

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:04 P.M.)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy

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.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Scott Eisensmith, 5847 Bois Ile Drive, Haslett, offered education on wind energy systems as it relates to killing birds.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. Presentation by Sandra Dragoo, Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)

Pat Munshaw, a Meridian Township representative on the CATA Board, 5621 Golden Circle, East Lansing, spoke in support of the CATA renewal millage proposal on the August 3, 2010 Primary ballot.

Sandra Dragoo, Executive Director, CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, also spoke in support of the CATA renewal millage proposal on the August 3, 2010 Primary ballot. She broke down the millage language, indicating there is a request to consolidate a renewal of the base millage (scheduled to expire in 2010) with a renewal of the 2008 millage (scheduled to expire in 2012) through 2015. In addition, Ms. Dragoo indicated the proposal also asks for a Headlee override of .0362 mills, which translates into an increase of \$1.81 per \$100,000 of taxable value/year.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported the Downtown Development Authority's website has been refurbished. She indicated the LED streetlights for the DDA are scheduled for installation the middle of August. Supervisor McGillicuddy noted the CATA Steering Committee is hosting a seminar at the Henry Center on July 28th, where four (4) speakers who have installed either light rail or rapid bus transport systems will address the public. She indicated there are open appointments on both the Board of Review and the Economic Development Corporation and urged residents to apply by printing an application from the Township's website (www.meridian.mi.us) and returning it to the Clerk's office .

Clerk Helmbrecht reminded residents they can apply for an absentee voter ballot until 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, July 31, 2010 at the Clerk's office. She noted the polls are open from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. on August 3, 2010.

Treasurer Brixie attended the first Budget Work Group meeting. She also gave a presentation at a planning conference last week on the Township's bicycle parking ordinance. Treasurer Brixie announced the Capital Area Treasurer's meeting last week where discussion took place on how municipalities in the region are dealing with declining revenues and brainstormed on ways to save money.

Trustee Dreyfus voiced his continued interest in pursuing a time bank for Meridian Township. He reported the cover article in the July edition of Michigan Municipal League's *The Review* focused on time banking, based on Michigan's model in Lathrup Village. Trustee Dreyfus stated his plan is to conduct a community meeting in September to discuss the feasibility of a time bank project in Meridian Township. He also offered his suggestion to the CATA Steering Committee to have progressively timed traffic light signals along the Grand River transportation corridor, which he felt would greatly improve traffic congestion, reduce the carbon output and not cost the taxpayers any money.

Trustee Veenstra pointed to the cost of studies to bring about progressively timed traffic light signals along Grand River Avenue. He indicated Ingham County Road Commission's (ICRC) desire to do so, but felt finances were the barrier to completion. Trustee Veenstra spoke in support of an increase in the fuel tax to give the ICRC the necessary funds and also in support of the concept of a Meridian time bank.

Trustee Ochberg inquired of the Township Manager if the bonds for the DDA streetlights are going forward or if alternative financing (borrowing internally from Township's funds) was being pursued.

Township Manager Richards responded that in order to do the latter, the issue would need to come before the Board, possibly at the next Board meeting on August 5, 2010.

Trustee Ochberg inquired as to a time frame for Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) review and decision by the Board.

Township Manager Richards responded the CIP is currently being assembled and believed it was presented with the budget last year. Manager Richards believed the CIP would come before the Board in late August or early September.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Move Agenda Item #11C to Agenda Item #10E: Headlee Override Ballot Question**

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Board members discussed the following:

- Board members and the public need to be properly notified when the Headlee override will be voted upon
- Objection to moving the Headlee override to an action item when it was published on the agenda as a discussion item
- Concern this is a violation of Board procedure and circumvents public input
- Concern the public would resent moving this item to action and possibly jeopardize its passage
- Educational information on this topic needs to be disseminated to the public as soon as possible
- This topic has been on previous agendas as a discussion item
- Concern the Budget Work Group recommendation needs to first be provided as input for the Board to make a decision on the Headlee override
- Many e-mails received from the public asking for the Headlee override to be placed on the November ballot
- Budget Work Group does not need to endorse a Headlee override, but focus on preparation of a budget without the Headlee override
- Board approval of placement of the Headlee override on the November ballot does not preclude the need to prepare two budgets, one with and one without the monies generated through approval of the Headlee override
- The Headlee override question should be presented to the public so residents can participate through the voting process
- Residents should be allowed to decide if essential services will be cut
- Part of the role of an elected representative is to make analysis, prioritize services and decide where cuts should take place
- Budget Work Group is one form of input and voting on the Headlee override tonight would diminish the impact of this group's decision making

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 3-4. (Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy)

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda amended as follows:

- **Amend Agenda Item #7F by deleting the sentence “No construction activities shall take place on Sundays.”**
- **Move Agenda Item #7G to Agenda Item #10E**

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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 Deliberation (BD)

BD 11C-1 Karen Amachree, 5327 Chantilly Lane, Haslett; RE: Support for placing the Headlee Override millage question on the November, 2010 ballot

BD 11C-2 Mark Klem, 1112 Haslett Road, Haslett; RE: Support for placing the Headlee Override millage question on the November, 2010 ballot

BD 11C-3 John Bradley, 1082 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett; RE: Support for placing the Headlee Override millage question on the November, 2010 ballot

BD 11C-4 Cristine Burnham, 20244 Hamilton, Okemos; RE: Support for placing the Headlee Override millage question on the November, 2010 ballot

(2). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Judith Blinn-Rudman, 2417 Sower Boulevard, Okemos; RE: Dog park in Meridian Township

BI-2 Beth Bechtel, 1165 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett; RE: Code Compliance Training

(3). One File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Material received at the July 6, 2010 Board Meeting

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos; RE: Letter expressing concerns with Zoning Amendment #10020(Update standards for the sign ordinance and Zoning Amendment #10010 (update of allowed uses for home occupations)

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 Clerk Helmbrecht.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the July 6, 2010 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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	\$ 231,472.74
Public Works	\$ 330,830.03
Total Checks	\$ 562,302.77
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 7,381.21
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 569,683.98</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 337,632.22</u>

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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 Stipulation

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with G & A Associates, LLC, on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2010	0385989	2756 Grand River, East Lansing, MI 48823
<u>Assessment</u>	2010	AV/TV \$211,400/211,400
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2010	AV/TV \$150,000/150,000

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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

E. Liquor License Transfer, Club on the River

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve Petrick Group, LLC’s application to transfer ownership and location of a 2010 Class C licensed business with Dance-Entertainment Permit, from Club Hot Shots II, LLC whose license is being held in escrow at 3323 N. East, Lansing, Michigan, Ingham County, Michigan to Petrick Group, LLC located at 4790 S. Hagadorn, Suite 40, East Lansing, Michigan, Meridian Township, Ingham County and further authorizes the Township Clerk to execute the resolution for local approval of this transfer. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

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

- F. Request for Extended Work Hours, Dobie Road Bridge
Treasurer Brixie moved to waive the requirements of Section 650-84(4) of the Code of Ordinances to allow construction activities from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. from Monday, August 16, 2010, to Friday, August 27, 2010, for pouring the bridge deck on the new Dobie Road Bridge across the Red Cedar River. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Board members discussed the following:

- Two residents live near the bridge
- Allows for uninterrupted pouring of the bridge deck
- Excessive rains necessitate pouring on weekends to complete the bridge before the start of school

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 (None)

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

- A. Updates to Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, **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. 2010-09, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article VII, Outdoor Lighting, by amending Section 38-379(f), Section 38-379(n), Section 38-379(o), Section 38-379(p), and Section 38-380 and Adding Section 38-379(q).”

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 Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Board members discussed the following:

- Updates preserve the Township’s dark sky policy
- Amendment updates the amount of lumens available in the lighting budget for each project to bring into conformity with industry standards
- Concern the Board is choosing the business unfriendly option of only allowing internally plastic lit signs or overhead lit signs
- Unintended consequence of this practice is more frequent use of plastic paneled internally lit signs which are not attractive
- More business friendly to allow for a greater variety of signs within the same light budget

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

- B. Zoning Amendment #10030 (Township Board), a request to amend various sections of Chapter 86 Zoning to bring them into consistency with Chapter 22, Article VI, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, **Introduction**

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, By Amending Chapter 86, Article II, Division 5, Section 86-156(2)b.6, Article IV, Division 2, Section 86-376(g)(11).a, Article IV, Division 4, Section 86-435(f)(9)d, Section 86-436(a), and Section 86-436(b), and By Deleting Section 86-436(s).”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 Clerk Helmbrecht.

Board members discussed the following:

- State complaint to the Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s office regarding Township enforcement of soil erosion and sedimentation control
- Issue at the Capstone site after a rainstorm has been corrected and the problem has been resolved

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Zoning Amendment #10040 (Township Board), a request to amend Section 86-223 of the Code of Ordinances to extend the approval period for a variance from 18 months to 24 months, **Introduction**
- Trustee Veenstra 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 II, Division 7, by amending Section 86-223.”**

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 and staff discussed the following:

- Amendment extends the approval period for variances to conform with the approval period for special use permits (SUPs) and site plans
- Possible addition of a request for an variance extension in conformance with the extensions for SUPs and site plans
- This section of the ordinance is the only section which specifically speaks to obtaining a building permit
- The Zoning Board of Appeals is typically the last body to see a project before construction begins
- Concern with variances granted for a project which may not have an end date
- Applicant has an additional 18 months after issuance of the building permit to complete the project

- For “other sections”, the building code requires progress to be shown in the first six months after a building permit is issued
- If no progress is shown in the first six months, either the building permit can be cancelled or a six-month extension can be requested
- There is no deadline for “other sections” as long as reasonable progress is made to finish, subject to the building official
- If a certificate of occupancy is not obtained within 18 months, the variances are void and the applicant would need to reapply
- Variances are special exemptions from the written ordinance and it is reasonable to have limited time frames
- Difference between SUPs and an exemption from the written ordinance through a variance
- Site specific variances are carefully looked at by the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to approval
- Conditions may change over a long period of time
- Request by one Board member for staff to prepare language to allow applicants to request a variance extension for an additional 12 months after the initial 24 months

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

D. Land Preservation Purchase (Howe Properties)

Clerk Helmbrecht moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, hereby approves the purchase of the Howe Properties as shown on the attached map with accompanying legal descriptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Township Board forwards the request to the Planning Commission for Section 61 Review of the properties at its first possible meeting opportunity for approval as to their location, character and extent as a public ground or open space effective this date, July 20, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Board authorizes the Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Attorney and Township Manager to ratify the agreement entered into with Robert Howe and to take all further actions deemed necessary to close such transaction for acceptance of these parcels.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Unusual special features on the land (large bog and giant oak tree)
- Riparian habitat for the wildlife traveling through “corridors”
- Appreciation to Township voters for the Land Preservation millage
- Total of approximately 610 acres of Land Preservation property in the Township
- Sufficient funds in the Land Preservation account to purchase these properties
- Parcels are riparian all the way to the river’s edge
- Board member request that 8.10 +/- acres located on the south side of Grand River Avenue across the street from North Meridian Road to be purchased for \$92,000 be included in the published minutes
- Process for this parcel to come before the Board is the same since the inception of the Land Preservation millage
- Board member request to have Land Preservation purchases on the agenda as a discussion item prior to Board action so the public has an opportunity to provide input
- Resolution sends the request to the Planning Commission for a Section 61 review which includes a public hearing

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

G. Amendment to the Building Construction Code, **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. 2010-10, entitled “Chapter 14, Article II, by amending Section 14-26, Section 14-28 and Section 14-29.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Board members discussed the following:

- Need for state approval before final Board adoption
- Anticipated revenue included in the current budget’s general fund
- Cooperative effort with the City of East Lansing regarding inspections
- Intergovernmental agreement for these services will be brought before the Board for approval

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 public comment.

Scott Eisensmith, 5847 Bois Ile Drive, Haslett, showed a map of the wind potential for lower Michigan, noting there is a lack of wind resources in Meridian Township. He expressed concern with the prohibition on guy wires for free standing wind energy systems, as he indicated they do not harm birds and are actually a safety feature. Mr. Eisensmith indicated problematic enforcement of the abandonment provision language. He expressed interest in seeing similar ordinances developed for other renewable energies.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in opposition to Zoning Amendment #09070, the Wind Energy Overlay District, stating it is overcomplicated and restrictive. He also spoke to Township ordinances having function over fashion.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

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

Board members discussed the following:

- Strike vertically and/or horizontally mixed uses as an amenity
- Consolidate outdoor gathering spaces with outdoor eating spaces
- Eliminate bicycle parking as an amenity as the Board adopted a bicycle parking ordinance
- Reword existing language to provide covered bicycle storage, bicycle lockers or aesthetically pleasing covered bicycle parking as an amenity
- Eliminate duplications for multi-level underground parking, alternative heating, underground utilities, increased pervious surface area, recreational opportunities, cultural venues
- Group all environmental amenities together
- Place dollar signs (\$) behind “high” cost amenities
- Inclusion of transit stops
- Possible tie-bar to a density bonus for projects

- Interest in tie-barring the density bonus with a specified transit stop, underground parking or LEED certified project amenity
- An amenity which totals 10% of the project should garner a density bonus
- Monetary cost of the amenity v. community value of the amenity
- Concern that placing a dollar value on the amenity will result in that cost being passed on to the consumer
- Concern with the developer providing costs estimates as the actual cost may not be determined until the project is complete
- Existing transit stops in commercial areas along a major corridor may not require the developer to expend significant money in order to receive the density bonus
- Placing a high value on bicycle pathways which connect with the Township's pedestrian/ bicycle pathway system
- Reminder that the Board approves acceptance of the proposed amenities
- Placing a high value on underground utilities
- Possible inclusion of electric car charging stations as an amenity which would receive a density bonus
- Request by the Board last week for staff to compile one list of amenities and assign points to each amenity with the possibility of then allowing a density bonus based on total number of points
- Table inset should be extended to allow for additional "size of structure" categories
- Concern small older pre-ordinance lots may be "priced out" of the MUPUD
- Grant money currently available to create transit stops as part of redevelopment

It was the consensus of the Board to allow staff to refine the list of amenities by eliminating duplications, grouping similar items, including LEED certification levels and have staff provide a point value to each amenity. This item will be placed on the agenda for continued discussion at the August 5, 2010 Board meeting.

- B. Zoning Amendment #09070 (Township Board), Wind Energy Overlay District
 Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 16, 2010.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Every other Township in the region has a wind energy ordinance
- Lattice type wind energy systems need guy wires for additional support
- Provision for free standing systems by right
- Much of the criteria is identical to the language contained in the state act
- Concern language is so restrictive it prevents residents from utilizing significant wind energy
- Wording similar to the existing cell tower code
- Freestanding structures recommended for sites one acre or larger
- Aesthetics important to neighbors
- Ordinance needs to meet the needs of a variety of housing types
- Concern that sufficient energy would be generated if obstacles exist within 300 feet of the system
- Demonstration to staff of height needed based on the study
- Land area needed for guy wires increases significantly with height of the structure
- Temporary anemometers used for testing the site
- Credentials of the qualified professional consultant who will assess the potential impact on birds and bats
- Ability of bats to avoid structures at night
- Impact study recommended through the state for large towers
- Guidelines established by the United States Fishery and Wildlife Service
- Concern the draft ordinance, as written, excludes a portion of the Township population based on economic wealth
- Residents of compact neighborhoods can place two (2) energy systems on their roofs or an accessory building
- Township should not prohibit wind energy systems because currently there is no ordinance
- Suggestion to not include the large utility grid wind energy systems in the ordinance

- Prohibited use of guy wires for wind energy systems while an allowed use for power poles, radio towers, etc.
- Guy wires not attractive in residential single family neighborhoods
- Cost of building mounted v. pole mounted residential systems
- Suggestion to place information regarding the different residential systems on the Township website
- Home v. utility grid wind energy systems

It was the consensus of the Board to allow staff to modify the proposed language and bring back for discussion at a future Board meeting.

C. Headlee Override Ballot Question

Township Manager Richards summarized the Headlee override ballot question as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 14, 2010.

Board members discussed the following:

- Placement of the Headlee override question on the ballot does not diminish the value of the Budget Work Group discussions
- Board must still deliberate on a budget that does not contain monies generated from a Headlee override
- Voters should have the opportunity to make the decision on whether to override the Headlee Amendment
- Comparison of millage rates relative to services performed by the Township with services provided by CATA, Ingham Intermediate School District, Ingham County, etc.
- Board member support for a partial Land Preservation renewal, a small millage for capital improvement for parks and a partial Headlee override which would total no more than the current .73 mills of Land Preservation which has expired
- Likelihood of voter passage of a full (.8 mills) v. partial Headlee override
- 25% reduction in staff through 2012 would be excessive
- Need for information on public opinion regarding this issue
- Possible cuts in police and fire without compromising the health, safety and welfare of Township residents
- Recommendation from the Land Preservation subcommittee was a .375 mill renewal
- Concern the Township will face the same staffing issues next year if only a partial Headlee override is placed on the ballot
- Concern there is Board confusion between the budget process and the Headlee override process
- Board must still prepare two budgets
- If a full Headlee override passes, the Board does not have to levy the entire amount
- Lansing and East Lansing do not currently levy the full amount of millage approved by voters
- Preliminary statistics from the US Census Bureau estimate for 2009 show a population decrease of approximately 300 people in Meridian Township
- No US Census population estimates currently available for 2010

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the August 5, 2010 Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Scott Eisensmith, 5847 Bois Ile Drive, Haslett, offered additional information on wind energy systems.

Beth Bechtel, 1165 Cliffdale, Haslett, expressed concern with use of cadets for code compliance as noted in her communication to the Board dated July 16, 2010.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra requested the Township Manager pursue resolution of Ms. Bechtel's concern.

Manager Richards noted that while cadets and other employees bring issues to the Community Planning and Development department, the follow-up is performed by building inspectors and employees with knowledge of Township ordinances.

Treasurer Brixie noted her handout from the July 11, 2010 edition of the *The Wall Street Journal* entitled "Charge Up and Go? First Ask City Hall." She inquired if the Board would be interested in pursuing adoption of a fast track approval process for electric car charging stations in order to install a home charging dock that operates on 220 to 240 volts. She stated this would make it easier for residents who are interested in reducing the carbon input into the environment.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary