

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka (7:29 P.M.) Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy, Director of Parks and Recreation LuAnn Maisner

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. PUBLIC REMARKS

A. Comments from Business Community

Marsha Madle, owner, Madle Consulting Services, 1373 Sebewaing, Okemos, spoke to the need for the Township to provide excellent customer service. She stated the Board and staff must treat businesses and residents with professionalism and respect.

B. Manager Search Process Input (None)

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Chris Coady, 5639 Creekwood Lane, Haslett, offered several comments in support of the park millage renewal and increase.

Bobbi DuByne, 1918 Creek Landing, Haslett, spoke in support of the park millage increase, requesting Board consideration of handicap accessibility in parks.

Ann Alchin, 5975 Cypress, Haslett, indicated the Downtown Development Authority has received \$221,085 of tax dollars since its inception and will make comparisons between the Okemos DDA and the Haslett community in the future. She requested Board members read the document which set the DDA in place and noted Planning staff spends a significant amount of time on DDA matters. Ms. Alchin stated the DDA is currently facing financial difficulty, due to an assessment reduction request and the Douglas J Brownfield Development Plan. In the event the DDA requests help from the Board, she requested the Board not give the DDA any more tax dollars based on their accomplishments over the last several years,

Steve Brunner, 4067 Leeward Drive, Okemos, spoke to the need for variety in the Township park system and requested the Board support additional investment in parks to encourage families to remain in Meridian Township and others to move here.

Immy Kniss introduced Murphy Elementary School fourth and fifth grade students who reiterated support for Meridian Township parks by commenting on the following activities afforded to them through the park system:

Rodney Scriptor: dedication and opening ceremony of the Historical Village fishing dock last Spring

Joseph Ecklund: Observation of the ecosystem, habitat and watershed on a daily basis for one week at the Harris Nature Center (HNC)

Austin McCormick: – hiking in the woods at the HNC and earning cub scout badges

Emilie Snow: designed butterfly habitat at Orlando Park

Andrew Witkus: Orlando Park Planting day where 50 students, families and volunteers planted 300 plants throughout the park, some planted in flowerbeds designed by students and grown in the Murphy Elementary School greenhouse

Mitchell Ecklund: participation in the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Salmon in the Classroom Program at Ferguson Park which were raised and then released into the Red Cedar River

Katie Brown: visited residents in Marsh Pointe to view a presentation on Michigan Wildlife and then participated in a hike in Hillbrook Park. She stated there are plans this Spring for students to participate in a Garlic Mustard Pull at Hillbrook Park.

Olivia Lane: Spoke to the importance of parks as an essential resource for students and the community

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, announced Liaison for Inter Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) will meet Thursday, February 21st in Haslett Library Community Room at 6:45 P.M., noting LINC is looking for volunteers with experience in website development. He expressed appreciation to the Planning Department for making the list of approved site plan reviews available. Mr. Bowlby indicated the boring which contained contaminants on the proposed Douglas J development site was performed in 2007 and questioned if there should not be another boring drilled to ascertain applicability. He stated a training manual for cleanup criteria from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) indicates groundwater protection criteria are not applicable if the property is served by public water.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, asked that serious consideration be given to the naming of the new fire station due to its location. He believed the Douglas J Project to be laudable, but was very concerned with its designation as a brownfield redevelopment due to the tax implications. Mr. Kincaid did not believe taxpayers should bear the cost for changes in the power lines.

William Danhof, Miller Canfield Paddock Stone, One Michigan Avenue, Suite 900, Lansing, availed himself for questions on the Central Fire Station Replacement bond authorization.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to letters in the packet from Stephen Boyd and Neil Bowlby relative to the Douglas J Redevelopment Brownfield Plan. He also addressed Mr. Brazier's letter regarding the Township Manager Search Process. Mr. Provencher believed Policy Governance to be a critical element in the selection of final candidates for the search process of a new Township Manager.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

5. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Supervisor LeGoff announced the Intergovernmental Meeting has been changed from March 5th to March 19th.

Treasurer Brixie thanked residents who paid their taxes by the February 14th deadline, noting unpaid taxes will be turned over to Ingham County for collection on March 1st. She stated over 2,000 people attended the Chinese New Year Celebration event held at the Meridian Mall. She announced Assessing Review will be held February 21, 22 and 25, 2013 from 9:00 AM until noon and again at 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM for residents who have questions regarding their assessment.

Manager Richards announced the Friends of Okemos Library will be holding its semi-annual used book sale on Saturday, February 23rd from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM and Sunday, February 24th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

Trustee Scales encouraged residents to visit Asian Buffet on February 25th through the 28th as 10% of all sales on those days will be donated to the Okemos Library renovation. He announced Culver's will also donate 10% of its sales on February 24th and March 24th towards the Okemos Library renovation. Trustee Scales attended a pancake breakfast for Okemos Boy Scout Troop #64.

Trustee Veenstra attended the Tri County Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Review Committee on February 13th where the major discussion item was the pathway along Waverly Road and over the Grand River north of Moores River Drive. He noted a substantial grant for that project exists and the local match required was reduced from 40% to 20%. Trustee Veenstra spoke in support of Jim Brazier's letter contained in the packet regarding the Elected Official Compensation Commission and Stephen Boyd's letter concerning standards for contamination relative to the Brownfield Plan for Douglas J Redevelopment.

Clerk Dreyfus notified Meridian residents who live in the East Lansing School District that East Lansing Schools will hold a bond election on February 26th. He added qualified voters in the three (3) precincts affected by this election were notified via postcards to contact Marie McKenna, East Lansing City Clerk, who will supply Meridian residents with the correct polling location for this election only. Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the MARC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening on February 11th and believed it an excellent resource for individuals wishing to start a business in the Township. He noted his attendance at the Chinese New Year Celebration in the Meridian Mall as well as an education day hosted by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC).

Trustee Wilson attended the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) meeting on February 5th where a presentation was given on "Making a Case for a New Michigan", noting the presentation can be viewed at www.michiganfuture.org. She also attended the Groundwater Management Board meeting on February 13th, was elected as its 2013 Chair and viewed a presentation on the Michigan Water Stewardship Program. Trustee Wilson recommended residents visit its website at miwaterstewardship.org. She also attended the Economic Development Corporation meeting on February 14th where it was highlighted the Planning Department is working with the EDC, MABA, MARC and LEAP to formulate a checklist on new, existing and expanding businesses in Meridian Township. Also discussed at that meeting was the public art grant application sponsored by LEAP. Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the February 6th MSU Land Policy Institute Forum on Placemaking (landpolicy.msu.edu). She announced the Community Energy Opportunities Forum will be held on Feb 22nd at 1:00 PM in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

A. Communications

(1) Board Determination (BD)

BD 10C-1 Stephen Boyd, 2567 Heather Circle, East Lansing; RE: Contamination on the Douglas J Brownfield Plan for Redevelopment

BD 10C-2 J. P. Buckingham, Triterra, 1210 N. Cedar Street, Suite A, Lansing; RE: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Part 201 Cleanup Criteria

(2) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Pam Fraker, 351 Newman Road, Okemos; RE: Selling of Township owned land

BI-2 Therese Hercher, 1908 Danbury East, Okemos; RE: Comcast cable services

BI-3 Phoebe and Don Griffin, 4716 Arapaho Trail, Okemos; RE: Deer in Indian Lakes subdivision

BI-4 Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Appreciation that the Planning Commission agenda is now available online

BI-5 John M. Janssens, 3936 Raleigh Drive, Okemos; RE: Salary increase requests for the Township Treasurer and Clerk

BI-6 James Brazier, 4185 Cornell Road, Okemos; RE: Elected Officials Compensation Commission

BI-7 Dale Kohlsmith, Owner, SIGN*A*RAMA Lansing East, 2189 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos; RE: Response to MABA's request to receive feedback from Meridian businesses

(3) Commission Linkage (CL)

CL-1 Larry Wagenknecht, Chair, Lake Lansing Advisory Committee; RE: Request to pave Perry Road

CL-2 Martha Bashore, 2476 Arrowhead, Okemos; RE: Letter of resignation from the Assessing Board of Review

(4) Staff Communication (SC)

SC-1 Martha Wyatt, Associate Planner; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of January 31, 2013

(5) On File in the Clerk's Office

Material handed out at the February 5, 2013 Board Meeting

Brian G. Dale, Chair, Meridian Township Downtown Development Authority; RE: Douglas J Brownfield Plan

Clerk Dreyfus; Publication from the Citizens Research Council of Michigan titled, "Can Dedicated Millages and Tax Increment Financing Coexist in Michigan?"

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 Veenstra.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the February 5, 2013 Regular Meeting as corrected. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 768,488.00
Public Works	\$ 333,730.14
Total Checks	\$ 1,102,218.14
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 5,864.29
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 1,108,082.43</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 380,992.10</u>

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

D. Assessing Stipulation

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign a stipulation with AME Management, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 425548
 AME MANAGEMENT, LLC
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-126-003	5000 Marsh	2011	\$553,800	\$553,800
33-02-02-22-126-003	5000 Marsh	2012	\$533,500	\$533,500

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-126-003	5000 Marsh	2011	\$260,200	\$260,200
33-02-02-22-126-003	5000 Marsh	2012	\$260,200	\$260,200

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

- E. Renewal of Employee Computer Purchase Program
Treasurer Brixie moved approval of the renewal of the Employee Computer Purchase Program until December 31, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

- F. The Meadows Subdivision Public Streetlighting Improvement, Special Assessment District #324 -
Resolutions #1 & #2 (Set Public Hearing for March 19, 2013)
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve The Meadows Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District #324 - Resolution #1, ordering plans prepared showing the streetlighting improvement, location, and estimate of cost; and Resolution #2: filing the plans showing the improvement, location, and estimate of cost with the Clerk's Office, tentatively declaring the Board's intention to install and maintain forty-two (42) dark sky streetlights and defray the cost of operation and maintenance: First Year - \$10,678.77 (\$90.50/lot) and Annually Thereafter - \$6,300 (\$53/39/lot), subject to adjustment, by special assessment against the 118 benefiting lots; and setting a public hearing for March 19, 2013. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS

- A. 2013 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No. 14
Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 6:50 P.M.

Director Severy summarized the annual program to maintain sidewalks within Meridian Township.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 6:52 P.M.

10. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed continued concern with the proposed brownfield plan for the Douglas J Redevelopment project as it relates to taxpayer monies. He spoke to regulations relative to a site v. a facility.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, spoke to several costs outlined in the Douglas J Brownfield Redevelopment Plan.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, did not believe the Ingham County Brownfield Authority brings neutrality to the Brownfield Redevelopment project. He believed the proposed motion contained in the Board packet for the brownfield plan lacks specificity and stated a for-profit entity should bear the cost of doing business, not the taxpayers.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

- A. Board of Review Resignation and Appointments

Trustee Veenstra moved to accept the resignation of Martha Bashore from the Board of Review and appoint Lisa Yonkus to the Assessing Board of Review for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Ms. Yonkus' experience as a real estate agent lends familiarity with assessed valuations

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint James D. Salehi to the Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2013. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Bond Authorizing Resolution for the Central Fire Station Replacement

Trustee Veenstra moved that the Township Board approve the attached resolution authorizing issuance and sale of Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2013. The resolution provides for:

- Issuance of \$3,500,000 of bonds approved by the voters to finance a new Central Fire Station, payable in not to exceed 15 years;
- Levy of property taxes for payment of bonds to begin in 2013;
- Property taxes levied for payment of bonds to be deposited to a Debt Retirement Fund;
- Creation of Construction Fund for deposit of bond proceeds;
- Federal tax exemption and bank qualification;
- Notice of sale and preliminary official statement; bond rating;
- Delegation of sale of bonds without further approval of the Township Board;
- Final official statement and annual continued disclosure filings;
- Other matters necessary to prepare for sale and delivery of bonds

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board members discussed the following:

- March 19th will be the sale of the bonds
- Up to .2 mills will be required to service the bonds

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Proposed Brownfield Plan for Douglas J Redevelopment

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan concurs with this amendment to the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Brownfield Plan for the Douglas J Redevelopment. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board members discussed the following:

- Creation of the Brownfield Authority was to assist in overcoming challenges in the urban areas with sites which contain contamination
- Language was added to the resolution which excludes excess capture to be sent to the Brownfield Redevelopment Revolving Fund
- Plan does not take current tax dollars, but leverages future tax revenues which would only be generated if the project is approved and built
- This brownfield plan does not take money away from the DDA as the property is not currently generating money for the DDA
- Plan qualifies as a facility due to the groundwater/surface water interface protection criteria, not just the drinking water standard

- Concern with keeping proper faith with voters when a millage is approved for one purpose and then diverted to another purpose
- Continued question if the correct standard of contamination is being applied on this site
- Belief there is some degree of contamination on the site due to its previous use as a gas station decades ago, but it becomes a matter of priorities
- Board member concern with the Brownfield Act itself
- How surface water will be handled on the site
- Goal of the DDA is to spur new business growth and economic development in the downtown Okemos area
- Douglas J MUPUD meets the criteria for redevelopment for the downtown Okemos area and the purposes for which the DDA was established
- Project will serve as an anchor location, add new jobs and ancillary businesses to the area
- Project will also provide some housing options, which meets some Township objectives of increasing walkability in the area
- Project will serve as a catalyst to encourage new investment in the area (i.e., square block across the street)
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) will provide financial relief for the developer to deal with contamination and asbestos removal
- Reminder that the DDA Board recommended approval of the Brownfield tax capture mechanism
- Location is in a tax captured “zone” and any money generated would not go back into the Township’s general fund
- Brownfield is not a cleanup, but a redevelopment tool to be used by a developer

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend the NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED clause after “Brownfield Plan” by inserting “which provides up to \$328,900”. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Continued Board, staff and Ingham County staff discussion:

- Costs are just estimates at this time
- Eligible expenses may be more or less than estimated
- Ingham County staff recommendation that if the resolution is amended, the words “an estimated” be inserted prior to “\$328,900”
- Certified invoices and documentation of work must be provided by the developer prior to reimbursement
- Concern with wording which sets a “cap” on a good faith estimate

The seconder withdrew his support.

Continued Board and applicant discussion:

- Board member belief that \$328,900 is too much money to go towards the brownfield
- \$43,000 contingency fund provides enough “room” to allow costs not to exceed the \$328,900
- Threshold level which qualifies the site as contaminated
- Revised table gives the valuation at \$3.7 million
- Concern that the development is being submitted to the Board in “piece meal” fashion
- If this plan is not approved, no one will develop this site or, in the alternative, the next developer will have the same situation and will qualify for funds under the brownfield plan
- Financing is contingent upon receiving Board approval of this plan
- Developer is working closely with the Township on addressing the infrastructure (i.e., power lines) which will affect the entire central downtown area
- Next step is for the approved resolution to go to committee next week and then the Ingham County Board of Commissioners will set a public hearing (most likely on March 26th)

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

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Mark Clouse, Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel, Eyde Co. 4660 Hagadorn Road, Suite 660, East Lansing, spoke in support of renewal of Final Preliminary Plat #05012 (Georgetown) in order to continue development of this subdivision.

Todd Wilson, Chair, Meridian Township Park Commission, gave an overview on the rationale for the park millage request. He offered information on the types of improvements needed/desired which would require a 2/3 mill increase.

Teri Banas, Park Commissioner, 5606 Creekwood Lane, Haslett, stated the existing funding mechanism is antiquated and does not support the current park system. She articulated the inability for significant improvements over the last eight (8) years due to lack of funding. She outlined plans for several of the parks and urged the Township Board and Park Commission work together for the betterment of the Meridian Township park system. She noted a Township poll taken approximately eighteen (18) months ago showed a 71% support for a park millage increase.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the need for restrooms at Hillbrook Park. He expressed concern that the request is to more than double the current millage. He noted two schools in the Township have closed down and there is availability of two county parks in the Township for residents to utilize. Mr. Provencher believed there are limits to growth which should be considered regarding the park system.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, voiced concern with language contained in the proposed fireworks ordinance. He commended the Township Manager for taking the initiative to have Board and Commission packets available online beginning in March of this year.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Park Millage Renewal and Increase

Board members discussed the following:

- Support for placing this before the voters to allow them an opportunity to decide
- Board has the ability to place a different millage before the voters if it so desires
- Board request for a copy of the Park Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
- CIP is on the Township's website
- Costs for the CIP as noted over the 12 year period (2014-2025) show that approximately \$8 million is in maintenance costs and approximately \$7 million in improvements
- \$3 million shortfall would require 42% of improvements to come from grant applications
- Appreciation that the Park Commission is engaging the community in this discussion
- Previous consideration of a potential park millage was declined by the Board due to multiple millages being placed on the ballot at that time
- Appreciation for the Park Commission's long term plan and financing
- Opportunities available in the future for this request to be placed on a ballot
- Critical decision as to which ballot would be the best upon which to place the park millage request
- Park system is an economic development tool and community building tool
- Belief this request touches on every policy goal
- Students from Murphy Elementary spoke this evening about how the parks are part of their science curriculum
- Tribute to the Park Commission and staff for recruiting volunteers and obtaining donations to further the park system with very limited funds
- More money needed for both maintenance and capital improvements
- Need for more parks on the north side of the Township

- Board member support for a previous reduction in the Land Preservation millage to allow for an increase in the park millage
- Request for a list of upcoming elections over the next 18 months and what issues will be on those ballots
- Appropriateness of Board members promoting a millage outside of their official Township duties
- Park Commissioner request to continue the conversation at the next Board meeting regarding the next available election
- Interest in obtaining the election dates that are being paid for by other entities
- Specific ballot language must be voted upon by the Board
- Need for six months lead time in order to forge a proper campaign
- Need for more detail regarding what the ballot language will fund

It was the consensus of the Board to investigate dates to hold an election that would not add to the Township's election costs.

B. Replacement of Fireworks Ordinance

Manager Richards summarized the proposed ordinance as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 15, 2013.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- How the proposed ordinance would interface with the noise ordinance
- Michigan Municipal League is putting together suggested changes to the state law which may include a limitation on hours
- Request for an opinion from the Township Attorney relative to the Township's ability to limit the hours
- State law restricts the days in which fireworks can be ignited, discharged or used to the day before, the day of and the day after a holiday
- Township must repeal its current fireworks ordinance as it does not align with state law
- Opposition to language contained in subsections (C) and (D) under penalties and costs
- Cost of investigations is the way of law enforcement
- Taxpayers should not pay for the disposal of items used in illegal activity
- Township Manager to verify if penalty and cost provisions come from the state act
- Inquiry if the Township is required to incorporate the provisions of the state act into its own ordinance

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

C. Renewal of Final Preliminary Plat #05012, Georgetown

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed renewal of Final Preliminary Plat #05012 as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 14, 2013.

Board members, staff and the applicant discussed the following:

- Township ordinance requires a request for the extension of a plat to be given prior to the expiration date
- Township history of renewing or reapproving plats in the past
- State act does not require a timeframe for extension
- Eight foot wide off-road pathway has not been built as that portion of the plat has not been constructed
- If the Board approves the renewal, the associated wetland use permit will also have to be renewed

- Condition relative to wellheads is a standard condition placed in all plats approved by the Township
- Developer has no knowledge of any wellheads on the property
- Granting of an easement to the Township which runs along the Foster Drain

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

D. Proposed Public Art Policy

Director Kieselbach summarized the draft public art policy as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 13, 2013.

Board members discussed the following:

- Adoption as an ordinance, policy or administrative rule
- Quickest process is to first adopt this as a policy in order to meet the March 29, 2013 grant application deadline and then adopt as an ordinance if the Board so desires
- Most communities create a public art policy
- Commendation to the Planning Staff for the draft document

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

E. 2013 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No. 14

It was the consensus of the Board to have Resolution #3 on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

F. Posting Agendas and Packets for Boards and Commission on the Website

Township Manager summarized the posting of agendas and packets as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 15, 2013.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Staff is considering software and websites to make packet availability an easier process
- Step forward for the Township to accommodate citizens' requests

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to the Supreme Court decision on patient-to-patient sales, patient to patient transfers and dispensaries related to medical marijuana. He suggested a caregiver operation be listed as a home occupation and urged the Board to ask the Township Attorney regarding its feasibility.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra addressed the memorandum from the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee chair requesting the paving of Perry Road to reduce run-off currently being deposited into Lake Lansing. He inquired as to how the Township would process that request.

Manager Richards responded it has been the Township's past practice not to participate in that process; only maintaining the roads when gravel is converted to asphalt through a special assessment. He indicated monies in 2013 are committed for the repaving of Cornell Road from Grand River Avenue to the north end. Manager Richards noted the request will be given consideration in the future.

Treasurer Brixie indicated Perry Road crosses the county line and the subdivision which would benefit from the paving and be special assessed is not in Meridian Township.

Manager Richards added only a few hundred feet of Perry Road is in the Township and the remainder is in Clinton County. He suggested staff watch what Bath Township and Clinton County do in this regard and only paving the small portion in Meridian Township, while a help, would not correct the problem identified in the memorandum.

Trustee Wilson indicated the recent Supreme Court ruling on medical marihuana stated patient-to-patient sales were illegal, while patient-to-patient transfers were legal as long as no exchange of money takes place. She announced a fundraiser will be held at Buddies in East Lansing on Sunday, February 24th from noon until 8:00 PM to help support the summer playground program at the Snell Recreation Center. Trustee Wilson stated that at the Economic Development Corporation's March meeting, members will be discussing branding and marketing strategies for the Township, and requested the Board also have a discussion on this topic as it was one of the Board's policy goals recently adopted.

Trustee Styka noted that the Board's vote earlier in the meeting to approve the Douglas J Redevelopment Brownfield Plan does not indicate any "deal" with other infrastructure issues which may come before the Board in the future. He shared the legislature has immediately reacted to the Supreme Court ruling on medical marihuana by introducing legislation which would legalize dispensaries and, as such, this Board should still be proactive in its approach to the issue when it considers proposed ordinances from the Township Attorney.

Trustee Veenstra suggested waiting until the legislature deals with the proposed legislation before the Board takes any action on medical marihuana.

Trustee Scales agreed with Trustee Veenstra, acknowledging that while the medical marihuana legislation has a Republican sponsor from Nashville, there are also eight (8) Republican and eight (8) Democratic co-sponsors, affording it a high likelihood of passing.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:12 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary