

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015 **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, Director of Engineering Ray Severy, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Finance Gretchen Gomolka, Interim Township Attorney John Dewane

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Capital Area District Library Updates – Haslett and Okemos Libraries

Kate Nicholoff, Interim Head Librarian, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett, gave a brief synopsis of 2014 activities and accomplishments within the library as well as outreach within the Haslett community and Meridian Township.

Betsy Hull, Head Librarian, Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, offered an overhead presentation on 2014 activities at the Hope Borbas Okemos Library.

B. 2014 Audit Report – Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC

Jeffrey Fineis, Audit Partner, Andrews Hooper Pavlik, 4295 Okemos Road, Okemos, congratulated the Township on receiving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He gave a graphic audit presentation highlighting the Township's financial status for 2014 year-end, noting a slight general fund revenue decrease, primarily in the area of property taxes. Mr. Fineis noted General Fund expenditures decreased slightly in 2014, a sign of good cost containment. He added the General Fund balance increased to \$7.1 million and the unassigned fund balance represents 5 months of General Fund expenditures, exceeding the Township's self-imposed goal of maintaining at least two (2) months of operating expenditures in the fund balance for, at least, the tenth consecutive year. Mr. Fineis stated there was a net increase in the Water Fund, Sewer Fund and Motor Pool Fund of approximately \$1 million.

Mr. Fineis explained GASB Statement No. 67, reporting for the various defined benefit pension plans went into effect for financial reporting periods after June 15, 2013 and GASB Statement No. 68, reporting by the employers of unfunded pension benefit obligations, will be effective for the 2015 audit. He noted the unfunded pension obligations are being looked at by all municipalities in an attempt to improve the funded position of pension systems.

Board and staff discussion:

- Unfunded pension liability remained fairly stable from 2012-2014
- Unassigned General Fund balance is \$6.9 million
- Board goals for 2015 included many renovations which will decrease the General Fund balance to \$6.2 million

- Actuarial calculated amount required to be paid to Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) each pay period
- Appreciation for the slide on Pension and Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Obligations
- Schedule for meeting with MERS and other municipalities regarding pension discussions
- Unfunded pension liability will have an effect on the government wide net position of \$101,813,970 as of December 31, 2014
- Excellent audit report irrespective of the unfunded pension liability component

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Brent Forsberg, 2422 Jolly Road, Okemos, availed himself for Board questions relative to Rezoning #15010.

Ken Lane, Clark Hill Law Firm, 212 E. Grand River, Lansing, expressed appreciation for interviewing before the board and being selected as a candidate for Meridian Township's general legal services.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, reminded the public of the Planning Commission's work session regarding a Master Plan public input forum on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Room. He announced the Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) will meet tomorrow at the Haslett Library. Mr. Bowlby voiced appreciation to the Township Manager and Management Team for the robust general fund balance. He addressed proposed legislation on a three bill package which would prohibit prevailing wage in government construction contracts, and spoke to contemplated Religious Freedom Restoration Act legislation.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- The prevailing wage issue passed the House committee on a 11-7 vote
- Footings for the new fire station being poured today, with vertical construction to commence next week
- MARC/Fire station committee will meet Friday, May 22nd to hear the three (3) proposals

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Veenstra objected to the length of tonight's agenda. He spoke to the poor condition of roads in the state, urging residents to contact their state legislator to raise the gas tax to provide increased funding for road repair.

Trustee Styka announced this week as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week. He reported his attendance at the May 12th Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony where 100 individuals were honored for their volunteer activities in Meridian's park system, with Bobbie DuByne being named Volunteer of the Year. Trustee Styka reported his participation last week in a community broadband webinar and that MSU Credit Union will plant \$1,000 worth of trees tomorrow in Nancy Moore Park as part of its Go Green program. He announced both high schools will hold their commencement exercises on Sunday, May 31st at 1:00 P.M., adding Okemos graduation will be held at the Michigan State University auditorium with 289 graduates and Haslett graduation will take place at the MSU Breslin Center for 215 Haslett graduates. Trustee Styka reported remodeling projects in both school districts.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting last week where a special site visit was conducted for Towar Woods to inspect reforestation efforts and invasive species removal. She indicated her attendance at Culvers to participate in a fundraiser by the Meridian Fire Department to aid a disabled Meridian resident by constructing a garage which

will house his vehicle. Treasurer Brixie noted donations for materials are being accepted at the Municipal Building. She reminded residents of the detour on Okemos Road from May 29th through the 31st for the placement of the Okemos Road Pedestrian Pathway Bridge, adding northbound Okemos Road will be detoured from Mt. Hope Road while southbound traffic will continue south.

Clerk Dreyfus reminded citizens of Meridian Township's 21st Annual Memorial Day Service to begin at noon at Glendale Cemetery. He reported a bill was introduced in the Michigan legislature to provide \$10 million in local funding as the state will mandate a change in election equipment, adding he has contacted Representative Sam Singh urging his support. Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the May 18th Michigan Governing Conference at the Kellogg Center where the theme was Leadership, described as building authentic relationships, respecting colleagues/stakeholders and personal reflection on challenging issues while maintaining an open mind.

Trustee Scales reported his attendance at the May 12th Code Enforcement meeting to address residents concern. He also attended the May 14th Neighborhood Leadership meeting in the Township Hall where guest speaker Judge Donald Allen explained Sobriety Court in detail. Trustee Scales announced his attendance at the May 18th Planning Commission meeting where Planned Residential Development #15-97015 was discussed. He reported House Bill 4052 (Substitute H-3) has a statement which will hold harmless the anti-discrimination ordinance as passed by local units of government.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Veenstra).

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 John Scott-Craig, Chair, Planning Commission; RE: Invitation to attend a meeting on May 21, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Room to receive public input on the Master Plan

(2) Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Marsha Madle, Secretary, Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan, 105 W. Allegan Street, Suite 10, Lansing; RE: Invitation to attend EIM's Rise & Shine Breakfast on Thursday, June 4, 2015 from 7:15 AM until 9:15 AM in the Lincoln Room of the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing

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

Material handed out at the May 7, 2015 Board Meeting

Todd Wilson, Park Commission Chair; RE: Invitation for Board members to attend a recognition event for park volunteers on May 12, 2015 from 6:15 PM to 8:30 PM, scheduled to be held in Central Park and the Meridian Historical Village

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

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

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

C. Bills

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

Common Cash		\$ 611,587.44
Public Works		\$ 284,878.16
Total Checks		\$ 896,465.60
Credit Card Transactions		
PNC Bank	5,670.32	
Horizon Bank	<u>6,600.08</u>	
		\$ <u>12,270.40</u>
Total Purchases		\$ <u>908,736.00</u>
ACH Payments		\$ <u>573,683.64</u>

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

D. Fire Department Promotion – Full-Time Firefighter

Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the Fire Chief to promote part-time firefighter Dustin Farhat to a full-time firefighter position effective May 29, 2015. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

E. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointments of Lauren Gauthier, Samuel Gwinn, and Thaddeus Selden to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

F. Appointments to Regional Committees

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the following appointments:

- **East Lansing Meridian Water & Sewer Authority – Derek Perry, with Younes Ishraidi as alternate**
- **Capital Area Regional Transportation Committee (CARTS) – Derek Perry, with Younes Ishraidi as alternate**
- **Tri County Groundwater Management Board – Derek Perry as alternate**
- **Groundwater Technical Advisory Committee – Younes Ishraidi, with Derek Perry as alternate**
- **Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management – Younes Ishraidi, with Derek Perry as alternate**

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

G. Resolution for Charitable Gaming License – The Cat Ambassador, Inc.

Treasurer Brixie moved that the request from The Cat Ambassador, Inc. of Haslett, asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a gaming license is approved.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (See Agenda Item #12 F)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of the Lake Lansing Road Diet. He stated the vegetation ordinance amendment is too specific. Mr. Provencher believed the \$500 bond requirement contained in the vendor ordinance is excessive. He stated it is inappropriate to take Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to support the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) when he believed no state funding will be forthcoming.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, agreed with Trustee Veenstra there are too many items on the agenda. He believed it difficult for residents to offer good public opinion within the three minute time limit. Mr. Bowlby also supported the Lake Lansing Road Diet. Relative to the vegetation ordinance, he noted the reference to the term “business days” appears in six other Township ordinances, so it is appropriate to use that term. He added three (3) days is not sufficient time.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Lake Lansing Road – Road Diet

Trustee Wilson moved to approve restriping Lake Lansing Road from East of Lac du Mont Drive to Marsh Road to provide one traffic lane in each direction, a center left-turn lane and a paved shoulder available for non-motorized use adjacent to the traffic lane in each direction. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board and ICRD representative's discussion:

- Great service for residents who use non-motorized forms of transportation
- Lake Lansing Road is heavily traveled and in need of repair
- Location is where there is not a continuous pathway connection for bicyclists
- Safety of bicyclists in the road as it is easier for automobile drivers to see them
- Approach ICRD uses to determine if a road can be considered for a "diet"
- One consideration for a road diet is if there is less than 15,000 vehicle trips per day
- Change will be well received by the residents who live in close proximity to the road diet
- There will be no passing on Lake Lansing between Saginaw Highway and Marsh Road
- Board member opposition to a passing prohibition from Lac Du Mont to Marsh Road
- No tree removal from Lac Du Mont to Marsh Road
- No residents have requested tree replacement from Saginaw Highway to Lac Du Mont
- Township is dealing with relocation of some trees along the north side in front of Sierra Ridge

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

B. Rezoning #15010 (Forsberg Family, LLC) – Rezoning Request for Approximately 39.46 Acres – 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 Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15010" from I (Industrial), PO (Professional and Office), RR (Rural Residential) and C-2 (Commercial) to C-2 (Commercial) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting development to a mixed use planned unit development with a restriction of not more than 18 units per acre as allowed under the density bonus provisions in the ordinance.

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 introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board and staff discussion:

- No other type of unit is defined in the Township's code of ordinances other than residential
- Board member belief residential living next to industrial use is incompatible
- Primary industrial use to the west is to service and repair commercial lawnmowers
- Suggestion for a buffer from industrially zoned land when considering the plans for redevelopment
- Apartment complex is appropriate for the area as residents can walk to many businesses
- Concern with left hand turns onto Jolly Road out of the proposed development
- Appreciation for the proposed connectivity to the Township's pathway system
- Board member belief the rezoning request to C-2 is being requested to obtain the mixed use planned unit (MUPUD) development designation
- Board member belief that RD (multiple family) is the appropriate zoning designation
- Board member belief the proposal does not have any new commercial component and tying in adjacent commercial components does not constitute mixed use

- Preference for the Township to make the MUPUD process cleaner by adopting form based code
- MUPUD ordinance allows for up to 18 dwelling units/ acre (four dwelling units/acre density bonus)
- Number of units per acre will be determined when the developer brings the MUPUD forward
- Multiple family dwelling units are a good transition between commercial and single family residential
- This rezoning was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission

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

C. Rezoning #15020 (George F. Eyde Family, LLC) – Rezoning Request for 1614 & 1622 Grand River Avenue and an Undeveloped Parcel on Central Park Drive – **Final Adoption**

Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2015-02, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15020” PO (Professional and Office) and RA (Single Family, Medium Density) to C-2 (Commercial).

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 Scales.

Board discussion:

- Two of the three parcels front onto Grand River Avenue
- Property is located within the commercial core of the Township
- Rezoning all three parcels together is not the proper method to rezone parcels which are not contiguous
- Board member view zoning for property on Central Park Drive should be reviewed more thoroughly and voted on separately

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

D. Budget Amendments

Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka summarized the budget amendment request as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 14, 2015.

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the May 2015 Budget Amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$38,605 which projects a use of fund balance of \$927,853. Based on audited 2014 results the projected fund balance at December 31, 2015 will be \$6,185,177. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- Fund balance is up \$700,000 from estimation at the end of last year based on increased revenue and controlled expenses
- \$2,500 for the Community Garden initiative was added by the Board
- Board member belief it is a better policy to not include grants in the budget until actually acquired

- Payment of \$310,00 to CATA in the bill run includes some CATA revenues from the prior year

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

E. General Legal Services

Trustee Styka summarized the responses of the four (4) candidates.

Board discussion:

- Availability factor to hold office hours at the Township and attend Board meetings
- Experience over the years with Township staff

Trustee Scales moved to authorize Township Manager Walsh and Committee Chairman Styka to enter into contract negotiations with the Fahey Firm. The proposed legal services contract shall be back in front of the Township Board for consideration (action) on June 2, 2015. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Continued Board discussion:

- Staff works with the law firm and depends on the legal advice more than Township Board members
- Poll of staff by one Board member revealed that staff is comfortable with the Fahey Law Firm
- Board member disappointment that a motion was made prematurely for the Fahey Firm, going against the preference of the subcommittee chair to thoroughly discuss all legal firm proposals before making a motion for one specific firm
- Plunkett Cooney has worked with the staff of various departments in the Township
- Plunkett Cooney has been successful in its previous work for the Township
- Plunkett Cooney offered the best description of Meridian Township
- Appreciation for Plunkett Cooney's use and share of digital communication
- Two of Clark Hill's main attorneys are Township residents
- Board member preference for Clark Hill's all inclusive retainer
- Appreciation for Clark Hill's response regarding holding office hours at the Township and attending Board meetings
- Board member's belief the Fahey Firm was disingenuous in some of its responses during the law firm interview
- Appreciation that all of the candidates have attorneys who live in the Township, have a vested interest in the community and advocates for the Township in their personal lives
- Fahey Firm trains municipal attorneys and trains staff on municipal issues
- Meridian Township is home to an educated populace in a variety of professions
- Fahey Firm is located in Meridian Township
- Fahey Law Firm was actively involved in an issue on a piece of property located next to their firm in Meridian Township
- All residents of Meridian Township have a right to voter referendum
- Fahey Firm was involved in the first successful Meridian Township road millage through organization of the Ballot Question Committee
- Board member concerns with the Fahey Firm's representation of facts and issues during the rezoning process and the referendum/petition process in 2012
- Board members concern with the Fahey Law Firm recommending and drafting anti-medical marihuana ordinances for various townships throughout Michigan

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

Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 8:24 P.M.

F. Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA)

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Perry summarized potential membership in the Greater Lansing Taxi Authority as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 14, 2015.

[Clerk Dreyfus reentered the room at 8:25 P.M.]

Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby requests membership in the Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA). Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Resolution is a request by Meridian Township to join the GLTA
- Importance of regulating the GLTA

Legality of drug testing as a requirement for licensed taxi cab drivers: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

Q. Wouldn't someone who used medical marijuana fail the test and is this even legal (because we have the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act) to say that somebody who uses medical marijuana would be forbidden to be a taxi cab driver in Lansing, East Lansing, Meridian Township, etc.

A. I can't answer the scientific question, because I don't know what a five panel drug test includes; whether it includes cannabis, TCH or THC, whatever the byproduct is. There is some tension between Section 4 of the Medical Marijuana Act which was, as already discussed, an initiative adopted by the People of the State of Michigan. As I recall, it got more votes than President Obama did in 2008 in Michigan. There is some tension because you can't penalize a medical marijuana user on an occupational basis if that's what, indeed, this is attempting to do. On the other hand, a person cannot drive under the influence even if the person is a medical marijuana patient. I think the science has to be looked at as to whether the 15 days is appropriate or what are the tests that we're looking at, because there is some potential tension there, there's no doubt about it.

Board discussion:

- Inquiry if this is consistent with the language utilized for having a commercial driver's license

ATTORNEY COMMENT: There may also be federal DOT regulations that apply to a CBL that don't apply to a taxi driver. You have to get over 25,000 pounds or something to kick that federal standard in. Those taxi cabs don't get that ever.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Preference to table in an effort to get several questions answered
- Resolution only requests Meridian Township to have a seat at the table
- Other professions who drive require drug testing (firefighters, police officers, health care workers, etc.)
- If other occupations have been able to incorporate the medical marijuana law that we have in Michigan, the same rules would apply to every other drug testing
- Municipal Partnership Agreement will be amended to include Meridian Township as a signatory
- Agreement will come before the Township Board for discussion, possible amendment and/or approval
- The Township should not have any liability or liability costs by joining the GLTA
- Practicality of having a regional authority in the area
- Basis for creating the GLTA is for rider safety and drug testing helps with the safety issue
- Length of time THC (active ingredient in marijuana) lasts in a person's system before breaking down is two (2) to four (4) weeks
- Concern with booking rides only through digital platform, and not through street hails
- Concern over the restrictions placed on the driver (i.e., property crimes) and the length of time involved (7 years)

Applicability of GLTA regulations in Meridian Township: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

- Q. If we pass this resolution to join the Taxi Authority, are we bound by these 15 pages of regulations, or will somebody have to come back to this Board and get this Board to pass a resolution or ordinance to make it illegal to drive a taxi in Meridian Township if you are under 21?
In other words, does joining the Authority make that regulation law in Meridian or do we have to pass an individual ordinance that makes all these regulations law in Meridian Township?
- A. The Municipal Partnership Agreement, in paragraph 4, provides that “the Authority shall be created.... and each party, upon authorizing the execution of this Agreement...” which you are not doing. But if you want to clarify that, you might make the change or amendment that’s suggested here, clearly stating that subject to negotiating acceptable terms in the agreement.
- Q. Who would enforce this?
- A. It is my understanding that to have enforcement powers, you would have to pass an ordinance adopting the prohibitions that are contained in the Agreement.

Board and staff discussion:

- Inquiry if the City of Lansing and East Lansing have subsequently adopted ordinances

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

G. Vegetation Ordinance Amendment – **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. 2015-03 entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 82, Article II, by amending Section 82-26 and Section 82-27.”

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 Scales.

Board and staff discussion:

- Concern over the applicability of the 75 foot limit if the owner has property beyond 75 feet from the structure
- Difference between platted subdivisions and meets and bounds parcels
- In platted subdivisions, the public road is deeded to the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD), so the right of ways are in the ICRD’s jurisdiction
- Description of meets and bounds parcels goes to the center line of the road
- ICRD has an easement for the public road
- Height of grass is the number one ordinance enforcement complaint
- Amendment meant to deal with blighted property and those who are habitual offenders of the current ordinance
- Staff will research the 75 foot requirement for purposes of enforcement by staff
- Days v. business days
- Days v. Township business days

ATTORNEY COMMENT: The Code of Ordinances provides a computation of time. The computation of time excludes Saturdays and Sundays.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Business days doesn’t fit this definition for computing time

- Zoning ordinance uses the term “days”
- Further study needed on the unintended consequences which may impact rural areas of the Township
- “Business day” is a well-known term

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend “three” business days to “four”

The motion died for lack of a second.

The maker offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Delete the word “Township” before the word “business”**

The friendly amendment was accepted by the seconder.

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

H. Vendor Ordinance Amendment – Final Adoption

Treasurer Brixie 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. 2015-04 entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article IV, Division 1, by amending Sections 38-121, 38-122, 38-123, 38-124, 38-125 and 38-126; and Chapter 38, Article IV, Division 2, Sections 38-151, 38-155, 38-156 and 38-158.”

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 Scales.

Board discussion:

- Exclusions for organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts

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

I. Bus Rapid Transit Funding

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 as follows:

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian supports the award of CMAQ funds for the BRT development and encourages the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to take actions necessary to secure such funds. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- No Township pathway projects are before Tri-County which compete for CMAQ funds
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) leadership team has praised CATA for its financial plan for the BRT
- MDOT has repeatedly told CATA it will work with CATA on the match

- MDOT has adjusted its construction schedule to maximize efficient use of taxpayer dollars in fixing the Grand River corridor during construction of the BRT
- Request by our state representative for Meridian Township's support of the use of CMAQ funds for the BRT
- Public transportation as an economic driver for the community
- Board member belief CATA is requesting \$4.8 million for the BRT over multiple years
- Concern with all left hand turns being prohibited on Grand River Avenue, except at traffic lights
- Board member belief Meridian Township owes it to the rest of the region and our elderly to move the BRT forward
- Concern with parking for users of the BRT
- Improved progressive traffic light synchronization along the Grand River Corridor would decrease congestion and reduce the carbon footprint
- BRT along Grand River Avenue could eliminate the green median in downtown East Lansing
- Median in East Lansing will be altered, but not removed
- Parking for the BRT is planned through public/private partnerships
- Increasing ridership is a main goal of the BRT

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

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra

Motion carried 6-1.

J. Summer Tax Collection Agreements

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the "2015 Summer School Tax Collection Requests and Agreements" for East Lansing, Okemos, Williamston, Haslett and Ingham Intermediate School Districts. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- One investment strategy utilized by the Township in negotiated tax collection agreements include a waiver of the right for school districts to earn interest on the collection provided the Township pay them in a specific fashion
- East Lansing and the Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) desire collection during the summer for the entire year
- Many Township's throughout the state only send one tax bill per year

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 and closed Public Remarks.

A. Northwind Drive Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Concept Plan

Director Kieselbach summarized the Northwind MUPUD Concept Plan as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 13, 2015.

Ron Calhoun, 1427 W. Saginaw, East Lansing, highlighted components of the MUPUD concept plan as shown on drawings included in the staff memorandum dated May 13, 2015.

Board and applicant discussion:

- Board member belief the pedestrian and bicycle connections to the sidewalk on Grand River are not amenities
- Property between the Red Cedar River and the southern property line is zoned PO
- Use of the existing footprint would ultimately reduce the amount of impervious surface on the site

- Concept plan is not a pedestrian oriented development and does not urbanize the commercial area
- Board member belief the project presents sprawling suburban development on the front and reuses the building sites in the back
- Concern there is only one truly mixed use building
- Modern look of the buildings
- Appreciation for proposed small pocket park
- Board member concern with the single use bank building
- Board member preference for the site to be redesigned to create a village concept and orient it to the other apartment building and the river
- Architecturally and aesthetically compatible to have a four (4) or five (5) story apartment building which would reduce impervious surface, provide significant open space to create a “public activated zone”
- Need for the bank building to be moved closer to the road with parking in the rear
- Difficult layout of the existing shopping center and the need to remain sensitive to existing retail space
- Need for elevators if buildings are higher than three (3) stories

It was the consensus of the Board to continue discussion on the concept plan at the June 2, 2015 Board meeting.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra suggested the Board pass a resolution endorsing prevailing wage and send it to the Michigan Legislature. He reported his attendance at the Transportation Review Committee on May 13th where a presentation was made on the subject of road diets. Trustee Veenstra read excerpts from an email sent by Bill Fahey dated March 6, 2011 regarding the location of his office and the former KinderCare site relative to Chippewa Middle School, pointing out that contrary to Fahey’s assertions, Delta Dental is located across the street from the site of the rezoned property, not the school.

Trustee Scales announced the recent two year anniversary of Township Manager Walsh and expressed appreciation for his service to the Township.

Trustee Wilson thanked veterans and active military personnel for serving our country. She also congratulated all the graduating seniors.

Treasurer Brixie apprised the Clerk her Board packet did not have her address on it for delivery to her home.

Clerk Dreyfus responded the Meridian Township Police cadets are responsible for delivery of the packet, and it was surprising they did not have an address on file for the Treasurer, nor did they contact anyone to determine the correct address. The Clerk indicated he would ensure the Police Department cadets had a current list of home addresses for all Board members and Park Commissioners to facilitate packet delivery.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 10:04 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary