

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg,
Veenstra
ABSENT: Clerk Helmbrecht
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Fire Chief Fred
Cowper

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

Without objection, Supervisor McGillicuddy appointed Trustee Dreyfus as Clerk Pro Tem.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed concern with closing remarks by the Board as presented in the draft minutes of March 6, 2012. He requested the Land Preservation Drainage Agreement be deleted as an action item on the agenda. Mr. Provencher expressed appreciation that the draft minutes were included in the packet, but requested the packet be available online before Monday morning.

Dr. Mackenzie Davis, 4611 Arrowhead Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to road diets for Meridian Township.

Carrie Hiser, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed disappointment that a revision in the Township's code of the one-year "hookup" requirement for sanitary sewer service was not on tonight's agenda.

Charles Corbett, 6055 Beechwood Drive, Haslet, spoke in opposition to sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, posed several questions to the Board regarding possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Dan Prueter, representing Heather Stefan, 6003 Green Road, Haslett, noted the Township does not have an easement to place a sewer through the property owned by Ms. Stefan.

Christina Schlachter, 6043 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Charlottee Sulin, 6023 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Elaine Davis, 4611 Arrowhead, Okemos, spoke in opposition to spending tax dollars on a road diet study for Meridian Township.

Michael Lee, 6017 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Curtis Zaleski, attorney for Justin and Lauren English, residing at 6052 Redondo Drive, Haslett, spoke to objections filed with the Clerk's office by 31 of the 54 property owners who do not want sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision. He cited Michigan statute which requires only 20% of property owners need to file written objections for the proposal to fail, unless 51% of property owners sign a petition in support of the sewer. Mr. Zaleski also questioned whether several components of the noticing requirements were legal.

Mike Unsworth, 5948 Village Drive, Haslett, urged the Township Board to place the issue of possible Greenwood subdivision sanitary sewer service at the top of the agenda.

Betty Flood, 612 Maple Hill Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Kroger's reopening. She also attended the Michigan Municipal League's Land Use Committee meeting last week where several state house proposals were discussed as well as testifying at the Capitol concerning House Bill 4077, a bill introduced on the issue of annexation. Supervisor McGillicuddy attended the Parks and Recreation Recognition Program in the Township Hall and the Broadcasters Nate Mateo Luncheon.

Trustee Ochberg clarified a statement she made at the last Board meeting by noting the public may view Board proceedings at the HOM TV website, www.hometv.net.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at this month's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting where participants finalized the handoff of the Meridian Area Resource Center (MARC) group to the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) Committee. She also attended the Chinese Initiative Transportation sub workgroup today working to develop a welcoming program for new Chinese students entering Michigan State University. Treasurer Brixie also noted her attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Kroger's reopening.

Trustee Dreyfus synopsised the intent of House Bill 4077, a state bill which would "lock" the borders of cities and charter townships with a population over 20,000 to protect them from annexation. He indicated the Michigan Municipal League (MML) (of which the Township is a dues paying member) opposed the bill, claiming the legislation was anti-regionalism. Trustee Dreyfus noted he will bring forth a motion for Board consideration in the future to delete the Township's membership in the MML.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-1 (Ochberg).

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1) Board Determination (BD)

- BD 11B-1 Brad McNeil, 580 Maple Hill Drive, Haslett; RE: Opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood Subdivision
- BD-11B-2 Director of Public Works and Engineering Raymond Severy; RE: Notification of opportunity for public comment relative to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood Subdivision

(2) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Joel Koopman, 583 Oakdale Drive, Haslett; RE: Opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood Subdivision
- BI-2 John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Upcoming enhancements to XFINITY Signature Support
- BI-3 John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to Comcast’s channel lineup effective April 15, 2012
- BI-4 Bob Amman, 5656 Deville Court, East Lansing; RE: Review of Polling Place and congratulations on a job well done for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary

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 LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the March 6, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 533,153.92
Public Works	\$ 497,902.50
Retainage	
Check #1045 – Irish Construction (Lift Station)	\$ 36,235.00
Total Checks	\$ 1,067,291.42
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 14,996.81
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 1,082,288.23</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 522,044.66</u>

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

Treasurer Brixie moved ratification of the appointment of Sarah Pegouskie and Frank Russo to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter to satisfy a stipulation in the conditional officer of employment. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

E. 2012 Ambulance Fees Modification – Mileage Increase

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Concern with raising the per mile fee from \$11.00 to \$11.45
- Yearly meetings are held by staff and the Township's medical biller to assess efficiencies, costs and collections
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield has increased its reimbursement rate to \$11.45 per mile
- Township has spent a significant amount of money on equipping and operating the three (3) ambulances full time
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the leader in reimbursement rates and the other insurance carriers usually follow
- Township has special provisions for individuals who cannot pay the ambulance bill
- Meridian Township responds to every call irrespective of payments

Treasurer Brixie moved to increase the one-way mileage fee schedule for ambulance transport from \$11.00 to \$11.45 per mile. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee LeGoff, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, objected to the Land Preservation Drainage Agreement being an action item at this time as the public did not have sufficient time to review the text. He spoke in support of the corrective action as proposed.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

A. Zoning Amendment #12010 (Planning Commission), permit by right, gas station fuel price sign,
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. 2012-01, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article VII, by amending Section 86-687(11).”

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

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- \$500 special use permit fee was a burden on service station owners

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend Sec. 86-687. (11) b. by deleting “to automatically” and inserting “for signs which”**

Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Veenstra
ON THE NAYS: Trustee LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer
AMENDMENT: Brixie
Motion failed 2-4.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Ochberg, Supervisor
ON THE MAIN McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
MOTION: NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Land Preservation Restoration Agreement

Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the Red Cedar Glen Preserve Land Management Plan, Stream Restoration Plan Amendment, as recommended by the Land Preservation Board and Park Commission, with the inclusion of provisions giving Meridian Township the option to engineer, manage and construct the site restoration on the Land Preserve. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members, staff, Mike Thomas (Land Preservation Advisory Board’s Advisory Committee representative) and the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) discussed the following:

- Rationale on this issue was not included in the packet due to a meeting being held on Monday morning, March 19th
- Another meeting will be held this week with Township and ICDC representatives to work through the remaining items which need to be addressed regarding the easement and the agreement which will accompany the easement in order to protect the Land Preservation property
- Concern that “everything” is contingent upon a separate landowner fixing the drainage from an upstream plat before the Township can move forward with the actual “fix”
- Concern the contingency may never be met
- Concern the agreement takes jurisdiction away from the Drain Commissioner and retards ICDC initiative, which action may run contrary to state drainage laws
- Restoration plan allows the Township options in how to move forward
- Existing Red Cedar Glen Preserve management plan needed amendment to address the erosion problem
- Future actions would not be held up by the land management plan
- The Board has not had sufficient time to review the language
- Restoration agreement is needed now to address the grave erosion problem
- Impact of this agreement on the role of the ICDC in this restoration project
- ICDC must have a drainage district before a project can commence
- ICDC cannot begin the engineering until the drainage district is established

- Township has the option to perform the design, obtain engineering estimates, and, with Board approval, commence construction on this land preservation parcel
- Easement is not yet complete and will need to come before the Board at a later date
- Land Preservation and the Park Commission agreed to this language as a position strategy while acknowledging that no monies will be spent at this time
- Plan must be created to deal with the runoff from Ember Oaks
- Issue before the Board is the land preservation restoration plan
- Language for the easement has not yet been worked out and the ICDC cannot move forward until the language is approved
- Concern that taxpayers will pay for restoration of Township owned land which was “illegally” damaged by a neighbor
- Board member preference for the restoration work to be part of the drain project and have the drain assessments pay for the work
- Current drainage district is composed of four lots
- Petition process being worked on by the ICDC is to enlarge the size of the district to incorporate the other platted sections of the subdivision
- ICDC does not have jurisdiction north of the railroad tracks
- ICDC’s responsibility is to manage the drainage south of the railroad tracks
- Agreement before the Board outlines an anticipated outcome in the preservation of this parcel
- Agreement is an attempt to stop further erosion

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 5-1.

- C. Revised Ballot Language for Road Repair Millage Renewal
Treasurer Brixie moved to rescind the Road Repair Ballot Proposal resolution approved by the Township Board on March 6, 2012. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, approves the following millage ballot question language, and directs the Clerk to correct any grammatical or typographical errors and submit it to be placed on the August 7, 2012 Primary ballot:

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be levied against all property in the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan (currently scheduled to expire at the end of the 2013 calendar year), be renewed at 0.25 mills (\$0.25 on each \$1,000 of taxable value), to be disbursed to the Charter Township of Meridian to provide funding for the preservation, maintenance and resurfacing of roads within the Township for a period of ten (10) years, 2014 to 2023, inclusive? The estimate of the revenue that the Township would collect from this 0.25 mill renewal in the first year (if levied in 2014) is approximately \$390,000.

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

- D. Upgrade Emergency Outdoor Warning Siren System
Trustee Ochberg moved to authorize the Fire Department to proceed with the upgrade of the Township's outdoor warning system in the amount of \$45,327.00 to be funded from the fund balance of the General Fund. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Upgrade is a public safety measure which is the responsibility of the Township to maintain at a state-of-the-art level
- Appreciation for the specificity contained in the motion

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Steve Bezdek, 2020 Raby Road, Haslett, spoke in opposition to road diets for Meridian Township.

Bob Lovell, 6185 Graebear Trail, East Lansing, expressed support for a study to be performed on road diets in Meridian Township.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed support for a study to be performed on road diets in Meridian Township.

Andrew Klose, 6046 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Dennis Conlin, 6043 Redondo Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Gregg Grubb, 6063 Redondo Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Dennis Welch, 627 Maplehill Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Carrie Hiser, 6020 Beechwood, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Mike Unsworth, 5948 Village Drive, Haslett, expressed support for a study to be performed on road diets in Meridian Township.

Will Tyler White, 2142-1/2 Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke in support of road diets for Meridian Township, expressed concern with sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision, suggested the Citizen Survey questions be sent to the Meridian Economic Development Corporation for input as the survey is too short and in support of community art.

Robert Scott, 6051 Redondo Drive, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

John Veresh, 6054 Beechwood, Haslett, spoke in opposition to possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

A. Road Diets and Cost Sharing - Bill Conklin, Ingham County Road Commission

Mr. Conklin recommended a study if the Township wishes to pursue the issue of road diets. He added the study should look at left turn conflicts, accident experience, etc. on the more heavily traveled roads (i.e., Mt. Hope Road, Haslett Road). He added there is a good case for road diets on the lower traffic volume roads being considered (i.e., Central Park Drive and Lake Lansing Road).

Board members, staff and the ICRC representative discussed the following:

- Five sections contained in the study at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per section
- ICRC request for the Township to incur at least one-half of the cost of the study
- ICRC representative would present to the ICRC Board that they contribute one-half of the study's cost
- ICRC is currently discussing a complete streets cost participation policy
- No road diet through major intersections where maximum capacity is needed
- Recommendation for road diets between the major intersections
- Curb, gutter and ditch enclosure scheduled for Haslett Road to facilitate future development in the road right-of-way for non-motorized paths
- Three lanes are safer for cyclists
- Three lanes dictate slower traffic which benefits cyclists and pedestrians
- Narrowing roads can have unintended consequences (i.e., restrict traffic, cause backups, increase impatience (manifested through passing in the middle lane))
- Board member preference to repair current infrastructure
- Road diets dictate a "sacrifice" which needs to be made by the driver through reducing the speed of the vehicle
- There is an optimal speed on high volume roads which produces the best smooth movement of vehicular traffic
- Need for an alternative for bicyclists on Mount Hope Road through completion of the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway prior to consideration of a road diet
- Unnecessary Township expense for a road diet study
- Suggestion to restripe the lower volume roads after they are resurfaced
- Inquiry if bike lines would be striped for clear identification
- With limited resources, the ICRC does not typically mark bicycle lanes
- Feasibility of denoting a bicycle lane with signage
- Concern that when a bike lane is marked, it increases the onus of the Road Commission to clear the lane of snow in the winter
- Request for ICRC staff to apprise the Township Board of the Road Commission's decision relative to cost sharing
- Request for the Township to share the cost of the local match for Haslett Road (approximately \$290,000) with the ICRC
- A portion of the contribution could come from pathway funds
- Request for cost estimates from the ICRC for the various components of Haslett Road
- Construction of the pathway segments (at the same time as the component from Park Lake Road to Shaw Street) is not being considered by the ICRC at this time
- Federal revenue for this project has already been used

It was the consensus of the Board to place cost sharing of the local match for improvements to Haslett Road from Park Lake to Shaw Street on for action at the next Board meeting.

B. Possible Greenwood Subdivision Sanitary Sewer Service

Ray Severy, Director of Public Works and Engineering, summarized possible sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood Subdivision as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 14, 2012.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Public sewer would not be paid for through an assessment process
- Preference not to spend more staff time on this project as the majority of property owners do not want public sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision

- No public health threat as 40% of the neighborhood have upgraded septic systems
- Reminder to the public that the Township responded to a property owner who asked about the possibility of sanitary sewer service for his property in this area
- Cost of the project outweighs the benefit
- Issue ties into Board discussion regarding the urban service management plan
- Concern that taxpayers will be put in financial jeopardy with the Township “fronting” the costs for a project which many of the residents in the Greenwood subdivision do not want
- Responsibility of the Township Board to thoroughly examine this issue
- Request to pursue repeal of the ordinance language requiring mandatory sewer hookup within one year at the first Board meeting in April
- Staff has worked with the Township attorney who is drafting language which will coincide with state law

It was the consensus of the Board not to pursue sanitary sewer service to the Greenwood subdivision.

[Supervisor McGillicuddy recessed the meeting at 8:52 P.M.]

[Supervisor McGillicuddy reconvened the meeting at 9:00 P.M.]

C. Possible 2012 Citizen Survey Questions

Township Manager Richards spoke to the draft 2012 Citizen Survey questions as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 16, 2012.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Questions are limited and benchmarked from previous questions
- The professional survey firm will remove any bias and shape questions to ensure proper format
- Consensus from the last Board meeting indicated the Farmers Market and public art were the higher priority topics and off-road pathways would be included if feasible
- Many standard questions which have been asked over the last decade will precede these “optional” questions

It was the consensus of the Board to place the proposed questions on the survey, prioritized as discussed.

D. Personnel Policies

Township Manager Richards summarized union/non-union personnel policies and step increases as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 16, 2012.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Steps are considered annual adjustments to wages in recognition of the learning curve which transpires in the position
- Qualifications and experience of an employee may allow for starting wages at a step higher than the beginning step within a position
- Steps within pay grades are an accepted practice in government and the private sector based, in part, on longevity
- Board approval of cost of living would go across all pay grades
- The anniversary date relative to step increases should coincide with the date of the new position, not the date of original hire
- Request for the Township Manager to make this policy change for non-union positions and negotiate this policy change in the collective bargaining agreements as they need to be renewed
- Township has negotiated 0% wage increases for the last several years
- Township negotiated an increase in employee cost sharing for the dramatic increase in healthcare
- Incorporating this policy change into collective bargaining agreements would have a negative impact on negotiations
- Current practice is a “mistake”, illogical and unfair

- One solution would be for the Board to direct the Township Manager to change the definition of anniversary date

Trustee Dreyfus moved that the anniversary date for any person employed by Meridian Township be defined as the date an employee starts in that specific position for the purpose of determining future step increases. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Continued Board discussion:

- No one is hurt by this change as it deals only with employees who are promoted to a new position
- While agreeing in principle, the cost of negotiating the new definition would exceed the proposed savings
- Concern making the suggested change is not friendly to staff and the staff's good will has value
- Inquiry as to the number of employees who have received a promotion to a different position
- Issue surfaced as the result of two employees out of a total of approximately 15 non-union personnel receiving a promotion
- Proposed language would have a negative impact on an employee who makes a lateral move at the same pay rate in a different department
- Nearly 50% of Township employees have held more than one position within the Township
- Preference to leave the issue alone as the circumstances do not transpire very often

The maker offered the following friendly amendment to his motion:

- **Add “, except in the case of an employee making a lateral move with no promotion”**

The friendly amendment was accepted by the seconder.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Veenstra

NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer
Brixie

Motion failed 2-4.

E. Community Art

Director Kieselbach summarized the topic of community art as outlined in a previous staff memorandum dated January 12, 2012.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Meridian Township's recent membership in the Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- Arts Council of Greater Lansing has a website which provides information on networking opportunities
- Opportunities to obtain money through grants for communities which are members of the Arts Council
- Members can attend a free workshop which teaches members how to utilize the Arts Council's website which serves nearly 2,000 other members
- Both the Historical Village and the Meridian Community Band have joined the Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- Camaraderie built between the different arts organizations is beneficial to all members
- Township can develop list serves to “push” out the information
- Suggestion to create a hyperlink from the Township website to the Arts Council website
- Opportunities for member communities to obtain grants from the Arts Council acquired from monies from the National Endowment for the Arts and its own fundraising efforts
- Belonging to the Arts Council is a way to foster community art
- Suggestion to create a staff liaison to the Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- Suggestion to appoint Trustee Ochberg as board liaison to the Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- Suggestion to invite an Arts Council representative to speak to the Board on how best to move forward with community art
- Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing indicated, during a recent workshop on website utilization, that the best route is to become familiar with how to get the Township's art and art functions out to the public at large through information technology

- Suggestion to allow staff the time necessary to first gather information in order for the Board to have a broader discussion on how to move forward
- Suggestion to appropriate a modest amount of money from the general fund as part of the regular budget process for arts related activity
- Board member belief that murals are art relative to Michigan's Building Code or Meridian Township's Code of Ordinances not addressing art installations on private property
- Community art certification conference to be held at Eastern Michigan University on March 23, 2012

It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to gather information from the Lansing Arts Council and other sources.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the need for draft minutes to contain the intent of speakers' comments. He also addressed Board approval of "incomplete" minutes. Mr. Provencher expressed concern with "subterfuge" by one staff person and one elected official.

An unidentified citizen spoke to Board procedure regarding amendments to motions.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee LeGoff requested an update on an e-mail inquiry by Sam Ives to be allowed to fish after hours in the Historical Village Pond.

Manager Richards responded that Mr. Ives' request was referred to the Parks and Recreation Department for facilitation.

Trustee Veenstra expressed appreciation that the draft minutes are available in the public packet and online. He requested the timeline surrounding the Board packet be moved up one day.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:47 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary