

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra (6:03 P.M.),
Wilson
ABSENT: Supervisor LeGoff
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Dreyfus called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Trustee Scales moved to appoint Julie Brixie as Supervisor Pro Tem for purposes of this meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-0.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie opened Public Remarks.

Ann Alchin, 5975 Cypress, Haslett, indicated the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has, with the winter tax receipts, received approximately \$244,000 to date and believed they have "very little" to show for it. She mentioned businesses received planters with flowers in them, and the owners were unwilling to even water them. She noted Mr. Weaver and Mr. Raynak both have flowers planted and maintained. Ms. Alchin stated the DDA is facing financial problems and will be asking the Board for an expansion and a loan, which she opposed.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the e-mail sent to the Police Chief from a Board member regarding an incident in Holt where 57 marihuana plants were found in a home during response to a police call. He expressed concern with drawing attention to this isolated incident which brings nothing constructive to the debate on medical marihuana within the Township, noting that bad actions of a few people should not drive policy decisions.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, did not believe the proposed Fireworks Ordinance was necessary and would overburden the Township's Police Department. He spoke to the lack of snow removal at the CATA bus stop near Mount Hope and Okemos Roads. Mr. Kincaid spoke in opposition to the closing of sidewalks in Meridian Township, and suggested the Township use some of its resources to clear sidewalks to deal with this safety issue.

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie closed Public Remarks.

5. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie indicated it is Capital Area Transportation Authority's (CATA) policy to plow and remove snow if there is a bus shelter at a CATA stop. She stated CATA would like anyone who has difficulty boarding a bus because of snow and mobility issues to contact CATA to make possible special arrangements at another stop. Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie added a significant part of the problem is that when the road plow clears snow on the street, it pushes snow back onto already cleared "T" stops.

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Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie announced the last day to pay property taxes in Meridian Township was February 28th, and all real property taxes must be paid at Ingham County. She noted any residents who have questions regarding payment options should contact the Ingham County Supervisor Pro Tem's office.

Trustee Wilson announced the MABA Expo will be held this Saturday at Haslett High School from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. She indicated the Okemos Education Foundation (OEF) and the Foundation for Haslett Schools will be sharing a booth at the Expo.

Trustee Styka reported his attendance at the Cable Communications Commission on February 20th where he learned Comcast has a program titled "Internet Essentials" where households of economically disadvantaged students may qualify for monthly internet service at \$9.95. He noted his attendance as Meridian's representative to East Lansing School's Strategic Planning Committee meeting on February 21st as well as attendance at the Haslett School Board Meeting on February 25th where work is commencing on the budget process.

Trustee Veenstra attended Tri County Regional Planning Commission's (TCRPC) regular meeting on February 27th where the principle item was discussion regarding the complex of pathways along Waverly Road.

Trustee Scales reported fundraising efforts for the Okemos Library renovation by Asian Buffet and Culver's of Okemos, which netted \$1,226.36 and \$560, respectively. He reminded residents that Culver's will have another fundraiser on Sunday, March 24th for the library renovation. Trustee Scales attended an Inter-Township Trustee Meeting with newly elected trustees from Delta and Lansing Townships and met with superintendents from both the Haslett and Okemos Public Schools.

Clerk Dreyfus reported the next regularly scheduled election for Michigan is August, 2014; however, there is talk at the state level of a possible special election on the gas tax. He indicated a special election called for by the state would allow placing the Township's park millage on the ballot at no cost to the Township. Clerk Dreyfus reported a special election for a technology bond in the East Lansing School District was held on February 26th where three (3) Meridian precincts voted in three (3) East Lansing precincts where the millage passed, adding there was a 10.4% voter turnout.

Clerk Dreyfus announced a May 7th special election for the Williamston School District will be held for voters in Meridian precinct 7, adding these residents (370) will vote at the Township Hall for this election only. He noted this special election will necessitate moving the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on that date to Thursday, May 9, 2013. Clerk Dreyfus addressed the possible creation of "One Pagers", information available to the public on various topics patterned after materials produced by other municipalities.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Add Agenda Item #11B: New Township Logo**
- **Add Agenda Item #11C: Manager's Report on the Impact of the Meijer Tax Appeal on the Downtown Development Authority's Finances**
- **Add Agenda Item #11D: Elected Officials Compensation Commission Findings**
- **Delete Agenda Item #15: Postscript**

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Styka moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Richard Baumgartner, 1064 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett; RE: Douglas J Development
- BI-2 Lynn Ochberg, 4383 Maumee, Okemos; RE: EOCC Requests
- BI-3 Trustee Milton L. Scales; RE: Comment on news article regarding marihuana operation, guns found in Delhi Township home after woman shoots intruder

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 Georgia Carpenter, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) member; RE: Letter of resignation from the DDA
- CL-2 James B. Doyle, Chairperson, Elected Officials Compensation Commission; RE: Determination of Salaries for Elected Officials – 2013 and 2014
- CL-3 Todd Wilson, Park Commission Chair; RE: Invitation to attend Friends of the Park Volunteer Appreciation Program on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:15 PM in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building

(3) Staff Communication (SC)

- SC-1 Township Manager Jerry Richards; RE: Invitation to the March 19, 2013 Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments
- SC-2 LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; RE: Public Hearing Notification for the North Meridian Road Park Improvement Grant Application on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 8:30 PM in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building
- SC-3 LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; RE: Public Hearing Notification for the Ferguson Park Improvement Grant Application on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 8:30 PM in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building
- SC-4 LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; RE: Public Hearing Notification for the Hillbrook Park Improvement Grant Application on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 8:30 PM in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building
- SC-5 LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; RE: Public Hearing Notification for the Land Preservation Advisory Board's submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for land acquisition on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court

(4) On File in the Clerk's Office

Material handed out at the February 19, 2013 Board Meeting

- Clarke Anderson, 4136 Shoals Drive, Okemos; RE: Meridian Township Business Climate
- Phil Ballbach, 2723 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to the Brownfield Plan for the Douglas J Redevelopment

Trustee Styka 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 Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Trustee Styka to approve and ratify the minutes of the February 19, 2013 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

Trustee Styka moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 444,020.27
Public Works	\$ 39,568.88
Total Checks	\$ 483,589.15
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 11,316.31
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 494,905.46</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 378,014.57</u>

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

D. Resolution for Charitable Gaming License – 2001 Hockey Boosters, Inc.

Trustee Styka moved to approve the charitable gaming license request from 2001 Hockey Boosters, Inc. of Okemos. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

E. Resolution to Amend Township Board Meeting Schedule

Trustee Styka moved to amend the 2013 Regular Board Meeting Schedule by changing the Tuesday, May 7, 2013 Regular Board Meeting to Thursday, May 9, 2013. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

F. 2013 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No. 14, **Resolution #3**

Trustee Styka moved to approve 2013 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #14, Resolution #3 which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Crestwood Subdivision #2 and #3, Indian Hills Plat, Indian Hills Subdivision #4, Keystone, Keystone #2, and Sunwind Estates and to defray the cost by special assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$15,726.84; determines the special assessment district; directs the making of an assessment roll; and directs notices be sent to

the property owners indicating they have 20 days to replace or make safe the defective sidewalk. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS

- A. 2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No.13
Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie opened the public hearing at 6:36 P.M.

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie announced this public hearing will remain open until the next Board meeting to comply with noticing requirements.

10. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the provisions in Public Act 256 of 2011 relative to the current fireworks ordinance. He expressed concerns with several provisions contained in the proposed fireworks ordinance mirrored from the state act.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the limitation in state law regarding its fireworks ordinance, expressed concern with the lack of stated hours and believed the proposed language has little benefit for Meridian Township.

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie closed Public Remarks.

A. Fireworks Ordinance Amendments, **Introduction**

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN hereby introduces for publication and subsequent adoption Ordinance No. entitled “Ordinance to Repeal Existing Chapter 26, section 26-1 of the Charter Township of Meridian, Code of Ordinances, and to adopt a new section 26-1 to provide for the regulation of the ignition, discharge and use of consumer fireworks.”

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

Seconded by Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Ordinance will ensure safety for Township residents and preserve their quality of life
- Ordinance will allow for enforcement of state law in the Township
- Board member belief the resolution and ordinance are unnecessary
- State law legalized larger (“consumer”) fireworks in the State of Michigan for 365 days a year
- Proposed ordinance is too restrictive and would “outlaw” consumer fireworks for 335 days of the year
- Subsection (D) under (b) Ignition, Discharge and Use of Consumer Fireworks (“A minor shall not ignite or discharge Consumer Fireworks”) is language in the proposed ordinance not contained in state law
- Current ordinance for fireworks is not enforceable at this time and the proposed ordinance

repeals that section of the Township's code

- Consumer fireworks are not allowed under the Township's current ordinance
- Proposed ordinance is specific to consumer fireworks only
- Concern the issue of noise is not addressed in the proposed ordinance
- Board member suggestion to adopt ordinance language which complies with state law and amend it at some point in the future after a thorough discussion of the issue
- Board members suggestion to repeal the portion of the current ordinance not in compliance with state law and rework the remaining language
- State legislators are looking at changes to this law so interested residents who would like to have input should contact State Representative Sam Singh and Senator Gretchen Whitmer
- State law does not allow the Township to limit the time of day in which fireworks can be ignited or discharged on the day before, the day of, or the day after the listed holidays
- Township Attorney opinion that noise cannot be addressed in the fireworks ordinance
- If there is a violation of the Township's noise ordinance, a noise violation could be written
- Suggestion to look at the Township's noise ordinance in the future

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendments:

- **Amend the first WHEREAS clause by deleting "2012" and inserting "2011"**
- **Strike section 2 from the proposed ordinance**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Preference to only repeal the Township's existing ordinance in order to comply with state law
- Staff suggestion to handle the changes and the repeal at the same time as there is not a pressing problem and publishing costs are involved
- Only repealing the current ordinance allows fireworks to be used every day of the year
- Board member request for the Township Attorney to opine if the existing ordinance is still valid except for the day before, day of, and day after the ten (10) nationally recognized holidays

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie
Motion failed 2-4.

Continued Board discussion:

- Concern with both the language and the redundancy of language contained in (b) (C) relative to alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance or a combination of both
- Concern with (e) (D) relative to reimbursement for costs of law enforcement actions, or prosecution if found responsible for a municipal violation
- Preference to have (b) (D) stricken: A minor shall not ignite or discharge Consumer Fireworks as it is too "paternalistic"
- Request for clarification by the Township Attorney regarding language in (b) (C) relative to under the influence
- Suggestion to amend (b) (D) to insert "who is not directly supervised by an adult" after "minor"

It was the consensus of the Board to receive written responses from the Township Attorney for questions posed by Board members prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Trustee Veenstra moved to table this item. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie
Motion carried 4-2.

B. Public Art Policy

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN hereby adopts the public art policy dated March 5, 2013.

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board members discussed the following:

- Policy is a good starting point and can be adapted as artist's begin utilizing the process
- Concern language on page 3 prevents an artist from donating a piece of art to the Township and then desiring to make prints
- Need for consistency in the policy regarding township funding of public art
- Public art definition refers to the art itself while the language regarding funding on page 3 refers to installation and maintenance of the art

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend the last sentence of the public art definition on page 1 of the policy to read: "Funding for public art will come from grants, donations or township funds."**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
ON THE MAIN Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
MOTION: NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Renewal of Final Preliminary Plat #05012, Georgetown

Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby approves Final Preliminary Plat #05012 for the remaining 77 lots in the Georgetown subdivision, located south of Tihart Road, west of Cornell Road, and east of Powell Road with the following condition:

1. **All applicable conditions placed on Final Preliminary Plat #05012 shall remain in effect.**

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board members discussed the following:

- Applicant should be required to build the pathways, not just grant an easement to the Township for the pathways

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem
Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

D. Renewal of Wetland Use Permit #10-06-02, Georgetown

Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, pursuant to Article 4 of Section 22 of the Township Code of Ordinances, the Township Board hereby re-approves Wetland Use Permit #10-06-02 with the following condition:

- 1. All applicable conditions placed on Wetland Use Permit #10-06-02 shall remain in effect.**

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board members discussed the following:

- Preference for the number of acres to have been included in the staff memorandum

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in support of the Planning Commission's recommendation for the urban services boundary and urged the Board to move Meridian forward. He addressed the issue of the Georgetown payback district.

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie closed Public Remarks.

A. Urban Service Boundary – Jim Wilson, Ingham County Health Department

Director Jim Wilson and Lisa McGiveron, Ingham County Bureau of Environmental Health, gave an overview of Meridian Township's sewage system, including a soils map which showed several areas of heavy soils along the Grand River Corridor in the eastern portion of the Township. Ms. McGiveron addressed two areas of greatest concern: the corners of Grand River Avenue and Van Atta Roads and the Ponderosa Subdivision. She also displayed a wetland map of the Township, which showed a significant amount of wetlands in some of the "sewer extension possibility" areas. Ms. McGiveron showed a map on the overhead projector of proximity of wells to water bodies, and noted that where a well is located, there generally is a corresponding septic system. She expressed concern as water bodies are impacted by nearby on-site systems, especially older systems which frequently were permitted with overdrains and underdrains directly to creeks.

Board members and the county representatives discussed the following:

- Over the last three (3) years, there have been 43 replacements of septic systems, 21 of which were engineered systems because the soils were not sufficient for conventional systems
- Winslow Mobile Home Park has had four (4) complete septic replacements since 1990, while the average life of a septic system in Ingham County is 30 years
- Winslow Mobile Home Park has very limited space for additional replacements
- Ingham County is called to Winslow Mobile Home Park nearly every year in the Spring due to sewage lying on the ground on the east side behind the park
- Spagnuolo's Restaurant has had three (3) septic replacements since 1996 and the County is called yearly with sewage lying on the ground or odors
- Spagnuolo's has a residential well on the property
- Gas station on the southeast corner of Grand River and Van Atta Roads has a septic system of unknown age, which was partially paved over and the drain field is in a state of disrepair due to heavy equipment being driven over it
- Gas station also has an on-site well

- Damaged drain fields allows sewage to work its way to the surface and sewage can flow towards the well head and be cycled into the pump
- Ponderosa Subdivision is comprised of approximately 70 homes and has heavy clay soils
- 30% failure rate in Ponderosa Subdivision since it was constructed in the 1960's
- 90% of the failures have required engineered systems
- Approximate cost of most engineered systems is \$12,000-\$16,000 compared to a conventional system cost of \$4,000-\$6,000
- Ingham County's Point of Sale (POS) Ordinance (effective in June, 2006) requires any home which has a well and/or septic system to have an evaluation prior to the sale of the home
- Any nonconforming item (i.e., failed septic system, compromised septic tank, well which is not up to code) must be addressed before the sale is complete
- While the Township has many areas of good soils, the amount of wetlands lends itself to higher water tables and prohibits a conventional system
- Since 2006, 19-22% of POS Program inspections detected system non-conformance
- 11% of those systems have illicit discharge where sewage is leaking onto the ground and into a stream or drain
- 30% failure rate in the Ponderosa Subdivision is only for homes that have sold; more failed systems exist whose homes are not selling
- Potential costs associated with cleanup of contaminated soils
- County condemns a site when an illicit discharge is discovered and the condemnation remains until corrected
- County provides options when condemnation occurs to allow residents to remain in their home until the system is corrected
- Concern with space requirements contained in the health code when a system has failed
- Availability of data on the number of Meridian residents who experienced septic sewer failure and requested to be connected to the public system
- County does not have data available, but has not had anyone ask for public sewer in lieu of a septic system because of costs
- Information for use as a planning tool regarding neighborhood septic failures given the wet nature of soils in Meridian Township
- Request for the county to provide a soils map for the Greenwood subdivision and other areas indicated by the Board when it extended the urban services management area boundary
- Greenwood subdivision has a significant mix of soils, and two (2) engineered systems were installed last summer
- County determination that overall, the Greenwood subdivision has poor soils
- Northwestern area of Greenwood subdivision backs up to a low wetland area
- Residents of Greenwood subdivision expressed a strong preference to keep their private septic systems and not be required to connect to public sewers
- Board member used poor soils, age of construction and size of lots as criteria when including areas within the proposed urban services management area
- Three (3) year minimum maintenance agreement as part of the permitting process
- Necessity of including the Grand River/Van Atta area in the urban services management area
- "Pockets" in every Township within the county could benefit from public sewers
- Request for the county health department to include consolidated areas which should be included as a possible future expansion
- County gave a presentation to Vevay Township and Lansing Township
- Installation of a portion of public sewer for a pocket in Lansing Township
- Most of the soils in Ingham County on undeveloped property are not favorable to a basic standard septic system
- Most of the systems throughout Ingham County are engineered raised bed systems

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the Ingham County Health Department to review the Board's urban services boundary map which included the expansion areas and disseminate it to the Board in a timely manner.

B. New Township Logo

Trustee Wilson addressed current discussions across various boards and commissions regarding the branding and marketing of Meridian Township.

Board members discussed the following:

- Good opportunity to change the logo since letterhead will be changed with a new Township Manager coming on board in the near future
- Staff is creative and preference is to give them artistic license to bring back a few designs at a future meeting
- Need for a discussion to give direction to staff as to what the Board is looking for
- Suggestion for a contest to engage civic involvement from the two high schools' art departments
- Change in the Township logo would alter the way individuals see themselves and lead to a change in attitudes and behaviors
- Logos are currently located on buildings and vehicles, so cost should be considered
- Recollection that when the issue of logo change was discussed several months ago, several citizens voiced their objection
- Request for staff to provide an inventory on the number of logos currently on Township owned items within Meridian
- Suggestion to use a "phased" approach on use of the logo, beginning with letterhead and business cards, to minimize costs
- Request for input/suggestions from various boards and commissions
- Preference to order less new stationery and allow for optimal community involvement
- Use of attributes from the community profile created for the Township Manager Search process as a starting point for crafting a new logo
- Suggestion for mission statement to be on the Township letterhead
- Possibility of modifying the mission statement if it is too long
- Preference to continue discussion when the Supervisor is in attendance

It was the consensus of the Board to continue discussion on this issue when there is a full complement of the Board.

C. Township Manager's Report on the Impact of the Meijer Tax Tribunal Stipulated Agreement on Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Finances

Manager Richards summarized the Meijer Tax Tribunal stipulation as outlined in the hand out.

Board members discussed the following:

- Request from the DDA regarding a possible restructure of the loan and/or additional funds in the future to meet its shortfall
- Explanation for the public regarding the Meijer appeal of its tax assessment
- Township has legally agreed to the stipulation, although the agreement has not yet been recorded
- Meijer will also receive refunds from all the other taxing entities
- Almost all of the Township's portion of the refund is the DDA's responsibility as the Meijer property is included in the DDA

D. Elected Officials Compensation Commission (EOCC) Findings

Trustee Scales outlined the process for moving forward with the findings of the EOCC. He suggested placing this item under action on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the next Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie opened Public Remarks.

Marsha Madle, 1373 Sebewaing, Okemos, expressed appreciation for Board discussion of branding and a new Township logo while agreeing there is no “rush” on this important process. She announced a webinar on the art of branding exists and offered the link to Board members who are interested.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed appreciation for tabling the Fireworks Ordinance and requested any communication from the Township Attorney regarding the ordinance be made available to the public in the next packet. He continued to express concern with sewer extension relative to the urban services management area and indicated there is no reason to include any additional areas in the urban services boundary.

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie announced the four (4) finalists in the Township Manager Search: James Creech, Darnell Earley, Paul Brake and Frank Walsh. She indicated the four (4) finalists will be interviewed during a special open meeting on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie noted the delinquent personal property taxes are still being collected in Meridian Township and urged businesses owners to contact her office for collection of the 2012 delinquent taxes.

Clerk Dreyfus stated the City of East Lansing has a virtual public art tour which can be located at cityofeastlansing.com/publicart and urged Board members to consider this an option for Meridian Township as the Board moves forward with its art advocacy program.

Trustee Styka and Trustee Scales explained the four (4) applicants for Township Manager were chosen in a “blind” process based on previously established selection criteria.

Trustee Veenstra added a table was presented to Board members to assist in the selection process. He indicated that after the interviews, the Board will deliberate to decide the preferred candidate who will hopefully be presented with a conditional offer of employment. Trustee Veenstra requested the memorandum from the Township Attorney regarding an explanation of the current State Fireworks Law be made public.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Pro Tem Brixie adjourned the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

JULIE BRIXIE
SUPERVISOR PRO TEM

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary