

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra (6:02 P.M.), Woiwode
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Personnel Director/Assistant Manager Paul Brake, Attorney Andria Ditschman

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.
4. PUBLIC REMARKS
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.
Michael Fielek, Chair, Williamstown Township Planning Commission, spoke in opposition to Rezoning #06020 (Mayberry Homes, Inc.).

Dean Bolton, 4621 Ottawa, Okemos, spoke in support of the two Okemos Public Schools funding proposals to be considered on the ballot for the May 8, 2007 School Election. He invited citizens to three community forums on these funding proposals. Scheduled times are 7:00 P.M. on April 18th at Chippewa Middle School, April 19th at Hiawatha Elementary and April 26th at Okemos High School. Detailed information can also be obtained at www.voteyesforops.com

Ann Alchin, 2227 Hamilton Road, Okemos, addressed comments made by another citizen regarding the alleged illegality of two stop signs on Hamilton Road.

Charles Willems, PO Box 84, Haslett, addressed the status of Parcel #33-02-02-11-176-002 and stated this property, owned by Mrs. Willems, is landlocked.

Deborah Duncan, Co-Chair of the Okemos Citizens Millage Committee, 2562 Heather Circle, East Lansing invited citizens to the informational presentations regarding the funding proposals for Okemos Public Schools to be considered at the May 8, 2007 Election.

Eckhart Dersch, Chair, Meridian Township Park Commission, 2203 Butternut, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #06020 (Mayberry Homes, Inc.)

James Kielbaso, Environmental Commission representative, 4696 Huron Hill, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #06020 (Mayberry Homes, Inc.)

Pat Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, spoke to "smart growth" and in support of Rezoning #06020 (Mayberry Homes, Inc.)

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Clerk Helmbrecht announced the first group of absentee ballots will be mailed April 18, 2007. Citizens interested in obtaining an absentee ballot can begin the process by calling the Clerk's Office at 853-4300 and an application will be mailed to them.

Trustee Brixie attended the most recent Groundwater Management Board meeting where a decision was made to move ahead with the creation of a Large Water Users Group in the Tri-County area, one of the first in the state. She will provide updates on progress as it develops.

Trustee Veenstra voiced concern that the issue of the Willems property description had not been resolved.

Township Manager Richards clarified that the Township's web accessible assessing information is not updated on a daily basis, so changes made in the official assessing records of the Township are not necessarily reflected on what can be accessed on the Internet. It was his understanding that an adjustment has been made, but he will verify with Assessing that has been handled.

Supervisor McGillicuddy attended meetings on April 11th for the Marsh Road repaving, the Asset Management Conference and the Tri-County Transportation Committee. The Marsh Road repaving project will receive federal funding and, as such, will be eligible for road enhancements. She inquired as to Board thoughts regarding other community input.

Manager Richards added that an e-mail response was received from Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) staff indicating the design for Marsh Road could be three (3) or four (4) lanes, but the issue of safety needs to be explored which could take a considerable amount of time to determine. He proposed the possibility of having a qualified engineering firm study the issue and make a recommendation before Marsh Road is striped. Manager Richards stated the project is to be completed later in the 2007 construction season.

Trustee Such asked staff to inquire if the ICRC would be receptive to the Township's consultant providing the Road Commission with the necessary information and provide the Board with the cost of doing so.

Clerk Helmbrecht noted that she believed three (3) lane roads are the most dangerous and would need an explanation why taking Marsh Road from four (4) lanes to three (3) would be advantageous.

Township Manager Richards reminded residents of the cooperative effort with Granger and Waste Management for the opportunity to recycle old paperback books, hardbound books, cardboard and boxboard. This event is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Farmers Market Pavilion.

Manager Richards noted the Township, through the Road Commission, applied for an amended Okemos Road grant which has been approved. The next step in the process is for a concept design by the Township's engineers followed by an opportunity for public input.

Manager Richards indicated planning for the Fourth of July celebration has commenced; unfortunately, there has not been much business or individual interest. If the event is to take place this year, a decision needs to be made if the Township will be contributing money towards the event. More information and discussion will take place at the May 1st Board meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 17, 2007 *APPROVED*

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Determination (BD)

- 9B/11B-1 Daria Schlega, 2446 Burcham Drive, East Lansing; RE: Submission of petition for appeal of SUP #07021 (Meridian Township), request to work in the floodplain to build a pathway between Burcham Drive and Okemos Road along the Consumers Energy right-of-way
- 9B/11B-2 Lori DeBartello, 2374 N. Wild Blossom Court, East Lansing; RE: Submission of petition for appeal of SUP #07021 (Meridian Township), request to work in the floodplain to build a pathway between Burcham Drive and Okemos Road along the Consumers Energy right-of-way
- 9B/11B-3 Lori DeBartello, 2374 N. Wild Blossom Court, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to SUP #07021 (Meridian Township), request to work in the floodplain to build a pathway between Burcham Drive and Okemos Road along the Consumers Energy right-of-way
- 9B/11B-4 Annette Barton, 2380 N. Wild Blossom Court, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to SUP #07021 (Meridian Township), request to work in the floodplain to build a pathway between Burcham Drive and Okemos Road along the Consumers Energy right-of-way

(2). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Jennifer Anderson, 6028 Porter Avenue, East Lansing; RE: Size of out buildings allowed to be added in neighborhoods on lots with existing homes

(3). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

- SC-1 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, March 30, 2007 Edition
- SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, April 6, 2007 Edition
- SC-3 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 March 29, 2007
- SC-4 Memo from Mary M.G. Helmbrecht, Township Clerk; RE: Solicitation from Tina Kahn to volunteer for the Recycling Day Event on April 21, 2007

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

Materials received at the April 3, 2007 Board Meeting

- Township Manager Gerald Richards; RE: Staff response to Carol Hubbard, 1819 Hamilton Road regarding the condition of roads in Meridian Township
- Charles Louis Willems, PO Box 184, Haslett; RE: Lakefront Classification of Parcel #33-02-02-11-176-002
- Charles Louis Willems, PO Box 184, Haslett; RE: Request for definition of assessing term "complete view of the lake"

Trustee 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 Woiwode.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the April 3, 2007 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

Trustee Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 388,293.72
Public Works	\$ 602,676.40
Total Checks	\$ 990,970.12
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 19,942.63
Total Purchases	<u>\$1,010,912.75</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 290,001.19</u>

Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Reorganization Plan for Cable/HOM-TV

Trustee Brixie moved approval of the staff reorganization plan for Cable/HOM-TV as described in the memorandum dated April 13, 2007. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Reappointments to the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee

Trustee Brixie moved that the following property owners be reappointed to the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee for terms expiring April 30, 2009: Robert Hollenshead, 6068 Columbia; Helen Shipley, 6369 W. Reynolds and Larry Wagenknecht, 6097 Partridge. Seconded by Trustee Woiwode.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (See Agenda Item #11C)

9. HEARINGS

- A. SUP #07-88131 (Bharatiya Temple), a request to construct an addition of 3,975 square feet to the existing facility at 955 Haslett Road
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the public hearing at 6:35 P.M.

Director Kieselbach summarized the special use permit request as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 11, 2007.

Supervisor McGillicuddy asked if this was a different plan from the one proposed in 2004.

Director Kieselbach responded it was essentially the same.

Rajiv Das, Chair of the Bharatiya Temple Board of Trustees, 955 Haslett Road, Haslett, spoke to the lack of funding as the reason for the expiration of the 2004 special use permit request and the need for the renewed request.

Sudhakar Kulkarni, 2212 Ridgeline Drive, Lansing, spoke in support of the Bharatiya Temple's request for approval of the special use permit.

Manohar Naga, Vice-Chair of the Bharatiya Temple Board of Trustees, 955 Haslett Road, Haslett, spoke to the increase in temple attendance which has created the need for additional floor space.

Joseph Hundt, 5672 N. Woodside Drive, Haslett, read from a prepared statement in opposition to SUP #07-88131 (Bharatiya Temple).

[Prepared Statement on File in Official Minute Book]

Aditya Sharma, 1104 Woodwind Trail, Haslett, addressed Planning Commission initiation of a zoning amendment to amend the length of time special use permit and site plan review approvals are valid.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed the public hearing at 6:52 P.M.

- B. Appeal of SUP #07021 (Meridian Township), a request to work in the floodplain to build a pathway between Burcham Drive and Okemos Road along the Consumers Energy right-of-way
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the public hearing at 6:52 P.M.

Director Kieselbach summarized the appeal as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 12, 2007.

APPELLANT

Daria Schlega, 2446 Burcham, East Lansing, addressed the "absurdity" of this pathway as proposed and alleged it would lead to nowhere and ruin the existing neighborhood. She also read a statement from her neighbor, Mrs. Pickett, 2450 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, in opposition to SUP #07021.

Ann Graham, 2458 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, spoke to concerns expressed in Annette Barton's letter to the Board regarding basement flooding and felt the Board does not listen to the community's remarks.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Commissioner LeGoff, 5189 E. Brookfield Drive, East Lansing, reiterated Planning Commission approval of the special use permit.

APPELLANT'S REBUTTAL

Daria Schlega, 2446 Burcham, East Lansing, stated she does not understand the rationale for placement of this pathway and objected to the twelve (12) foot width of the pathway.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed the public hearing at 7:13 P.M.

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Pratin Trivedi, 1042 Nautical Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of the SUP #07-88131 (Bharatiya Temple).

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

- A. SUP #07-88131 (Bharatiya Temple), a request to construct an addition of 3,975 square feet to the existing facility at 955 Haslett Road

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Parking lot and building lighting will conform to the existing ordinance and will be addressed during site plan review
- Landscaping requirements the same as the 2004 SUP request and need to be included in this request
- Request for the applicant to conform with the Township's new lighting ordinance specifically as it relates to dome lighting
- Staff to address the list of questions posed by the Temple's neighbor
- Inappropriate for the Township to "weigh-in" on the architectural design of the Temple
- Meets setback requirements
- Township consultant's belief that the stormwater from the addition crossing the grass and draining into the Jeffries Drain was the best alternative
- Zoning Board of Appeals granted a variance for the parking lot not to have curb and gutter
- Berm in the back of the property

The consensus of the Board was to place this item on for action at the May 1, 2007 Board Meeting.

- B. Appeal of SUP #07021 (Meridian Township), a request to work in the floodplain to build a pathway between Burcham Drive and Okemos Road along the Consumers Energy right-of-way

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHA) requirement for bicycle pathways of twelve (12) feet in width in order to receive federal funding
- Federal funding contingent upon acceptable license length of eight (8) years from Consumers Energy
- Waiver of annual fee by Consumers if the Township maintains the pathway
- Pathway will not have any gates at the entrances and be open to the public
- Concern regarding misuse of ATV's on a twelve (12) foot pathway
- Pathway will be built so that it drains down to the Eberly Drain and will clean up the irregularities of the existing grounds down to the small ditch so it drains in the same direction
- Work in the floodplain will be 900 feet from the east end of Building 18
- All buildings within the Dream Lakes Condominiums were built above the floodplain
- Existing fence between Building 18 and the pathway to be maintained by the Meridian East Lansing Waster Sewer Authority
- Request for non-motorized pathway signage
- Bicycle patrols by the Police Department indicate bicycle pathways are safe
- Bicycle pathways promote the Township's goal of walkability and long term goal of connectivity to the heart of Michigan Trail
- Connection of this pathway on both ends with future connection from Okemos Road to Marsh Road
- Engineering estimate for cost of pathway is \$220,000 with \$130,000 from the federal grant and \$90,000 from pathway millage
- Staff to respond to inaccuracies contained in citizens' letters

The consensus of the Board was to place this item on for action at the May 1, 2007 Board Meeting.

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- C. Rezoning #06020 (Mayberry Homes, Inc.), a request to rezone approximately 141 acres located at 580 Haslett Road and east of 350 Haslett Road from RR (Rural Residential) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density) conditioned on the site being developed as a PUD
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed rezoning as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 12, 2007.

Robert K. Schroeder, 676 Aquilla Drive, East Lansing, offered history of the proposed rezoning request.

Board members, staff and the applicant discussed the following:

- Planning Commission concern with what is planned along common border with Williamstown Township
- Adjacent Williamstown Township property zoned with a minimum of forty (40) acre lots
- Concern with community need as there are currently ten (10) subdivisions planned for Meridian Township
- Concern this area is not part of the walkable community concept
- Current water capacity would be for 250 homes
- Connectivity with Creekwood Lane in Wood Ridge subdivision and future connection with Green and Haslett Roads
- Less visual impact from Haslett Road with the proposed layout
- Sewer capacity can be handled with the increase of 8" pipe to 10" pipe and an upgraded pump
- Improved overall sewer capacity as the bottleneck would be removed
- Smaller lots attract younger families and presumably would bring more money into the Haslett School District
- Developer would pay for the cost of improving water and sewer
- Affordable housing exemplified by Okemos Preserve as well as this proposal
- Condominium association will own the open space and wetlands
- Definition of site condominium
- Use of conditional zoning
- Completion of a tree inventory by the applicant
- Preservation of trees along the border with Williamstown Township
- Consideration of the success of Okemos Preserve
- Possible road access with Wood Ridge subdivision
- Preservation of 72 acres of buildable upland
- Connection to the Township's Greenspace Plan
- Narrower streets will allow safety equipment to access all the buildings
- Sidewalks will be placed on both sides of the streets as well as internal pathways
- Connection of both entrances to the pathway system along Haslett Road
- Condominium association responsible for maintenance of private roads built to county standards
- Bicycle pathways along the entire length of Haslett Road for the property
- Possible paved shoulder along Haslett Road
- Possible pathway connection to the Wood Valley subdivision to the north would require some type of bridge across the Jeffries Drain
- Issue with continuation of Spring Mill Drive when the Wood Valley Subdivision was developed was crossing the Jeffries Drain
- Wood Valley subdivision was a multiple phase project
- Developer intent to modify the plan before the Board as necessary for open space, etc.
- Pathway access to Township park on Meridian Road which should be separated from the road right-of-way for safety reasons

Design of the planned unit development: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. This picture is based on 341 homes. If the Board were to approve the Planning Commission recommendation of only rezoning part of the parcel, not the whole request, would we then want a different picture showing the PUD, or does that matter?
- A. At this point, the condition is not related to any specific plans. You could ask for it just for ideas, but the development wouldn't be tied into any specific layout if that was sent to you to look at. It would just be for information.

The consensus of the Board was to have staff prepare two motions and place this item on for action at the May 1, 2007 Board meeting.

D. Cityhood

Manager Richards summarized the list of questions regarding cityhood as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 12, 2007.

Board members discussed the following:

- Answers to the list of questions may elicit more questions
- Request to attorney to review procedure for ordinance adoption if Meridian Township becomes a city
- Effect on existing codes if Meridian Township becomes a city
- Existing Commissions ability to continue functioning if Meridian Township becomes a city
- List of questions presented in packet sent to Michigan Municipal League for response
- Understanding that the Charter Commission could statutorily structure the form of government to essentially function the same as Meridian Township currently operates
- Read list of fifteen (15) questions presented in Board packet for public input
- Answers to the questions posed will be posted on the Township website
- Potential fiscal impact of state offered incentives/disincentives for consolidation of functions within units of government
- Estimate of costs for road maintenance if the Township becomes a city
- Advantages of control over roads (e.g., width, speed limits, tree-lined streets)
- Which county roads Meridian Township would have jurisdiction over if it becomes a city
- How much money the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) currently spends on roads within Meridian Township
- How much money would be received from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for roads within Meridian Township if it became a city
- How much money the ICRC currently receives from MDOT for roads within Meridian Township
- Effect cityhood has on potential for annexation
- Speaker from the Michigan Municipal League to address the Board regarding cityhood
- Representative from the National Center for Pavement Preservation to address the Board at its May 15th Board meeting regarding the Township's road system and road maintenance
- Sub-questions which outline the details of the structure of cityhood (e.g., wards, partisan v. non-partisan for the electorate, mayor v. manager)
- District voting system would be a significant change for the Township
- Possible use of the name Meridian

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Carl Harmon, 1924 Birchwood, Okemos, expressed appreciation for the Board's discussion on Mayberry Homes and the Board's work on cityhood.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:12 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary