

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht, Trustees LeGoff,  
Ochberg, Veenstra (6:05 P.M.)  
ABSENT: Trustee Dreyfus  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Clint Goodson, 2487 Small Acres Lane, Okemos, requested the Township take possession of Ruth Moore Park before it goes into foreclosure, as it is crucial to the viability of the neighborhood.

George Stockman, 2481 Small Acres Lane, Okemos, requested the Township keep Ruth Moore Park as it is.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, requested that if the piece of property known as Ruth Moore Park is acquired by the Township, it should be dedicated as open space to preserve a wildlife corridor. He spoke to excessive restrictions contained in the home occupation ordinance. Mr. Kincaid voiced his belief that murals are an individual expression and the proposed ordinance would violate first amendment rights of free speech. He addressed the streets and sidewalks ordinance amendments by noting that there are no restrictions to prevent commercial companies from plowing snow into other people's yards or the Township from plowing sidewalks and pushing snow into resident's driveways.

Pete Butchko, 1556 Mojave Court, Okemos, requested the Board give careful consideration to deer herd culling as deer overpopulation is a serious Township problem.

Vance Poquette, 2226 Kent Street, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the home occupation ordinance amendment, expressing concern with the noise in residential districts which can be created through activities allowed under the ordinance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. Thinning Deer Herds in Meridian Township - Daniel Kennedy and Brent Rudolph, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Brent Rudolph, Wildlife Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 40473, Lansing, gave a Powerpoint presentation on deer management in local communities.

Board members discussed the following:

- Local impact of deer on silviculture

- Active population management program would address silviculture
- Option of a bow and arrow hunt
- Use of a crossbow/vertical bow during Michigan's archery season
- Safety zone from buildings requiring written permission does not apply to culling
- Culling can be performed during hunting seasons
- Request for deer culling to be placed on a future agenda as a discussion item

[Powerpoint presentation in Official Minute Book]

B. Capital Area District Library (CADL) Annual Report – Betsy Hull, Okemos Library and Ann Chapman, Haslett Library

Ann Chapman, Haslett Librarian, gave an overview of programs and services offered at the Haslett Library during 2010. Of significant note were the 800 students who registered for the summer reading program in 2010. She expressed enthusiastic anticipation for the possibilities with the pending move to the former Meridian High School sometime in August of this year.

Betsy Hull, Head Librarian, Hope Borbas Okemos Library, gave an overview of programs and services offered at the Okemos Library as noted in the Capital Area District Library's 2010 Annual Report. She noted 1,100 students registered for the 2010 summer reading program and shared information on the numerous special activities conducted by and at the library.

Treasurer Brixie provided an update on the East Lansing K-8 Facilities Committee. She noted a township representative was invited to attend the quarterly intergovernmental meeting between the East Lansing School District and the East Lansing City Council where the report from the K-8 Committee was discussed. Treasurer Brixie indicated the East Lansing School Board received a position statement from the East Lansing City Council in support of all elementary schools remaining open. The Township representative was asked to share any relevant input to the school district and offer a reaction to the report. Treasurer Brixie noticed some of the calculations used had a slightly different estimated taxable value and believed it would be beneficial for our mutual assessor to provide estimated taxable value information already obtained for the 2013 tax year. She felt it important as the three (3) options contained in the report all include some type of bonding and/or raising of funds for reconfiguring the elementary buildings. Treasurer Brixie announced she will continue to update the Board on progress as it occurs.

Trustee Ochberg reported her attendance as well at the East Lansing School Board/East Lansing City Council Joint Meeting where a representative from Michigan State University effectively defended the Red Cedar Elementary School which serves children of married MSU students. She noted Meridian Township did not offer an official presentation as information was not available to the Township Board within the time frame to do so. Trustee Ochberg stated that, as an individual, she voiced the Township's policy for walkability and neighborhood schools would be in the best interest of Meridian Township's children.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) met last week where discussion continued on the 2011 Art Walk scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. She also noted her attendance at the Lake Lansing North Park and the Ted Black Woods dedications. Supervisor McGillicuddy thanked the Hubbard law firm for its \$5,500 donation towards the Haslett Library move.

Clerk Helmbrecht reported there was an excellent turnout for the Memorial Day Celebration at Glendale Cemetery. She indicated former Township Clerk Virginia White was the guest speaker.

Trustee Veenstra also thanked the Hubbard Law firm for its donation towards the Haslett Library move. He suggested the Board reexamine exclusion of the RB zoning district from Ordinance No. 2011-07, which allows the raising and keeping of chickens and rabbits as a non-agricultural accessory use in residential districts.

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on May 25<sup>th</sup> where it endorsed Capital Area Transportation Authority's request to include the modified bus rapid transit system in its transportation plan list. He announced the Planning Commission will vote on amending the Township's ordinance relative to increasing flag size at its June 13, 2011 meeting.

Treasurer Brixie responded to an earlier Board comment by clarifying that the Township Board did receive the East Lansing K-8 Facilities Committee report in advance of its Board meeting and it could have been placed on the agenda for discussion; however, she believed it more productive for the committee to be allowed to do its work without the Township taking a position. She added the results of the committee were favorable to Meridian Township in that it looked at the viability of all the elementary buildings and the Donley school building (facility in Meridian Township) received the highest viability rating. Treasurer Brixie also reported her attendance at both the Tri-County Groundwater Management Board and the Pension Board meetings last week.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:**

- **Delete Agenda Item #10A and reletter the remaining action item accordingly**
- **Move Agenda Item #7F to Agenda Item #10B**

**Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Jill McKay, 1591 Picadilly Drive, Haslett; RE: Opposition to setting a November, 2011 election date for Ordinance No. 2011-01
- BI-2 Wendy Cooper, 5551 Silverleaf Court, Haslett; RE: Opposition to setting a November, 2011 election date for Ordinance No. 2011-01
- BI-3 Scott Eisensmith, 5847 Bois Isle Drive, Haslett; RE: Wind Energy in Meridian Township
- BI-4 Jennifer Bradley, 1082 Cliffdale, Haslett; RE: Opposition to funding the study of alternatives for Police, Fire and EMS services
- BI-5 Robert Wiseman, 2445 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to the privatization of EMS services
- BI-6 Nadine Davis, 2495 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Election date for Ordinance No. 2011-01
- BI-7 M. Jamil Hanifi, 4330 Heartwood Road, Okemos; RE: Support for consolidation or reorganization of safety services on a regional basis
- BI-8 Jon Chester, 383 Shoemsmith Road, Haslett; RE: CATA lack of service delivery and/or tax coercion
- BI-9 Albert Garrett, President, Michigan Council 25, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, 1034 N. Washington, Lansing; RE: Request for the Board to send a letter opposing House Bill 4059 to State Senator Gretchen Whitmer

(2). Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 Gary and Chalouy Shoup, 2449 Graystone Drive, Okemos; RE: Resignations from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Pension Board, respectively

(3). Staff Communication (SC)

- SC-1 Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator; RE: Transmittal of letter from John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Michigan Region; RE: Changes in channel lineup effective June 28, 2011
- SC-2 Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator; RE: Transmittal of press release from the Alliance for Community Media; RE: Support for the introduction of H.R. #1746, the Community Access Preservation Act
- SC-3 Clerk Helmbrecht; RE: Various communications received on the study for alternative public safety services

(4). On File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Material received at the May 5, 2011 Board Meeting

John Esser, 5448 Okemos Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Planned Unit Development #11014 (Cameron Oaks)

David C. Love, Engineer, Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE:

Complaint by Mr. Esser on the Cameron Oaks Development

Scott Eisensmith, 5847 Bois Isle Drive, Haslett; RE: Wind Energy Ordinance

Stephen O. Schultz, 730 Knightsford Lane, Okemos; RE: Possible Election dates to place Ordinance No. 2011-01 on the ballot

Molly Wingrove, 2649 Melville Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to a special election for reviewing the rezoning of the property at 4133 Okemos Road

Mary Doster, 2870 Dobie Road, Mason; RE: Opposition to setting a November, 2011 election date for Ordinance No. 2011-01

Kim Burzych, 4396 Alderwood Drive, Okemos; RE: Opposition to setting a November, 2011 election date for Ordinance No. 2011-01

Tammy L. Deppong, 4452 Hickorywood Drive, Okemos; RE: Opposition to setting a special election regarding the rezoning of property located at 4133 Okemos Road

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the communications be received and placed on file, and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the May 17, 2011 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash \$ 220,682.71



**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 362694  
 MERIDIAN CROSSING ASSOCIATES, LLC  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-378-001	3536 Meridian Crossing	2009	\$1,185,200	\$1,115,828
33-02-02-33-378-002	3544 Meridian Crossing	2009	\$1,030,000	\$1,021,074
33-02-02-33-378-003	3552 Meridian Crossing	2009	\$ 964,400	\$ 795,916
<b>Totals</b>			\$3,179,600	\$2,932,818
33-02-02-33-378-001	3536 Meridian Crossing	2010	\$1,003,500	\$1,003,500
33-02-02-33-378-002	3544 Meridian Crossing	2010	\$1,028,400	\$1,018,010
33-02-02-33-378-003	3552 Meridian Crossing	2010	\$ 843,000	\$ 793,528
<b>Totals</b>			\$2,874,900	\$2,815,038
33-02-02-33-378-001	3536 Meridian Crossing	2011	\$ 928,500	\$ 928,500
33-02-02-33-378-002	3544 Meridian Crossing	2011	\$ 957,100	\$ 957,100
33-02-02-33-378-003	3552 Meridian Crossing	2011	\$ 783,700	\$ 783,700
<b>Totals</b>			\$2,669,300	\$2,669,300

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-378-001	3536 Meridian Crossing	2009	\$ 730,800	\$ 730,800
33-02-02-33-378-002	3544 Meridian Crossing	2009	\$ 751,800	\$ 751,800
33-02-02-33-378-003	3552 Meridian Crossing	2009	\$ 617,400	\$617,400
<b>Totals</b>			\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
33-02-02-33-378-001	3536 Meridian Crossing	2010	\$ 713,400	\$ 713,400
33-02-02-33-378-002	3544 Meridian Crossing	2010	\$ 733,900	\$ 733,900
33-02-02-33-378-003	3552 Meridian Crossing	2010	\$ 602,700	\$ 602,700
<b>Totals</b>			\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000
33-02-02-33-378-001	3536 Meridian Crossing	2011	\$ 835,200	\$ 725,528
33-02-02-33-378-002	3544 Meridian Crossing	2011	\$ 859,200	\$ 746,376
33-02-02-33-378-003	3552 Meridian Crossing	2011	\$ 705,600	\$ 612,946
<b>Totals</b>			\$2,400,000	\$2,084,850

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
 Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Lake O' The Hills Partnership in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 362096  
LAKE O' THE HILLS PARTNERSHIP  
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-09-226-007	2102 Lac Du Mont	2009	\$1,034,400	\$1,034,400
33-02-02-09-227-002	2102 Lac Du Mont	2009	\$ 906,400	\$ 738,168
<b>Totals</b>			\$1,940,800	\$1,772,568
33-02-02-09-226-007	2102 Lac Du Mont	2010	\$ 900,700	\$ 900,700
33-02-02-09-227-002	2102 Lac Du Mont	2010	\$ 789,200	\$ 735,953
<b>Totals</b>			\$1,689,900	\$1,636,653
33-02-02-09-226-007	2102 Lac Du Mont	2011	\$ 900,700	\$ 900,700
33-02-02-09-227-002	2102 Lac Du Mont	2011	\$ 789,200	\$ 748,464
<b>Totals</b>			\$1,689,900	\$1,649,164

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-09-226-007	2102 Lac Du Mont	2009	\$ 799,500	\$ 799,500
33-02-02-09-227-002	2102 Lac Du Mont	2009	\$ 700,500	\$ 700,500
<b>Totals</b>			\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
33-02-02-09-226-007	2102 Lac Du Mont	2010	\$ 732,900	\$ 732,900
33-02-02-09-227-002	2102 Lac Du Mont	2010	\$ 642,100	\$ 642,100
<b>Totals</b>			\$1,375,000	\$1,375,000
33-02-02-09-226-007	2102 Lac Du Mont	2011	\$ 679,600	\$ 679,600
33-02-02-09-227-002	2102 Lac Du Mont	2011	\$ 595,400	\$ 595,400
<b>Totals</b>			\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Benson Hills Apartments in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 396236  
BENSON HILLS APARTMENTS  
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-10-251-003	5800 Benson Drive	2010	\$4,030,500	\$3,400,017
33-02-02-10-251-003	5800 Benson Drive	2011	\$3,553,700	\$3,457,817

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-10-251-003	5800 Benson Drive	2010	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000
33-02-02-10-251-003	5800 Benson Drive	2011	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Eyde Limited Family Partnership in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 394908  
 EYDE LIMITED FAMILY PARTNERSHIP, LOUIS  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-100-022	3887 Okemos	2010	\$ 890,400	\$ 813,858

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-100-022	3887 Okemos	2010	\$ 725,000	\$ 725,000

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Eyde Limited Family Partnership in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 394909  
EYDE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP  
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-100-021	3950 Heritage	2010	\$1,161,500	\$1,144,638

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-100-021	3950 Heritage	2010	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Thomas A. and Nancy K. Klug in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 368099  
THOMAS A. AND NANCY K. KLUG  
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-28-377-024	4125 Okemos	2009	\$45,700	\$45,700
33-02-02-28-377-024	4125 Okemos	2010	\$38,100	\$38,100
33-02-02-28-377-024	4125 Okemos	2011	\$33,700	\$33,700

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-28-377-024	4125 Okemos	2009	\$35,000	\$35,000
33-02-02-28-377-024	4125 Okemos	2010	\$32,500	\$32,500

33-02-02-28-377-024	4125 Okemos	2011	\$30,000	\$30,000
---------------------	-------------	------	----------	----------

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with El Hospitality, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 364595  
 EL HOSPITALITY, LLC  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-20-326-008	2855 Hannah	2009	\$2,429,400	\$2,292,669
33-02-02-20-326-008	2855 Hannah	2010	\$2,105,200	\$2,105,200
33-02-02-20-326-008	2855 Hannah	2011	\$2,008,000	\$2,008,000

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-20-326-008	2855 Hannah	2009	\$1,970,000	\$1,970,000
33-02-02-20-326-008	2855 Hannah	2010	\$1,460,000	\$1,460,000
33-02-02-20-326-008	2855 Hannah	2011	\$1,660,000	\$1,484,820

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

- E. Amendment to Meridian Township Employee Pension Plan  
**Treasurer Brixie moved approval of Amendment #6 to the Meridian Township Employee Pension Plan and Trust, as described in the memorandum dated June 3, 2011. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

G. Resolution of Support for Community Access Preservation Act

**Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, the Township Board supports the immediate passage of HR 1746.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Meridian Charter Township calls on our Congressional delegation to take all possible actions in support of the passage of HR 1746, including but not limited to endorsing, co-sponsoring and voting for HR 1746, and to work for its rapid passage. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

H. Fire Department Promotion for Battalion Chief

**Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the promotion of Paul McGarry to the rank of Battalion Chief. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

I. Resolution for Banking Investment Institution

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt a resolution entitled “Authority to Open an Account” at First National of America. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, noted mixed use always has underlying commercial zoning. He spoke in support of allowing an outside employee in the home occupation ordinance and believed the ordinance contains too many restrictions.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. Zoning Amendment #11020 (Township Board), a request to amend Section 86-440 Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance, **Introduction**

**Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 4 by amending Section 86-440.”**

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

**Treasurer Brixie moved to amend Page 3, (2) (a) after “plan” by changing the period to a comma and adding “except for medical marihuana dispensaries and commercial growing facilities which are prohibited.”** Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Board members discussed the following:

- Medical marihuana dispensaries are not prohibited in commercial zoning districts and should not be prohibited when combined with residential in a MUPUD
- Commercial medical marihuana dispensaries not currently allowed in residential neighborhoods
- Mixed use must be on commercially zoned land
- Growing marihuana requires a “lot of room and a lot of ventilation” and emits an odor
- The Township’s nuisance ordinance would address the issue of odor in an apartment complex above commercially zoned properties within a MUPUD
- MUPUD resolution also includes PO zoning
- Proposed amendment intended to apply only to the commercial component of the MUPUD
- Purpose of the MUPUD ordinance is to attract businesses to redevelop “run down” commercial areas in the Township
- Concern that excessive restrictions run counter to the very purpose of the MUPUD

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy  
 Motion failed 2-4.

**Trustee Veenstra moved that the following concept be added to the zoning amendment and allow the Director of Community Planning & Development to use his expertise for exact wording and placement in the appropriate location:**

- **Bicycle parking is explicitly required and given a preferred location**

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Bicycle parking is not mandatory in a MUPUD and is “up” for negotiation
- Bicycle parking is based on the design of the project
- Preference for the Board to have the flexibility to ascertain the best location for and the amount of bicycle parking
- If the Board includes specific standard requirements for bicycle parking, those requirements are subject to waiver only through the Zoning Board of Appeals

**The motion died for lack of a second.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
 Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried 6-0.

B. Appointment to the Pension Trustee Board

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint John Schlinker to the Pension Board for the remainder of a term ending December 31, 2011. Supported by Trustee Veenstra.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Suggestion to meet all the applicants by inviting them to the next Board meeting
- Appreciation to the outgoing Pension Board member, Chalouy Shoup, for her numerous years of public service to the Township
- Mr. Schlinker is the current Ingham County Deputy Treasurer
- Mr. Schlinker would do an excellent job in looking at the oversight of the Pension Board investments
- Mr. Schlinker has an outstanding resume

**Supervisor McGillicuddy moved to table the appointment. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
Motion failed 3-3.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Veenstra, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: Trustee Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy  
MOTION: Motion carried 4-2.

#### 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, requested murals be treated like the sign ordinance.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, suggested the Board not regulate the content of murals, particularly the proposed language in 1. c. He requested the overall ordinance be “as loose as possible”, as illuminated murals will come into existence in the not too distant future.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

- A. Zoning Amendment #10080 (Planning Commission), a request to add Section 86-444 Commercial Planned Unit Development (C-PUD) to the Code of Ordinances  
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 3, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- Changes made to the MUPUD at the last Board meeting are not reflected in the proposed C-PUD ordinance
- Agreement to delay discussion until the Board has a “clean” copy

**It was the consensus of the Board to delay discussion of this item until the June 21, 2011 Board Meeting.**

#### B. Murals

Director Kieselbach summarized the topic of murals as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 1, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Concern that the treatment of murals as signs is too limiting
- Board option to not treat murals as signs
- Preference to not regulate murals
- Regulating the content of murals is a violation of an individual’s first amendment right of free speech
- Concern with language that murals can only be allowed on one exterior wall of a commercial building
- Concern with language that murals are not permitted on exterior walls of accessory structures
- Concern with language that murals cannot be illuminated
- Concern with language that murals and other signs cannot share a wall
- When the Board previously considered this issue, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) objected to the proposal
- Ordinance is a poor attempt to regulate an issue which should not be regulated
- Murals should not be considered as a sign as the Township’s sign ordinance allows a sign equal to the number of square feet of the store frontage
- Board should consider a mural’s content on an individual basis without an ordinance
- Regulations necessary to address offensive content
- Language in 1.c. references MCLA 750.38, the Michigan Penal Code
- Suggestion to strike 1.c.
- Suggestion to eliminate the size restriction

- Important to retain proposed language in 1. d. as words can be a powerful message of hate
- Preference for the Board not to be placed in a position of approving or denying a mural
- Many communities write a mural ordinance in the positive
- Suggestion to include language which ensures it is located in a commercial or industrial area
- Preference to keep language that the mural must be well maintained
- “Incident” on Dobie Road shows a need to address the residential zoning category as well
- Suggestion to list criteria which may include a requirement that the mural must have some relationship to the commercial activity within the building or, at the very least, the Township
- Ordinance language or a written policy would give direction to artists
- Murals currently exist within the community
- Suggestion to offer a motion which states it is Board policy to welcome murals in the community should be sufficient
- A guarantee of free speech is a virtual guarantee that some people will say offensive words and the “price to be paid” for free speech
- Preference to strike 1.c. and 3, 4, 5, and 6 from the current draft
- Suggestion that murals come before the Board only when the staff is “uncomfortable” in making the judgment
- Suggestion to change language in 1.b. by inserting the word” text” after “trade name”, delete all language in 1.d. and insert as the new 1.d. “It should contain an identification of the artist”

**It was the consensus of the Board to allow staff to incorporate suggested changes and bring back an amended draft to the Board at its June 21, 2011 meeting.**

C. Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance Amendments

Director Severy summarized the proposed ordinance amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 3, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Concern with rural areas where there are no sidewalks and residents walk their pets in the road
- Failure of a dog owner to clean-up their pet’s feces will result in a \$75 ticket
- Snow removal has been a long-standing problem
- Snow removal language is similar to the lawn cutting ordinance
- Control of the animal on sidewalks and pathways is very important to bicyclists
- Amendments speak to the Board goal of walkability for the general public
- Concern with limiting the leash length to six feet
- Six foot leash limit is for the safety of the animal on a pathway
- Suggestion by the public for a waste bag dispenser on pathways
- Waste bag dispensers have been delivered to the Township and will be installed in the near future
- Good suggestion to place waste bag dispensers mid-distance in the pathway

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its June 21, 2011 Board meeting.**

D. Foreclosed Properties

Township Manager Richards summarized the foreclosed properties as outlined in staff memorandum dated June 3, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- Parcel #33-03-03-25-229-006 (Grand River) is adjacent to a Land Preservation parcel
- Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) has desired to purchase Parcel #33-03-03-25-229-006 for some time as it has magnificent environmental attributes
- Option to either have the LPAB pass a motion for purchase of Parcel #33-03-03-25-229-006 or have the Township purchase the parcel and then have LPAB buy the parcel from the Township
- Reminder that the fees are calculated as of March 31<sup>st</sup> and the amount owed today is slightly more as monthly interest is added
- Taxes will be owed on Parcel #33-03-03-25-229-006

- Board should consider purchase of Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 (Ruth Moore Park) as it may help facilitate the future bus rapid transit system along Grand River Avenue
- Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 was deeded to the State of Michigan many years ago for use as a state roadside park with the caveat that if the State chose not to use it, it would revert back to the family or the family's descendent
- Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 is zoned RAA
- Inquiry if there is a possibility for the owner of property west of Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 to purchase this parcel
- If the Township does not purchase Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001, it goes to Ingham County and is placed in the Ingham County Land Bank
- Inquiry if the piece of land which runs north-south between Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 and the property to the west is a public road
- Township was able to contact the heirs for Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 prior to tax foreclosure who did not wish to assume the tax liability associated with the property
- Undesirable to have a single family home built on Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001
- Undesirable to have an additional curb cut onto Grand River with non-residential use which could be allowed in the residential district
- Development on Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 is problematic
- In the best interest of many Meridian residents for the Township to continue maintenance of Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 as a park and open space
- If the Township acquires Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001, it will be responsible for maintenance of the parcel
- Previous suggestion by a neighbor near Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001 for an Eagle Scout vegetation project to introduce natural landscaping to the site and only the perimeter would be mowed for visibility clearance
- Possible agreement with neighboring property owners for maintenance of Parcel #33-02-02-21-104-001

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, spoke to deer overpopulation in Meridian Township as a significant problem. He spoke to the process of Board appointments and stated residents will not come forward to serve if not given a proper opportunity. Mr. Reddy believed it important to allow one outside employee in the proposed home occupation ordinance. He also stated the Board should not allow murals on exterior walls in residential areas. Mr. Reddy wished the Assistant Township Manager all the best as he becomes the City Manager for Grand Blanc, Michigan. He suggested this is a good opportunity for the Board to take a comprehensive look at the entire structure of the Township organization, especially in light of continued budget concerns.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, suggested a definition of home business in place of home occupation as "any activity where the primary purpose for engaging in the activity is for income or profit and you are involved in the activity with continuity and regularity."

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

---

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

---

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary