

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:12 PM)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Finance Diana Hasse

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.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed concern with editing of his remarks in the July 17, 2012 Board Meeting minutes. He thanked Board members who voted in favor of rezoning 4133 Okemos Road from residential to Professional Office (PO) and spoke to his belief that some of the literature on this rezoning ballot issue was dishonest.

Carlene Webster, 2081 Lac DuMont, Haslett, voiced concern with the Board's failure to act positively on the Grange Acres request at the last Board meeting. She offered clarification to Board members on the issues of tax exemptions and precedence and asked the Board to vote tonight for a reconsideration at the August 21, 2012 Board meeting.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to timely availability of an online Board packet for the public and requested the Board make a motion directing the Township Manager to have the Board packet accessible on Friday evening before a Board meeting. He outlined what he believed to be the process for the online Board packet. Mr. Bowlby addressed the Trilogy project, indicating it was a different type of residential use, not a commercial use.

Gabriel Hausbeck, 4800 Nassau Street, Okemos, voiced several concerns with the Trilogy Health Services project, most notably that it "strands" some of the would-be residential property between the proposed development and the Panera Bread Company development. He expressed apprehension with the potential future changes to the healthcare industry and Medicare guidelines, indicating what currently is a profitable project may lead to a vacant building in the future. Mr. Hausbeck also believed the size of the structure was not harmonious with the adjacent residential neighborhood. He urged the Board to consider his comments when making its decision this evening.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, reiterated his comment from previous Board meetings that the Meridian Township Board has failed to justify a new central fire station. He expressed several concerns with Board discussion surrounding this issue at its July 17, 2012 Board meeting. Mr. Kincaid urged residents to vote down the Central Fire Station Bond proposal on November 6th.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. 2011 Audit Presentation - Les Pulver, Partner and Gretchen Gomolka, Plante & Moran PLLC

Les Pulver, Audit Partner, Plante & Moran, 1111 Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, indicated inclusion in the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report dated December 31, 2011 of an unqualified audit opinion (which is the highest level opinion that can be received on a set of financial statements and means there are no exceptions to the financial report).

Gretchen Gomolka, Audit Manager, Plante & Moran, 1111 Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, gave a graphic audit presentation highlighting the Township's financial status for 2011 year-end, noting a modest general fund revenue decrease of \$120,000 from the prior year. She noted 2011 was the first year a decrease in property taxes was notable. Ms. Gomolka indicated the General Fund fund balance increased nearly \$350,000 from last year. She added the Township has exceeded its self imposed goal of maintaining at least two (2) months worth of operating expenditures in the fund balance for, at least, the seventh consecutive year.

Ms. Gomolka stated the Enterprise Funds (Water and Sewer Funds) experienced a combined net loss for 2011, but pointed to \$1.6 million in depreciation which is a non-cash transaction.

Mr. Pulver indicated revenues exceeded expenditures for the General Fund. The Township added slightly more than \$300,000 to the fund balance in 2011. He announced the Township was financially stronger at the end of 2011 than it was in 2010 and again earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Mr. Pulver outlined a few suggestions to counteract deficiencies/material weaknesses in internal control, largely due to reductions in staffing.

Board members, staff and the auditors discussed the following

- Land Preservation Fund monies do not include the market value of properties, but amount of money in the fund itself
- Enterprise Funds experienced a net loss of \$800,000 due to depreciation
- Board member suggestion that water and sewer rates be set to cover depreciation

B. Election Report - Clerk Mary Helmbrecht

Clerk Helmbrecht announced that 29% of Meridian Township registered voters cast a ballot in the August 7th Primary Election. She declared the unofficial winners in each party for Township races of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Township Trustee and Park Commission. Clerk Helmbrecht indicated the Ingham County Board of Canvassers would determine if any write-in candidate had sufficient votes to be placed on the November 6th General Election ballot. She spoke to passage of both the road millage and senior center proposal while stating the rezoning of 4133 Okemos Road met with defeat. Clerk Helmbrecht thanked election workers and the Clerk's staff for their hard work during this election process.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at the August 6th meeting of the Downtown Development Authority, where available spots for the downtown Okemos walkability audit to be held on August 14, 2012 from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. were discussed. She also reported her attendance at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's (TCRPC) Implementation Steering Committee on August 7th where the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regional grant was discussed, focusing on infill projects along the Grand River Corridor.

Trustee Ochberg reported the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) met last night where information was received on a pre-sale board, the latest in fast food drive through restaurants. On behalf of the ZBA, she requested the Board direct staff to prepare an ordinance regarding pre-sale boards, anticipating a flood of requests.

Trustee LeGoff attended the July 18, 2012 meeting of the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA) where the Burcham/Park Lake Road roundabout was discussed. She noted completion is expected at the end of September. She thanked residents who supported her candidacy for Township Supervisor.

Trustee Brixie reported she hosted the last Capital Area Treasurer's Meeting where brainstorming continued on ways to cope during times of reduced revenues, focusing on tax tribunals and impacts to local communities on the collection level. She noted the Economic Development Corporation's Global Initiative Subcommittee met to continue planning welcoming activities for the approximately 3,000 international students who will enter Michigan State University this fall. Treasurer Brixie stated approximately 1,300 additional Chinese freshmen will arrive for Michigan State University's international orientation and the subcommittee has arranged a shopping trip throughout the community.

Trustee Dreyfus commented on an article in the *Lansing City Pulse* regarding the potential multi-use development of the Red Cedar Golf Course, noting the proposal for a 1,000 bed student housing complex with retail in the lower level was met with opposition by LEAP, Inc. for a variety of reasons.

Trustee Veenstra attended the July 25th regular meeting of the TCRPC where Enbridge Pipeline Company proposed building a pipeline through Stockbridge Township and its Planning Commission defeated the proposal. He indicated citizens can leave comments on sustainable development in the tri-county region through the following link on TCRPC's home page: ideas.MidMichiganSustainability.org Trustee Veenstra also announced a regional public meeting will be held at TCRPC headquarters by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to address the state's long range transportation needs on August 15, 2012 from 4:30-6:30 P.M. He thanked voters who supported him during the primary election.

Trustee Veenstra expressed concern the Township's appointment of Thomas Maleck to the Capital Area Transportation Authority's (CATA) Board of Directors was met with opposition by CATA staff, citing a conflict of interest. He believed the Township Board needs to have discussion on this issue at a future meeting.

Supervisor McGillicuddy spoke to communications received by citizens expressing concern above ground fire pits are allowed in Meridian Township. She stated above ground fire pits appear to be a growing problem.

Manager Richards added it is his understanding some communities regulate above ground fire pits. He added staff can review this issue if the Board decides to place it on its list of priorities.

Supervisor McGillicuddy inquired of staff if the Township's current code could be used to deal with this type of fire pit.

Director Kieselbach noted there is an exception in the outdoor burning ordinance to allow recreational fires through the permitting process if certain standards are met.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Add Agenda Item #11C: Friday Online Board Packet**

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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 the second to last bullet point on page 5 of the minutes by inserting "health facility" after "county"**

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

NAYS: Trustee Ochberg

Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

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 LeGoff.

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

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

C. Bills

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

Common Cash		\$	484,314.17
Public Works		\$	201,262.73
Retainage			
Check #1053 – Irish Construction			
Okemos Road Lift Station	\$	10,379.16	
Check #1052 – J Ranck Electric			
Wood Valley Lift Station	\$	<u>9,454.31</u>	\$ 19,833.47
Total Checks		\$	705,410.37
Credit Card Transactions		\$	18,486.00
Total Purchases		\$	<u>723,896.37</u>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>934,876.94</u>

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor
 McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: Trustee Ochberg
 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 Cedar Creek MS, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 386189
CEDAR CREEK MS, LLC
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-28-202-006	4394 Okemos Road	2010	\$2,878,100	\$2,878,100
33-02-02-28-202-006	4394 Okemos Road	2011	\$2,815,400	\$2,815,400
33-02-02-28-202-006	4394 Okemos Road	2012	\$2,734,800	\$2,734,800

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-28-202-006	4394 Okemos Road	2010	\$2,075,000	\$2,075,000
33-02-02-28-202-006	4394 Okemos Road	2011	\$2,815,400*	\$2,110,275
33-02-02-28-202-006	4394 Okemos Road	2012	\$2,734,800*	\$2,167,252

*The 2011 and 2012 assessed values were not appealed and are not under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. They cannot be revised and must remain unchanged from the original assessed values for those years.

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign a stipulation with Target Corporation in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 388527
TARGET CORPORATION
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES
Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-126-023	4890 Marsh Road	2010	\$3,637,800	\$2,953,136
33-02-02-22-126-023	4890 Marsh Road	2011	\$3,392,100	\$3,003,339
33-02-02-22-126-023	4890 Marsh Road	2012	\$3,335,400	\$3,084,429

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-22-126-023	4890 Marsh Road	2010	\$1,957,300	\$1,957,300
33-02-02-22-126-023	4890 Marsh Road	2011	\$1,875,800	\$1,875,800

33-02-02-22-126-023	4890 Marsh Road	2012	\$1,794,300	\$1,794,300
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Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign a stipulation with Meridian Retail Management, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 393940
 MERIDIAN RETAIL MANAGEMENT, LLC
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-21-205-033	4901 Okemos Road	2010	\$806,400	\$806,400
33-02-02-21-205-033	4901 Okemos Road	2011	\$1,083,400	\$1,083,400
33-02-02-21-205-033	4901 Okemos Road	2012	\$1,065,200	\$1,065,200

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-21-205-033	4901 Okemos Road	2010	\$675,000	\$675,000
33-02-02-21-205-033	4901 Okemos Road	2011	\$875,000	\$875,000
33-02-02-21-205-033	4901 Okemos Road	2012	\$900,000	\$898,625

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Larry G. and Cheryl A. Irish in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 437304
 LARRY G. AND CHERYL A. IRISH
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-05-251-003	6351 Island Lake Dr.	2012	\$210,900	\$210,900

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-05-251-003	6351 Island Lake Dr.	2012	\$185,000	\$185,000

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- E. Amendments to Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement
Treasurer Brixie moved approval of the amendments to the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement as tentatively agreed to by the Teamsters members as described in the August 3, 2012 staff memorandum and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- F. Appointment of Alternate to Assessing Board of Review
Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Brett DeGroff as an alternate to the Assessing Board of Review for a term ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- G. Robins Way Streetlighting Improvements SAD No. 323 - **Resolutions #1 and #2**, Set Public Hearing Date (September 4, 2012)
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Robins Way Streetlighting Special Assessment District - Resolution #1, ordering plans prepared showing the streetlighting improvement, location, and estimate of cost; and Resolution #2: filing the plans showing the improvement, location, and estimate of cost with the Clerk's Office, tentatively declaring the Board's intention to install and maintain two (2) dark sky streetlights and defray the cost of installation (\$2,371.49), and operation and maintenance (\$288 annually) by special assessment against the four (4) benefiting lots; and setting a public hearing for September 4, 2012. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- H. Sale of Surplus Vehicles
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicles at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:

2003	Ford Expedition	1FMZU72K43UC16462
1995	Ford Ranger	1FTCR10X1SUC13413

2003	Ford Taurus	1FAHP53U83G207263
2001	Ford F-250	1FTNX21L11EB15393
2002	Ford Taurus	1FAFP53U71G207713
2003	Ford Explorer	1FMPU15L23LC03739
2008	Ford Crown Vic	2FAFP71V18X162988
2008	Ford Crown Vic	2FAHP71V38X162989

Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

- I. Appointment of Part-time EMS/Fire Fighters
Treasurer Brixie moved ratification of the appointment of Alex Hughes and Charles Malesko to the position of part-time Paramedic/Firefighter pending completion of a successful background investigation and physical examination. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

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

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

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, voiced concern with a statement made by staff at the last Board meeting regarding a significant decrease in water usage over the last (3) years. He believed the recommended preventative maintenance of the entire water and sewer infrastructure is crucial to long-term cost containment. Mr. Bowlby spoke to the need for the Township to keep pace with routine maintenance of the water and sewer infrastructure and indicated an increase in water and sewer usage rates could assist in accelerated preventative maintenance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

- A. Special Use Permit #12021, Trilogy Skilled Care and Nursing Facility with 91 Beds on Central Park Drive

Board members discussed the following:

- Request for conditions placed on the special use permit by the Planning Commission be provided to Board members
- Premature to vote on this issue tonight as not all Board member questions have adequately been answered
- Preference for a condition to be added which changes the location for this project to the south

Trustee Ochberg moved to table this agenda item.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby approves Special Use Permit #12021 (Trilogy Health Services) for a building greater than 25,000 square feet in gross floor area subject to the following conditions:

1. **Approval is granted based on the site plans dated July 10, 2012 prepared by Powell Engineering Associates, LLC for a building of approximately 57,945 square feet, subject to revisions as required.**
2. **Approval is subject to all conditions placed on Special Use Permit #12021 by the Planning Commission.**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Project is properly zoned
- Applicant has gone to great lengths to buffer the adjacent neighborhood
- Board member belief this is a good project
- Belief the Board does not have the prerogative to move the location

The seconder offered the following amendment:

- **Add condition #3 to read: A pathway connection shall be established to Nassau to facilitate walkability and non-motorized transportation by employees and visitors.**

Continued Board discussion:

- Facility of this size needs to promote and allow proper access for residents, employees and visitors
- Request for the owner to advise employees who smoke they should do so on the south side of the property
- Planning Commission had requested the pathway connection be added, and then reversed its request

The amendment was seconded by the maker of the main motion.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Board and applicant's representative discussion:

- Desire for more of the façade to be made of brick
- Board member belief a location further to the south would be superior
- Size of the building is not harmonious with the adjacent subdivision comprised of single family homes
- Board member belief the building has an institutional look
- Concern with the "smells" from an institutional cooking facility with predominantly westerly winds
- Applicant need for approximately eight (8) acres to build the proposed facility
- Engineering Department indicated the applicant needed two sources of water
- Engineering staff indicated the only place to obtain sanitary sewer was from Nassau Street
- Sanitary sewer in Central Park Estates is not deep enough to serve this development
- International Fire Code required two access points to this development
- Planning staff indicated there should not be a tie between Powell Road and Central Park Drive
- Trilogy has agreed to install hearty plank siding on the building
- Trilogy has agreed to add cultured stone, along with the brick, on the building
- Township Board has the right and obligation to look at all land use decision when a special use permit request comes before the Board
- While the proposed location is not ideal, it is an appropriate one
- Preference for as little parking as possible
- Applicant need for 101 parking spaces
- Proposed landscaping around the perimeter is a buffer of deciduous and evergreen trees

- Proposed tree plantings are ten fold above the Township's ordinance requirement
- Applicant preference to place more of the money into the landscaping to buffer the building in lieu of enhancing the back of the building
- Reminder that the Board also controls the landscaping
- Request that the combination of brick and cultured stone on the building be 60%

Trustee Ochberg offered the following amendment:

- **Add condition #4 to read: At least 60% brick and cultured stone shall be included on the building.**

Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Continued Board discussion:

- Engineer's depiction of the enhanced entryway where the public enters the building
- Planning Commission placed a condition for 60% on all sides of the building

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Board discussion:

- Continued concern with the location of the facility
- Regret this Board has not dealt with the issue of non-residential uses in residential districts
- One reason for the Township's Master Plan is to allow residents who wish to build a home to have an assurance as to what type of development will surround their home
- Concern this seventh "nursing home" may someday close similar to the closing of two schools in the Township built within neighborhoods
- Board member preference to build this facility on property along Grand River Avenue
- Concern residents in the adjacent subdivision will be bothered by car and truck traffic generated by this development

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

NAYS: Trustee Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy

Motion carried 5-2.

B. Financial Review

Director Diana Hasse summarized the recommendations based on the actuarial reports as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 3, 2012.

Trustee Ochberg moved that the Township Board approve the use of Fund Balance of the General Fund in the amount of \$450,000 for a contribution to the Township Pension Plan and \$300,000 for a contribution to the Retiree Health Care Plan. Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Funding will be higher than normal for 20-30 years to achieve full funding
- Asset values did not appreciate as fast as the funding assumptions
- Township contributed \$1 million a few years ago to the Retiree Health Care Plan (OPEB) when the accounting principles changed
- Sufficient money in the general fund to cover these contributions while still maintaining the Township's self imposed goal of maintaining at least two (2) months worth of operating expenditures in the General Fund fund balance
- Proactive approach in meeting the Township's obligation to its past and present employees
- Pension Fund is a closed fund and the Township has not deposited any funds into it since 1998
- The Township is in a better position with its funding of OPEB than other surrounding municipalities

- Pension Funds can invest in areas where the Township cannot, so the money invested can ultimately work harder for the Township

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

- C. Budget Amendment for Lake Lansing Watershed
Trustee Ochberg moved that the 2012 Township budget be amended by increasing the budget in account 246-000.000-972.020, Lake Lansing Watershed, by \$60,000 with all funds to come from the Lake Lansing Watershed fund balance. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Low water table and heat has caused Lake Lansing to experience an increased amount of weeds
- Concern with placing herbicides into the lake
- Preference for enzymes to be placed into the lake which will allow for the natural process of the enzymes eating the vegetation

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

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Bill McConnell, 4376 Manitou, Okemos, spoke in support of the complete streets ordinance. He offered several suggestions to the proposed ordinance to make the language both stronger and clearer.

Michael Unsworth, 5948 Village Drive, Haslett, spoke in support of complete streets while expressing concern with language in several subsections.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, outlined what he believed to be the process of placing the Board packet on the Township's website for public accessibility.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

A. Update of Master Plan

Director Kieselbach summarized the update of the Master Plan as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 31, 2012.

Board members discussed the following:

- In the near future, the Planning Commission will begin looking at the Future Land Use Map and the Demographics Chapter
- Possibility of performing an economic analysis since the economic conditions of the Township have drastically changed
- Support for the suggested rewording
- Need to include the issue of energy conservation at the local level (e.g., street layouts, site plans, solar energy)
- Concern with statement regarding the consolidation of library services as they need to serve the Township's neighborhoods
- Concern with fire department consolidation if it increases Meridian Township expenses

It was the consensus of the Board to have staff convey Board comments to the Planning Commission.

B. Complete Streets Ordinance

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed Complete Streets Ordinance as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 2, 2012.

Board members discussed the following:

- Preference for staff to incorporate suggested changes by the Township Attorney and bring back that language to the Board

It was the consensus of the Board to allow staff to make changes as recommended by the Township Attorney.

C. Online Board Packet

Board members discussed the following:

- Answer given during previous Board discussion on this issue was it cannot be done
- Current practice of placing the packet online does not allow the public sufficient opportunity for review
- Preference for the Board packet to be completed on Thursday
- Topics of interest are on the Board's agenda several times before being voted on
- Process allows for ample time in which the public can gather information on an issue
- Staffing consequences for every Board decision made
- Some suggested timelines may be unrealistic
- Suggestion for the Township Manager to speak with staff regarding the potential of making the Board packet available to the public by Friday evening
- Concern with the Board pursuing a state of the art system that is not affordable given the current staffing levels
- Concern with the additional costs associated with this enhanced service
- Board member belief scanning of the packet can be completed within 30 minutes

It was the consensus of the Board to have the Township Manager research the feasibility of on-line Board packet availability to the public on Friday evenings.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee LeGoff indicated part-time EMS/Fire Fighters do not receive health benefits and inquired if they were receiving health benefits elsewhere.

Township Manager Richards responded there is a threshold of hours required before benefits are provided and the part-time employees do not meet that threshold.

Trustee LeGoff asked what would happen to a part-time employee who is injured on the job.

Township Manager Richards responded the employee would be covered by Worker's Compensation.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:51 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary