

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD TOWN HALL MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2005, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/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.

A. New Fire Captain and Fire Fighters

Fire Chief Fred Cowper presented Captain Lori Schafer and new fire fighters Justin Adair and Timothy J. Booms. Firefighter Jeffrey Rommeck displayed a plaque recognizing Meridian Township as the #1 Fire Department in the State of Michigan for contributions in 2004 to Muscular Dystrophy.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. Revised Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hunting adjusted two items from last Board meeting's Treasurer's report by noting there was an increase in the current rate for one money market investment and a typographical error in the principal amount of a tax obligation note.

Supervisor McGillicuddy announced she sent a letter to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) requesting a review of the light location at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Northwind to see if a study and possible relocation to Brookfield are warranted.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

**Trustee Such moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 David Pierson, McClelland & Anderson, 1305 S. Washington Avenue, Suite 102,

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Lansing; RE: Capstone amendment to its planned unit development application to include an owner occupancy restriction (PUD #05034)

- BI-2 Gaylord Chick, 551 Piper Road, Haslett; RE: Piper Road Paving Reassessment
- BI-3 Jeanne Anderson, 2692 Greencliff Drive, East Lansing; RE: Traffic on Grand River relative to the Capstone Development
- BI-4 Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos; RE: Condition of Meridian Township's pathways

(2) Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 Ingham County Road Commission, 301 Bush Street, Mason; RE: Okemos Road Construction Notice

(3). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

- SC-1 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated July 19, 2005
- SC-2 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated July 25, 2005
- SC-3 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report July 15, 2005 Edition
- SC-4 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report July 22, 2005 Edition

(4). On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Materials received at the July 19, 2005 Board Meeting

Dave Murley, 1462 Forest Hills, Okemos; RE: Support for Rezoning #05010 (Capstone Development)

Denise Sancrainte, 2677 Blue Haven Court, East Lansing; RE: Support for Rezoning #05010 (Capstone Development)

Marcelo & Susana Siles, 2680 Cahill Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #05010 (Capstone Development)

Louis M. Shelburg, 2825 Roseland, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #05010 (Capstone Development)

**Trustee 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 Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

B. Minutes

**Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the July 19, 2005 Regular Meeting as **submitted**. Seconded by Trustee Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

C. Bills

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



**Trustee Brixie moved [and read into the record], NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby grants the extension of Preliminary Plat #03012, Sierra Ridge Estates, for a period of two years, from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2007, with the following condition:**

- 1. All previous conditions placed on the preliminary plat shall remain in effect.**

**Seconded by Trustee Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

- F. Final Plat #03012 (Fedewa), final plat for Phase 1 of Sierra Ridge  
**Trustee Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN approves the Final Plat of Sierra Ridge Estates, Phase I. Seconded by Trustee Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

- G. Central Park Estates Streetlighting District, Resolution #1, Set Public Hearing Date (September 6)  
**Trustee Brixie moved to approve Central Park Estates Streetlighting District - Resolution #1, tentatively declaring its intention to install and maintain forty-one (41) streetlights and defray the cost of installation, operation and maintenance by special assessment against the 81 benefiting parcels and setting a public hearing for September 6, 2005. Seconded by Trustee Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

- H. Fieldstone Village Streetlighting District, Resolution #1, Set Public Hearing Date (September 6)  
**Trustee Brixie moved to approve Fieldstone Village Streetlighting District - Resolution #1, tentatively declaring its intention to install and maintain seven (7) streetlights and defray the cost of installation, operation and maintenance by special assessment against the 56 benefiting units and setting a public hearing for September 6, 2005. Seconded by Trustee Such.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 6-1.

7. TOWN HALL MEETING

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the Town Hall Meeting.

Jean Nicholas, 6232 Brookline Court, East Lansing, discussed the following items:

- Concern over water supply
- Hydrology of wetlands for plats with proposed mitigation
- Suggestion that Boards consider fragile land and its wetlands when applications for developments come before them
- Groundwater recharge

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- Confusion between the words “want” and “need”

Dianne Holman, Ingham County Commissioner, 4681 Van Atta Road, Okemos, discussed the following items:

- Need for the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) to work with the Township on the Okemos Road construction project and Hamilton Road
- ICRC interest in addressing community needs regarding the construction on Okemos Road
- Proposed Okemos DDA
- Charette on the Okemos Road Widening/Median Project

Joan Guy, 1083 Woodside Drive, Haslett, discussed the following items:

- Board attention to detail for the protection of land and its surrounding residents when land use proposals are considered
- Effective Board oversight of the Township’s financial health and careful planning for future use of financial resources
- Respect and interest in public comment at meetings
- Concern over the number of zoning increases over the past five (5) years
- Need for consistency with the aggregate impact of planning action on roads, traffic and road safety
- Creeping encroachment of new residential developments on the environment through a piecemeal approach
- Revisit the wetland protection ordinance and the conservancy ordinance to update, revise or develop a coordinated method when considering development requests
- Procedures for automatic wetland analysis on surrounding areas when a proposal comes before the Board
- Potential requirement that an applicant demonstrate contact with neighbors when a zoning or development request would change the character of the surrounding neighborhood
- Rezoning request relative to rezoning criteria only
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of using the Community News for publication of the Township’s legal ads
- Improvement of the timeliness of listing Township meetings on the Township’s website
- Add list of Site Plan review meetings to the Township’s website
- Post brief summary of Board meeting action to the website
- Possible creation of a Supervisor’s Corner on the Township website to respond to questions raised by the public during Board meetings

Cheryl Fritze, President, Riverwood Park Neighborhood Association, 2207 White Owl Way, Okemos, discussed the following items:

- Concern over maintenance of the boulevards being created on Okemos Road
- Concern over the 2,000 feet of the fifth lane as a “turn lane” on Okemos Road which would be torn out to build the median

Teri Banas, 5606 Creekwood Lane, Haslett, discussed the following items:

- Proposed development of the Okemos DDA
- Personal identity relative to geography
- Concentrated effort to create neighborhood accoutrements
- Deficit of park land on the north side of the Township

Ann L. Alchin, 2227 Hamilton Road, Okemos, discussed the following items:

- Follow up by staff when questions are posed by the public during Board meetings
- Contact with adjoining neighborhoods when developments are proposed
- Rationale for opposition to the DDA by members of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- Opposition to the Okemos DDA

Shrikumar Poddar, 2601 Chief Okemos Lane, Okemos, discussed the following items:

- Previous Board resolution regarding the USA Patriot Act

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, discussed the following items:

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- Alleged Board violation of the law
- Status of the cell tower lawsuit
- Additional attorney fees beyond the firm's retainer
- Belief that the Township is spending more money than it is taking in
- Township traffic congestion and a comprehensive traffic study
- Allegation that the Board passes upzonings to receive more tax revenue
- Board's vision for Meridian Township

R<sub>x</sub> Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, discussed the following items:

- Need for the Township to respond to questions raised by the public during Board meetings
- Alleged "threats" to two of the Board members

Lynne Page, President, Briarwood Home Owners Association, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, discussed the following items:

- Briarwood subdivision residents look to the Board to preserve and protect its single-family owner occupied neighborhood
- Concern over the number of upzonings, rezonings and special use permits over the past year
- Approval of intensive uses of police and fire services and the Township's resources
- Board approval of special use permits using subjective review criteria
- Burden of proof is on the applicant to prove the development is harmonious and would not devalue the surrounding properties when considering a special use permit
- Township cooperation with other governmental entities on a comprehensive plan for the entire length of Okemos Road
- Aggregate impact of rezonings and special use permits in relation to infrastructure and environmental impacts
- Creation of a form for the public to submit questions which could be publicly answered on the Township's website
- Publication of packets on the Township's website

Will White, 4695 Okemos Road, Okemos, discussed the following items:

- Small turnout by citizens for the Town Hall Meeting
- Okemos Road project as a multi-jurisdictional problem
- DDA will advance the cultural economic development of the entire area

David Bath, 6975 Foster Road, Haslett, discussed the following items:

- Number of cars which would generate traffic with the Capstone Development versus the number of cars with the current development
- Beneficial to know the number of accidents on Grand River at the Mobile Home Manor site
- Vacant lot this fall when all current residents have left if the Capstone proposal fails
- Developer has listened to the residents concerns and has significantly modified the plan

8. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Woiwode addressed the concern regarding the legality of a "no" vote on the consent agenda.

Manager Richards read a reference from *Robert's Rules* that unanimous consent is not required for the consent agenda.

Trustee Brixie expressed thanks to the residents for taking time out of their schedule to voice their concerns on Township issues.

Treasurer Hunting thanked Commissioner Holman and the residents for attending the Town Hall meeting to express their suggestions and concerns. He encouraged the Board to adopt some type of response procedure to citizen questions voiced at the Board meetings.

Trustee Veenstra noted there needed to be a greater effort to keep the citizens informed through the Township's website. He added since it is a multi-jurisdictional issue, a charette on the Okemos Road Widening Project with all involved parties would be beneficial to the residents.

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Trustee Woiwode expressed appreciation for the number of residents who took the time to voice their opinions. While appreciative of the citizens concern that the bigger picture be viewed when new developments are proposed, the time to address those concerns was when the newly adopted 2005 Master Plan was being discussed. She appreciated the numerous comments about taking a “bird’s eye” view of new developments when they are proposed.

Manager Richards encouraged residents to view the Township Board policy which spells out the Township’s goals and vision. He reminded the citizenry that it is necessary for the Board to follow all the laws of the state. Manager Richards pointed out that the nature of the way DDA’s are created by state law, a plan cannot precede the establishment of the DDA. It is the DDA that creates and then approves the plan.

Manager Richards added that there is time to revisit the Okemos Road median project proposed for next year, but the actual road project itself is underway and is scheduled to be completed by mid-October.

Supervisor McGillicuddy stated the ICRC is formed under PA 51 and retains jurisdiction over Okemos Road. In response to an earlier public comment, she noted that when the expansion of Okemos Road was planned several years ago, the Board had asked for the median to be the width of the middle turn lane only where the turn lane was not needed. She indicated the Road Commission determined this location was the only place which could be justified and wanted it wider than the current twelve (12) feet.

Supervisor McGillicuddy also responded to a question regarding parcels and development on marginal lands. She stated a few years ago she proposed the Township look into conservation zoning. At that time, the Board wanted to wait until the Master Plan was finished. If it is the Board’s desire, conservation zoning can again be discussed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:33 P.M.

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SUSAN McGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary