

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus (6:04 P.M.), 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, Assistant
Manager/Human Resources Director Paul Brake

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Carla Clos, Ingham County Deputy Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, spoke in support of the Haslett Branch Library relocation to the old Meridian High School site.

James "Ned" Jackson, Chair, Environmental Commission, apologized for his absence from the Joint Boards and Commissions Meeting in January. He outlined the Environmental Commission's duties and proposed 2010 goals and activities. In response to a Board inquiry on a question relative to the Environmental Commission's position on the dog park in Legg Park, Mr. Jackson stated there has been no formal Commission position on this topic.

Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Zoning Amendment #09020, creation of a bicycle parking ordinance. He suggested there are locations in the Township where an exception to the provision that bicycle parking spaces not be located on a pedestrian sidewalk or pathway may be warranted. Mr. Potter voiced appreciation for allowing public view of the upcoming pathway projects.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, expressed concern regarding public access to draft Board minutes, employee labor contracts on the consent agenda, Township control of the soil erosion sedimentation control ordinance and policy governance. He also expressed concern with the township's edit of his communication listed on the agenda. Mr. Kincaid spoke to an alleged "break" in the Township's legal counsel's communication with the court relative to a default notice on a property violation under his name.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Trustee Ochberg announced the meeting of the Land Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room.

Manager Richards announced the next Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 here at the Township. The collection will include books, telephone books, polystyrene and polystyrene peanuts, metals, bicycles and bicycle parts, pharmaceuticals, and personal confidential papers which will be shredded. He noted No. 3 through 7 plastics are now being collected at Michigan State University's new recycling center and recycling of clear glass continues to be available at the Township's recycling center on Lake Drive.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 *APPROVED*

Manager Richards added that on March 6 and April 3, 2010, the Township will host recycling event of construction waste and building materials at its Recycling Center on Lake Drive. He noted a community gardening information and networking meeting has been scheduled for February 18, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Meridian Service Center. Manager Richards indicated more information will become available as the events near and details will be posted on the Township website.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at a meeting with the Okemos school superintendent, high school principal, the ICRC, Michigan State Police and Alaieton Township relative to the speed limit on Jolly Road near Okemos High School. She indicated dialogue continues as all parties look for resolution on this issue. She also reported her attendance at the MTA Conference last week and the Grand River Corridor Steering Committee. Supervisor McGillicuddy urged residents to vote their choice of rapid transit on line through a link from the Township's website.

Supervisor McGillicuddy announced the Community Partners in Health Walking Program. She indicated participants gather on Tuesday at noon at the Meridian Mall Food Court and on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at different parks. She announced participants will meet this week at the Central Park Pavilion.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the MTA Conference last week where she picked up census materials for Board members. She noted households in the community will receive mail from the federal government regarding the US census and requested it be filled out and returned. Treasurer Brixie stated the count determined by the census is used to determine eligibility of funds for Meridian Township. She reported her attendance at the Jolly Road speed limit meeting at Okemos High School and looked forward to resolution on this issue in the near future. Treasurer Brixie reminded residents that Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. is the tax deadline, and noted the white drop box outside the Township Hall is a convenient way to ensure taxes are paid on time. She reminded citizens that post marks are not valid for making the deadline.

Trustee Dreyfus reported his attendance at the MTA Conference, participating in a variety of sessions. He noted one of the topics of interest dealt with establishing the official record. Trustee Dreyfus stated it was recommended that the bullet point method used by the Township should be enhanced to more of "transcript type" minutes when there is a controversial issue which may end up in court.

Trustee Veenstra announced Diane Holman, Meridian Township Commissioner, was chosen to be Chair of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission at its January 27, 2010 annual meeting. He urged Grainger to reconsider curbside pickup of clear and brown glass. Trustee Veenstra suggested glass be collected at the Township's April 24th Recycling Event. He requested draft minutes be placed in the public Board packet.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Remove Agenda Item #10D: Soil Erosion Permitting Ordinance**
- **Move Agenda Item #7D to Agenda Item #10F**
- **Add Agenda Item #7I: Rescission/Reappointment of Community Resources Commission Applicant**
- **Move Agenda Item #7C to Agenda Item #10G**

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

Board members discussed the following:

- Lengthy Board history of removing ordinance related items from the agenda until there is a full complement of the Board

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

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, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Board Deliberation (BD)

- BD 10A-1 Joyce M. Bartels, 2208 Haslett Road, East Lansing; RE: Support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BD 10A-2 Judith Dow, 5895 Marsh Road, Apt. 120, Haslett; RE: Support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School

(2). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Nancy M. Kelly, Recruiting Assistant, U.S. Census Bureau, Lansing Office, 910 Southland Street, Lansing; RE: Appreciation for use of the Meridian Activity Center as a testing site for applicants
- BI-2 Vance Kincaid, II, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos; RE: Trespassing
- BI-3 Jeff Wesley, 2550 Robins Way, Okemos; RE: RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-4 Robert Rusch, 1597 Pontchartrain, Okemos; RE: RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-5 Walt Torphy, Target Information Management, 3382 Hulett Road, Okemos; RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-6 Laurie A. Taylor, 1863 Birchwood Drive, Okemos; RE: RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-7 Christine Sermak, Principal, Williamston Middle School, 3845 Vannetter Road, Williamston; RE: RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-8 Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos; RE: E-mail from Mike Nevells concerning lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-9 Ann Alchin, 2227 Hamilton Road, Okemos; RE: Health Department Inspection Report for the Traveler's Club
- BI-10 Lisa Whiting Dobson, 2703 Mt. Hope, Okemos; RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-11 Yair Shachar-Hill, 3564 Arbutus, Okemos; RE: Opposition to lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-12 Susan McGillicuddy, Township Supervisor; RE: Response to Walt Torphy regarding the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School

(3). Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 James "Ned" Jackson, Environmental Commissioner; RE: Proposed Dog Park in Legg Park

(4). Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator, RE: Press release entitled, "Comcast and Communities of Dearborn, Bloomfield Township and Meridian Township Reach Settlement"

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, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

(1) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 9, 2010 Policy Governance Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

(2) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 19, 2010 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
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, 2011. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

F. Liquor License Transfer, Cancun Restaurant

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve Leon of Kentucky-Jolly Road, Inc.'s application to transfer interest in a 2009 Class C Liquor License, located at 2398 Jolly Road, Suite 100, Okemos, MI 48864, Meridian township, Ingham County, Michigan, from Ismael Leon of his shares of stock to new stockholders, Carmelo Vera - 20 shares, Martin Vargas - 15 shares, Felipe Bernal - 15 shares and Alberto Lopez - 15 shares, and further authorize the Township Clerk to execute the resolution for local approval of this transfer. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

G. Hulett Road Public Road Improvements, Special Assessment District #42, **Resolution #5**
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve Hulett Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District #42 - Resolution No. 5, which approves the special assessment roll; designates the project as "Hulett Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District #42," the assessment roll as the "Hulett Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District #42 Special Assessment Roll," and the district as the "Hulett Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District #42"; adopts the amount of \$4,414.08 as the final amount for the assessment roll; and orders and directs the assessment roll to be paid and collected. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- H. Disposal of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicles, equipment, and furniture at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:

2003	Ford Expedition	1FMPU16L03LC3740
1991	International 4900 Dump Truck	HTSHNHR9MH338962
Ballot Tabulator	Documation, Inc., Model M6300	Serial #7410400
Large Document Scanner	Calcomp Scanplus III 800 T	Serial #A014582176
Computer Desk		

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- I. Rescission/Reappointment of Community Resources Commission Applicant
Treasurer Brixie moved to rescind the appointment of Fred Bell to the Community Resources Commission for a term ending December 31, 2011; and further, appoint Fred Bell to the Community Resources Commission to fill a vacancy for the term ending December 31, 2010. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Carol Christenson, President, Friends of the Haslett Library, 1122 Haslett Road, Haslett, spoke in support of the Haslett Branch Library move to the old Meridian High School location. She expressed appreciation to the Board and the Township Manager for their efforts on this issue.

Teri Banas, 5606 Creekwood, Haslett, spoke in support of the Haslett Branch Library move to the old Meridian High School location, but expressed concern there is a shift in public policy with financing tied to a \$100,000 fundraising effort.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. Haslett Branch Library Relocation

- (1) **Trustee Veenstra moved that TMP Associates, original architects for the building located at 1590 Franklin Street, be hired to prepare plans, specifications and bid documents for reconfiguring space in said building for use as a branch library of the Capital Area District Library at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 to be appropriated from the Fund Balance of the General Fund. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

- (2) **Trustee Ochberg moved that the Township Board hereby amends the 2010 General Fund budget to add expenditures of \$400,000 for the purpose of relocating the Haslett Branch Library of the Capital Area District Library to a Franklin Street building owned by Haslett Public Schools. Revenue of \$100,000 from outside sources will be anticipated and budgeted; the remainder of the funds to come from the unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- (3) **Trustee LeGoff moved that the Township Manager is hereby authorized to negotiate formal agreements with Haslett Public Schools to lease and use parking spaces and facilities located at 1590 Franklin Street for the purposing of relocating the Haslett Branch Library of the Capital Area District Library to the aforementioned location. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

Board members discussed the following:

- Tremendous use of the existing Haslett Library
- New location will remain in proximity to Ralya Elementary and Haslett Middle Schools
- Appreciation to Superintendent Duda and the Haslett School Board for this unique opportunity
- Appreciation for the leadership of the citizens group which will fundraise for this new location

- B. Zoning Amendment #09020 (Township Board), an amendment to Chapter 86, Article VIII, Off-street Parking and Loading, and other sections of the zoning ordinance to establish bicycle parking regulations

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article I by amending Section 86-2; Article IV, Division 2, Section 86-376 by amending Section 86-376(g)(9); Article IV, Division 3, Section 86-402 by amending Section 86-402(4); Article IV, Division 4 by amending Section 86-432(d)(6), Section 86-433(d)(7), Section 86-434(f)(8), Section 86-435(f)(7), Section 86-439(c)(6)c., Section 86-440(d)(3)d.; Article VIII, Division 2, by adding Section 86-760.”

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

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board members discussed the following:

- Appreciation for the waiver provision
- Comparison of Page 4 (d)(3) and the second sentence in Page 5 (3)

Supervisor McGillicuddy offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Delete Page 4 (d)(3)**

The amendment was accepted by the maker.

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

- C. Zoning Amendment #09080 (Township Board), a request to allow ancillary uses at golf courses by Special Use Permit

Trustee Ochberg moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 2, Section 86-368, by amending Section 86-368(b)(6), Section 86-368(c)(1), Section 86-368(c)(2), and Section 86-368(c)(3).”

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 introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Zoning amendment will help golf courses in the Township remain viable

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

- E. Benefit Charges for Okemos Road Sanitary Sewer 2005

Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the resolution establishing sanitary system benefit charges for Okemos Road Sanitary Sewer 2005 (from the Canadian National Railroad Right of Way to south boundary of Cameron Oaks Development) establishing a 2006 cost of \$92.53 per linear foot of frontage, plus 5% annual increase, with a minimum of \$6,000.00, plus 5% annual increase, and a maximum for single family residences of \$8,000.00, plus 5% annual increase. Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.

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

- F. Amendments to the AFSCME Office Clerical and Secretarial Employees Contract

Trustee Ochberg moved approval of the amendments to the collective bargaining agreement for 2009-2011 as tentatively agreed to and further ratified by the AFSCME office clerical and secretarial employees as described in the January 28, 2010 staff memorandum, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- One proposal during the budget process included not implementing step increases
- Collective bargaining dialogue not normally provided to the Board
- Importance of continued facilitation of the cooperative relationship between management and union groups
- Collective bargaining process requires negotiation of the issue of step increases
- Appreciation to the clerical union for its recognition of difficult economic times and willingness to freeze wages in 2010 and 2011
- Amendments to the collective bargaining agreement are for the remaining two years of a three-year contract

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

G. Bills

Trustee Veenstra moved to pay the bills with the exception of Bill #71 (Sue Stratton - Consultation with the Township Board - \$850.00).

The motion died for lack of a second.

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

Common Cash	\$ 130,286.97
Public Works	\$ 204,592.28
Retainages Payable	
Check #1019 – Hardrock	9,893.63
Total Checks	\$ 344,772.88
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 5,786.94
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 350,559.82</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 621,188.77</u>

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Delete Bill #71 (Sue Stratton – Consultation with the Township Board - \$850.00)**

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

Board members discussed the following:

- Previous request by a Board member not to “waste” taxpayer dollars on the promotion of Policy Governance
- Concern with paying an individual \$850.00 for “wasting” two hours of Board time through a discussion which was not useful
- Policy Governance speaker provided the Board with an excellent procedure for developing comity, mutual respect and understanding between Board members
- Concern with “insults” levied by one Board member with regard to the policy governance speaker
- Obligation to train new Board members written in Board policy
- Obligation for the Board to meet annually to ensure Board governance is consistent

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

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

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

- A. Proposed 2010 Pathway Projects

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 *APPROVED*

Director Severy summarized the proposed 2010-2011 pathway projects as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 29, 2010.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- One of the Board goals is to fill in pathway gaps on major roads
- Large pathway gap on the north side of Grand River across from L & L frontage to Cornell Road
- Gaps on the south side of Grand River from Eastpointe subdivision to Van Atta Road
- While residents traveling to Meridian Mall on the north side of Grand River Avenue must cross the road twice, both crossings are at traffic lights
- Rationale that development will likely occur where the gaps are located on Grand River and it is the Township's policy for the developer to construct the pedestrian/bicycle pathway
- Suggestion for bicycle lane along Grand River Avenue where gaps exist to ensure public safety
- Suggestion for adoption of a policy where the Township would pay for installation of the pathway and when the property is developed, the developer would reimburse the Township
- Request for additional information to determine if the Township Board has the legal authority to adopt the aforementioned suggested policy
- Request by staff for attorney review of Public Act 188 (used by the Township to order sidewalks)
- Belief by staff Public Act 188 could be used to order pathways and then assess the work using the same process as Order to Construct Sidewalks
- Off-road pathway from cul-de-sac north of Farrins Parkway to the Consumers Energy Right-of-Way will be constructed by the Township - piece from the cul-de-sac to Jolly Oak Road will be constructed by the property owner as part of his development
- View that the above connection is a key component which will allow residents in the subdivisions north of the Consumers Energy right-of-way access to many businesses in the Okemos/Jolly Road area without having to use the street
- Concern expressed at the Zoning Board of Appeals that a variance request to place the off-road pathway from Farrins Parkway to the Consumers Energy Right-of-Way on the top of the berm next to the pond built by Mr. Forsberg would affect the stability of the berm and allow water from the west to flow to the east and impact homes on Comanche Trail
- Staff response that the berm is 60 to 70 feet from the edge of the woods to the water and is very stable
- Better publicity of the existence of off-road pathways
- Suggestion to explore possible grant opportunities from Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) to help promote the Township's pedestrian/bicycle pathway system
- Off-road pathway along power line between Okemos and Hulett

B. DDA Ordinance, Proposed Revision

Supervisor McGillicuddy summarized the proposed revision to the Downtown Development Authority ordinance as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 28, 2010.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Attorney recommendation to amend ordinance to allow flexibility of between 8 and 12 members appointed at the discretion of the supervisor
- Language should mirror state statute for clarity on the number of DDA Board members

The consensus of the Board was to prepare language which mirrors the state statute and place this item on for action at the February 16, 2010 Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, expressed concern there would be duplication of services relative to the Soil Erosion Permitting Ordinance since the Ingham County Drain Commissioner will continue to provide permitting services. She stated her appreciation for the Board's advocacy on speed limit reductions on Jolly Road in front of Okemos High School.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 *APPROVED*

Carla Clos, Deputy Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, gave a brief overview of the soil erosion permitting process for public benefit. She offered the Drain Commissioner's office as a transitional resource should the Board approve the Township becoming the municipal enforcing agent for soil erosion sedimentation control.

Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos, expressed appreciation that the second phase of the inter-urban pathway is scheduled for 2010. He inquired how the inter-urban pathway would connect up to Marsh Road.

Mr. Severy clarified that the east end of the existing inter-urban pathway would be reconfigured along Marsh Road and phase two would connect to the existing pathway on the west side of Marsh Road. He added there was not sufficient room for the pathway to be constructed underneath the underpass. Mr. Severy stated the pathway would come up along the embankment next to the railroad tracks.

Mr. Potter offered his services to promote the pathway through a possible ribbon cutting ceremony when both phases of the inter-urban pathway are completed.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra expressed appreciation for Ms. Clos' remarks. He referred to a letter in the Board packet from Bob Schroeder regarding the soil erosion sedimentation control process remaining with the Drain Commissioner's office. Trustee Veenstra reiterated his position from the last Board meeting that a 45 mile-per-hour speed limit on Jolly Road near Okemos High School is reasonable and desirable. He voiced his opposition to the Supervisor's suggestion of reducing Jolly Road to three (3) lanes to calm traffic.

Trustee Ochberg reminded Trustee Dreyfus and Veenstra to bring the Land Preservation Ordinance to the February 4th Land Preservation Ad Hoc Committee.

Treasurer Brixie announced her interest in removing Zoning Amendment #09040 (special use permit extensions) from the table at a future meeting for the purpose of discussion. She inquired if there was Board interest in revisiting the Board's list of priorities.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:33 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary