

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer
(arrived at 7:05 pm), Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Police Chief Plaga,
Fire Chief Hamel, Information Technology Director Gebes, Economic Development
Director Buck, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Finance
Director Mattison, Communications Director Guthrie

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Recommendations from Meridian Township Transportation Commission.

Chris Hackbarth, 5332 Burcham Dr., East Lansing; Transportation Commission Chair, provided an overview of the Transportation Commission's recommendations to address the road quality issues within the Township.

Board discussion: Likelihood of a State gas tax, uncertainty of future State funding, TC recommended road millage details.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:10 pm.

Mike Moquin, 6161 Cottage Dr., Haslett; spoke on Local Street Improvement Program & Funding (Agenda Item 8A).

Olga Arellano, 2170 Seminole Dr., Okemos; spoke in support of Agenda Item 8A, noted ineffectiveness of temporary pothole patching and safety concerns.

Jerry Fedewa, 5570 Okemos Rd., Okemos; spoke on Agenda Item 8A, noted impact of increased mils on residential developments.

Joan Jarosz, 1119 Buckingham Rd., Haslett; spoke in support of Agenda Item 8A.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:21 pm.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

7. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local Street Improvement Program & Funding

Assistant Manager/Director Perry provided a presentation on the current conditions of the Township local/neighborhood roads and gave an overview of the proposed improvement program and options for funding.

Board discussion: Differences in continuing levied millage vs not continuing, road construction and maintenance for new developments.

Warren Creamer, Managing Director, Baird Public Finance; provided details on the process of using bonding to reach the projected required funding.

Board discussion: details on underwriting options, risks, impact of interest rate fluctuation, availability of funds for short-term investments, capacity of road building industry, current total mills, cost of bond proposal, rolling back current road millage, extending past a 10-year plan, use of Roadsoft Software, timeline of road treatments, pavement and treatment types, maintaining vs rehabilitation, asset management plan approach, staffing, impact of millage, limitations of capping allowed mills.

(Trustee Opsommer entered the room at 7:05 pm)

Board discussion: mills that are set to fall off, roads should be considered universally as in Meridian Township not between postal and school designations, low-rated road distribution, preservation methods, details of deadlines, high Township standards maintained through taxes, impact on property values.

Board consensus to have this item on for discussion at the next Board meeting.

B. Okemos Road Camelback Bridge

Public Works Director Perry provided details on the evaluation of the condition of the Okemos Road bridges and the proposed options for rehabilitation or replacement. He mentioned the holding of a public meeting on April 25th at the Meridian Township Town Hall Room to provide information on proposed options.

Bill Conklin, Ingham County Road Commission, provided an overview of the assessment of the Okemos Road bridges and explained three rehabilitation or replacement options.

Board discussion: Ownership of the green pedestrian bridge, pedestrian walkway options, current camelback bridge deterioration, removal of camelback bridge, new bridge can serve as erosion deterrent on Red Cedar River banks, maintenance costs of pedestrian use, cost estimates, traffic calming options, federal road design guidelines, eliminating current medians, grass medians, historic preservation concerns, bridge abutments hindering pathway, costs of preservation, current degradation, use of road bond funding, importance of citizen input, use of general funds for preservation, Road Commission Public Information Session on April 25th, timeline of decision, details of future public hearing, Friends of Historic Meridian input, preservation of portions of the bridge, potential trail underneath Okemos Rd, preservation grants, river hydraulics and flooding.

Board consensus to place this item for future discussion at a future meeting.

C. Electronic Board Packets

Manager Walsh provided an overview on the possibility of using an electronic packet to provide information for Township Board Meetings.

Board discussion: Screen size a consideration, document navigation, paper allows multiple page viewing simultaneously, hyperlinked agendas, other communities, electrical outlets at the dais, cost, ease of use.

Board consensus to place this item on for discussion at a future meeting.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:32 pm.

Daria Schleza, 2446 Burcham Dr., East Lansing; spoke on Agenda Item 13A.

Brad Peterson, 1722 Shaker Blvd., Okemos; spoke on Agenda Item 13A and Okemos Road Camelback Bridge (Agenda Item 13B.)

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:37 pm.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD DISCUSSION

Supervisor Styka discussed: collaboration between road agencies, details on asset management approach to roads.

Township Manager discussed: difficulties in hybrid funding for road costs.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK