” and was a total misrepresentation of the facts, as it actually dealt with rezoning the subject parcel to Professional and Office (PO). Mr. Bowlby addressed the allegation about overtime in the Clerk’s Office, stating pay records of employees are not publicly accessible and questioned how Mr. Mankowski was able to obtain the information. He recalled a recent previous Township Board meeting where one Board member brought up this issue, and the Clerk’s explanation that the meetings have become much longer resulting in increased staff time to transcribe the minutes. Mr. Bowlby’s research revealed that beginning in 2015, the length of the Board meetings and resulting minutes increased dramatically and continued into 2016. He expressed his disappointment in the negative campaigning and was desirous of the “coach” for Team Meridian 2016 to speak up and repudiate the false allegations.

Michael Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing, voiced appreciation for CATA’s Route #1 service. He spoke to his optimism that Redi-Ride will be improved by making changes to increase accessibility and hours. Mr. Hudson spoke in support of placing a Redi-Ride millage on the November ballot, one which included funds for newer and increased technology.

Ghulam Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos, indicated there is no room between the sidewalk and the road in front of his property on Jolly Road. With the seven (7) to eight (8) foot retaining wall, he acknowledged the first big snowstorm prohibits use of the sidewalk for the rest of the winter. Mr. Sumbal stated he has been working with the Township for several months to reach an agreement regarding this issue, but a few meetings ago Treasurer Brixie suggested the Township take the subject property under eminent domain. He announced the subject parcel is not for sale or grab and he will fight “tooth and nail.”

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, expressed his appreciation for Mr. Bowlby’s comment regarding negative campaign literature. He spoke to one component contained in the negative literature that “both the Clerk and Trustee Veenstra were strong proponents of transportation privatization.” Mr. Norkin corrected the record by stating that with the exception of intracity service, the nation’s transportation industry is in private hands. He indicated the intent of the negative campaign postcard was to infer that both of the mentioned candidates were attempting to privatize CATA. Mr. Norkin characterized the multiple “outright lies” as unfortunate. He stated the compromise language the RRRC put forth to the Board does not talk about privatization, but solely about extending the current Redi-Ride millage and gives the Township staff the discretion as to the provider. Mr. Norkin emphatically reiterated he will not bid to be selected as a provider of Redi-Ride services in Meridian Township.

Bill Collette, 2373 Barnsbury, East Lansing, addressed the negative “vicious attack” of fellow Board members by Treasurer Brixie. He stated Michigan State University President LuAnn Simon has written a letter to CATA which states the university does not support the BRT plan. He maintained he was told the on-campus ridership was incorporated into the numbers supplied to the Federal Transit Administration in order to justify the BRT plan, in spite of the fact CATA is paid by MSU to transport students. Mr. Collette objected to the additional \$800,000 to be spent to “justify” the need for the BRT.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Met with CATA and a BRT community conversation has been scheduled for August 16th in the Town Hall Room from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Manager Walsh and Trustee Styka proposed a meeting with President Simon regarding student housing and the BRT was mentioned during that meeting
- Meridian Township will not be presenting any information on the BRT on behalf of MSU
- Board will take receipt of the 2017 Budget on August 26th
- Budget hearings have been scheduled for the Board meetings of September 6th and the 20th
- MERS gave a presentation to union chairs regarding the legacy costs
- Representatives of The Square have asked to meet with Administration to present additional information regarding the brownfield request which was denied by the Board
- Meeting with Walnut Hills to further discuss the future of the Walnut Hills property
- Meeting with Consumers Energy next week regarding continued outage of some Okemos Road streetlights
- Public appreciation to Officer Brian Canen for his heroic efforts at the Ingham County Courthouse two (2) days ago

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

A. Clerk Dreyfus – Election Results

Clerk Dreyfus offered the following unofficial results on local races and millage requests for the August 2, 2016 Primary Election:

Total votes cast in Meridian Township: 7,920

Total number of registered voters: 29,903 (26.5% turnout)

The winner(s) of each race will be on the ballot in the November General Election (November 8, 2016) as the nominee selected from their party affiliation.

Township Supervisor

Republican: **Tom Klunzinger - 1,608 votes** (winner)

He ran unopposed in the Primary Election.

Democrat: **Ron Styka - 3,459 votes** (winner)

Democrat: Milt Scales - 1,594 votes

Township Clerk

Democrat: **Brett Dreyfus - 2,791 votes** (winner)

Democrat: Gayelord Mankowski - 2,347 votes

Republican: No one ran for Township Clerk, so no Republican will appear on the ballot in the General Election.

Township Treasurer

Democrat: **Julie Brixie - 4,453 votes** (winner)

She ran unopposed in the Primary Election.

Republican: No one ran for Township Treasurer, so no Republican will appear on the ballot in the General Election.

No Party Affiliation: **Erik Lindquist** filed the appropriate number of signatures and will appear on the ballot in the General Election in the race for Township Treasurer.

Township Trustee

Republican: **Brian Czubak - 1,467 votes** (winner)

Republican: **Debra Lee Piper - 1,434 votes** (winner)

Republican: **Jared Wilson - 1,396 votes** (winner)

No other candidates ran, so all three candidates won nomination for Trustee and will be on the ballot in the General Election.

Democrat: **Patricia Jackson - 2,979 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Dan Opsommer - 2,855 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Phil Deschaine - 2,833 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Kathy Sundland - 2,812 votes** (winner)

Democrat: Brett DeGroff - 2,786 votes

Democrat: John Veenstra - 2,420 votes

All four candidates will be on the ballot in the General Election.

Parks Commission

Republican: No one ran for Parks Commissioner, so no Republican will appear on the ballot in the General Election.

Democrat: **Amanda Lick - 3,551 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Annika Brixie Schaetzel - 3,478 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Mark Stephens - 3,429 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Michael McDonald - 3,344 votes** (winner)

Democrat: **Richard Baker - 3,329 votes** (winner)

All five candidates will be on the ballot in the General Election.

County Commissioner 11th District

Republican: **Xavier Durand-Hollis - 893 votes** (winner)

He ran unopposed in the Primary Election.

Democrat: **Teri Banas - 2,314 votes** (winner)

She ran unopposed in the Primary Election.

County Commissioner 12th District

Republican: **Christopher Pawsat - 755 votes** (winner)

He ran unopposed in the Primary Election.

Democrat: **Deb Nolan - 2,413 votes** (winner)
 She ran unopposed in the Primary Election.

County Transportation Millage

Yes: 5,613 (passed)
 No: 1,965

County Animal Shelter Millage

Yes: 5,160 (passed)
 No: 2,448

County 911 Millage

Yes: 6,517 (passed)
 No: 1,087

County Juvenile Justice Millage

Yes: 5,805 (passed)
 No: 1,745

Meridian Township Pathways Millage

Yes: 5,159 (passed)
 No: 2,438

Precinct Delegates

Republican Party:

- Precinct 1: Bruce Little, Brian Beauchine, George Nastas
- Precinct 2: Tom Klunzinger, Debra Lee Piper, R. Scott Shaw
- Precinct 3: Jim Durr
- Precinct 4: Neil D. Isaacs, Mary Dressel-Morris, John Morris, Patricia Kateley
 J. Paul Stevens (write-in)
- Precinct 5: Norman Otto Stockmeyer, Paul Adams Lello
- Precinct 6: John Truscott
- Precinct 8: Sarah Hubbard
- Precinct 9: Marilyn Britten, Brian Paul Czubek
- Precinct 10: Xavier Durand-Hollis, Cheryl Durand-Hollis (write-in)
- Precinct 11: Nikki Wang, Carol Van Drie, Mark L. Van Drie
- Precinct 12: Jonathan L. Wilson, Jared S. Wilson
- Precinct 13: Jan Criss, Sam Frangle, Stephen Linder
- Precinct 14: Joan M. Fabiano, Steve Desautel, Christopher Pawsat
- Precinct 15: Michael A. Nussdorfer, Bruce A. Timmons, George Platsis, Jude
 Wells, Dan Wells
- Precinct 17: Ana Maria R. Guzman, Theodore R. Bolema, Sally Bolema, Joseph M.
 Guzman, Jim Murray
- Precinct 18: Marla Rieli Braun, Ross Abraham
- Precinct 19: Claudia R. Scott, Chris Gustafson, George Scott
- Precinct 20: Melanie Foster, John T. Foster, Nancy Danhof, William Danhof

Democratic Party:

- Precinct 1: Winifred Motherwell, Thomas Motherwell, Doug Pratt, Michael
 Huerta, John Veenstra (write-in)

Precinct 2: Diane Downer, Amanda Dolinski, Terri Giannola, Bertice Ellis (write-in)
Precinct 4: Matthew Heos
Precinct 6: Russell La Forte, Dianne Holman
Precinct 8: Phil Deschaine
Precinct 9: David Winder
Precinct 11: Mary Jo Pangborn
Precinct 12: Gregory Gavrilides, Robert A. Wade Jr.
Precinct 14: Dan Fox
Precinct 17: Scott Hendrickson, Jeffrey Nyquist, Rosanne Renauer

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at this morning's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting, indicating they have been reviewing a zoning issue as The Meridian Company would like to expand by creating a training center for the building trades at their location. She stated the current industrial zoning district does not allow for a training center. Treasurer Brixie added the Ellis Brewing Company is interested in outdoor seating and allowing food trucks at their location in the industrial zoning district which is currently not allowed. She noted one of the goals of the EDC is to engage in the spirit of entrepreneurialism within the community and school systems. To that end, Treasurer Brixie announced the EDC will be formally requesting the Planning Commission initiate a zoning amendment to allow these additional uses in the industrial district. She reported her attendance at a special meeting of the CATA Board held on Tuesday afternoon where the CATA Board approved the authorized services with the consultant to revise the environmental assessment for the BRT project. Treasurer Brixie indicated these revisions are based on input coming from Meridian Township residents and the Township Board adopted resolution of opposition. She clarified the consultant will be studying different design alternatives and alignments, possibly ending the BRT at Harrison or Hagadorn, adding some of the designs would require a transfer from one type of service to another.

Trustee Veenstra asked for the cost of the BRT plan revision.

Treasurer Brixie replied the cost of the revision and completion of the environmental assessment would not exceed \$800,000 plus no more than \$650,000 for Phase 2 task orders.

Trustee Veenstra voiced his appreciation to the voters who cast their ballot in support of his candidacy. He asked the Township Manager to report any progress on placing solar panels on Township buildings and a solar array project in Meridian Township.

Manager Walsh responded there has been no movement for solar panels on Township buildings and Consumers has been unable to find an appropriate sized site for a solar project within Meridian Township.

Trustee Scales thanked voters for their votes cast for him in the August 2, 2016 Primary Election for the position of Supervisor.

Clerk Dreyfus expressed his appreciation for the community support he received during the August Primary by being nominated to serve as Township Clerk for four (4) more years. He felt it necessary to set the record straight regarding the Clerk's race. Clerk Dreyfus touched on the personal and political attacks he has endured in his position as Clerk by Treasurer Brixie over the past four (4) years and felt encouraged residents chose to reject the constant attacks and repeated discrediting of him and his office. He addressed the negative campaign brochure and postcard sent by his opponent the last week of the primary campaign which he stated was filled with lies, false accusations and voting record distortions. Clerk Dreyfus indicated the entire negative campaign was planned, written and executed by Treasurer Brixie who was witnessed by several Township personnel taking photos in the parking lot which were used in the brochure. He expressed disappointment that his opponent allowed Treasurer Brixie to manipulate his campaign which culminated in "slinging mud" and "distributing lies" to Meridian Township voters. Clerk Dreyfus was pleased the primary election results demonstrated the community values of Meridian citizens, which repudiated and rejected the smear campaign and character assassination. He encouraged voters to decide in November if an elected official who engages in such destructive behavior and spreads lies is worthy of remaining in office.

Trustee Styka expressed appreciation for the integrity with which his opponent, Trustee Scales, conducted his primary election for Supervisor. Moving forward, he hoped the Township can move forward with positive relations among all Board members

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Ann Alchin, 5972 Cypress Road, Haslett; RE: Speakers at prior meeting
- BI-2 Beth Boyce, 200 Friendship Circle, Lansing; RE: CATA vote
- BI-3 Dennis Neuner, 5855 Carlton, Haslett; RE: BRT
- BI-4 James Wiggins, 3672 E. Hiawatha Drive, Okemos; RE: Opposition to CATA's BRT
- BI-5 Jim Kinsey (unknown address); RE: Opposition to CATA's BRT
- BI-6 Katina Baryames, 5955 Summerfield Lane, Haslett; RE: Opposition to the BRT
- BI-7 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobberls Drive, East Lansing; RE: BRT: Thank you
- BI-8 Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Quarterly Manager's Reports for 2016
- BI-9 Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Court, Haslett; RE: July 19th Meeting
- BI-10 Bradley David, 1301 Orlando Drive, Haslett; RE: Residential speeding in the Haslett community
- BI-11 Scott Lyon, 1158 Teakwood Circle, Haslett; RE: 1211 Teakwood Circle
- BI-12 Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing; RE: Request to place a Redi-Ride reauthorization millage on the August 4, 2016 Agenda
- BI-13 Jan Rich, 5538 Silverleaf Court, Haslett; RE: Neighborhood home/lot in disrepair at 1211 Teakwood

(2) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Communications Director Deborah Guthrie; RE: Information from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs relative to Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Resuming Video Franchise Operations effective July 1, 2016

(3) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Material handed out at the July 19, 2016 Board Meeting

Mike Bommarito and Pat Calore, 1323 Spicewood Drive, Okemos; RE: Opposition to the BRT project

Kathy Devito, 470 Chimney Oaks, Okemos; RE: Opposition to BRT

Richard Baum, 470 Chimney Oaks, Okemos; RE: Opposition to the BRT

Erica Wolf, 4965 Hillcrest Avenue, Okemos; RE: CATA Vote
 Sandra Dragoo, Executive Director, Capital Area Transportation Authority
 (CATA), 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Meridian Community Meeting
 Caitlin Yarbrough, 5653 Babbit Street, Haslett; RE: Support for the CATA BRT
 Dana Cogswell, 1785 Nemoke Trail, Apt. #5, Haslett; RE: Support for the CATA
 BRT

Material submitted at the July 19, 2016 Board Meeting

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Updated M-43 Crash Statistics
 Table
 Sean Hammond, Deputy Policy Director, Michigan Environmental Council, 820 N.
 Verlinden, Lansing; RE: Lansing State Journal news article outlining the benefits of BRT

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 Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer
 Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the July 19, 2016 Regular Meeting as submitted.

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

The seconder offered the following amendment:

- **Amend page 8, Agenda Item #12A, by deleting “suspends it support of” in the first paragraph of the NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED clause, and inserting “opposes”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: Motion carried 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer
 Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 247,180.08
Public Works	\$ 1,644,108.84
Trust & Agency	\$ 1,042,372.87
Total Checks	\$ 2,933,661.79
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 9,019.88
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 2,942,681.67</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 2,087,414.57</u>

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/ Firefighter Appointment
Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointment of Samuel Biddle to the position of part-time Paramedic/Firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

A. Rezoning #16020, 1792 Hamilton Road, RC (Multiple Family) to PO (Professional and Office)
Trustee Veenstra 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. 2016-07, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township pursuant to Rezoning Petition #16020 (Pete Potterpin) from RC (Multiple Family, 14 units per acre) to PO (Professional and Office).

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 Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- Applicant wants to expand his business and this rezoning would allow him to do so

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing, stated the Redi-Ride recommendation to place a millage on the November ballot provides an opportunity to have options for Redi-Ride users during the school year and after 5:00 P.M. She questioned the objectivity of bus riders brought here by CATA to speak positive affirmation of the current Redi-Ride service. Ms. Rose reminded Board members that persons with disabilities are not the only demographic in need of Redi-Ride service after 5:00 P.M. She indicated it is not her desire to take the Redi-Ride service away from CATA, but to enhance the existing service.

Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing, noted Meridian Township had the first Redi-Ride service in the area. She believed there is an urgency to place the Redi-Ride question on the November General ballot.

Mike Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing, noted he selected where he would live based on transportation availability. He stated Redi-Ride transportation has been increasingly difficult to obtain and the scope of service and operating hours must be expanded. Mr. Hudson suggested a possible partnering with Lyft, which uses specialized vehicles.

Fred Wertzel, 1212 N. Foster, Lansing, representative for National Federal of the Blind of Michigan, expressed his desire for the very best transportation for users. He addressed the \$16-\$22 per ride cost for Redi-Ride compared to other providers. Mr. Wertzel stated the execution of the Redi-Ride program has changed since its initiation in 2002, and the four (4) hour provision is no longer being abided by. He believed contracting out the Redi-Ride service would give residents control over the program.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandlewood, Okemos, spoke to the results of the business meeting held between the Township and CATA, requesting the Township Manager report those results to the Board. He spoke to a suggestion made by a member of the RRRC which highlighted the possibility of leaving the school district in the hands of CATA and contract with Dean Transportation to solve the problem, acknowledging that the suggestion could not be implemented unless the Board chose to act tonight to place a Redi-Ride millage question on the November, 2016 ballot.

Katie Kelly, 2710 Belaire, Lansing, President of ATU Local 1039, disputed claims by residents that they cannot get same day service through Redi-Ride. She noted both the Uber and Lyft systems require smart phone apps and urged consideration of the type of new technology being discussed when a large percentage of Meridian Township riders cannot afford smart phones.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Okemos, voiced appreciation for the RRRC's work to make its recommendations. He stated the Township just needs better Redi-Ride service however that is accomplished. Mr. Bowlby requested the Supervisor solicit input from all Board members for names of appointees to the CATA Board and Planning Commission. He indicated a 20 year payback for the Sleepy Hollow Infrastructure Improvements would be reasonable given the cost of both water and sewer main improvements.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed appreciation for the three (3) Board members on the RRRC who provided recommendations. He spoke to the importance of establishing a Transportation Commission.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Sumbal Rezoning Request

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning initiation request as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 28, 2016.

Board discussion:

- The Board failed to approve a prior request for this property to house an assisted living facility
- Board member belief the appropriate zoning for property along Newton Road should remain single family housing
- Applicant has the ability to apply for a rezoning on this parcel
- Board member concern the request letter reads like a contract zoning request
- Planning Commission is currently looking at the Master Plan and Future Land Use Map (FLUM)
- Board member preference for the applicant to take his request to the Planning Commission for potential inclusion in the Master Plan
- Board member preference to initiate the rezoning request and accept the applicant's condition

- Board member preference to retain the C-2 zoning designation for property along Saginaw Highway (BL 69)
- Assisted living representatives did not accept retaining the C-2 zoning along Saginaw Highway, as they believed they needed the western exposure for signage
- Board member belief the Board made a mistake in not approving the assisted living facility to locate on the subject property
- Applicant for the previous assisted living facility is not interested in returning to do business in the Township
- Board member belief the request is inappropriate for a Township initiated rezoning
- Board member belief a compromise could be to retain the RA piece along Newton Road
- Board member belief there needs to be some type of transition between residential and commercial
- Board member interpretation of the applicant's letter that he will place a condition on the rezoning that if the rezoning to commercial is approved, the owner would agree to a special assessment for the paving of Newton Road
- Only the applicant can offer conditions on the rezoning request if he initiates the rezoning
- If the Board initiates the rezoning request, the Board is the applicant
- Retention of the parcel zoned C-2 on Saginaw Highway necessary for traveling of visitors and access for ambulances to the assisted living facility
- Preference for an answer from the Township attorney on the legality of the "contract zoning" request
- Board member suggestion to move this item to action for the next Board meeting, accept Mr. Sumbal's offering and have the Township Attorney attend the meeting to address Board questions

It was the consensus of the Board to place this rezoning request on the August 16, 2016 Board meeting for further discussion.

B. Brush Pick-Up Review

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Derek Perry provided a review of the Township's recent brush pick up program as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 28, 2016, noting the approach used resulted in clean-up of 5,600 cubic yards of brush throughout the Township within 11 days.

Board discussion:

- Township will utilize some of the wood chips, offer chips to the public and investigate use by a bio recycling plant

C. Redi-Ride Review Committee Recommendations

Trustee Scales summarized the Redi-Ride recommendations which came out of the Redi-Ride Review Committee as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 29, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief the Township has not allowed CATA time to implement the recommendations which came out of the RRRC
- Importance of moving the language out of committee and before the Board for dispensation
- Language in the proposed RRRC motion opens up the potential for other service providers and calls for a millage increase
- Only way to provide extended hours and provide more rides is to increase funding
- Committee was unable to ascertain a definite dollar amount which is necessary in order to explain to voters why the Township is seeking a specific increase

- If the Board is desirous of a millage increase, it should direct staff to calculate the dollar figure and the rationale for the increase
- CATA is currently subsidizing the Redi-Ride service as the .2 mills is not sufficient funding
- Board must approve language at the next meeting in order to place it on the November, 2016 ballot
- Number of Redi-Ride trips per year has increased to over 26,000
- Ways to cut the significant “no show” rate
- Board member belief the “turn down” rate is much higher than the reported two percent (2%)
- Concern that approximately one-third of the rides were being used as a “de facto” school bus
- Need for decreasing the number of student riders on the Redi-Ride for short trips in order to free up additional rides for other users
- Board member desire for CATA to use better technology regarding the ride reservation process
- Board member understanding the 9:00 AM start time was designated so students could not use Redi-Ride in the morning
- Board member suggestion to change existing rules and procedures to increase ridership
- No need for students to use Redi-Ride as a bus service if they live close to the school
- Board member preference for the creation of a decision tree for this issue
- Proposal before the Board is similar to one put forth by the Park Commission in 2014 where two millages (existing and an increase) overlapped for a period of two (2) years
- Need to identify how much money needs to be raised and the rationale for the request before the Board votes to place this issue before the public
- Contract with a private vendor would preclude the ability for a rider to obtain a transfer without paying for two (2) rides
- CATA drivers undergo sensitivity training to learn to assist residents with various disabilities, including developmental, with its corresponding communication barriers
- CATA has passed its 2017 budget, which includes continuation of the Redi-Ride operation as it is today
- CATA’s 2017 budget designates the required revenue to fund the Redi-Ride program through September 30, 2017
- Reauthorizing funding for a transportation system would allow the Township to enter into a contract specifying the services which would be provided
- Students use Redi-Ride when they stay for after school activities
- Board member recommendation to establish a Transportation Commission for a limited time not to exceed two (2) years to explore and “ferret out” all the issues associated with the language which will be placed on the 2018 ballot
- Board member preference to dissolve the Redi-Ride Review Committee after its next meeting and “roll” those issues into the new Transportation Commission
- Preference for the size of the Transportation Commission to be limited to three (3) to five (5) members
- Board member preference to have seven (7) members on the Transportation Commission

It was the consensus of the Board not to place Redi-Ride language on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

D. CATA Board and Planning Commission Vacancies

Township Manager Walsh summarized the CATA Board and Planning Commission vacancies as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 27, 2016.

Trustee Scales moved to recommend Samantha Baruah to the Supervisor for appointment to the Planning Commission.

Board and staff discussion:

- Planning Commission appointment recommendations are the Supervisor's prerogative
- Board member preference to wait until the new composition of the Board in November to make these appointments
- Reappointment of Thomas Deits to the Planning Commission as he has had many years of service
- Need to move forward with a Planning Commission appointment due to their extensive work on the Master Plan
- Current appointee to the CATA Board can remain as the Township's representative for the remainder of his term which expires on September 30, 2016
- Board member preference to look at a new CATA representative as the current appointee has moved out of the township and changed his voter registration
- Board member preference to have the Township's CATA representative live in the Township
- Board member belief that if a CATA representative moves out of the Township, he legally must be removed from the Board
- Supervisor makes Planning Commission appointments and the Board has the option to approve or deny the appointment
- Preference of two (2) Board members to reappoint Tom Deits to the Planning Commission
- Placing this item on the agenda announced to the public that applications are being sought to fill the Planning Commission vacancy
- Board members should review all of the applicants' qualifications and await the Supervisor's recommendation
- CATA rules allow Mr. Cannon to remain as the Meridian Township representative even though he no longer lives in the Township
- Application for Public Service statement does not indicate any parameters for the CATA Board appointment
- Request for a communication previously sent from the Clerk regarding his opinion on the Planning Commission appointment be included in the next Board packet
- Clerk's opinion that since there is no asterisk next to the CATA Board designation on the Application for Public Service, there are no special residency requirements
- Board member preference for this item to be on for continued discussion at the August 16, 2016 Board meeting
- Clerk read the language on the Application for Public Service which specifically states "Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board and the Economic Development Corporation, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commission must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office."
- Staff will begin the process of looking for applicants and will bring the results back to the Board at the August 16, 2016 meeting
- Township will ask Mr. Cannon to resign his appointment since he is no longer a Meridian Township resident

It was the consensus of the Board to place these appointments on for action at the August 16, 2016 Board Meeting.

E. Sleepy Hollow Infrastructure Improvements

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Derek Perry summarized the process for the infrastructure improvements requested through petitions as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 29, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Concern the Township does not have sufficient funds in the Township Improvement Revolving Fund (TIRF) to pay for this special assessment project
- Emergency hook up would typically be funded through the general fund

- Allocating such a large amount would limit the Township’s ability to fund other projects
- Sleepy Hollow has low land with poorly drained soils
- There is a human health component to the proposed infrastructure improvements
- Variety of taxes being paid for parcels in Sleepy Hollow (\$1,200-\$6,500 per year) with homes on the property
- Many of the vacant lots are owned by residents who live adjacent to them
- Road paving would be accomplished through this project
- Fact sheet is created by the Engineering Department based upon input by the petitioners
- Petition was circulated with the parameters described in the Board packet
- Petitioners are aware the Township Board does not have to extend the payback period to 20 years
- Petitioners are aware of the cost is per parcel, not per home in Sleepy Hollow
- Staff synopsis of the process to bond for this project
- Payback period of 20 years would be necessary due to the high cost of this large assessment project (water, sewer and road repairs at a total estimation of \$900,000)
- Request for staff to explore multiple options, some with up front incentives and bring back to the Board for discussion
- Board option of not assessing the property owner 100% of the cost
- Property owners do not have to pay the benefit for the vacant lots as they will not hook up
- Township does not require residents to hook up unless their well and/or septic system fails

It was the consensus of the Board for staff to provide other funding options and bring back to the Board for further discussion.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Tom Pinnavaia, 5901 E. Sleepy Hollow Lane, East Lansing, spoke to the deteriorating conditions on several parcels within the Sleepy Hollow subdivision, including the necessity for arsenic removal. He addressed the diminished property values associated with well and septic systems and was concerned with parcels not holding their value.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to the pension legacy costs and how different municipalities are dealing with it. He noted municipal bonds are one means to address the unfunded liability as noted in a Michigan State University Extension paper and inquired if staff has looked into that option. Mr. Bowlby acknowledged municipal bonds would require voter approval.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, thanked the Board as a whole for its service to the community.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra quoted an excerpt from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, a book written by Jane Jacobs as follows: “It is not easy for uncredentialed people to stand up to the credentialed even when the so-called expertise is grounded in ignorance and folly.” He believed this quote applies to CATA and voiced his continued objection to the proposed BRT project.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:55 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary