

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

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 PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction of Police Officer Bryan LeRoy

Police Chief David Hall introduced Meridian Township's newest police officer, Bryan LeRoy.

B. Introduction of Promoted Fire Department Team Members – Battalion Chief Mark Vroman, Captain Ken Phinney, Lieutenant Bill Richardson, and Full-Time Firefighter Samantha Weber  
Fire Chief Fred Cowper introduced newly promoted fire personnel: Battalion Chief Mark Vroman, Captain Ken Phinney, Lieutenant Bill Richardson and Full-Time Firefighter Samantha Weber

C. Harmony Gmazel, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) – Interactive Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Toolkit

Harmony Gmazel, Land Use Planner, TCRPC, 3135 Pinetree Road #2c, Lansing, announced invitations will be forthcoming for the 2014 Farmland Bus Tour to be held in September. Ms. Gmazel stated Greening Mid-Michigan invited Board members to its website, [www.greenmidmichigan.org](http://www.greenmidmichigan.org), to view videos regarding green infrastructure in the region, watershed protection, conservation of farmland, county parks, etc. She explained there is a link on the [www.midmichigansustainability.org](http://www.midmichigansustainability.org) website to the HIA mapping tool, a free data mapping program modeled after Meridian Township's HIA checklist, which can be used by local governments in the tri-county area when assessing the health impacts of any new development. Ms. Gmazel stated when a parcel address is inserted, different data layers (proximity to sidewalks, transit stops, schools, information on noise, solid waste, active lifestyle, etc.) will appear on the screen. She reported the county health departments are sharing parcel data with TCRPC. Ms. Gmazel announced there will be three (3) training opportunities at Michigan State University in July.

Board and TCRPC representative discussion:

- Board or Planning Commission decision in adoption of a site plan would be aided through use of the HIA tool
- HIAs address any issue which could arise during a public hearing
- Bus rapid transit (BRT) project for the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue corridor is in the design stages and there is currently an environmental assessment being conducted
- Information obtained regarding effects of the BRT (e.g., number of cars which will be reduced) will be inputted into the corridor
- HIA tool will be adopted by TCRPC and integrated into its project review
- Intense charette process for the BRT took into account the opinions, ideas and vision of residents along the corridor as well as the adopted goals and objectives of master plans from communities along the corridor

- Design of the corridor plan is a vision and will change before it is final
- Many differences between the Grand Rapids v. Lansing BRT projects
- Questions regarding the HIA tool can be directed to Ms. Gmazel at [hgmazel@mitcrpc.org](mailto:hgmazel@mitcrpc.org)
- TCRPC will be reaching out to Lansing, East Lansing, Delta & Delhi Township to utilize the HIA mapping tool

#### 5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandalwood, Okemos, expressed appreciation for the high caliber of members in the Meridian Community Band. He noted Pat Cannon, Meridian Township's representative on the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board, has been appointed by the White House to the United States Access Board, which advises the President on matters relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, requested HOMTV provide coverage both in support and in opposition to millage proposals on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. He spoke in opposition to both the CATA and park millages. Mr. Provencher expressed approval for the Capital Area District Library (CADL) millage proposal.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, displayed self-created maps on the overhead projector and addressed what he believed were a lack of problems with septic systems in Areas 4 and 5 of the Urban Services Management Area (USMA). He spoke to his letter contained in the Board packet regarding the recipients of site plan review official notices and the need for a definition of adjacent. Mr. Bowlby spoke to his desire for Meridian Township to do more than what is required by state law and notice residents within 600 feet of a subject parcel.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

#### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Local road bids were provided to the county today
- Bennett Road from Hagadorn Road to Okemos Road will also be paved as a separate project from the local roads project
- Kinawa Drive from Okemos to Dobie Road will be reconstructed through a federal program
- Painting of the exterior of the Okemos Library is complete
- Water tank on Hulett Road has been repainted
- Fire station bids are due July 9th

#### 7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the latest Groundwater Management Board where plans are underway for joint purchase of chemicals for waste treatment plants. She noted the August 5<sup>th</sup> park millage will include funds for park improvements, increased accessibility for seniors and children with disabilities, increased park maintenance, etc. indicating homes with a taxable value of \$100,000 will experience a \$66 annual tax increase. Trustee Wilson stated parks and greenspace are two important factors which define Meridian Township.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the last CATA Board meeting where Pat Cannon was elected Chair of the CATA Board.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at Okemos Library's community conversation where Russ Allen, from Farm Fresh Seafood, spoke to aquaculture as a viable alternative to harvesting the ocean. He also attended a workshop sponsored by the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) on Creating a Vision for your Township and Linking with the Community. Clerk Dreyfus expressed concern AT&T does not broadcast Meridian Township Board Meetings and the costly monthly fee for doing so.

Communications Director Guthrie explained the complicated process used by AT&T U-verse for Public, Education and Government (PEG) channel viewing which uses a Windows platform for all 17 communities in the region on Channel 99. In response to Board member inquiry regarding what can be done to ensure AT&T is properly airing Township meetings, Ms. Guthrie noted AT&T's U-verse Uniform Agreement does not expire until 2018.

Trustee Veenstra suggested building a record with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) regarding AT&T's unsatisfactory service.

Ms. Guthrie stated she met with the MPSC last month and this issue was discussed, as well as discussing the redesign of their statewide survey in regard to cable services within the state.

Clerk Dreyfus expressed support for earlier public comment regarding moving forward to reach consensus with the Planning Commission on the USMA. He expressed concern there is no Township policy regarding waiving of permit fees for charity and hardship cases and suggested such a policy be created and adopted to address a recent administrative decision to do so.

Trustee Veenstra expressed support for the recent administrative decision for the waiving of permit fees in a hardship case. He suggested individuals who sell cable services within the Township be required to disclose if they do not carry PEG channels. Trustee Veenstra believed two lane roads as depicted in the Capital Corridor Study cannot adequately handle the traffic and burial of power lines along the corridor is not economically feasible.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the revised agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Klayton F. Fennell, Vice President, Government Affairs, Comcast, One Comcast Center, Philadelphia, PA; RE: Comcast Corporation/Midwest Cable, Inc. Transaction

BI-2 Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Site Plan Review Official Notice Recipients

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 Marsh Madle, Chair, Economic Development Corporation; RE: Article titled "Is Your Planning Process Strangling Economic Development or Growth" from [www.plannersweb.com](http://www.plannersweb.com)

(3) Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Melissa Ballard, Marketing Specialist, Ingham County Parks Department, 121 E. Maple Street, Mason; Re: Friends of Ingham County Parks "Cuisine in the Park" fundraiser on August 7, 2014 at Lake Lansing Park South from 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

RL-2 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Andrews Drain Drainage District "Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries" to be held on July 2, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner's Office

- RL-3 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Indian Lakes Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 2, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-4 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Grettenberger Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 7, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-5 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Povey Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 7, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-6 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Primeau Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 7, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-7 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Sanctuary Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 7, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-8 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Smith Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 7, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office
- RL-9 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Sunwind Branch of the Smith Drain Drainage District “Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries” to be held on July 7, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Drain Commissioner’s Office

(4) Staff Communication (SC)

- SC-1 Treasurer Brixie; RE: Tax Rate Comparisons

**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 Wilson.**

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

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the June 17, 2014 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, 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		\$ 471,023.00
Public Works		\$ 58,095.40
Retainage		
Check #3072-Highway Services, Inc.		
JoPass Contract Final Payment	2,183.29	
Check #3073-MCT/Contract Deduction		
Dobie Construction did not finish		
Okemos Library Contract	5,633.01	
Check #1074-Dobie Construction		
Final Payment, Okemos Library Contract	7,565.90	
		<u>\$ 15,382.20</u>
Total Checks		\$ 544,500.60
Credit Card Transactions		\$ 6,787.85
Total Purchases		<u>\$ 551,288.45</u>
ACH Payments		<u>\$ 50,996.37</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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. Disposal of Depreciated Equipment

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the donation of surplus studio production equipment to other public, education, or government (PEG) facilities as listed in the surplus equipment document dated June 10, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointment of William Jewell to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter pending completion of a successful background investigation and physical examination. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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.

Norm Shaw, 9690 Andersonville Road, Clarkston, representative for Spartan Paving, spoke in support of the waiver of construction hours for pavement repairs at Walmart.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to inclusion of all pieces of agenda items in the public online packet. He voiced no objection to the waiving of construction hours for pavement repairs at Walmart, inquiring how much noise will be generated.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Park Commission Appointment

**Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Michael McDonald to the Meridian Township Park Commission to fill the seat vacated by Marilyn Aronoff's resignation for the remainder of the term which expires November 20, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Board discussion:

- Mr. McDonald has a wealth of park experience both at the state and county level

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Walmart – Waiver of Construction Hours

**Treasurer Brixie moved to waive the requirements of Section 50-84(4) of the Code of Ordinances to allow for parking lot pavement repairs at 5110 Times Square Drive, to take place from 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M., July 7, 2014 through July 14, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board discussion:

- Beneficial to have large parking lot repairs performed at night
- Concern with back up “alarms” of the trucks at night
- Suggestion to have trucks routed such that there is minimal “beeping”
- Impact on the apartments immediately east of Walmart
- General waiver to be used only when necessary
- Contractor will perform as much work as possible during the day
- Window is longer than needed, exclusive of inclement weather

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.

Matt Hagan, Okemos Road LLC, 927 E. Grand River, East Lansing, addressed Board concerns expressed at a previous Board meeting relative to Rezoning #14020.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Rezoning #14020 (Okemos Road, LLC/Hagan), Request to Rezone 3698 Okemos Road from RR (Rural Residential) to PO (Professional and Office)

Board discussion:

- Board member preference to follow the Planning Commission's continued recommendation to rezone this parcel to PO
- Parcel meets lot area, lot width and setback requirements for the RC and RD zoning designations
- Suggestion for the applicant to request a variance for the lot size required for a non-residential use in a residential district

- Board member preference to follow the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and rezone this parcel to RD
- Area is “vulnerable” to the continued “creep” and commercialization which often follows corridors
- PO designation is not consistent with the FLUM and inappropriate for the future of the area
- Importance of keeping the integrity of the nearby single family homes and nearby multiple-family residential districts
- Area was carefully thought out back when the land use plan was adopted where transitional zoning to multiple family (e.g., RD) was contemplated
- PO vacancy in the Township is a key issue
- Preference to fill the vacant PO first
- Current zoning on the site is rural residential
- Review of the rezoning criteria

**Trustee Veenstra moved to suspend the rules to act on this rezoning request tonight.**

**The motion died for lack of support.**

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its July 15, 2014 meeting to rezone this parcel from RR to RD.**

#### B. Township Branding

Board discussion:

- Preference for the Township Manager to work with the Communications Department to form a committee
- Inclusion of representatives from homeowner associations, school groups and senior organizations as well as business representatives
- Board member preference to direct staff to select the committee in an effort to keep politics out of the process
- Suggestion to include residents who are professionals in the public relations arena (e.g., John Truscott)
- Suggestion to include residents with expertise in marketing
- Committee membership should include homeowners and renters
- Membership should have a range of ages
- Board member preference to have the names of committee members and their affiliation come back to the Board to ensure there is a balance on the committee
- Board member request for an explanation as to how formation of this committee will benefit the Township
- Plan of action, the consultant and associated fees will come before the Board in late August/early September

**It was the consensus of the Board to have the Township Manager and Communications Director form a Branding Committee and a recommended consultant and budget will be brought to the Board for consideration at its September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

#### C. Greater Lansing Shared Services Fire Initiative

Fire Chief Fred Cowper offered history on and an update of progress on the shared fire services initiative.

Board and staff discussion:

- Meridian model of jumping rigs
- Lansing Township, Delta Township and Delhi Township use Meridian’s model
- Blue Card teaches incident commanders how to use common language and processes to disseminate information to other respondents
- Future shared fire service will have the closest unit responding to an emergency
- Board member acknowledgment of the efficiency of Meridian’s fire department model

- Appreciation for the information that Meridian Township's costs of providing fire services will not increase with implementation of the shared services initiative
- Special contract with Jackson National Life to provide both ambulance and fire services
- Jackson National Life pays 100% of the ambulance transport fee irrespective of the patient's insurance coverage
- Current contract to provide fire protection to the northern end of Alaiedon Township between Jolly Road and Sandhill Road
- Continued staff efforts to arrange for ambulance service to residents in the northern end of Alaiedon Township between Jolly Road and Sandhill Road
- Concern with statement made during the update that there is a move to have paramedics dressed as Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team members when providing medical attention in response to mass shooting incidents
- Concern with the possibility a shooter with hostility toward police may assume the paramedics are police officers and our paramedics become targets
- Personal Board member experience with the excellent service provided by fire personnel
- Suggestion for bullet proof protection to identify personnel as medics during catastrophic shooting incidents
- Prematurity in making specific decisions regarding SWAT gear until the grant is awarded
- Appreciation for Fire Department personnel seeking grant monies
- Greater Lansing area will not have a regional fire department
- Possibility of East Lansing being the first responder to the Towar Garden area
- Recent 911 Dispatch Center purchase of new software to ascertain who is the closest responder
- Continued efforts to procure grant money to provide the equipment attached to fire vehicles so that dispatch can learn where vehicles are located
- Large number of ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles within the six (6) fire departments
- Board member suggestion to consider providing funds through Meridian's budget for the township's share of aforementioned fire equipment if procurement of grant monies is not successful

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, showed several graphs on the overhead depicting millage rates among townships in Eaton, Ingham and Clinton counties as well as other townships in Michigan.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke against elections being held in August due to low participation and that participation not being representative of the populace. He indicated governmental entities use the August election to pass millages. Mr. Provencher expressed opposition to the CATA millage for a variety of reasons and spoke to the poor quality of CATA's minutes. He offered several comments on Meridian Township's representation on the CATA Board.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Treasurer Brixie verbalized information contained in her tax rate comparisons in Ingham County included in the Board packet, noting the great service residents receive from the Township. She addressed specific statements made during public comment at the last Board meeting regarding Meridian Township property tax rates. Treasurer Brixie reminded citizens most of the other townships used for comparison purposes by a member of the public do not have full-time police and fire departments with ambulance/EMS services, adding those services constitute the majority of the Township's budget. She noted an official comparison of CATA's BRT to the Grand Rapids BRT will be provided by Debbie Alexander in the future, adding the CATA system is much more extensive than the system previously used in Grand Rapids. Treasurer Brixie stated the Grand Rapids BRT

functions only during peak hours and does not have any dedicated lanes. She added a government project of this scale requires a contingency built into the projected cost in order to avoid significant cost overruns, and the dollar amount used is the highest possible estimate.

Trustee Veenstra noted total tax rates from other municipalities as depicted during public comment included education, believing the real comparison should be made between the tax rates for local government. He offered his analysis, comparing other local governmental units with Meridian Township. Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the June 25<sup>th</sup> Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting (TCRPC) where a presentation was given by Eatran, Clinton Transit and CATA. He provided his evaluation of the differences in their respective services.

Trustee Veenstra suggested the Township should go above and beyond state law and mail notifications for rezonings, special use permits, Section 61 reviews and site plan reviews to individual property owners within 600 feet of the property being developed.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:23 P.M.

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ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary