

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, November 21, 2017, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Principal Planner Peter Mesner, Economic Development Director Chris Buck, Information Technology Director Stephen Gebes, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

Manager Walsh presents the 2017 Review and 2018 Action Plan which highlighted what the Township accomplished in 2017, and what the Township would like to accomplish in 2018.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Steve Vagnozzi, 2144 Woodfield Rd, Okemos; providing personal input as a member of the Transportation Commission. Discussed Redi-Ride, CATA communication, and reports, railroad quiet zone issues.

Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Rd, Okemos; spoke regarding Okemos "Four Corners," traffic concerns, alleviating congestion through a bypass, options needed. Mentioned streetlight upgrades in Lansing and E. Lansing.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- CATA CEO search down to two finalists. Dawn Distler, current CEO of Knoxville City Transit System, former GM for Operations for Nashville City Transit System
- Brad Funkhouser, current Deputy CEO of CATA
- December 4th at 4:00 P.M. Special CATA meeting final hiring decision will be made

Treasurer Brixie reported:

- Attended Okemos Education Foundation (OEF) Banquet November 16, 2017

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- Attended Transportation Commission meeting November 16, 2017, spoke about traffic issues

- Public hearing on the Lake Lansing Road proposed road lane reduction from Saginaw to Hagadorn
- Public Meeting on November 29, 2017 addressing the Jolly Road / Okemos Rd intersection improvements, and Jolly Rd resurfacing from Dobie to Meridian Road

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Reminder about completing form for Township Manager evaluation, he will compile them and hold a closed session during the Board Meeting December 5, 2017
- Attended a Lansing Chamber of Commerce intergovernmental meeting with East Lansing

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda with the Addition of 12D Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Gun Legislation in Michigan, Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

A. Communications

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to remove the minutes from the consent agenda and move them to 12E Action Items.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Common Cash | \$ 206,861.11 |
| Public Works | \$ 97,244.91 |
| Trust & Agency | \$ 60.00 |
| Total Checks | \$ 304,166.02 |
| | |
| Credit Card Transactions (Nov 3 to Nov 15, 2017) | \$ 7,394.86 |
| Total Purchases | <u>\$ 311,560.88</u> |
| ACH Payments | <u>\$ 451,207.54</u> |

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Ratification of New Police Officer Appointment

The Township has presented a conditional offer of employment to a qualified police officer candidate

Trustee Opsommer moved to ratify the appointment of Lerico White to the position of Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Commission Review #17093 2017 Master Plan Update

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the resolution approving the 2017 Master Plan and to request the Secretary of the Planning Commission to distribute copies of the approved Plan to adjacent municipalities, utilities, and government agencies as required by the MPEA.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member gratitude to everyone involved in the drafting of the Master Plan
- Appreciation to citizens who spoke out about concerns with the proposed Master Plan
- Citizens that decided not to speak because they agreed with the Master Plan

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus

Motion carried 6-1.

B. Auditing Services Contract

Finance Director Mattison discussed bids from auditing firms and the firm selection process. Key factors for this recommendation include:

- The reputation of the firm and its partners
- The professionalism of staff during the proposal process
- The anticipated level of communication during the transition process and audit
- Availability year-round for consultation
- Knowledge and participation in GFOA and GASB standards
- Lower costs

Trustee Deschaine moved that the Township Board approve the appointment of Yeo & Yeo as auditors for Meridian Township and authorize the Township Manager to sign a 3-5 year contract with them at a cost of \$39,000, \$42,000, \$45,500 for 2017, 2018, 2019. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board and staff discussion:

- Bid price comparisons, previous firm history, satisfaction with the previous firm
- Support from firms re. GASB 74 & 75
- Contract extensions after 3 years: costs, comparisons
- Finance Director recommendation for Yeo & Yeo as best for Township needs at lower cost
- Qualifications of proposed firm

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, and Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Sleepy Hollow SAD Resolution #3

Director Perry presents Resolution #3 for approval of the estimated costs associated with the Sleepy Hollow SAD.

- Bids opened on October 31, 2017
- The bids were higher than expected due to higher costs
- Lowest bidder reduced costs by \$5600 per parcel
- Approval of Resolution #3 sets up a public hearing for December 5th
- After the Public hearing, there will be a Resolution #4, Board final action

Trustee Opsommer Moved to approve the Sleepy Hollow Special Assessment District Resolution #3, approving the estimate of cost; declaring that the public Improvements shall be paid by special assessment; approving the filing of the special assessment roll; and setting the public hearing for December 5, 2017, at 6:00 P.M.

Board and staff discussion:

- Resident awareness of bid amounts, estimated assessment levels, reductions of costs
- Public notices regarding assessment costs, previous public hearings, citizen information
- Extra costs are the depth of the sewer system needed
- Area is aging, drainage and soil conditions, concerns about septic system failures

- Separate vs group contracts for water /sewer service, confirmation of updated parcel list for SAD

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, and Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Gun Legislation in Michigan

Board and staff discussion:

- Mass shootings recently, Michigan legislature response is relaxed gun laws, allowing concealed weapons in daycare centers, schools, stadiums, bars, places of worship
- Resolution is in opposition to the proposed relaxed gun laws

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Gun Legislation in Michigan. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Minutes-November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting

Clerk Dreyfus Moved to approve the proposed draft Board minutes for the November 9, 2017 Township Board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board members discussed structure, amending and approval of minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to amend the minutes of November 9, 2017, and add the following bullet points. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

- Appreciation for the new format this is easier to read
- Support for the document with all the hard work that has gone into the Master Plan

Board and staff discussion:

- Discussion on board policy with regards to the minutes

Trustee Opsommer Moved to strike bullet points 6-8 of the minutes under Board Discussion Items 13A. Commission Review #17093, 2017 Master Plan Update. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board and staff discussion:

- Relevancy and necessity of bullet points 6, 7, 8

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus, Trustee Sundland

Motion carried 5-2

VOICE VOTE ON THE MINUTES AS AMENDED:

YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus

Motion carried 6-1

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Railroad Quiet Zone Preliminary Study

Board and staff discussion:

- Quiet Zone eliminates horn blasts at crossings when trains traverse the Township
- Citizen-led initiative, past involvement of Township Clerk & Federal Railroad Administration
- Benefits include quality of life improvement and increased real estate values
- Process issues, should have gone to Planning Commission, citizen input concerned about safety
- Cost concerns, current crossing concerns, Z-gates for school children safety, CN vs CSX lines
- Citizen input on issue due to high costs, media, town hall meeting
- Deaths and suicide associated with RR crossings, potentially discuss with MSU & EL
- Proposal is simple and extensive studies are unnecessary

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the December 5, 2017 Board meeting.

B. Recommendation from the Transportation Committee Regarding CATA

Trustee Deschaine discussed the recommendation from the Transportation Commission for the Township Board to negotiate a formal agreement for the CATA Redi-Ride service.

Board and Staff Discussion:

- Setting aside funds for service expansion, history of services, history of expanded services, cross-border issues
- Funding of new bus in past through grant, budget considerations related to service hours
- Agreement now should consider future millage request

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the December 5, 2017 Board meeting.

C. 2018 Township Goals

Manager Walsh discussed the 2018 Departmental Blue Print and 2018 Action Plan.

Board and Staff Discussion:

- Combining Action Plan Goals, Township’s Fire Insurance Rating, solar array on municipal building, redevelopment of core commercial areas, special event planning, website issues and troubleshooting, branding and maximizing exposure, keeping Goals “high level”

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the December 5, 2017 Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Greg Cook, 5917 W Sleepy Hollow, East Lansing; support for the Sleepy Hollow SAD. Supports looking into RR Quiet Zones, though costly, to make an educated decision.

Doris Schwartz, 2209 Kent St. Okemos; addressed Master Plan issues, need for glossary due to terminology, no PICA in the central core, lack of public notices, more citizen concerns will arise as Plan becomes known. Concerns about walkability, excessive housing, and storefronts.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Brixie reported tax bills are being printed and mailed out on December 1, 2017 and residents can sign up for electronic payments for tax bills.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Opsommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8.39 P.M.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Maggie Rodgers-Sanders, Secretary