

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** -
PARK COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra,
Wilson
ABSENT: None

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Wilson, Commissioners Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo
ABSENT: Commissioner Stephens

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Commissioners Hildebrandt, Scott-Craig
ABSENT: Chair Deits, Vice-Chair Jackson, Commissioners Cordill, Honicky, Goodale, Norkin

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRESENT: Chair Madle, Members Allen, Brixie, Dreyfus, Richards, Rowlee, G. White, W.
White
ABSENT: Members Barr, Ledebuhr, Tenegalia

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Chair Beauchine, Members Deschaine, Hershiser, Ianni, Ohlrogge
ABSENT: Member Jackson

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Members Donahue, N. Jackson, Kielbaso, Moran, Stanley, Thomas
ABSENT: Member Martell

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Chair Kielbaso
ABSENT: Members Hatfield, Mays, Rusch, Smith, Stephens, Webster

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Members Dale, White
ABSENT: Members Carpenter, Delind, Fisher, Hagen, Lewis, Spanos

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning and
Development Mark Kieselbach, Human Resources Director Amy Holda, Finance
Director Diana Hasse

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, congratulated Board members on their election as well as members who sit on the various Boards and Commissions. He requested the same standard be set for all Boards and Commissions where agendas and packets are available to the public on the Friday before a meeting. Mr. Provencher spoke to a national study conducted last year which indicated Meridian Township was well below the national average for citizen participation. He requested a fixed dollar amount, not a 2% increase, be given to all employees in the form of a wage increase.

Tiffany Evans and child, 3979 Dayspring Court, Okemos, noted the New Year's Eve fireworks were unique and enjoyed by all, and appreciated the family friendly 8:30 P.M. start time. She suggested the possibility of an annual Winter Fest celebration in lieu July 4th Fireworks.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

5. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

A. Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commissions (Planning Commission, ZBA, EDC, Park Commission, Environmental Commission, Land Preservation Advisory Board, and DDA)

Meeting participants discussed 2012 accomplishments, as well as the following goals, objectives, concerns and ideas:

Planning Commission:

- Focused on more compact growth within the community given the economic climate
- Passage of a complete streets ordinance
- Efforts toward an update of the 2005 Master Plan
 - Goals and objectives section of the Master Plan are more closely aligned with the Township's Policy Manual
 - Amendments to several sections relative to the urban services district

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Continue to uphold the Township's Code of Ordinances passed by the Board
- Continued support of the Township's long term goals

Economic Development Corporation

- Eleven member Board who bring diverse skill sets and expertise to the Township
- EDC member commitment to work with all other Boards and Commissions
- Continued endeavors to repair the Township's reputation within the region in an effort to be labeled business friendly
- Identification of four (4) hallmarks a community must have to support entrepreneurs: resources, social networks (MABA), culture and policy
- Request for all Boards and Commissions to fully understand how policy affects businesses and residents
- Meridian Activity Center will be renamed the Meridian Area Resource Center (MARC)
- MARC is a business development and support center designed for Meridian businesses, residents or individuals wishing to locate within the Township to create a business in Meridian

Park Commission

- Revision of the Central Park Master Plan to facilitate improvements to the site
- Dedicated the new year-round restroom facility at North Meridian Road Park

- 2012 formal ribbon cutting for the Central Park accessible fishing dock
- Received approval from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a loop trail at Wonch Park
- Consulting firm hired to provide engineering and design services for the Towner Road site
- Construction of a river overlook and live hawk exhibit at the Harris Nature Center (HNC) with assistance from the HNC Foundation
- Appreciation to the Parks and Recreation staff for their dedication and hard work
- Appreciation for the many years of service by Eckhart Dersch
- Continuation of trail improvements
- Completion of nine (9) Eagle Scout projects
- River Clearing event opened up 14 log jams in the Red Cedar River
- Concern with park infrastructure deterioration if staffing levels remain stagnant
- Possible millage request for park improvements

Environmental Commission

- Outline of the Environmental Commission's responsibilities
- Serves in an official capacity as the Township Wetland Board
- Conducted seven (7) wetland use permit reviews in 2012 with recommendations to the Township Board
- Monthly sponsorship of green themes public education presentations
- Provides environmental and technical support to the Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Regular attendance at the monthly meetings of the other Township Boards and Commissions
- Appreciation to Marsha Madle for organizing quarterly meeting of chairs and vice-chairs of the various Boards and Commissions
- Recognition of organizations and individuals through Environmental Stewardship Awards
- Offer of services to the Planning Commission relative to the construction of a new central fire station

Land Preservation Advisory Board

- Background on the creation and purpose of the Land Preservation Program
- Acquisition of 742 acres since the inception of the program
- Twelve (12) of the preserves were part of the 2012 Deer Management Program
- Ten parcels were reviewed, with site visits to five parcels
- Continued management of the Savannah Restoration at the Davis Foster Preserve
- Clean up and elimination of non-native invasive species
- Active with the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative
- Prescribed burn at Lake Lansing North to release select native flora with establishment of four (4) deer exclosures
- Special garden established at the entrance of Lake Lansing North
- 2013 goals:
 - Complete acquisitions currently in the process
 - Recruit local neighborhood organizations to actively participate
 - Continue Deer Management Program
 - Work with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner to properly restore the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve

Downtown Development Authority

- Economic development expands the Township's tax base which affects the quality of life in the Township
- Current ordinances are restrictive and add to the perception that Meridian Township is not business friendly
- 2013 Downtown Okemos Art Walk
- Request to the Board for expansion of the DDA district boundary
- Possible Arts and Culture Center next to the Sumbal Nature Center

Board members discussed the following:

- Appreciation for the service of members to the various Board and Commissions

- Suggestion for a possible educational piece by the Environmental Commission on dumping of yard waste into wetlands
- Possible revitalization of the Haslett corridor
- Continued concern with the reputation Meridian Township is not business friendly

Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 6:50 P.M.
Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Trustee Veenstra concurred with an earlier comment which thanked former Park Commissioner Eckhart Dersch for over two decades of service to the Township. He believed the Planning Commission packet should be available online as well as all other Boards and Commission packets. Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the December 20th regular meeting of the Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), where the major discussion centered around pathway proposals along Waverly Road on the west side of Lansing.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the Lansing Regional Chamber Elected Officials Meet and Greet last month. He also attended the EDC meeting last month as the Board representative, discussing administrative costs contained in the EDC budget and the EDC ad in the Lansing Visitors Bureau. Clerk Dreyfus reported his participation in a webinar on the Michigan Open Meetings Act, attendance at the Michigan Township Association's new officials training and the Okemos Library fundraising kickoff. He spoke to an National Public Radio interview and article titled "An Urban Tree Farms Grows in Detroit" which highlighted a businessman who purchased 1,500 abandoned lots in Detroit with the intent to plant hardwood trees as new urban agriculture.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at last month's EDC and Groundwater Management Board Meetings, as well as the library fundraiser kickoff. She reported her attendance at the December CATA meeting, where CATA has contracted for the engineering, design and construction of the East Lansing Multimodal Transportation Station in East Lansing.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the MTA new officials training and Groundwater Management meeting where a byproduct synergy presentation was made.

Trustee Scales reported his attendance at the Okemos Library fundraising kickoff, MTA new officials training, and Fifth Third Bank's Annual Economic Forecasting Conference. He also reported his attendance at the reopening of the Asian Buffet, where owners reinvested in Meridian Township by doubling the size of their business. Trustee Scales noted he became a MABA member, attended MABA's last meeting and social and attended a fundraiser for a young man struck by a car while crossing Grand River. He attended the last Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the agenda as follows:

- **Move Agenda Item #7D to Agenda Item #10D: Memorandums of Understanding for 2013 Wage Increases**

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Scales)

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Michigan Government TV (MGTV) no longer available on Comcast’s cable lineup, but through a web-based format effective January 16, 2013

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 Marsha Madle, Meridian Economic Development Corporation (MEDC); RE: MEDC brief to the Township Board
- CL-2 Mary L. Nelson, 940 River Knoll Drive, Haslett; RE: Letter of resignation from the Community Resources Commission
- CL-3 Michael Lewis, 5332 Burcham Drive, East Lansing; RE: Letter of resignation from the Cable Communications Commission
- CL-4 Doug Weaver, 1801 Mirabeau Drive, Okemos; RE: Letter of resignation from the Downtown Development Authority Board

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 Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 4, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 11, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Common Cash | \$ 325,503.83 |
| Public Works | \$ 58,775.34 |
| | |
| Total Checks | \$ 384,279.17 |
| Credit Card Transactions | \$ 26,569.55 |
| Total Purchases | <u>\$ 410,848.72</u> |

ACH Payments \$ 625,002.68
Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

- 8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)
- 9. HEARINGS (None)
- 10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS
Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

A. Recommendation for Auditor Services
Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the appointment of Andrews Hooper and Pavlick PLC as auditors for Meridian Township and authorize the Township Manager to sign a 3-5 year contract with them. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:
• **Add the following sentence after “them.”:**
“The professional fees will be \$44,000 for 2012, \$45,000 for 2013 and \$46,000 for 2014.”
Seconded by Ron Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Board members discussed the following:
• Andrews Hooper & Pavlick is a business located in Meridian Township
• One principal is a Meridian Township resident
• Firm will provide superior customer service

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

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Trustee Veenstra moved to reappoint John LeFevre, Peter Potterpin and Charles Wallin to the Building Board of Appeals for three year terms ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:
• Preference to deal with each body on a separate basis

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Milton L. Scales, Angela Wilson and Brett Dreyfus to the Board Election Commission to a term expiring November 20, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Martha Bashore, Brett DeGross and Katie Jones as new appointees to the Board of Review for two year terms ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to reappoint Xavier Durand-Hollis, Suzanne Rebeck and Barry Spengler to the Board of Review for two year terms ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Charles Hagen as an alternate to the Board of Review for a two year term ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Ronald J. Styka as the Board Liaison to the Cable Communications Commission for a three year term ending November 20, 2015. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Two vacancies on the Cable Communications Commission as there were no applicants
- Importance of cable as a medium of communication to Township residents

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to reappoint Sharon Theroux to the Community Resources Commission for a two year term ending December 31, 2014 and appoint Karen Schultz and Dante Ianni to the Community Resources Commission for two year terms ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Vacancies still exist on this commission

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint James Raynak and Scott Weaver to the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Weaver is filling a term due to resignation
- Preference for Mr. Weaver to serve a full term

The seconder offered the following amendment:

- **Change the appointment of Scott Weaver for a term ending December 31, 2016.**

The amendment was accepted by the maker.

Continued Board member discussion:

- All terms on the DDA are staggered by one year to allow for continuity
- One vacancy for a full term currently exists
- One incumbent is out of town and may wish to be reappointed

- Uncertainty if Mr. Weaver wishes to serve an entire four year term

The seconder withdrew his amendment.

Continued Board member discussion:

- Request for the maker of the main motion to restate her motion

Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint James Raynak and Scott Weaver to the Downtown Development Authority for terms ending December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 respectively. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Wilson moved to appoint Julie Brixie as an Ex Officio member and Brett Dreyfus as Board Liaison to the Economic Development Corporation for four year terms ending November 20, 2016 and appoint Lynda Rowlee and Gil White to the Economic Development Corporation for six year terms ending December 31, 2018. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- All four appointments are reappointments

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Patrick Boog to the Elected Officials Compensation Commission for a five year term ending December 31, 2017. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint John Scherbarth to the Environmental Commission for a three year term ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board members discussed the following:

- Vacancy on the Environmental Commission due to a lack of applicants

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Angela Wilson as the primary delegate to the Groundwater Management Board and Ray Severy as the alternate to the Groundwater Management Board for a term ending November 20, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board members discussed the following:

- Alternate proposed as the Groundwater Management Board meets the same day as the Groundwater Technical Management Committee and the Director of Public Works and Engineering is the Township's representative on that Board

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Scales moved to appoint Julie Brixie and Mark Stephens to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for terms ending November 20, 2016 and Frank Hatfield to a term ending December 31, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Scales moved to appoint Angela Wilson to the LEAP Board for a term ending December 31, 2013. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Styka moved to appoint Julie Brixie as the Ex Officio Member to the Pension Trustees for a term ending November 20, 2015 and Mark Kieselbach as the Employee Representative for a term ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Thomas Deits to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor LeGoff moved to appoint Shane Goodale to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Brett Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus Supervisor LeGoff
NAYS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
Motion failed 3-4.

Board members discussed the following:

- Planning Commission members are a Supervisory appointment

Trustee Scales moved, with agreement by the Supervisor, to appoint Dante Ianni to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Scales moved to reappoint Patricia Jackson to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending expiring December 31, 2015. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Veenstra moved to confirm the Supervisor's appointment of Ganesh Reddy to the Planning Commission to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2013. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board members discussed the following:

- Applicant was a previous member of the Planning Commission

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus Supervisor LeGoff
NAYS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
Motion failed 3-4.

Continued Board discussion:

- Concern with the same "block" of Board members voting in opposition to two of the Planning Commission applicants which are the Supervisor's appointments
- No facts have been presented for opposition to the candidate

- Supervisor has the authority to wait for future applications to be submitted

Treasurer Brixie moved that Ronald J. Styka be appointed as the liaison to the Okemos Public Schools, the East Lansing Public Schools, Haslett Public Schools and Williamston Public Schools for terms expiring November 20, 2016. Treasurer Brixie also moved that Elizabeth LeGoff be appointed as liaison to Alaiedon Township, Bath Township, City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, City of Williamston and Williamstown Township for terms expiring November 20, 2016. Treasurer Brixie moved that Milton L. Scales be appointed as liaison to the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads for a term expiring November 20, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Board member request for clarification as to who would be the voting member of the ICDTR advisory committee
- Trustee Scales is the only name recommended for appointment as liaison to the ICDTR
- Trustee Scales was a prior member on the Ingham County Road Commission
- Request that the Supervisor, as liaison to Alaiedon Township, work towards an agreement for our south Okemos Road fire station to provide fire protection and ambulance service to the north portion of Alaiedon Township, particularly the section between Jolly Road and I-96

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Wilson moved to appoint Trustee Veenstra as the Board Representative to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission for a four year term ending November 20, 2016. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Wilson moved to appoint Brett Dreyfus to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Urban and Rural Services Management Committee for a four year term ending November 20, 2016.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Styka moved to appoint Elizabeth LeGoff as the Board Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term ending November 20, 2015, Patricia Jackson as the Planning Commission Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term ending December 31, 2015 and Carol Ohlrogge to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term ending December 31, 2015. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Scales moved to appoint Julie Brixie to the CATA Board for the remainder of a term expiring September 30, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board members discussed the following:

- Township sends millage money to CATA
- Preference for a Board member to represent the Township on the CATA Board for financial oversight
- One specific Board member has consistently spoken out on the impact of CATA on Meridian Township
- Background on the resignation of the previous appointee
- Determination by CATA's legal counsel that the previous appointee had a conflict of interest

- Preference for Patricia Munshaw as she was a previous appointee to the CATA Board

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Supervisor LeGoff
Motion carried 6-1.

Continued Board discussion:

- Planning Commission appointment cannot be revisited tonight unless someone who voted in opposition makes a motion

C. Zoning Amendment #12020 (Twp. Board) Modification to the C-1 Zoning District to Allow Fitness Facilities, **Introduction**

Clerk Dreyfus 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 3 by amending Section 86-403(b), and by adding Section 86-403(c)(9), and Section 86-403(e)(6).”

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:

- Amendment allows for better business in the Township relative to health and fitness establishments
- Zoning amendment is an example of making the Township more business friendly
- Fitness establishments are appropriate in a C-1 zoning district

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Memorandums of Understanding for 2013 Wage Increases

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the amendments to the collective bargaining agreements as described in the December 28, 2012 staff memorandum, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board members discussed the following:

- Upon Board approval, the 2% pay increases will be effective January 1st
- Appreciation that Township finances are such that employees can be rewarded with pay increases
- Concern that previously negotiated one-time lump sum payments will not be paid out
- During 2013 budget deliberations in October, 2012, staff did not apprise the Board that employees would have to surrender previously negotiated lump sum payments in order to receive the proposed 2% increase
- Employees at the bottom of the pay scale will realize a 1% pay increase and is a “gross inequity”
- Flat dollar amount to all employees is the most equitable approach
- All collective bargaining units have agreed to “give up” the lump sum payment in lieu of the 2% increase

- Board member belief that employees were “forced” to agree to this change

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer
Brixie
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS (None)

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced concern with the accessibility and accuracy of the monthly calendar, and suggested a change in the way meetings are noted on the Township’s website. He expressed appreciation to Planning Department staff for its follow-through regarding bicycle parking at Studio C. Mr. Provencher addressed what he believed was a discrepancy in the motion made for auditor services. He spoke to Board conduct regarding an emerging “voting block” and stated the necessity for Board members to articulate why candidates recommended for appointment to Boards and Commissions were unacceptable.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed his disgust with the conduct of the “voting block” relative to the Supervisor’s recommendation for Planning Commission appointments.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Clerk Dreyfus requested a revision of the fireworks ordinance be placed on a future Board agenda to address a time frame for lighting of fireworks.

Trustee Veenstra clarified his earlier comment regarding factual background information on a candidate for reappointment to the Planning Commission. He announced the next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 1:00 PM in the Town Hall Room, noting the purpose of this special meeting is to discuss the criteria for hiring a new Township Manager. Trustee Veenstra also noted a Saturday, January 12, 2013 Board meeting will be held in the Town Hall Room at 10:00 AM. He addressed an article in the Jan/February, 2013 issue of *Mother Jones* outlining the harmful effects of lead on humans.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary