

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy

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, requested the Board review and amend the ordinance pertaining to non-conforming uses of structures to address concerns expressed at the last meeting by Joan Blosser.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the Board's most recent version of the urban services boundary sent back to the Planning Commission, believing it sends a message to developers that the Board is encouraging development in the included areas. He spoke to the reports for sewer cleaning, indicating a significant portion of Township sewers are not being properly maintained, noting it is not wise to extend sewers when the Township is not taking care of what currently exists.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

5. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS
Treasurer Brixie reported that at the last Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) meeting, the CATA Board enacted a policy which complies with state law regarding carrying concealed weapons (CCW) and open carry gun permits. She announced the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will host its annual Celebrate Downtown Event on Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 3:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. The festivities will take place near the intersection of Okemos and Hamilton Roads behind the "old" Sip 'n' Snack.

Trustee Wilson announced a Future of Education Forum will be held at the Chippewa Middle School auditorium on Thursday, May 16, 2013 from 6:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M., adding this forum is open to all Capitol region residents. She reported her participation in a press conference yesterday at the State Capitol Building to launch One Capitol Region (a coalition of elected officials) supporting adoption of comprehensive antidiscrimination ordinances to ensure fairness and equality for all residents.

Clerk Dreyfus reported Williamston Community Schools held a special millage election on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 where Meridian Township voters in Precinct 7 voted 32 yes/32 no (tie vote) on the bond proposal, and the proposal was defeated overall. He also reported his participation in the Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting for the Habitat for Humanity Restore on April 26, 2013 and participated in a webinar on branding and placemaking hosted by Destination Development International (DDI). Clerk Dreyfus attended the monthly Economic Development

Corporation (EDC) meeting on May 9, 2013 where economic development goals and MABA were discussed. He reported a majority of Planning Commissioners attended the visioning charette for the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor, where the largest representation of community members present was from Meridian Township. Clerk Dreyfus facilitated a round-table visioning session and reported the group's ideas and discussion items to the entire assembly.

Trustee Veenstra attended the April 24, 2013 regular meeting of the Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) where a presentation was given on electric vehicles. He suggested the possible addition of electric vehicles in the Township's fleet and spoke to the need for an electric charging station for employees to recharge their electric vehicles. Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor charette where Meridian residents emphasized dense redevelopment of the Meridian Mall.

Trustee Styka reported the Cable Commission will hold a special meeting on May 22, 2013 to discuss a Township survey concerning cable and associated services. He urged residents to attend the Future of Education Forum on May 16th.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Move Agenda Item 11C to Agenda Item #9C: Board Discussion of Notice of Tree Removal from Cornell Road**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

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 Wilson.

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 April 16, 2013 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

\$410,212.29

Public Works	\$ 61,187.27
Total Checks	\$471,399.56
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 15,527.02
Total Purchases	<u>\$486,926.58</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$403,167.41</u>

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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]

D. Assessing Stipulations

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign a stipulation with CCPL Real Estate Group, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 435074
 CCPL REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-154-007	1881 Grand River	2012	\$352,100	\$343,508

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-154-007	1881 Grand River	2012	\$266,000	\$266,000

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign a stipulation with Courtesy Ford, Inc. in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 433112
 COURTESY FORD, INC.
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-176-017	1830 Grand River	2012	\$1,332,400	\$1,332,400

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-176-017	1830 Grand River	2012	\$913,200	\$913,200

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

- E. Ratification of New Police Officer Appointment
Treasurer Brixie moved ratification of the appointment of Michael Brazier to the position of Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

- F. Reappointments to the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee
Treasurer Brixie moved that the following property owners be appointed to the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee for terms expiring April 30, 2015: Robert Hollenshead, 6068 Columbia; Ronald Rowe, 6247 E. Lake Drive; Larry Wagenknecht, 6097 Partridge.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

- G. 2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District #13 - **Resolution #5A**
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the 2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 13 - Resolution No. 5A, which approves the special assessment roll; designates the project as “2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 13”, the assessment roll as the “2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 13 Special Assessment Roll”, and the district as the “2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 13”; adopts the amount of \$21,907.69 as the final amount for the assessment roll; and orders and directs the assessment roll to be paid and collected.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)9. HEARINGS

A. The Meadows Subdivision Public Streetlighting Improvement, Special Assessment District #324

Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 6:24 P.M.

Board members discussed the following:

- First year assessment is higher as it covers more than one calendar year
- Developer has already paid Consumers Energy for the streetlights, but they have not yet been installed

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

B. Notice of Tree Removal from Cornell Road (a Natural Beauty Road)

Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 6:26 P.M.

Bill Conklin, Managing Director, Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads (ICDTR), gave a brief presentation on the Cornell Road improvements, outlining resurfacing alternatives considered and the decision behind the recommended alternative. He offered crash data and recommended “clear zones.” Mr. Conklin explained how the natural beauty road designation related to the project.

County Commissioner Diane Holman, 4681 Van Atta Road, Okemos, addressed the many factors which need to be taken into consideration when making a decision which blends both safety and natural beauty for Cornell Road.

Chuck Veverka, 5266 Cornell Road, Haslett, spoke in opposition to the proposed extensive tree removal along Cornell Road as part of the resurfacing project.

Rollie Harmes, 5120 Cornell Road, Okemos, expressed concern with the entire process used by the ICDTR relative to the Cornell Road Improvement Project, believing it to be poor public policy and a flawed plan.

Lynn Hildebrandt, 4890 Chipping Camden Lane, Okemos, indicated the best solution is not always to make the road safer to travel faster, noting the answer can be to slow traffic down. She added Cornell Road is not an arterial road, and the better solution is to embrace the beauty of the road and slow traffic to a safe speed.

Anne Woiwode, 5088 Powell Road, Okemos, spoke to the history of saving trees on Powell Road years ago when the design was modified prior to paving, asking the current Board to repeat that consideration. She spoke to the concept of a natural beauty road, indicating the intent in Michigan Department of Transportation’s Resurfacing, Restoration and Rehabilitation (3R) Local Agency Program Guidelines is to consider changes to acknowledge natural beauty road status.

Mike Myrand, 1261 Orlando Road, Haslett, asked consideration be given to placing underground culverts/piping along the Cornell Road side of his property for safety reasons so that the ditch can be made less steep. He added he has seen ditching maintenance performed only twice in the last 26 years, which has allowed the ditch to fill up with leaves, branches, twigs, etc. and produce overflow onto private property.

Lynn Ochberg, 4383 Maumee, Okemos, requested Cornell Road be redesigned to preserve the natural beauty designation of the road and the integrity of the contiguous wetlands while reducing the speed limit. She spoke to higher priority roads such as Okemos Road receiving attention first.

Trisha Bird, 5625 Ventura Place, Haslett, spoke in support of the proposed Cornell Road Improvement Project, believing safety should be the first consideration.

William Lindow, 5586 Silverleaf Court, Haslett, spoke in support of the Cornell Road Improvement Project as proposed for safety reasons. He expressed concern with a speed limit of 45 miles per hour on a natural beauty road.

County Commissioner Deb Nolan, 4329 Heartwood, Okemos, spoke to the county public hearing which will be held on May 14th at 6:30 PM at the Mason Courthouse. She stated the County Board of Commissioners will subsequently make the decision as to what the Cornell Road Project will “look like.” She expressed interest in knowing whether Cornell Road residents wish resurfacing only, the “full plan” or resurfacing with shoulders.

Leo Sheets, 4295 Moyer, Williamston, suggested speed bumps should be considered on Cornell Road to slow traffic. He added that since accidents were mentioned at the corner of Cornell and Tihart Roads, a four way stop sign may be the solution. Mr. Sheets reminded Board members that American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards are guidelines, not law. He expressed concerns with earlier reference to the similarities between Van Atta and Cornell Roads.

June Cooke, 1200 Ascot Place, Haslett, expressed concern with allowing her children to ride their bikes on Cornell Road and spoke in support of the improvement project as proposed for safety reasons. She also voiced her support for leveling the hill which is in close proximity to the intersection.

Ed Brady, 1139 Teakwood Circle, Haslett, spoke to the natural beauty of Cornell Road and in opposition to removal of 500 trees.

Michael Thomas, 2555 Capeside Drive, Okemos and Vice-Chair of the Environmental Commission, expressed a desire for the Commission to be allowed time to review the Cornell Road Improvement Project and make recommendations regarding the wetland use permit. He indicated Hatch Road set a precedent for the Environmental Commission to work with the then Road Commission in designing both environmentally friendly as well as safe roads in the Township.

Don Kagey, 4026 Shoals Drive, Okemos, spoke to the dangers of bicycling on Cornell Road and voiced his support for the proposed Cornell Road Improvement Project.

Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC), 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, spoke to Cornell Road crossing three (3) drainage systems (Foster, Jeffries and Hathaway Drains) and the requirement for drainage review by the ICDC. He believed the draft plan is the wrong approach as safety and environmental issues are not mutually exclusive concerns.

Susan Masten, 1320 Ivywood Drive, Okemos, spoke to the wetlands which Cornell Road runs through and inquired as to what mitigation plan is being proposed by Ingham County. She addressed the use of “clear zones” for a natural beauty road.

Michael Unsworth, 5498 Village Drive, Haslett, spoke to the timeline of this project. He did not believe it feasible to build a pathway along Cornell Road.

Leslie Kuhn, 6162 Oakpark Trail, Haslett, spoke in opposition to the Cornell Road Improvement Project as proposed and asked for the natural beauty to be retained. She offered accident data obtained from the Michigan State Police and believed the speed limit on Cornell Road to be excessive.

Don Frank, 5277 Cornell Road, Haslett, addressed the current “routine” brush cutting along Cornell Road, stating such action is totally outside of the guidelines for a natural beauty road. He spoke in opposition to the proposed project and suggested speed controls be designed for the road.

Ned Jackson, 6232 W. Reynolds Road, Haslett, expressed concern the Environmental Commission has not had sufficient time to review the proposed project. He spoke to the need for the road's surface to be improved and addressed the current speed limit on Cornell Road.

Bill Wolfe, 5454 Cornell Road, Haslett, spoke to the totally deteriorated condition of Cornell Road. He voiced support for some type of pedestrian accommodation along the road for walking and biking, but believed it premature to move the project forward.

Cindy Greenleaf, on behalf of William Hagerman, 4777 Cornell Road, Okemos, believed Cornell Road has deteriorated due to drainage problems. She spoke in support of the proposed road improvement project, especially the addition of culverts to address water problems experienced by abutting property.

Margaret Smith, 4415 Elmwood Drive, Okemos, believed the three (3) foot shoulder is a compromise from the recognized industry standards and only resurfacing the road is not the economical solution.

Jean Kaufman, 5140 Cornell Road, Okemos, believed the potholes on Cornell Road are what is preventing motor vehicle drivers from speeding. She indicated the trees are holding the road and tree removal will eliminate the canopy.

Richard Baumgartner, 1064 Cliffdale, Haslett, believed the road needs improvement but indicated all the trees designated for removal do not need to be cut. He spoke to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) guidelines for tree removal.

Eckhart Dersch, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos, expressed appreciation to ICDTR for its desire to improve Cornell Road, but indicated the natural beauty road must be protected and preserved. He suggested lowering the speed limit to 35 miles per hour.

Margo Smith, 5375 Wild Oak Drive, East Lansing, expressed concern with removal of significant trees along Cornell Road. She inquired as to any effect widening of the road would have on the Sandford Land Preserve Natural Area located on the southwest corner of Tihart and Cornell Roads.

Michael Leon, 4890 Chipping Camden Lane, Okemos, believed widening Cornell Road and removing trees will increase the speed traveled on the road. He believed there are other alternatives available for Cornell Road and inquired as to which nearby road will be used as a detour. He implied the 3R standards are used for commercial vehicles.

Kathy Donahue, 2221 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, believed beauty "is in the eye of the beholder" and offered a Powerpoint of various beautiful roads. She indicated she would not ride her bicycle even if shoulders are provided if the current speed limit of 45 miles per hour is retained.

James Linnemann, 1154 Teakwood Circle, Haslett, does not believe it necessary to cut 500 trees to make the road safe. He did not believe the plan was "thought through."

Jessica Adler, 1580 Hillside Drive, Okemos, believed speed to be the deciding factor as to what is done with Cornell Road. She indicated the proposed improvement project will result in the loss of the beauty road designation. While acknowledging the road is in disrepair, she requested more time be taken to do this project correctly.

Brad Brogren, 5004 Cornell Road, Okemos, indicated the natural beauty road is a major asset for the community and believed removal of 500 trees does not adhere to the rural character of the area.

Greg Wade, 1320 Ethel Street, Okemos, wants the trees on Cornell Road saved, and believed the process is being rushed.

Beth Hubbell, 1158 Woodside Drive, Haslett, believed tree removal fifteen (15) feet on each side of Cornell Road would completely change the look of the road, addressing the devastating environmental impact which would result. She expressed skepticism that there has been funds used for yearly maintenance on the road.

Tom Voice, 5160 Cornell Road, Okemos, expressed mixed feelings about the proposed improvement project, and requested the process be slowed down to allow for critical thinking on this important issue. He did not believe safety would be improved by widening the road.

Carla Clos, Deputy Drain Commissioner, 2669 Linden, East Lansing, believed there is a way to have safety on and retain the natural beauty of Cornell Road and requested the Board find that balance. She suggested using off road pathway millage money to build a boardwalk/off road pathway instead of building a two (2) feet shoulder for pedestrians/bicyclists.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, stated it is only a "perception" that a two (2) foot shoulder can be safely used by pedestrians/bicyclists. He believed the current speed limit too high and even when the road is improved and the natural character retained, the speed limit should be lowered.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, requested the Board suspend the rules, add the Cornell Road Improvement Project as an action item, and make a decision on the project this evening.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 9:00 P.M.

C. Board Discussion on Notice of Tree Removal from Cornell Road (a Natural Beauty Road)

Board members and the ICDTR representative discussed the following:

- Purpose of the process allows Board members to hear citizen views
- New configuration of the old Ingham County Road Commission allows the Township Board an opportunity to work out some of the "negatives" received in ICDTR's recommendation
- Opposition to the 15 foot clear zone recommended by the ICDTR
- Concern that two (2) foot shoulder is not sufficient for pedestrian/bicycle activity
- Concern the newly paved surface will result in increased speed
- Importance of retaining the natural beauty road status
- Suggestion to reduce the clear zone to eight (8) feet, reducing tree removal to 170
- Suggestion for the trees in the eight (8) foot clear zone to be examined individually to determine their fate
- Preference to make the travel lanes narrower (10 feet) and include the extra foot in each pedestrian/bicycle portion, which would become three (3) foot paved shoulders
- The Board must approve the project in order for it to move forward, as the Township is providing the majority of funds
- Option to consider coloring the shoulder differently from the road surface which would make the road appear narrower and slow traffic
- Application should be made to lower the speed limit on Cornell Road to 35 miles per hour
- Road needs to be repaved while retaining the beauty of the road
- Suggestion to use stop signs to slow traffic on Cornell
- Need to revisit the entire idea of the clear zone
- Importance of reducing the speed limit and utilizing the ability to enforce that limit
- Language contained in the Natural Beauty Road Act states its purpose is to make an exception to what road engineers believe is the preferred practice
- Law allows for "only modifying specific road features to correct traffic hazards that pose a direct ongoing threat to motorists"
- Proposal exceeds what the act contemplates for a natural beauty road
- Consideration should be given during the project for a potential future pathway along the road that would include boardwalks over wetlands, etc. which would provide a safe place for pedestrians/bicyclists

- Board member belief the hearing should have been held months ago if the project is to be completed this summer
- Of the 500 trees proposed to be removed, over 430 are between 6-18 inches in diameter, with more than half on the lower end of the range
- Remaining 63 of the 70 trees are in the 19"-36" range with seven (7) trees over 36"
- Inquiry if the road can be constructed around the largest trees
- Some of the largest trees are extremely close to the road and if the ICDTR chose to tile along the road, not placing shoulders or ditches, there is still concern over root damage
- Suggestion to reduce the speed limit to 35 miles per hour and utilize stop signs
- ICDTR has not applied for permits as the department is receiving input on what is to be built
- Preferred pavement option presented by the ICDTR is grinding existing pavement and adding 4" of new crushed asphalt
- Recommendation by the Township's Local Road Committee for the project to be completed this year and subsequent hiring of the consultant
- Advantage to undertake the Cornell Road project as scheduled is that the ICDTR plans to mill Marsh Road this year and the crushed asphalt from that road would be available
- Necessity for the Board to receive greater detail on the proposed project
- Drainage improvements are necessary in order to extend the life of the new pavement
- Speed limits are set through unanimous agreement of the Township, the road agency (i.e., County Commission) and the Michigan State Police
- Input from the Michigan State Police is based on a speed study
- ICDTR has placed a call to the Michigan State Police to request a speed study
- Suggestion that a speed study should be conducted prior to repavement
- Confusion over information disseminated regarding the timing of this project
- Consideration should be given to one of the short term fixes for repavement for safety reasons
- Belief that shoulder expansion will make Cornell Road less safe
- Statistical data indicates Van Atta Road has less than half of the daily trips as Cornell Road with the same number of fixed object accidents
- Concern with prioritizing convenience over stewardship of irreplaceable community assets (i.e., trees and wetlands)
- Destruction of the only natural beauty road in Meridian Township at a time when the Township is working to create a new identity (placemaking) is counterproductive
- Importance of input by the Environmental Commission
- Possible use of the subcommittee process, with representatives from each entity, to obtain a workable plan
- Necessity of lowering the speed limit as well as implementation of other traffic calming measures
- Goals of the natural beauty road program are to "identify and preserve, in a natural and essentially undisturbed condition, certain county local roads having unusual or outstanding beauty by virtue of native vegetation or other natural features within, or associated with, the right-of-way for the use and enjoyment of local residents and the public in general"
- Request that a resolution for the Township Board asking for a lower speed limit on Cornell Road be prepared as an action item at the next Board meeting

10. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

- A. Rezoning #13010 (Planning Commission), Rezone 5691 Babbitt Street from C-2 (Commercial) to RB (Single Family-Medium Density) – **Introduction**
Trustee Scales 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 Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #13010" from C-2 (Commercial) to RB (Single Family-High Density).

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 Trustee Veenstra.

Board members discussed the following:

- Property has had residential use for the last 80 years
- Rezoning from C-2 to RB will eliminate the non-conforming use status

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed the eminent domain request to acquire the necessary pathway easements to be reasonable and necessary.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Eminent Domain for Pathway Easements

Board members discussed the following:

- Pathway easements are necessary for public safety reasons
- Length of time the Township has been working with property owners
- Suggestion for the Township to offer tree replacement
- Township attempts to obtain easements at no cost in exchange for landscaping and trees as compensation or provided screening between the pathway and the owner's home

B. The Meadows Subdivision Public Streetlighting Improvement, Special Assessment District #324

Board members discussed the following:

- Flexibility in the placement of the streetlights can be obtained through the Township working with Consumers Energy
- Normal procedure is placement at the property line and equal spacing
- Contact with the Department of Public Works and Engineering if a property owner wishes to ask for specific placement of the streetlight

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the next Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered information relative to discrepancies in the reporting of sewer maintenance footage in 2012.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra noted a second theme repeated at the May 1st Michigan/Grand River Corridor charette was a tree canopy over Grand River Avenue. He believed it spoke to public desire for retention of the tree canopy on Cornell Road. Trustee Veenstra pointed to the statement contained in the letter from LINC which stated the three (3) month limit for repairing fire/tornado damage to non-conforming homes is too short. He requested the grace period be lengthened to one (1) year and the structure allowed to be restored to its previous condition through an ordinance amendment(s).

Trustee Styka announced the intent of the subcommittee to use the standard Township consulting form in its proposal for Mr. Richards' consulting services.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 10:00 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary