

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 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, Assessor David Lee, Finance Director Miriam Mattison, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Interim Economic Development Coordinator Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Capital Area District Library (CADL) Board Recognition-Quenda Story

The Board recognized Quenda Story and presented her with a certificate of achievement for her service as the Meridian Township representative on the Capital Area District Library Board over the last 15 years.

Ms. Story added that libraries are relevant to the 21st century as they are the repository of civilization and a gathering place for an otherwise fragmented society. She stated librarians are the most trusted members of the community.

B. East Lansing Wastewater Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Improvement Update-Scott House, East Lansing Director of Public Works

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Perry introduced Mr. House, the Director of East Lansing's Public Works Department.

Mr. House provided a Powerpoint presentation on the history of the wastewater treatment plant and the planned improvements (which began in 2013), up to and including 2025.

Board discussion:

- Costs are funded through utility rates and setting of new sewer rates through the budget process will reflect funding for the proposed projects
- Inquiry regarding the separation between storm sewer and sanitary sewer as it relates to the capital costs of the plant
- Meridian Township is billed only for metered flow
- Capital costs relate to infrastructure by agreement through pro-rata when the plant was constructed
- East Lansing WRRF will obtain a loan and bonds will be issued through the City of East Lansing to pay the debt service over time, with minimal debt service paid during the project and the majority paid at the end of the project

C. Shaping the Avenue

Andrew Georgiadis, member of a collaborative consulting team, indicated Shaping the Avenue is a joint effort to reform the land use regulation which governs development along Grand River and Michigan Avenues. He provided a Powerpoint presentation which included a proposed zoning overlay, the regulating plan, sample code pages, depiction of a proposed multi-step transformation process and other elements. Mr. Georgiadis stated additional information can be found at www.shapingtheavenue.com.

Board and consultant discussion:

- Appreciation for inclusion of street trees along the roadway
- Need for inclusion of mid-block pedestrian crossings, specifically between Okemos and Park Lake Roads and possible placement of pedestrian activated signals to bring vehicles to a stop
- Redesign for a five-lane thoroughfare with existing service drives used as slower side lanes for shared use with bicyclists
- Future meetings with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to discuss mid-block crossing thresholds which may require some redevelopment to bring buildings closer to the road and align them with bus stops
- Request process for possible speed limit reduction through Michigan State Police
- Implementation of this long-range plan will take decades of private and public investment to accomplish
- Request for consideration of what will occur on north-south connections off of Grand River and Michigan Avenues to achieve a seamless development process to the Hamilton/Okemos intersection
- Request for the consulting team to share graphics, renderings and visuals with the Township's planning staff

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Ronald Rowe, 6247 E. Lake Drive, Haslett, addressed the improved water quality of Lake Lansing over the last 52 years, supporting the Lake Lansing Watershed Management SAD renewal.

Tim McCarthy, 6076 Columbia, Haslett, provided history of measures taken to obtain improved water quality of Lake Lansing which began 20 years ago with private funds collected through the Lake Lansing Property Owners Association Treatment Board.

James Pollack, 1380 Hickory Island Drive, left a prepared statement which offered suggestions for management of Lake Lansing.

Brad Funkhauser, 1019 Maple Hill, Lansing, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CATA, expressed appreciation to the Board for its partnership with CATA. He announced CATA launched its real time bus tracking application. Mr. Funkhauser noted the app can be downloaded at www.cata.org/transit.

Ali Damsaz, 743 Grand River Avenue, Okemos, spoke in support of the Grand River Avenue Water Main Extension.

Daria Schlega, 2446 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, addressed what she believed is a rental unit above her residence.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to post millage election information posted online by a Board member, the hiring of new firefighters and police officers, and including public dialogue on millage issues.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Clarification regarding the hiring of two part-time firefighters on this agenda in that no millage money will be used to pay for these positions
- Clarification that police officer appointments on tonight's agenda brings the number of officers up to 37, below the number of sworn officers needed
- Millage money will not be realized until the beginning of 2018 and will not be spent until then
- Costco construction hours of operation needed to be extended to pour the concrete floor
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) will meet tomorrow to review three (3) consultant RFP proposals to provide consulting services to the public body
- Meeting on Thursday with Haslett business owners and a potential developer for downtown Okemos
- 2018 Recommended Budget will be sent to Board members on August 25th and will focus on payment of unfunded pension liability, commercial blight and local roads. The public hearing for the 2018 Recommended Budget will be held September 5, 2017
- Team picnic will be held Monday, August 21st and Township offices will be closed from noon to 5:00 P.M.
- Invitation from Michigan State University (MSU) to walk through the 1855 Place facility
- Meeting with MSU tomorrow for an economic development luncheon
- Haslett streetscape will be back before the Board shortly
- Plans by Administration to offer recommendations to pay down the pension debt beyond what the voters approved last week

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Election Report-Clerk Dreyfus

Clerk Dreyfus reported the following:

- Official results of the August 8th election: 3,505 yes votes (62.3 %) to 2,120 no votes (37.7 %) on the police and fire millage question
- 5,625 of registered voters in Meridian Township cast their ballots for a voter turnout rate of 18.6%
- Approximately 51% of votes cast were done at the 19 precincts and 49% voted via absentee ballot
- Two election workers accidentally locked themselves out of their building, and precinct opened 5 minutes late at 7:05 A.M. Ten (10) voters submitted ballots which were tabulated at 7:30 A.M. and two (2) voters left and were instructed they could come back any time before 8:00 P.M.
- Absentee Voter Counting Board performed well and had all absentee ballots processed and results complete by 9:00 P.M. despite technical issues with new equipment
- On site technician from our equipment vendor, Election Source, performed extensive troubleshooting for the new Absentee Voter Counting Board high-speed tabulator
- Clerk's Office is meeting the Township Board goal of increasing diversity in its pool of election inspectors with a variety of new demographics in terms of age, gender, and ethnicity

- Michigan State University (MSU) Outreach Department is part of national research team involved in designing voting accessibility standards for people with disabilities and the Clerk agreed with a request to partner with MSU as a field research site, meeting set up to review new election equipment accessibility for future elections
- Ingham County has called for an election on November 7, 2017
- Overtime hours for August 8th Special Election came in under budget

Board discussion:

- Availability of paper copies which show detailed precinct reports
- New voting equipment does not produce reports in the same manner as the previous equipment
- Results are electronically transmitted to the county in real time and results can be immediately obtained at the county's website
- Township Clerk's Office is looking at ways to produce the information in new formats

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- Her attendance at the successful Rock the Block! Carriage Hills

Trustee Deschaine reported the following:

- Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will be putting forth specific proposals in the next few months
- Transportation Commission will meet August 17th at 6:00 P.M.
- CATA's real time bus tracking application is also available on Google Play

Trustee Opsommer reported the following:

- CATA Board of Directors will be meeting tomorrow at 4:00 PM
- Haslett Community Church is hosting a second open house on Sept 24th from 2:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M. to view its completed solar project

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- Old Pine Lake Historic Walking Tour will be held August 20th
- Senior Brunch Tribute will be held on August 22nd at The Willows at Okemos
- Douglas J's 50th Anniversary Celebration on August 26th
- Memorial Quilt Project will be at Meridian Mall September 8th & 9th

Treasurer Brixie reported the following:

- Her attendance at the Meridian Leadership Group
- Her attendance at the Four Corners Alliance
- Her attendance at the EDC Meeting
- She hosted the quarterly Capital Area Treasurer's meeting discussing computer security
- Her attendance at last week's Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) where invasive species removal was approved for Towar Woods

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 Clerk Dreyfus.

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

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), 420 South Grand River Avenue, Lansing; RE: CATA's *Payroll Analysis* forensic audit performed by Plante & Moran
- BI-2 Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), 420 South Grand River Avenue, Lansing; RE: CATA's *Payroll Analysis-Unemployment Insurance Agency Findings* forensic audit performed by Plante & Moran
- BI-3 John P. Gardner, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Updates to its Comcast Agreement for Residential Services
- BI-4 John P. Gardner, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to the channel lineup effective August 31, 2017
- BI-5 Todd G. Huhn, General Manager and Shawn Dunham, Specialty Leasing Manager, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos; RE: Thank you for the increased mall business as a result of the Township's 175th Celebrate Meridian and Gus Macker Tournament events

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 Clerk Dreyfus.

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 July 24, 2017 Special Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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 August 1, 2017 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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	\$	431,768.69
Public Works	\$	591,867.27
Trust & Agency	\$	675,146.58
 Total Checks	\$	 1,698,782.54
 Credit Card Transactions (July 27 to Aug. 10, 2017)	\$	 11,443.86
 Total Purchases	\$	 <u>1,710,226.40</u>
 ACH Payments	\$	 <u>625,743.04</u>

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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. 2018 Budget Public Hearing Date-September 5, 2017

Treasurer Brixie moved that a public hearing be held at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall on September 5, 2017, for the purpose of taking comments regarding the 2018 Charter Township of Meridian Recommended Budget. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

E. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointments of Nathan Lafeyette and Bradley Beaver to the positions of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

F. Ratification of Police Officer Appointments

Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointment of Kolby Casaday and Ian Mandernack to the position of police officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

- G. Grant Agreement-Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for Ponderosa Land Preserve Acquisition
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve acceptance of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Project Agreement in the amount of \$514,900 (45%) with a local match of \$636,000 (55%) to be paid by the Land Preservation Millage in the amount of \$500,000 with an additional \$136,000 donation from the property owner for acquisition of the 89-acre Ponderosa Property in Meridian Township, parcel numbers 33-02-02-435-426-006 and 33-02-02-35-200-102. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

- A. Lake Lansing Watershed Management Special Assessment District (SAD)
Supervisor Styka opened the public hearing at 7:47 P.M.

Director Perry summarized the proposed Lake Lansing Watershed Management SAD as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 15, 2017.

- Public
Larry Wagenknecht, 6097 Partridge Street, Haslett and Curt Armbruster, 6411 E. Reynolds Road, Haslett, and Chair of the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee (LLWAC), spoke in support of the continuation of the Lake Lansing Watershed Management SAD renewal.

Catherine Ferguson, 6177 Foster Drive, Haslett, requested additional information and clarification on the change proposed for the assessment of Lake Lansing. She suggested the Township publicize all information regarding the lake and its assessment on its website.

Director Perry added that through the special assessment process, noticing was sent to all affected property owners, which included the phone number of the Public Works Department for any questions. He noted the Township has, and is, working with the LLWAC to have the Township host the Lake Lansing Watershed information on the Township's website, including annual reports, videos, the Lake Lansing Management Plan, minutes, etc.

Pam Tying, Progressive Engineering, 1811 4 Mile Road, NE, Grand Rapids and consultant to the LLWAC, stated the proposed project is a continuation of the existing project with accommodation for anticipated cost of living increases. She explained the LLWAC's two-pronged approach for lake management.

Board discussion:

- No assessment allowed for the Michigan State University Sailing Club, but the club makes a contribution of approximately \$600 which reduces the property owners assessment accordingly
- Benefits of a natural shoreline and information on how to implement restoration

Supervisor Styka closed the public hearing at 8:09 P.M.

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Grand River Avenue Water Main Extension-2017 Special Assessment District #49
 Director Perry summarized the proposed Grand River Water Main Improvement project as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 15, 2017.

Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the Grand River Avenue Public Water Main Improvement Special Assessment District #49 Resolution #1 and Resolution #2, tentatively declaring the Township Board’s intention to construct approximately 1,600 feet of water main along Grand River Avenue from the existing water main on the west side of Van Atta Road to approximately 600 feet east of Van Atta Road; and to defray the cost by special assessment; tentatively designates the district; and set a public hearing for Tuesday, September 19, 2017. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Board discussion:

- Water main extension will improve the quality of life for nearby residents and business owners
- Concern the proposal is an extension into the urban services management area. However, board approval of an amendment to the Master Plan is necessary in order for a developer to request water for a proposed subdivision north of Wellington Estates
- Possibility of additional fire hydrants within the trailer park for fire protection
- Suggestion for an additional fire hydrant on the north side of Grand River and Van Atta
- Process includes five (5) resolutions with two (2) public hearings

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Master Plan

- Director Kieselbach summarized the Planning Commission’s response to proposed Township Board changes to the draft Master Plan identified at the July 24, 2017 Joint Special Meeting. He provided a synopsis of the Planning Commission’s decisions at its August 14th meeting.

Board discussion:

- A bonus density for accessory dwelling units would have to be implemented through the ordinance process
- Support for the concept of a bonus density for accessory dwelling units
- Vision for the PICA areas
- Belief the Master Plan does not address the type of community Meridian Township wants to become, including population trends, the desired size and growth levels of the Township or the Board goal regarding greenspace
- Through the latest Township survey, 89% of respondents voiced opposition to development of apartment buildings
- Belief the two “winners” of this Master Plan are commercial property owners and developers, who will construct apartment complexes with convenience stores/coffee shops which service the transient rental population
- Suggestion to place the Master Plan on hold and host a series of community input sessions to ascertain the vision for future land use development

- Consensus to designate the three (3) parcels northeast of Quality Dairy and border the corner of Marsh and Lake Lansing Roads (off Edson Street), as well as the strip of parking southeast of Quality Dairy as commercial on the FLUM
- Proposed Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designation of the Walnut Hills Golf course is consistent with the current RR zoning
- Difference between the MUPUD and mixed use core for the Mt. Hope/Hagadorn area
- Preference for the business and technology designated parcels in the Mt. Hope/Hagadorn area to be changed to mixed use core
- Concern with the creation of PICA zones
- Preference for the Hannah East area to be changed from industrial to MUPUD
- Consensus to change the Quality Dairy and strip mall at the Lake Lansing/Towar/Birch Row southeast corner to commercial

It was the consensus of the Board to have staff take Board suggestions back to the Planning Commission.

B. Vacant and Abandoned Buildings

It was the consensus of the Board to postpone this item until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

C. Lake Lansing Watershed Management Special Assessment District (SAD)

Board discussion:

- No public has come to the Board meeting in opposition to the proposed work of the watershed
- Appreciation for the efforts of the LLWAC members to maintain good water quality and use environmentally sound methods for the lake
- Residents agreeing to a special assessment and the volunteer efforts toward lake quality shows the caliber of lake residents who “do the right thing”
- Possibility of the Environmental Commission providing ongoing input on environmentally sound practices for the management of Lake Lansing
- Possibility of a joint meeting with the Environmental Commission and the LLWAC

It was the consensus of the Board to have staff place this item on for action at the September 5, 2017 Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Mike Duffy, 734 W. Grand River Avenue, expressed appreciation for Board passage of the Grand River Avenue Water Main extension.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced concern over the two (2) unsettled police union contracts in light of passage of the police and fire millage, and he emphasized his desire that Meridian Township remain suburban. He also addressed Board decorum. Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus announced a November 7th election has been called by Ingham County which will necessitate changing the Board meeting schedule to move the November 7, 2017 Board meeting to November 9th and a special Board meeting on August 22nd at 6:00 P.M. where marihuana regulation and CATA's Redi-Ride will be discussed.

Trustee Opsommer inquired if the Clerk had additional information as to his belief there was a large increase in the overtime costs for elections over the last decade. Clerk Dreyfus responded "not at this time."

16. CLOSED SESSION – Discuss Pending Litigation

Treasurer Brixie moved to enter into closed session to discuss pending litigation. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka recessed the meeting at 9:26 P.M.

Supervisor Styka reconvened the meeting at 9:52 P.M.

Trustee Deschaine moved to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Township Attorney's suggestion as discussed in closed session. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:56 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary