

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010 **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, EMS/Fire Chief  
Fred Cowper, Assistant Manager/ Human Resources Director Paul Brake

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. Fire Department Awards

Assistant Fire Chief Harper bestowed the Award of Citation for Life Saving to Rudy Gonzales, Ken Phinney and Chris Johnson for their actions during an apartment fire in 2009.

Assistant Fire Chief Harper bestowed the Unit Citation for Meritorious Service to Lt. Greg Kueppers, Lt. Colleen Clark, Lt. Derek Burcham and Firefighters Bill Richardson, Ryan Campbell, Jason Hillard, Kelly Trentin and TJ Booms for their assistance during an apartment fire in 2009.

Fire Chief Cowper bestowed the Fire Officer of the Year Award to Captain Paul McGarry.

Fire Chief Cowper bestowed the Firefighter of the Year Award to Firefighter Al Diaz.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Jim Spanos, PO Box 1426, Okemos, spoke in support of the reappointment of William White to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, thanked the Board for their support in pursuing a reduced speed limit on Jolly Road from Hagadorn to east of Hulett Road. She pointed to data from the speed study where the average speed limit in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was 45 mph in front of the high school. She requested the Board support a 45 mph speed limit.

[Speed study data in the Official Minute Book]

Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, spoke in support of the reappointment of William White to the DDA Board.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Director Kieselbach summarized an update of the status on Board priorities.

Trustee Ochberg reported the Land Preservation Ad Hoc committee met on February 4, 2010. She gave an overview of Land Preservation duties and purchases and noted the committee has requested an estimate of how much money needed to be raised to complete feasible connections to greenways and parks in the future. Trustee Ochberg noted the committee will present a full report to the Township Board by March 2, 2010.

Treasurer Brixie announced the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) Expo will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the Haslett High School. She indicated more information is available at [www.maba.biz](http://www.maba.biz). She announced that today at 5:00 P.M. was the deadline for taxes to be paid. Treasurer Brixie reported the Michigan State Police have sent all parties involved in the Jolly Road speed limit issue a letter with a new position which stated the State Police would agree to a speed limit of 45 mph on Jolly Road between Okemos and Jolly Oak Road and 50 mph speed limit from Jolly Oak Road to Hagadorn Road. She added that the Township attorney looked at the statute questioned by Lynne Page and it was the "initial official opinion" that it was poorly written and unclear if the petition is something in which the Michigan State Police could participate.

Trustee Veenstra stated he did not believe the Board should accept any increase in the speed limit along Jolly Road west of Okemos Road and suggested the Board officially petition the Ingham County Road Commission to lower the speed limit near Okemos High School. He announced a packet is available at each Board Meeting for public view. Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the Transportation Review Committee of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on February 10, 2010, where two items of interest were discussed: 1) The US Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to slightly lower the ozone standard to protect public health; and 2) The state plans to rebuild/reconstruct the rest area on westbound I96 near the Okemos Road exit at a cost of \$4 million.

Manager Richards clarified that both brown and clear glass is accepted at the Township's Recycling Center. He stated there is a continued challenge in finding a source to accept green glass. Manager Richards announced the Township received the Government Finance Officer's Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the tenth consecutive year.

Supervisor McGillicuddy announced the retirement of Lt. Alan Spencer. She reported the Urban Service Boundary Committee met last week and hopes to have something in writing by the end of the year. Supervisor McGillicuddy noted last week's Lansing Economic Area Partnership meeting focused on pillars of prosperity. She added several people at the meeting offered comment on green spaces and complete streets, but none of the attending Townships received recognition for their own greenspace plans already created. Supervisor McGillicuddy also attended the Okemos High School speed study meeting and read from a letter sent to Bill Conklin from the Michigan State Police, noting the 45 mph was only from Jolly Oak Road east to Dobie Road. She indicated Alaiedon Township will be placing this item on its Board agenda next week. Supervisor McGillicuddy inquired if the Board was interested in placing this item on the next Board agenda to support the 45 mph speed limit.

Treasurer Brixie added there was mention of a possible Township site for tax abatements at the last Economic Development Corporation meeting and noted such action would require ordinance changes.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:**

- **Add Agenda Item #10G: Request to Purchase Property for the Land Preservation Program**

**Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Inge Steglitz, 3651 East Hiawatha Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road by Okemos High School
- BI-2 Ann Chapman, Head Librarian, Haslett Library; 5670 School Street, Haslett; RE: Appreciation for Board vote in support of the Haslett Library branch relocation to the old Meridian High School site
- BI-3 Joyce M. Bartels, 2208 Haslett Road, East Lansing; RE: Appreciation for Board vote in support of the Haslett Library branch relocation to the old Meridian High School site
- BI-4 Renee Lachniet, 5637 Cade Street, Haslett; RE: Request to amend Township ordinance to allow residences to own chickens
- BI-5 Craig Longnecker, 5387 Wild Oak, East Lansing; RE: Appreciation for quality of work by the Board and staff of Meridian Township

(2). Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Kinawa View Drain future maintenance and improvement costs to be apportioned

(3). Staff Communications (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 February 1, 2010

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

Material received at the February 2, 2010 Board Meeting

- OF-1 Steven Lott, Supervisor, Alaiedon Township, 2021 W. Holt Road, Mason; RE: Letter to the Michigan State Police noting Alaiedon Township's Board of Trustee vote of support for a 50 mile-per-hour speed limit on Jolly Road between Okemos and Hagadorn Roads
- OF-2 Margaret A. Bossenbery, Chairperson, Capital Area District Library (CADL) Board of Trustees, 401 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing; RE: CADL Board support for the proposed move of the Haslett Branch Library to the old Meridian High School location

**Trustee Ochberg 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 Treasurer Brixie.**

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

B. Minutes

**Trustee Ochberg moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the February 2, 2010 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

C. Bills

**Trustee Ochberg moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:**

Common Cash	\$ 340,191.71
Public Works	\$ 312,961.50
Retainages Payable	
Check #1020 – Mauldon	4,363.29
Total Checks	\$ 657,516.50
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 5,753.78
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 663,270.28</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 338,259.03</u>

**Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Resignation from Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board

**Trustee Ochberg moved that the Township Board accept the resignation of John Russell from the DDA effective October 15, 2009. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

E. Disposal of Surplus Vehicles

**Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicles at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:**

<b>2003 Ford Crown Victoria</b>	<b>2FAHP71W83X206074</b>
<b>2002 Ford E-350 Road Rescue Ambulance</b>	<b>1FDWE35F92HA22959</b>

**Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

- 8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)
- 9. HEARINGS (None)
- 10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS  
 Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Ann Alchin, 2227 Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke to qualifications of members who serve on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

- A. 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, **Final Adoption**

**Trustee Ochberg 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. 2010-02, 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 finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.**

**Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Definition of bicycle locker
- Need for a provision to require bicycle parking at all buildings in the future

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Zoning Amendment #09080 (Township Board), a request to allow ancillary uses at golf courses by Special Use Permit, **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. 2010-03, 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 finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

Board members discussed the following:

- No required setback for hotels, banquet facilities, tennis courts, etc.

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:**

- Amend Section (c)(1) after “parcel of land” by inserting “or a contiguous parcel of land”

**The amendment died for lack of a second.**

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

C. Soil Erosion Permitting Ordinance, **Final Adoption**

Manager Richards clarified that soil erosion permitting was included in the 2010 budget as a revenue generating item. He spoke to how Township implementation of soil erosion permitting would affect the Township’s budget.

**Clerk Helmbrecht 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. 2010-01, entitled “Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance” by amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 22, by adding Article VI, Sections 22-200 through 22-218.”**

**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.**

**Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Possible partnering with the City of East Lansing for mechanical, electrical and plumbing permitting
- Streamline soil erosion control measures for applicants
- Reduction of carbon emissions as Township staff already on site
- Township is assessed a portion of drain maintenance so it is in the Township’s interest to ensure soil erosion control measures are in place
- Positive impact on the environment
- Concern over a local developer’s opposition
- Concern it is a make work ordinance for the Township’s inspectors
- Regionalism v. localism
- Preference to keep the permitting process with Ingham County for the remainder of the year

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

D. Resolution to Amend Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Ordinance

**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 #\_\_\_\_\_, entitled “Ordinance amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, by Amending Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 6 Downtown Development Authority, Section 2-303.”**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township 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:

- Solves the question of who has authority to designate the number of members who sit on the DDA Board
- Language mirrors the state act

- Current ordinance states there will be 12 members
- State law is not always perfectly clear

**Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment:**

- Amend Section 1 by inserting after “township board.”, “The number of members shall be determined by the township board.”
- Amend Section 1 after “and conditions of” by inserting “Public” before “Act 197” and inserting “of 1975” after “Act 197”

**Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

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

**E. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved to set the appointed membership number of the Downtown Development Authority Board at 10. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

**Trustee Veenstra moved to approve the following appointments:**

<u>Public Body</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)	Spanos	Demetrios	12/31/2011
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)	White	William	12/31/2013
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)	Dale	Brian	12/31/2013
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)	Wood	John	12/31/2013
Environmental Commission (vacancy)	Donahue	Laura	12/31/2010
Environmental Commission (3 year term)	Scherbarth	John	12/31/2012
Environmental Commission (3 yr term)	Bagdasarian	Mira	12/31/2012

**Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Background information on John Scherbarth and Dr. Mira Bagdasarian

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Laura Donahue as a student member to the Environmental Commission and Terry Such to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2010. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Terry Such was approved as a member of the Environmental Commission at the Board’s January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting before a discrepancy was discovered
- Qualifications of Terry Such
- Ms. Donahue requested to become a voting member of the Environmental Commission
- Ms. Donahue is a senior at Okemos High School and 18 years old
- Request to review other Environmental Commission applications
- Concern with American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reaction to what may be considered age discrimination

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

**It was the consensus of the Board to separate out each appointment for voting purposes.**

**On the appointment of Demetrios Spanos to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 12/31/2011:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**On the appointment of William White to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 12/31/2013:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 4-3 (Brixie, LeGoff, Ochberg).

**On the appointment of Brian Dale to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 12/31/2013:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**On the appointment of John Wood to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 12/31/2013:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**On the appointment of Laura Donahue to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2010:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**On the appointment of John Scherbarth to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2012:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**On the appointment of Mira Bagdasarian to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2012:**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

- F. Zoning Amendment #09040 (Township Board), an amendment to permit extensions of Special Use Permits and Site Plan Reviews

**Treasurer Brixie moved to take from the table Zoning Amendment #09040, a request to amend Section 86-128 and Section 86-158 of the Code of Ordinances to establish an extension mechanism for special use permit and site plan review approval periods. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

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

Board members discussed the following:

- Board consideration of variance request extensions from eighteen months to two years at a future Board meeting.

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the March 2, 2010 Board Meeting.**

G. Request to Purchase Property for the Land Preservation Program

**Trustee Ochberg moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, does hereby approve and forward to the Planning Commission for Section 61 Review at its first possible meeting opportunity for approval as to its location, character and extent as a public ground or open space effective this February 16, 2010.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Board authorizes the Township Supervisor, Township Clerk and Township Manager to ratify an agreement entered into with Gary and Trudy Sturk for Parcel A (\$157,161); WI Properties for Parcel B (\$216,369) and Parcel C (\$733,058); and WI Properties for part of Parcel D (designated as D1) (\$193,412), and to take all further actions or wording corrections deemed necessary to close such transaction for acceptance of this parcel as defined by the attached legal descriptions. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

Board members discussed the following:

- One Board member’s opinion that it is the most beautiful property “left” in Meridian Township
- Natural forested area
- Purchase of these properties will “even out” the distribution of Land Preservation parcels throughout the Township

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:**

- **Insert “totaling \$1,300,000,” after “(designated as D1 (\$193,412))”**

**The maker accepted the amendment.**

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

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Molly Wingrove, 2649 Melville Drive, East Lansing, spoke in support of the rental housing overlay.

[Prepared statement in Official Minute Book.]

Molly Wingrove, on behalf of Christine Beavers, 5125 Brookfield Drive, East Lansing, read from a prepared statement in support of the rental housing overlay.

[Prepared statement in Official Minute Book.]

Nancy Knupfer, Chair, East Lansing Housing Commission, 120 Oakland Drive, East Lansing, spoke in support of the rental housing overlay.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

#### B. Rental Housing Overlay

Director Kieselbach summarized the issue of a rental housing overlay as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 12, 2010.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- East Lansing adopted an overlay with three levels of restrictions: no rentals, Class I license (owner occupied/allowed roomer-is void if home is sold), Class I license (owner occupied allowed roomer- would stay with the property)
- Existing rentals allowed to continue
- 583 single family homes currently in the Township rental housing program
- 321 single family homes currently in the Township rental housing program in RA, RAA and RB zoning
- Approximately 7,000-8,000 lots in the Township
- Statement in the purpose section that it is to promote the integrity of neighborhood character
- Two unrelated persons can currently occupy a single family dwelling
- Definition of family
- East Lansing's rental ordinance encouraged sprawl (i.e., Chandler Road development)
- Not environmentally or ecologically sound to restrict four (4) bedroom homes from being rented to four (4) people
- Neighborhoods can be protected through strong code enforcement
- No data supplied which reflects property value changes due to rentals
- Bias against rentals due to fear of students, etc.
- Alleged invasion of property rights to state an individual cannot rent their home
- Belief new young families which move into the Township often initially rent
- Increase in the number of rental registrations for 2008 and 2009 coincide with economic crisis
- Concern with the Board taking steps which would make someone lose their home because of a restriction on rental homes in a neighborhood
- East Lansing council members' statement that there are serious unintended consequences with their rental housing overlay district (i.e., individuals with limited resources are not being allowed to come into desirable neighborhoods)
- Meridian Township is an aging community and needs to attract and welcome young people into the Township
- Request for staff to pursue code enforcement in the Wardcliff area

**It was the consensus of the Board not to pursue a rental housing overlay.**

#### A. Lighting Ordinance

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed outdoor lighting ordinance update as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 12, 2010.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Proposed changes, notably the lumen adjustments, would be more consistent with industrial lighting standards
- New ground mounted lighting technology directs the light to a smaller area
- One Board member preference not to allow pivotal lighting
- Concern that pivotal lighting would be a code enforcement "nightmare"
- Request for lights to only shine down
- Current ordinance does not allow light to point up, is very limiting and does not acknowledge technology which focuses light to a specific spot
- Clarification of lighting of interior walks around the building
- Adoption of outdoor lighting ordinance update would allow for fewer waivers

- Changes to wall packs in a canopy or soffitt as a public safety issue
- Inquiry as to the type of landscape lighting bulbs used in commercial landscape lighting
- Request to amend Section 38-379 (k) by deleting the word “encouraged” and inserting the word “required”
- Lights from commercial parking areas and businesses serve areas where there are few or no streetlights
- Variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals was necessary because the Township did not allow ground mounted lighting which shined up on the sign
- Suggested updates will not change the overall lumen budget for a development

**It was the consensus of the Board for staff to draft the recommended ordinance amendments for Board consideration at a future meeting.**

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Dreyfus agreed with earlier Board comment that if the Township’s legal counsel made an “error”, the Board needs to look at those legal charges.

Manager Richards clarified it was his understanding the Court sent out erroneous paperwork.

Treasurer Brixie, Trustee Dreyfus and Trustee Ochberg verbalized their support to review the rental housing fee schedule at some point in the future.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:40 P.M.

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SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary