

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Director of
Finance Diana Hasse

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 and closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy thanked Trustee Ochberg for her generous donation to the Township's Community Garden project. She added the Downtown Development Authority held a "Turn on the Lights" lighting ceremony on Thursday, January 13, 2011 to commemorate the integration of LED streetlights into the downtown Okemos community.

Supervisor McGillicuddy announced the Urban Service Boundary Committee met last week and she will be bringing a resolution of support to the Township Board in February. She noted the Regional Supervisors held a meeting last week and discussed common issues and frustrations.

Trustee Dreyfus attended the Cable Communications Commission (CCC) meeting last week where discussion took place on a \$250,000 loan which will be requested by HOM TV to design a new digital system. He stated HOM TV, after receiving approval of the CCC to move forward, will be making a presentation to the Board for borrowing the money at a future meeting.

Treasurer Brixie announced the Okemos Public Schools is hosting a second of three community forums tonight to address its current and future fiscal challenges, to be held in the Meridian Senior Center at 7:00 P.M.

Trustee Ochberg announced that she, as well as Trustee LeGoff, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Township Manager Richards and Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy, attended the "Turn on the Lights" ceremony in downtown Okemos. She also relayed a story which transpired approximately 40 years ago in Washington, D.C. regarding the lack of evidence on the negative effects of marihuana and how it came to be included as a Schedule 1 controlled substance.

Trustee Veenstra asked the Township Manager to request a report from the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) on its rationale for payment of "excessive" overtime and steps it will take to correct the situation.

Trustee Ochberg moved to request the Township Manager obtain said written report from CATA. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra also requested the Township Manager request CATA look into improvements (including hours of operation) for Meridian's Redi-Ride system.

Trustee Ochberg noted she and Treasurer Brixie attended an extended Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting last week where its vision and mission statements were extensively reworded to reflect the current situation in Meridian Township.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Brian Hoort, 697 Whitehills Drive, East Lansing; Support for the Okemos Road Boardwalk

(2). Staff Communications (SC)

SC-1 Cable Coordinator Deborah Guthrie; RE: Transmittal of letter from John P. Gardner, Senior Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Michigan Region announcing digital enhancement to Comcast's cable network

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 January 13, 2011

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 Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

(1) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 14, 2010 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

(2) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 4, 2011 Regular Meeting as submitted/amended. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 485,588.68
Public Works	\$ 366,207.82
Total Checks	\$ 821,796.50
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,608.13
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 828,404.63</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 314,752.29</u>

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Assessing Stipulations

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Lansing Mobile Homes Limited Partnership for the following property:

<u>PARCEL NUMBER</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
33-02-02-24-377-014 (2009)	734 Grand River, Okemos
33-02-02-24-377-015 (2010, split)	734 Grand River, Okemos
 Original Values:	 2009 <u>AV/TV</u> \$354,900/\$326,250
	2010 \$337,800/\$325,179
 Proposed Revised Values:	 2009 <u>AV/TV</u> \$289,700/\$289,700
	2010 \$279,600/\$279,600

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Anthony and Kellie Wells on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2009	0373988	691 Emily, Haslett, MI 48840
2010		

<u>Assessment</u>	2009	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$177,400/177,400
	2010		\$172,400/172,400

<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2009	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$163,800/163,800
	2010		\$158,800/158,800

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- E. 2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalks, **Resolution #1 and #2**
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve 2011 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #12-Resolutions #1 and #2, which tentatively approves the improvements, and cost estimates of proposed improvements, and sets the date for a public hearing on February 15, 2011. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Resolution Honoring Jon Coleman, Retiring Executive Director, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, by means of this resolution, extends to Jon Coleman grateful thanks for his effort on behalf of all residents of the Township and the Tri-County region during his period of dedicated service to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS

- A. 2010 Order to Maintain Sidewalks Special Assessment District #11
 Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the public hearing at 6:21 P.M
 Director Severy summarized the 2010 Order to Maintain Sidewalks SAD #11 as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 14, 2011.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed the public hearing at 6:24 P.M.

- B. Georgetown Amended Streetlighting Special Assessment District #317
 Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the public hearing at 6:24 P.M
 Director Severy summarized the Georgetown Amended Streetlighting SAD #317 as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 14, 2011.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed the public hearing at 6:26 P.M.

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

A. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance Amendments

Director Kieselbach summarized the MUPUD ordinance draft as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 14, 2010.

Trustee Dreyfus moved to initiate an amendment to Section 86-440 Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and refer it to the Planning Commission for the requisite public hearing and recommendation. Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Board members discussed the following:

- Document has been modified to incorporate concerns which will now make it easier for developers to use
- Language regarding amenities is clearer because it has been logically categorized
- Phasing component has been satisfactorily addressed
- Reasonable compromise on railroad setbacks to balance safety and still allow development of older sections in Haslett

Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment:

- **Insert “and refer it to the EDC for input” after “recommendation”**

The maker did not accept the amendment.

Treasurer Brixie moved to add the following language to the motion:

- **Insert “and refer it to the EDC for input” after “recommendation”**

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht

NAYS: Trustee Dreyfus, Supervisor McGillicuddy
Motion carried 5-2.

Board members discussed the following:

- Suggestion to transmit EDC comments to the Planning Commission for its consideration and possible incorporation into Board recommendation
- Continued desire for strengthening railroad setbacks in the residential component
- Concern with financial burden on applicants which requires the underlying zoning in each phase
- Request to obtain a Planning Commission recommendation on making the expiration dates contained in the MUPUD and the C-PUD ordinances the same

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Beginning of Year Budget Amendments

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the 2011 amended budget as reflected on Page 3 of the memorandum to the Township Board from the Finance Director, dated January 14, 2011. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Township is in a sound financial position
- Fund balance is well within the established guidelines

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Policy Manual Amendments

Trustee Ochberg moved approval of the amendments to the Board Policy Manual discussed and developed at the board meeting held on January 11, 2011. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

The maker offered the following amendment:

- **Change the word “natural” to “primitive” in 1.1.2 g and 1.2.5 e**

The amendment was accepted by the seconder.

Treasurer Brixie moved to separate the question.

By unanimous consent, the question was separated.

Board members discussed the following:

- Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) should debate the merits of the meaning of natural v. primitive paths
- Foot trails should be used by the public on Land Preservation property in their most pristine and undeveloped state
- LPAB reviewed language last week and was not dissatisfied with the natural footpaths language and would appreciate the word “primitive” as it solidifies the concept
- Design a location where it is logical to have a footpath and mark the path to provide “guidance” where residents should walk
- “Primitive” to mean an unimproved pathway

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht
NAYS: Treasurer Brixie
Motion carried 6-1.

Continued Board discussion:

- Importance of indicating a Board concern regarding adding benches on park trails accessible for the mobility impaired
- This issue was not discussed during the January 11th Policy Governance Review

Trustee Ochberg moved to add Policy 1.2.5 f as follows:

- **Added benches on park trails accessible for wheelchairs**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Treasurer Brixie offered the following friendly amendment to Policy 1.2.5 f:

- **Delete proposed language for Policy 1.2.5 f and insert “Promoting ADA compliant facilities.”**

The maker accepted the amendment.

Continued Board discussion:

- Preference to keep language adding benches along park trails
- The Township’s population is aging and encouragement needs to be given to exercise and enjoyment through walking park trails with benches along the way to rest
- Concern ADA compliant may be interpreted to mean all primitive earth or wood-chipped trails in our parks to be paved so they are accessible to all types of wheelchairs

- Parks Department has a wheelchair with “big” tires which may be used on a earthen or wood-chipped trail

Clerk Helmbrecht offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Insert “additional” before “ADA compliant facilities”**

The maker accepted the amendment.

Continued Board discussion:

- Definition of facilities
- Nexus between facilities and park benches
- These amendments are outside the scope of the Board’s January 11th Policy Governance Review Meeting

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Ochberg, Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: Trustee Dreyfus, LeGoff, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 Motion carried 4-3.

Trustee Veenstra moved the following amendment:

- **Add Policy 1.2.5. g to read: “Added benches along park trails”**

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
 Motion carried 5-2.

Treasurer Brixie offered the following friendly amendment to Policy 1.2.4 h:

- **Amend Policy 1.2.4 h to add an “s” at the end of “street”**

The maker accepted the amendment.

The seconder offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend the order of subpoints in Policy 1.2.4 as follows:**
 - **a remains as is**
 - **h becomes b**
 - **e becomes c**
 - **b becomes d**
 - **g becomes e**
 - **c becomes f**
 - **f becomes g**
 - **d becomes h**
 - **i remains as is**

The maker did not accept the amendment.

The maker reordered the subpoints in Policy 1.2.4 as follows:

- **a remains as is**
- **c becomes b**
- **d becomes c**
- **f becomes d**
- **h becomes e**
- **b becomes f**
- **e becomes g**
- **g becomes h**
- **i remains as is**

The seconder accepted the amendment.

Continued Board discussion:

- Request for urban service boundary to be amended to regional urban service boundary was denied
- Concern with Policy 1.2.6. b as there are only (6) streetlights on Grand River between Marsh Road and the East Lansing border

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 ON THE MAIN McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie
 MOTION: NAYS: Clerk Helmbrecht
 Motion carried 6-1.

- D. Amendment to the 2011 Board Meeting Schedule
Trustee Ochberg moved to amend the 2011 Township Board Meeting Schedule to add February 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. for the Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

- A. 2010 Order to Maintain Sidewalks Special Assessment District #11

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the February 1, 2011 Board meeting.

- B. Georgetown Amended Streetlighting Special Assessment District #317

Board members discussed the following:

- Encouragement by the Township for Consumers to move toward LED streetlights
- One Consumers representative felt there was not a significant advantage to LED streetlights and questioned the numbers regarding efficiency
- Nothing currently on the market for which the Township could “plug” into its existing streetlight system; entire head would need to be replaced
- Head replacement is relatively expensive
- Staff indication that more analysis by both the Township and Consumers needs to take place
- Staff contact with individual(s) regarding the process of encouraging Consumers Energy to do more with LED streetlights
- Grant requirement that LED streetlights be made in the United States and few LED streetlights are currently produced in the U.S.
- Less expensive to produce the same amount of lumens on the street as LED streetlights use lower wattage
- Request for staff to make a report to the Board on LED streetlights in the future as more information becomes available

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the February 1, 2011 Board meeting.

- C. Rezoning # 10070 (Wiggins), Request to rezone 4133 Okemos Road from RA (Single Family-Residential) to PO (Professional Office)

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 13, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- Previous discussion of a service drive for Okemos Road spoke to a connection of the parking lot to the south with adjacent and nearby professional office zoned properties
- Service drives are not handled by staff during the rezoning process
- A service drive could be constructed if the site is redeveloped and would be handled during site plan review
- Board cannot place a condition in the rezoning approval for a connection of the parking lot to the south with adjacent and nearby professional offices as it was not offered by the applicant
- RA zoning is obsolete as the property is on a principal arterial
- Use as a medical office would generate approximately half the amount of traffic of the former day care facility
- Property is surrounded on all sides by professional office zoning
- Rezoning recommended by the Planning Commission for approval
- Future Land Use Map designates this property as professional office
- Point of the Future Land Use Map is timing
- Market and economic conditions indicate this is not the time for additional office zoning in the Township
- Township is currently experiencing a significant PO vacancy rate
- As stated by the applicant, there is not a great current demand for office zoning in Meridian Township at this time
- No compelling community need
- Superintendent of the Okemos Public Schools, along with parents and others in the school community, are opposed to this rezoning request as they believe this rezoning would have a negative impact on education in the Okemos
- Okemos Schools and parents are opposed because they believe the physician making the rezoning request will be approving certification applications for medical marijuana users
- Board member belief the above referenced fears are unjustified
- Buildings north and south of this property house doctors who are already granting certification applications for medical marijuana users
- Doctor making this rezoning request advertises for this particular function as well as serving the gay, lesbian, transgender and Muslim community
- Board member belief that the fears expressed by the school community is counterbalanced by the service given to a diverse community in Meridian Township

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the February 1, 2011 Board meeting.

- D. Zoning Amendment #10080 (Planning Commission), request to add Section 86-444 Commercial Planned Unit Development (C-PUD) to the Code of Ordinances
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 13, 2011.

Planning Commissioner Adrienne Goldsberry offered an overview of the Planning Commission process to create a draft commercial planned unit development ordinance. She added that some flexibility offered in this proposed ordinance is to move these types of discussions away from the Zoning Board of Appeals and towards the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission Chair Deits noted the Planning Commission tried to streamline the process to encourage redevelopment while making the C-PUD attractive to developers.

Board members and Planning Commissioners discussed the following:

- Much of the language mirrors the language contained in the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD)
- Concern the Board may be giving up its right to review with inclusion of all uses by special use permit in the underlying district under Section 86-444(c) (1)

- Section 86-444 (c) (1) (a) is too wordy
- Section 86-444 (c) (1) (a): In the second sentence, insert the word “new” after “Any”
- Section 86-444 (c) (1) (b) is redundant of Section 86-444(c) (1) (a)
- Section 86-444 (a) (2): Suggestion to insert the word “core” before “commercial”
- Planning Commission intent not to restrict the C-PUD to the commercial core
- Planning Commission intent that all C-1, C-2, and C-3 areas in the Township have access to the C-PUD
- Wisdom of having parallel construction to avoid current discrepancies between the MUPUD and C-PUD ordinance proposals (i.e., Section 86-440 (a) (2) e and Section 86-440 (f) (1) e)
- Residential components in a MUPUD are not covered by the railroad setback requirements for “ordinary” residential
- Issue of railroad setbacks should be dealt with at the C-1, C-2 and C-3 underlying zoning levels rather than in the C-PUD ordinance
- Expiration dates requests should be the same for both the MUPUD and C-PUD ordinance
- Suggestion for parallel construction on extension requests
- Appreciation that the sketch plan sessions transpire early in the process
- Assurance that undeveloped vacant C-1, C-2 and C-3 properties qualify
- Use of amenities provide a superior end product than other developments which could be built by right
- Much of the undeveloped land in commercial districts may be undeveloped because no one can “figure out” how to develop it
- Concern that the waiver language in (e) (4) regarding increase in impervious surface coverage would not be appropriate in all locations within the Township
- Belief that the waiver language in (e) (4), (5) and (7) is in direct contradiction to the C-PUD objectives listed in (a) (4) and (5) as well as (d) (2) and (5)
- Concern the language provides carte blanche for any type of development
- In both the C-PUD and the MUPUD, considerable discretion is given to the Board
- Currently, considerable discretion is being given to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) as it decides the variances which allow development in the Township
- Belief a self-imposed violation of Township ordinances is not to be waived by the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Move from numerical standards which require ZBA approval to a purpose and policy driven standard
- Waivers which may be granted in exchange for amenities would require at least an equal “quid pro quo”
- Reminder of the necessity to be driven by the purposes and intents first and then balance the amenities v. any costs
- C-PUD places more judgment at the Planning Commission and Board level
- Acknowledgment that there is an inherent risk in placing more judgment at the Planning Commission and Board level, but the alternative is that it continues to be handled by the ZBA
- Concern complex projects cannot meet the 60 day Planning Commission recommendation deadline and the 30 day Board decision deadline
- Deadlines were the Planning Commission’s efforts to streamline the process
- Concern with the ability to enforce completion of construction within 36 months
- Many of the Township’s ordinances regarding completion of construction are similarly written
- Concern language in (g) (1) prohibits the use of concrete blocks and steel in construction
- Concern with language in (g) (3) which requires building materials to be the same on all sides
- Concern with requiring two sketch plans depicting alternate layouts if the applicant chooses the pre-application sketch plan review option
- Public act requires that the body which makes the final decision is the body which holds the public hearing
- Difficulty in ZBA members denying a variance request when both the Planning Commission and the Township Board have approved a project (e.g., Summit Bank and Walgreen’s project on the corner of Okemos Road and Grand River Avenue)
- Belief the C-PUD would “push back” the decision onto the Planning Commission and the Board

It was the consensus of the Board to continue discussion on this issue at the February 1, 2011 meeting.

- E. Amendment to the Wetland Protection Ordinance for compliance with state law
Director Kieselbach summarized proposed updates as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 14, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Township's wetland protection ordinance must be in compliance with the state act
- Language was reviewed by the Township's environmental consultant and the Township attorney
- Concern with reducing the noticing requirement from 500 feet to 300 feet, especially in rural areas
- 300 feet is consistent with rezoning and special use permit notifications
- Board consideration of the cost involved with notification within the 500 foot perimeter
- Wetlands, by their very nature, have a greater impact over a wider range than rezonings and special use permits
- Proposed language in Sec. 22-122 regarding wetland delineation to address setback requirements
- Section 22-123, (10) was eliminated as a responsibility of the Environmental Commission and allows staff to review degraded wetlands for possible rehabilitation or restoration
- Original Wetland Board has been incorporated into the Environmental Commission
- Environmental Commission is educational and advisory
- Concern the Environmental Commission has little to do
- Duties of the Environmental Commission as outlined in this update pertain only to the wetland ordinance and do not outline its other duties
- Utilize the expertise of the Environmental Commission members more in the area of education to Township residents
- Possible relation of the noticing requirement to a resident who has standing in a case
- Definition of interested person in Section 22-116 (2) references within 500 feet of the wetland that is the subject of a wetland use permit decision
- Preference for leaving the noticing requirement at 500 feet
- Wetlands are primarily located in the eastern tier of the Township where there are much larger lot sizes
- Township attorney to review language in Section 22.157 (5) which speaks to an off-site location for the remaining wetlands, i.e., outside the Township's boundary
- Concern that subsection 5 would greatly change the hydrology of the community
- Staff reminder that subsections 5 and 6 were taken directly out of the revised state act
- Wetland use permits granted for the Ingham County Road Commission's Dobie Road Bridge and the Mt. Hope culvert crossing projects were approved for off-site mitigation

It was the consensus of the Board to continue discussion on this item at the February 1, 2011 Board meeting.

- F. Update to Board Priorities
Director Kieselbach summarized the update as outlined in staff memorandum dated January 12, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- Board progress on its priorities
- Suggestion to complete ordinance amendments prior to discussing additional priorities
- Retain ideas and information the Planning Commission gathered regarding incentives during the C-PUD subcommittee process
- Suggestion to have a two pronged approach through reexamination and renumbering of Board priorities
- Suggestion for staff to prioritize what it sees as issues which need only minor non-controversial changes to bring the Township into compliance with state law
- Request for the Board to ask the Zoning Board of Appeals for an interpretation relative to renewal energy devices as accessory structures contained in the draft wind energy ordinance

- Continued concern that the draft wind energy ordinance does not allow for the lattice type tower, excludes guy wires, and is silent on the type of device within a cylinder
- Continued concern unnecessary expenses are required of the applicant in the draft wind energy ordinance
- Suggestion that when ordinance amendments are completed, the Board revisit the order of priority
- Request that residents who wrote the Board regarding raising chickens and rabbits be notified when the Planning Commission holds a public hearing on this issue
- Importance of beginning the complex issue of a tree ordinance
- Necessity for staff to obtain consensus from the Board prior to moving forward on an issue

It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to reorder Board priorities and place this item on for action at the February 1, 2011 Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

In response to Trustee Ochberg's inquiry, Manager Richards indicated the Township attorney is still researching open carry of weapons in Meridian Township parks.

Trustee Veenstra expressed his appreciation to Trustee Ochberg for contributing \$2,800 to the Township's Community Garden project.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:51 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary