

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

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

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. PRESENTATIONS (None)
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Andy Such, 1147 Woodwind Trail, Haslett, requested the Board consider, on behalf of the Kiwanis' Club, purchasing its flag service for the area around the Meridian Municipal Building. He indicated this service has produced placement of over 400 flags at homes within the Township on six different occasions throughout the year. Mr. Such noted all the funds raised go to help and support children within this community. He urged support of Action Item #12D.

Trustee Veenstra addressed flag etiquette concerning the prohibition on flying a flag at night without illumination.

Mr. Such responded illumination of the flag at night is included in the suggested flag etiquette and not mandated in law.

Ann Alchin, 5972 Cypress, Haslett, read the purpose of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the Village of Okemos as noted on page 1 of the plan. She stated she did not believe any of the proposed objectives have been accomplished.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the property on Grand River Avenue which is the proposed site of a Chick-fil-A. He voiced opposition to the clear cutting of 15 mature trees already on the property and believed this project to be "strip" development.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to the question posed to the Township Attorney as to whether the Board should engage in discussion during public hearings or hold comments until the discussion phase on the agenda. He paraphrased the attorney's response as "it should be discussed during the public hearing." Mr. Bowlby suggested the Board follow the public hearing format used by the Planning Commission where public comment is heard after both the Township's and applicant's presentations, but prior to Board comment.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- New central fire station at Okemos Road and Central Park Drive is nearing completion and shut down of the temporary fire station will commence as soon as next week
- New central fire station is approximately two (2) weeks away from being operational
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new central fire station will take place on February 1st
- Trustees Scales, Styka and Veenstra will attend the first Redi-Ride Review Committee meeting on January 11th from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM.
- Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) will host a public informational meeting on possible changes to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the Township Hall on Thursday, January 14th from 4:30 P.M. until 6:30 P.M.
- Meridian Care Programs raised \$10,700 in the month of December to assist less fortunate residents of Meridian Township in meeting their basic needs

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Veenstra announced Michigan State University is considering ceasing its over air broadcast of WKAR-TV (Channel 23). He voiced concern with the four (4) vacancies on the DDA Board. Trustee Veenstra pointed to what he believed was fact in that the Brownfield Development Plan was not available to the public in the packet. He reported his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) on December 27, 2015.

Treasurer Brixie stated information on the BRT is available on the Township website as well as additional plans and detailed information are located in the Meridian municipal building lobby for residents to view prior to the January 14th meeting. She reported Ingham County is beginning its tax foreclosure process on 2013 and prior years forfeited property taxes, noting the parcels have been printed in a variety of publications throughout the Township. Treasurer Brixie suggested that residents can check with the Township Treasurer's office if they believe a parcel they own may be on the list. She added Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing can answer additional questions about the process or provide information on possible assistance for those residents who are attempting to hold onto their home. Treasurer Brixie reported she went before Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Jamo on December 23rd to comply with the Township's statutory tax cancellation procedure.

Clerk Dreyfus reported a meeting with resident Doris Schwartz to tour the Cedar Bend Heights Neighborhood to review vacant homes. He read an excerpt from the nuisance ordinance regarding the prohibition of specified substances being left on the property if they are detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare or offends aesthetic sensibilities. Clerk Dreyfus noted Township residents have recourse to file a complaint if a vacant building contained items on that list in the ordinance. Clerk Dreyfus stated Ms. Schwartz pointed out the seriously deteriorated conditions of Hillcrest Avenue and Kenmore Drive, and he suggested these two roads be placed on the repaving list for consideration during next year's budget process.

Clerk Dreyfus spoke to the budgeting of monies for the website and branding. He posed several questions to address what he believed was a \$30,000 "overage" to what was previously approved by the Board and the significant cost of those services. He noted placemaking and branding experts warn municipalities about the use of external consultants which are outside of the community, believing the Board's commitment to establish a group of stakeholders could adequately bring out the best of what they have to offer. Clerk Dreyfus requested the Township's branding contract not be signed until answers are provided and the matter is on the agenda for an in-depth discussion at the January 26, 2016 Board meeting.

Trustee Veenstra asked for an explanation of the costs by the Township Manager.

Township Manager Walsh believed this contract was handled appropriately through the established interview and bidding processes and inquired if the Board desired to have all contracts which fall outside of the Board approved amount come back to the Board. He explained all bids were well over the appropriated amount and the group selected was the lowest bidder. Manager Walsh stated the additional \$30,000 will come from the budget of the Communications Department.

Trustee Veenstra voiced support for the Clerk's request to have the branding contract mentioned by Clerk Dreyfus discussed at the January 26, 2016 Board meeting.

Trustee Styka reported on the retirement of Mike Duda, Superintendent of Haslett Public Schools, at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. He announced Clinton Eaton Ingham Community Mental Health has asked to expand the amount of its leased space at the closed Wardcliff Elementary School to approximately two thirds (2/3) of the total space. Trustee Styka conveyed the Okemos Public Schools will host a community conversation on Cultural Exclusiveness on January 13th from 7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. at the Meridian Senior Center in Chippewa Middle School.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the last Groundwater Management Board meeting of the year in December. She reported she was part of a panel discussion for diversity, an open invitation forum hosted by Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) for the community.

Manager Walsh asked for direction from the Board on how to handle his responsibility regarding contract oversight.

Clerk Dreyfus clarified he was simply requesting discussion on the branding contract, not on the Manager's oversight of other contracts. He explained this issue was brought up tonight as these questions were previously asked and not answered. Clerk Dreyfus believed the issue of branding is both qualitatively and quantitatively different from repaving a parking lot or roof replacement and attempted to ascertain what amount the Board initially authorized and the history on that authorization. He explained the Board spent considerable time discussing the budget for the website and branding projects, stating he championed website redevelopment as well as being a champion for placemaking and branding. Clerk Dreyfus expressed concern about the process, the budget and how the Board arrived where it is now at, since it weighed in on these issues early on.

Trustee Veenstra believed change orders for the new central fire station were within the Manager's purview as long as they were within budget. He also held the Manager has authority to reallocate funds as long as they are within budget. It was Trustee Veenstra's belief when the amount becomes significantly larger, it is appropriate to bring the item back to the Board for approval and it is legally necessary to receive authorization to expend funds beyond Board approval.

Trustee Scales spoke to the difference between general fund monies and restricted funds, explaining restricted funds were to be utilized for the purposes designated. He stated general funds are under the Manager's control to ensure he has the ability to perform the duties for which he was hired, adding there are safeguards in place to assure the budget remains solvent. Trustee Scales spoke to the need to move branding forward as a priority in order to have a brand which adequately represents the Township. He stated as policy makers, it is the role of the Board to provide the Manager with overarching policy guidance.

Trustee Wilson stated the Board held a lengthy discussion on branding and the website during its 2015 goals process, with money being budgeted both in the 2015 and 2016 budget. She indicated she recalled \$80,000 being budgeted for website and branding initiatives, and the Manager apprising the Board throughout the bidding process. She suggested the Board allow the Manager and staff to "do their job."

Treasurer Brixie added the amount in question (\$80,000) is within the acceptable budgeting parameters followed by the Township. She noted the Board and public will hear later in the meeting the number one way for residents to obtain information regarding the Township is through the website. She added the updated website will produce efficiencies in the Communications Department through a reduction in labor.

Trustee Styka stated he believed there was uniform Board agreement regarding the need for branding and an updated website. He believed moving monies from the Communications Fund to address a communication issue is appropriate for the Manager to handle.

Clerk Dreyfus clarified his belief that as a Board member, it is his role as a fiduciary agent responsible for the Township's financial well-being to bring forth issues like this to the public's attention. He reiterated the Township is \$30,000 over the budgeted amount, reemphazing uncertainty as to how the \$80,000 figure was obtained. Clerk Dreyfus expressed puzzlement as to why other Board members do not want to utilize checks and balances to review the budget process on this item which commenced in late 2014. He also believed another discussion is merited as to why \$80,000 is being spent on branding and only \$30,000 on the website. He believed website development incurs far more hard costs than branding, while \$80,000 on placemaking and branding is mainly for the price of a consultant who will be facilitating the stakeholder group comprised of Meridian citizens, businesses, and interested parties. Clerk Dreyfus stressed these questions have nothing to do with the decision making of the Township Manager, but are an attempt to obtain answers about budget numbers which he alleged do not add up.

Trustee Veenstra believed that since two Board members have requested this issue be placed on the agenda at the next regular Board meeting on January 26th, it is appropriate to discuss the items in question at that time with a background memorandum provided by the Township Manager which contain facts.

Treasurer Brixie asked the following procedural question of the Township Manager: If five (5) Board members have said they don't need something on the agenda and two (2) Board members say they do want something on the agenda, could you elaborate or could we perhaps get an update on this through email after this meeting?

The Township Manager responded in the affirmative.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

Without objection, the seconder requested Agenda Item #9C (Bills) be moved to Action Item #12E.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Deliberations (BD)

BD 11A Board of Directors, Liason for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC), PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: Brownfield Plan for The Square on Grand River

(2) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Pam Fraker, 351 Newman Road, Okemos; RE: Disappointment in the direction of the Township and its priorities

BI-2 Dr. B Ray Horn, 2790 Sirhal Drive, Apt. 115, East Lansing; RE: Township/Board Code of Ethics

BI-3 Dr. B Ray Horn, 2790 Sirhal Drive, Apt. 115, East Lansing; RE: Secondhand smoke at Stratford Place Senior Facility

BI-4 Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing; RE: Mismanagement of Meridian Redi-Ride

- BI-5 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Fed Up with CATA's scheduling system
 - BI-6 Sandra Draggoo, Executive Director, Capital Area Transportation Authority, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Response to Ms. Rose regarding Redi-Ride and Spectran scheduling systems
 - BI-7 Hannah Henning, 5924 Patriots Way, East Lansing; RE: Chick-fil-A Coming to Meridian
 - BI-8 Benjamin J. Price, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, 313 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing; RE: Notice of Intent to Establish a Condominium Project at 2900 Hannah Boulevard, East Lansing
 - BI-9 John P. Gardner, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to Comcast's channel lineup
- (3) Commission Linkage (CL)
- CL-1 Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Chair Brian Dale; RE: Letter of resignation from the DDA effective December 9, 2015
 - CL-2 Planning Commissioner Thomas Deits; RE: Supervisor's remarks at the Meridian Township Board meeting of December 8, 2015
- (4) Regional Linkage (RL)
- RL-1 Capital Area Transportation Authority; RE: Notice of public meeting on Designing the Grand River Avenue Corridor (BRT project) to be held at the Meridian Township Hall on January 14, 2016 beginning at 4:30 PM
- (5) Staff Communications (SC)
- SC-1 Clerk Brett Dreyfus; RE: Article in the December 8, 2015 edition of the Great Lakes Echo titled "Michigan lags in charging stations for electric vehicles"
 - SC-2 Clerk Brett Dreyfus; RE: Revitalization Toolkit presented to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission from Civilis Consultants, PO Box 28502, Portland, Oregon

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

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

B. Minutes

(1) Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

(2) Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 1, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

(3) Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

~~C. Bills~~

D. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment
Clerk Dreyfus moved to ratify the appointment of Amanda Arnett to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS

A. The Square, 2655 Grand River Avenue – Brownfield Hearing

Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 6:50 P.M.

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed brownfield plan as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 22, 2015.

- Applicant
Sandy Gower, Ingham County staff person to the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority offered a synopsis of action on this matter to date. She explained the process to approve a brownfield plan noting that by state statute, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners must approve the same plan as the Township Board. Ms. Gower indicated the County Board of Commissioners cannot impose a brownfield plan on the Township. She reiterated the purpose of PA 381 is to incentivize the redevelopment of contaminated and previously used sites to make them financially feasible to encourage development on those sites.

Trustee Veenstra asked if the Township was apprised of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority's consideration of this brownfield plan during the two (2) meetings which were held by the Authority.

Ms. Gower responded the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meetings are public meetings; however, Meridian Township was not sent a notice as the Authority cannot enact a brownfield plan.

Trustee Veenstra requested the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority notify Meridian Township if they are considering further brownfield projects in Meridian Township,

Ernie Schaefer, Campus Village Communities, 919 W. University Drive, Rochester, reported the seller of the property has agreed to an extension on their purchase of the subject property while the issue of the brownfield plan is vetted. He offered a review of the proposed plan, highlighting many of the included amenities. Mr. Schaefer explained the timing of the brownfield request, relying on the Phase 1 environmental report provided by the seller when Campus Village Communities proposed an option to purchase the land. He noted that once soil borings were performed after plan approval, significant fill was discovered under the top soil and parking areas.

[Due to technical difficulties, Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 7:01 P.M.]

[Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 7:12 P.M.]

Eric Helzer, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions, PO Box 204, Eagle, offered a Powerpoint presentation on the brownfield plan, stating the biggest portion of the contamination is on the 5.87 acre parcel, one of three (3) parcels within the plan. He offered history on site activity over the years. Mr. Helzer stated the southwestern corner of the 5.87 acre parcel is the predominant area, and appears to be part of landfill activity which continues off site. He spoke to a baseline environmental assessment which was performed on the site. Mr. Helzer reviewed the volatilization to indoor air as a result of the gasoline components in areas on site, stating compounds in the soils will volatilize the off gas and travel into indoor air space. He stated that in order to place buildings in the northern and southwest area, a liner system on the buildings and possibly a passive or active vapor extraction system will be necessary. Mr. Helzer noted his company will continue to investigate in an effort to reduce costs.

Mr. Helzer emphasized the brownfield plan presents a “worse case” scenario, stressing the environmental costs have been reduced by nearly \$500,000 through repurposing non environmental materials in Block 2 and Block 3 of the site. He provided an overview of eligible costs, including contingencies (environmental and non-environmental), interest, application fee and local site remediation revolving fund (approximately 5% of the capture). Mr. Helzer explained the Brownfield Tax Increment Financing is authorized through PA 381 and is used to pay for eligible activities, increases investment and addresses the contamination on an underutilized property. He stated the current base taxable value is \$1.8 million, and the incremental increase once the project is completed will be \$7.2 million, for a total taxable value of \$9 million. Mr. Helzer explained the project, as a whole, will generate \$9.8 million in new taxes over the 16 year brownfield plan, with an immediate tax generation of nearly \$5 million when the project is completed in 2017, which will be distributed over the years 2016 through 2031.

- Public

Mike Froh, 2764 Leland Circle, East Lansing, expressed concern this project will place a huge strain on the infrastructure of the already overdeveloped ¼ mile section of Grand River Avenue between Brookfield Drive and Park Lake Road. He expressed skepticism that no one knew the extent of the contamination even though an environmental analysis was conducted as recently as 2011. Mr. Froh questioned what the existing structures are sitting on top of and how did they get approved by the Township. He asked who knew, when did they know, how did they know it, why did no one else know about it and who is going to pay for it. Mr. Froh suggested the land owner and developer work out an arrangement to offset the \$4.6 million “burden” being placed on the taxpayers of Meridian Township.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, stated the past uses of this property have been known for a long time. He provided a photo and comments from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) dating back to March, 2011 regarding known contamination on the site. Mr. Bowlby questioned the credibility of the answers provided by the applicant to the health impact assessment and did not believe taxpayers of Meridian Township should pay for this cleanup.

Donald Isleib, 5400 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, believed facts were either ignored or not revealed and taxpayers should not pay for this cleanup.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, referred the Board to Table 3 on page 16 of the brownfield plan for The Square on Grand River. He suggested the column titled "Impact to Taxing Jurisdiction" be relabeled "Loss to Taxing Jurisdiction." Mr. Provencher noted his simple math indicated the Township will lose \$40,000 in operating budget each year of the brownfield plan. He pointed to the fact The Square will receive free police and fire protection for 16 years as well as a \$6,000 loss each year to the Parks & Recreation Department. Mr. Provencher listed several other losses, including the county operating budget, the 911 system, county parks and trails, CATA, etc. He believed the losses he pointed out are too great to the community and the project should be fully funded by the developer.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 7:44 P.M.

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, requested the ordinance language for mobile food units not be too restrictive.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, believed outdoor seating language contained in the mobile food unit ordinance should not be left up to the Director of Community Planning and Development, but should be agreed upon between the property owner and the food truck owner. He requested the word "flag" be deleted from the restrictions contained in subsection 5 of Section 38-177.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes) – Final Adoption

Trustee Wilson 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. 2016-01, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15040" from RR (Rural Residential) and CR (Commercial Recreation) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre.

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

Board discussion:

- Rezoning is reasonable because of the condition which allows no more than 25 homes within the development
- The applicant has assured there will be proper regulation of the community septic system
- RAA requires less frontage than RR and will provide better wetland protection

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

B. Proposed Mobile Food Units Ordinance – **Final Adoption**

Clerk Dreyfus 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. 2016-02 entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article IV, by amending Division 1, Section 38-121; Division 2, Section 38-151; and by adding Division 3, Section 38-165 through Section 38-180.”

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

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Opportunity for residents to experience a diverse selection of ethnic foods at convenient locations

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the proposed ordinance on page 4 (Section 38-177. Requirements) by deleting subsection 4. Supported by Clerk Dreyfus.

Continued Board discussion:

- Amount of seating should be agreed upon between the property owner and the food truck vendor
- Township should encourage food trucks within its borders
- Concern with safety of the patrons relative to increased traffic
- Nothing in the ordinance prohibits the property owner and mobile food vendor from making a decision on the location of the seating
- Director of Community Planning and Development has the final approval of the on-site seating

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

Trustee Veenstra moved to delete the word “flags” from subsection 5. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff
NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 3-4.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member concern with a prohibition of blinking and flashing lights on a movable vehicle as they normally have emergency flashers

Clerk Dreyfus offered the following amendment:

- **Amend Section 38-177, subsection 5 by inserting “to be operated” after “permitted”**

Clerk Dreyfus withdrew his amendment.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Food truck vendor has the option to appeal the decision of the Director of Community Planning and Development
- Under the ordinance as proposed, the mobile food unit is not permitted to have flashing lights on it
- Board member statement this issue will be handled with common sense
- Assurance by the Director of Community Planning and Development that he will interpret the language in subsection 5 according to law which allows the vehicle to be equipped with flashing lights (e.g., blinkers, emergency flashers), but not operating unless in the normal process of traveling on the road
- A mobile food unit cannot travel on the road without being equipped with blinking and flashing lights as outlined in the Motor Vehicle Code
- Need for the Board to “say what it means” and “mean what it says” when making law

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

MOTION: NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to amend the 2016 Planning Division Fee Schedule to include the application fee of \$60 (per 30 consecutive days) for a mobile food unit vending license. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Board had previously discussed a fee schedule and this motion is an administrative function

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Zoning Amendment #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication – **Final Adoption**
Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2016-03, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, DIVISION 4, by amending Section 86-2 Definitions and Section 86-438 through Section 86-438(f) Wireless Communications Facilities Overlay District.

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

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- D. 2016 Flags over Meridian
Trustee Styka moved to spend an amount not exceeding \$720 to participate in the 2016 Flags over Meridian Program. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Other organizations display the flag on various holidays throughout the year
- Cost will provide 20 flags on the Meridian Municipal complex property for the designated six (6) holidays during the year
- If any residents are interested in utilizing this service, the phone number for the Kiwanis Club is 202-1786
- Kiwanis Club provides an excellent service for \$36 per year
- Various contributions made by the Kiwanis Club for worthy causes within the Township
- Kiwanis Club has created placemaking along with the Haslett Beautification Association and other notable organizations
- Board member belief this is an unnecessary Township expenditure
- Board member concern the program does not follow proper flag etiquette (i.e., flag must be illuminated at night and not displayed when it is raining)

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

E. Bills

Treasurer Brixie explained the process for “hand checks” generated between Board approved bills, used for requests that have some type of timeliness to them. She noted the detail of a hand check that she alleged contained “irregularities” was handed out to Board members and she placed the details of the bill on the overhead projector. Treasurer Brixie said Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to the Township and she believed this bill contained “inappropriate requests.”

Treasurer Brixie moved to deny bill number #21, the mileage request from Brett Dreyfus, which includes a request for reimbursement for miles driven to the employee picnic in August. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Treasurer Brixie believed bill #21, mileage reimbursement for Clerk, should not be approved due to line-item request for reimbursement to township picnic
- Treasurer Brixie believed other Board members who attended the employee picnic did not request mileage reimbursement to this event
- The Treasurer stated all events listed on mileage form were appropriate for the Clerk to attend, but she believed that for some events, such as attending Allen Neighborhood Center Open House or LCC Star Zone Open House, mileage reimbursements are not appropriate
- Board member concern the entire mileage reimbursement of \$332.30 is being denied on the basis of one individual trip that is being questioned
- Clerk Dreyfus statement he was “fascinated” when he brought up concerns regarding a \$30,000 cost overrun (of a Township contract) earlier in the meeting, his comments were ignored, but a mileage reimbursement for \$4.60 is worthy of a lengthy public discussion
- Clerk Dreyfus believed this public discussion is another “political ploy” by Treasurer Brixie to discredit the Clerk’s Office and the Clerk, specifically
- The Clerk pointed out the Treasurer herself has repeatedly stated, over many years, administrative issues should be handled administratively, and not during a public Board meeting
- The Clerk noted any question about mileage reimbursement could have been brought to him at any time, and he could have easily decided to remove the \$4.60 request from his total mileage request
- The Clerk said all requests for mileage reimbursement were appropriate, as he represented Meridian Township and was involved in Township business for all the meetings and travel listed

- The Clerk stated he did not request mileage reimbursements for numerous activities and meetings which he routinely engaged in on behalf of Township citizens, including site visits, meeting with residents and conducting Township business at various miscellaneous events
- He reminded the Board the total mileage request for \$332.30 was for April through December, 2015 and the specific item in question is in the amount of \$4.60
- The Supervisor questioned whether the Board couldn't simply remove the Township picnic reimbursement in the amount of \$4.60 from the mileage request and then proceed

Supervisor LeGoff moved to delete the August 20th request for a \$4.60 charge contained in bill number #21.

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Continued Board discussion:

- Question from a Board member about whether Trustees can request mileage reimbursement
- Board member belief that during policy discussions, he asked for a mileage reimbursement policy to be established and a form created to document mileage
- The Clerk pointed out the form he used did document miles driven
- Board member preference for online forms which can be auto-filled and a mileage policy which spells out what can and cannot be reimbursed
- Board member belief the township picnic mileage should be deleted, but all other reimbursement requests, such as traveling to Grand Rapids for election training, are appropriate and should be paid
- Treasurer Brixie's belief the amendment does not make sense and in effect, the Board would be approving the mileage reimbursement for the employee picnic and deleting the remainder of bill #21
- Treasurer Brixie suggested the Supervisor withdraw her amendment
- Township Manager restated the intent of the amendment in an attempt to bring "closure" to the discussion as "Pay the entire bill but delete the \$4.60 picnic mileage"
- Board member belief there is no amendment to the main motion, but actually two motions on the floor

Supervisor LeGoff withdrew her motion.

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the motion to delete the language which referred to the mileage to the employee picnic. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Continued Board discussion:

- Statement by the Clerk that the clause added to the original main motion (referring to the Clerk by name and referencing the township picnic) is "convoluted and bizarre" and the Township Board historically never makes a motion in that format
- The Clerk asserted the motion made by the Treasurer used the clause for political reasons and to make an inflammatory statement
- The Clerk indicated the motion should have read "Deny payment on bill #21" and should not contain any additional language or clause in the motion, as it is unnecessary and inappropriate

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Styka, Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
ON THE NAYS: Trustees Scales, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie
AMENDMENT: Motion failed 3-4.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Manager's Bills that were included in our packet with the exception of bill #21. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, inquired as to why the Board is only hearing about the environmental problems with The Square on Grand River now. He believed a complete review from staff was not provided, stating someone from staff must have known what was happening on those properties in years past. Mr. Bowlby inquired if there was an opt out clause for the taxing authorities for which Meridian Township collects taxes and, if so, does Meridian Township have to make up for the difference. He also asked about a tax assessment appeal, stating if Salvation Army or Foods for Living appeals their tax assessments, who will be "on the hook" for the difference there. Mr. Bowlby offered a "silver lining" with this project, stating if the property in question is not "good" for development of buildings, the plans can be altered by tearing down the Foods for Living and Salvation Army buildings, develop the eastern end of the property and leave the western portion as a public park. He indicated such a proposal would be a "true" mixed use development.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, commented on the community characteristics portion of the National Citizen Survey. He suggested a vibrant downtown commercial area, street repair, recycling and yard waste pickup be incorporated into next year's goals. Mr. Provencher suggested there be more community education regarding preparation for future emergency events. He noted the citizen survey revealed only one out of four (4) people work in the Township and 28% of Township residents volunteer.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. The Square, 2655 Grand River Avenue – Brownfield Hearing

Board and applicant's representative discussion:

- Cleanup in 1997 for the closed leaking underground storage tank may not have been according to MDEQ standards
- Exhibit B addresses identifying the site as an eligible property by designating it as a facility for environmental contamination and any level of contaminant which exceeds the residential cleanup criteria
- End use of the development is weighed against the type of chemicals found and where they are found on the site (e.g., groundwater, soils, etc.)
- Applicant is not concerned that residents will come in direct contact with the material
- Applicant is concerned with any chemicals which off-gas for volatized indoor air
- Chemicals on the north and south parcels impact any potential user and human health needs to be protected from them
- Site plan was changed a few months ago because the open stormwater detention would have flushed the contaminants into the ground and groundwater, which would have eventually found their way into the Red Cedar River under the railroad tracks
- Applicant is familiar with the current compliance regulations

- Environmental findings continually refer to the residential cleanup criteria throughout the report on the environmental findings
- Board member inquiry if commercial cleanup criteria exists
- Commercial and industrial cleanup criteria exists as well
- Exhibit B was structured from a brownfield plan perspective
- PA 381 recognizes chemicals of concern above residential cleanup criteria
- Applicant is performing a series of studies and additional work which will comply with other regulations imposed upon the future operator/developer of this property in order to safely use it
- Data presented has not been screened against the commercial or industrial cleanup criteria
- Board member inquiry if the Ingham County Redevelopment Authority (ICRA) has had experience with a brownfield which is looking at commercial cleanup criteria rather than the residential cleanup criteria
- ICRA has not had experience with a brownfield which looked at only commercial cleanup criteria
- ICRA has had experience in another community where industrial standards were used as it was an expansion of an industrial facility
- Board member belief the Douglas J project may have proposed use of commercial cleanup criteria on a portion of the site where the tanks previously existed and no residential component was to be constructed
- ICRA will review the Douglas J project to ascertain if commercial cleanup criteria was used
- Continued Board member concern with the industrial facility next door in relation to the location of the residential component of the project
- Concern with placing living units above the most contaminated portion of the site which will require a liner
- Concern with indoor volatilization of air due to contaminants in the ground below the living units
- Concern with the need to design a different type of detention area in order to not wash the pollution into the Red Cedar River
- Obligations of the current property owner relative to the existing contamination if there is no change to the use on the site
- Regardless of use, due care must be complied with
- State law changed in 1995-1996 to indemnify new or existing owners and operators of property who conducted a baseline environmental assessment
- Due care plan “draws a line in the sand” and does not require the new owner to do anything with the existing contaminants if they do not expose individuals through their reuse
- The use for any development would drive the cost, but the same requirements would need to be met
- Board member statement if the residential component was placed on the eastern portion of the site, the vapor barrier would be covered by a parking lot
- Board member concern with the benefit of the development, as the purpose of PA 381 is to incentivize the redevelopment of contaminated and previously used sites to promote tax base
- Board member statement the site is not blighted
- Subsurface debris is one of the designations to qualify as blight under Michigan law
- Current condition of the site is causing environmental hazards (e.g., groundwater contamination) and will have to be managed
- Board member belief a better solution to the site is one which provides better cleanup on the site, given the other petroleum based contamination around it, specifically where the 400 beds will be located
- Reminder that the majority of the housing is in the central block which does not have contamination
- Majority of the contamination is in the northern portion where the mixed use building is located and is a perfect use for these types of sites
- The proposed project will generate the tax base necessary to address the environmental problems
- The central portion is predominantly fill and the contaminants are fairly benign
- Applicant is concerned with migration of contaminants, given the estimated size of the area of contamination which likely extends beyond the southwest portion of the site

- Applicant has not investigated the size of the fill off site beyond the southwest corner
- According to state law, the current owner and future buyer are not liable for clean up
- The state has the option to step in or seek corrective action from the liable party
- One reason the brownfield program was put in place was because of the number of these types of sites
- Current plan is only taking a portion of the contaminants off site
- Board member statement the taxpayers will be paying for the cleanup if the Board approves the brownfield plan
- Belief there will be no added taxes with a 100 percent pass through of all state education taxes
- Upside is after the 16 years, the Township will have the greater tax base
- If not developed, the subject property value will depreciate, as well as the depreciation of the value of the surrounding sites
- Contamination was not an issue when nearby properties were developed
- Inquiry if some of the taxing authorities have the ability to opt out from this brownfield credit
- Public Act 381 does not have an opt out provision as it is property and project specific
- Closure status of a leaking underground storage tank can take the form of a restriction on use or limited cleanup
- Closure is risk based and the person seeking the closure must go through a process to receive a closure status
- Closure can leave residual soil and groundwater contamination
- When the project came before the Board last year, one Board member stated the project was an inappropriate use of the MUPUD ordinance as it included existing adjacent commercial properties
- Including existing adjacent commercial property into the proposed MUPUD project is driving most of the problems associated with the proposed development
- Inclusion of the existing commercial properties (i.e., Foods for Living, Salvation Army) into the proposed plan allows for a large density increase in the number of dwelling units
- Board member belief if the project did not include adjacent commercial properties, the proposal would likely be approximately 50% smaller in size and scope
- Not using the adjacent commercial properties would have resulted in less parking spaces required, significantly more open space and greenspace, one less building and the southwest corner would not be touched
- Board member belief a large portion of the brownfield plan and cleanup would be unnecessary if the Board had initially followed the correct criteria for the MUPUD
- Clustered development could occur in the northern section, the southern-most building could be eliminated, and less impervious surface would result
- Board member opposition to spending \$4.6 million of taxpayer money to fund an “inappropriately” designed high density apartment complex
- Findings will be reported in a baseline environmental site assessment to the MDEQ within a specific statutory timeframe after closing
- Board member inquiry if there is an “active release” on the site
- Applicant’s representative is not aware of an “active release”
- Applicant statement that if the Board denies the brownfield request, the project itself cannot support the cost of cleanup
- A Phase I environmental report was provided by the current property owner which stated there were limited problems and it was not until soil borings were performed that the level of contamination was uncovered
- To date, five (5) separate investigations have been conducted in an effort to quantify the extent of the contamination
- The applicant intends to have two (2) more investigations performed to pinpoint accuracy in the numbers
- The Brownfield Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is what will make the project work
- Recourse is available at the state level through an in-depth “potential liable party investigation” which would sue the responsible party to recoup cleanup funds
- Board member concern once the state received the information, it will not be handled in a timely manner

- Township Board would not be giving away taxpayer money, but would be reducing future income for a specified period of time
- Likelihood of no one developing this property in the future now that the contamination is known
- The new development will not pay taxes for 16 years under the Brownfield plan, while the Township will continue to provide services to the property's residents at taxpayer expense
- Board member belief it was common knowledge the subject property used to be a landfill
- Board member belief real estate law requires an owner to disclose a property "defect" to a prospective buyer
- Suggestion for the applicant to pay less for the land
- Board member belief the real calculation for this project is over 31 units per acre as the 184 units are being constructed on a 5.87 acre parcel
- Decision needs to be made whether to take care of the contamination
- When the two (2) existing buildings were constructed, no environmental issues were brought up
- Reminder that contamination does not follow property lines and borders
- Board member uncertainty the proposed brownfield redevelopment plan addresses all the environmental concerns
- Board members should take the different degrees of contamination on the site when considering cleanup of the site
- Reminder the contamination has existed for over 50 years
- Board member preference for the Township to engage the MDEQ to apprise it of known circumstances and seek guidance before any decision is made
- Manager's suggestion to consider hiring an environmental expert to review the plan and advise the Board regarding the challenges
- Board member preference to engage an attorney who specializes in environmental law to advise the Board on this issue
- Board member concern that, as a previous state employee, this environmental situation would be considered a low priority for the MDEQ

B. 2016 Goals Document

Township Manager Walsh stated the strategic plan and action plan contained in the 2016 goals before the Board is a compilation of discussion over many meetings.

Board and staff discussion:

- Items printed in red are new items; items in black are a carryover from the 2015 plan
- Manager's preference to place this item on for action at the January 26th Board meeting
- Where does the Board and staff go from here with the goals document
- Board will receive a quarterly report mainly focusing on the top 10 goals of the action plan
- Manager will produce a work plan based on the approved document which will include the items in the strategic plan which fall under each Director's purview
- Board member preference for the document to include an update to the computer system which allows ordinance amendments to be incorporated immediately
- Suggestion for Board members to send an email to the Manager for items which do not currently appear in the 2016 goals document
- 2016 Goals document is not a one-year plan
- All ten (10) items contained in the 2016 action plan will be addressed in 2016
- Staff will continue to make progress on the items listed in the strategic plan, but not all items on the strategic plan will be accomplished in one year
- Items listed in the strategic plan are on the Board's "blueprint"
- Manager will attempt to include all items listed in the strategic plan into a work plan for the appropriate Director
- Board member suggestion for each item of the strategic plan to have an ending date as it will help staff prioritize completion of those issues
- Board member belief there is a difference between a strategic plan and ongoing values
- Board member suggestion to remove items which are not new and an ongoing activity

- Board member concern some of the items listed in the strategic plan (e.g., Township’s greenspace plan as part of the review for land development projects) are not considered part of the Township’s ordinance and becomes an ongoing “value”
- The 2016 Goals Document is for public information and a comprehensive review of Township functions
- Removal of items performed on an ongoing basis would run counter to the purpose of keeping the public informed
- Board member suggestion to add to Goal #10 – No concealed weapons allowed in the Township workplace
- Board member suggestion to add “analyze and potentially change Township parking requirements based on dwelling units” within the appropriate goal
- Board member suggestion to change Goal #1, subsection p. to read: Set up a pilot site on a Township building with solar panels to investigate energy consumption costs and payback
- Board member suggestion to add the word “ongoing” in lieu of an ending date
- Board member suggestion to add an item in the appropriate goal which addresses the restrictions on nonconformity in our Township ordinance
- Board member suggestion to add an item in the appropriate goal which places a ban on smoking in apartment common areas
- Board member suggestion to add an item in the appropriate goal which provides electrical charging stations for wheelchairs at the trail heads in Township parks
- Many of the items just mentioned were previously discussed by the Board and a consensus was not reached on them
- Township Manager statement that staff will present this document at the January 26th Board meeting and items can be added by making motions and receiving Board approval

C. 2015 Township Citizen Survey Results

Township Manager Walsh stated the results of the National Citizen Survey are some of the most favorable in his career.

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering Derek Perry highlighted the process used to obtain survey results and explained those results.

Board and staff discussion:

- Page 10 showed results of the question regarding the level of support for a property tax increase to fund ten (10) items, all of which received more than 50% support
- 48% was the largest percentage of opposition to a tax increase
- Results from the custom question regarding larger and more signs at local businesses gives an indication of residents’ sentiment of the sign ordinance as currently written
- 95% of respondents support K-12 education and that percentage is the only number which is rated “much higher” than the national average
- Road millage has had a positive impact on residents view of street repair compared to 2009 and 2012 results
- Police favorability rating increased to 90 (up 6 points) from the 2012 Citizen Survey
- Fire favorability rating increased to 97 (up 7 points) from the 2012 Citizen Survey
- Positive rating for services provided by Meridian Township increased 11 percentage points from 2012
- Increase for services provided by Meridian Township may be due to implementation of value added services (e.g. ice storm response, brush pickup after the ice storm, reinvestment in Township facilities, etc.)
- Board member comment the rating for services provided by the federal government decline over the same period of time
- Overall image of the Township increased from 79% in 2012 to 91% in 2015
- Quality of neighborhoods, place to retire and overall appearance increased to an all-time high due to Board and staff efforts
- Areas of improvement are included as some of the Board’s top goals for 2016
- Identified goals preceded the survey results and show the Board is in tune with what is taking place in the community

- Special Topics section included in the Community Livability Report show 71% of citizens are not very supportive of multifamily residential developments (apartment buildings) while 29% of citizens are very supportive
- Special Topics section included in the Community Livability Report indicate 64% of citizens were not very supportive of increased commercial development while 36% were very supportive
- Board member view that the survey shows citizens do not place a high priority on developing multifamily apartment buildings

D. Welcoming Resolution

Trustee Scales moved to suspend Board rules to take up this item. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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, that each Board member commits to the Welcoming Michigan pledge as follows:

“I am proud of Michigan’s diversity. I recognize that at every level of American society, refugees, immigrants, and people of all backgrounds contribute to our democracy, culture, and economy. We must advance the basic principles upon which the United States was founded, establishing the equality and dignity of all people, including immigrants and refugees.

I believe that Michigan should be a welcoming state. In many ways, refugee families are an embodiment of American values – courageously seeking a better life. These families come here to escape persecution, protect their loved ones, and live without fear.

I condemn any attacks on or threats toward individuals or places of worship that are based on religion, race, ethnicity, or other social identities. Michigan must be a place that respects all of our diverse communities, regardless of refugee status, religion, ethnicity, or race.”

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, stated it was “despicable” Treasurer Brixie would “troll” through the mileage reimbursement statements of Clerk Dreyfus and find some [reimbursements] to be objectionable. He questioned if the Treasurer inspected “everybody’s” mileage reimbursements and has never found even one other she believed to be objectionable. He said it is clear to everyone in the Township the Treasurer “does not like the Clerk” and she does not want to see him [re] elected. He referenced Trustee Wilson as the Treasurer’s “toady” and the Treasurer “got her to run for Clerk in the next election.” He repeated his earlier comment that the Treasurer “should be ashamed of herself.”

Mr. Bowlby mentioned Clerk Dreyfus' previous reference to the citizen survey which showed township residents placed a very low priority on increased multifamily housing and apartment complexes, but placed a high priority on preserving open space. He said the developer who proposed the brownfield plan stated he won't develop the property if he doesn't get the tax credit plan approved. Mr. Bowlby indicated the proposed development is located in the middle of the township and contains a "nice, big spot of greenspace" which could make for a wonderful dog park, and part of the parking lot could be turned into a playground or roller park. He added the Township could make a greenspace investment in that location as a viable development alternative.

Mr. Bowlby asserted spending \$80,000 on Township branding makes no sense at all, just to "make a name for itself." He stated Township residents are happy here and really want a good, useable and functioning website. Mr. Bowlby suggested that since residents use the Township website for information (not social media and Facebook), more money should go into Township website development. He believed residents don't care about fancy logos. Mr. Bowlby suggested \$30,000 for branding and \$30,000 for the website, or maybe more for the website, which would leave about \$50,000 to spend on other things, such as funding five (5) years of the Community Needs Fund.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, announced People's Church will host a Community Forum on the multi modal concept for the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor. He suggested cyclists attend to make their requests known for what they would like to see in that corridor. Mr. Provencher voiced concern over the move to limit what officials can communicate to residents regarding ballots proposals. He requested sufficient factual information be made available to the public in order for them to make a reasoned decision.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Scales reported Governor Snyder signed a bill today to eliminate straight party ticket voting in the State of Michigan.

Trustee Veenstra explained the state legislature passed a bill which prohibits the use of public funds to convey even facts about a ballot proposal within 60 days of the election. He believed it to be an unworkable law, and suggested residents call the Governor's office to urge him to veto this piece of legislation. He agreed with citizen Bowlby that the Township is spending too much money on branding. Trustee Veenstra pointed to a communication in the Township Board packet from former Planning Commissioner Deits alleging he was slandered at the last Board meeting and requested a response to that letter. He addressed the letter from Liaison for Inter Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) regarding the brownfield plan for The Square on Grand River and stood in agreement with the communication from Dr. B. Ray Horn regarding second hand smoke in the common areas of senior apartment buildings. Trustee Veenstra requested clarification on the notice for "Sparrow Condos".

Clerk Dreyfus explained state law requires notification of a proposed condominium development which is located in the area associated with the Michigan Athletic Club.

Manager Walsh added the Occupational Health portion of Sparrow has purchased part of the medical facilities to take place in that development prior to December 31st in an attempt to get it off the tax rolls. He noted at this point in time, the Township does not agree with the exemption. Manager Walsh added the Township Assessor is in the process of reviewing the transaction and its use to determine if the property is exempt.

Supervisor LeGoff explained Commissioner Deits missed 7 of 21 Planning Commission meetings in 2015, which is 33% of the meetings held. She stated she wanted to appoint someone who would attend meetings on a regular basis.

Trustee Wilson announced the Haslett-Okemos Rotary will be hosting its 10th Annual Hero luncheon on Tuesday, February 9th at Gilbert & Blakes Restaurant, located on Okemos Road. She stated the rotary club provides service within the community (backpack program, holiday food baskets, etc.) and supports the Township in many of its efforts, most notably the recent community room in the new central fire station.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 10:35 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary