

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra (6:05 P.M.),  
Wilson  
ABSENT: Treasurer Brixie  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Parks  
and Recreation LuAnn Maisner, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Finance  
Gretchen Gomolka

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. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting  
Finance Director Gomolka reported Meridian Township received the highest form of recognition in  
the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and placed  
the plaque on the overhead.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Brett DeGroff, 4224 Shoals Drive, Okemos, urged the Board to adopt the resolution supporting  
students over profits as he believed the current governor’s administration has set “destructive”  
education policies over the last four (4) years. He spoke to Meridian Township being built around  
excellent schools and this community’s opposition to “profit centered policies.”

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, addressed the online agenda and preference  
for Board selection of Option 3 relative to the MARC lease agreement. He expressed concern with  
the potential drain on the Township’s emergency services to its citizenry during mutual aid  
response to Michigan State University (MSU) on its game days.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, addressed notification of the site plan review minor  
amendment for the new central fire station and maintenance of the now closed central fire station.  
He spoke to the rezoning of the property which houses the closed central fire station.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Township Board annual goal setting meeting on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM
- Total deer culled to date: 72
- New central fire station process is moving forward
- Possible ways to augment annual revenue for the Community Resources Commission Funds  
which helps residents in need will be discussed next month
- Press conference in front of the State Capitol tomorrow regarding recent acquisition of  
significant funding by the Fire Shared Services group
- Recent MTEAM team building at the MSU athletic facilities

- 2014 Local Roads project should be completed within the next few days

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Veenstra requested the topic of the new central fire station announced at the last Board meeting as a discussion and action item on the December 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda be discussed during that meeting and acted upon at the following Board meeting.

Trustee Wilson urged residents to exercise their right to vote. She spoke in support of the resolution supporting students over profit as she believed Meridian Township revolves and evolves around its schools.

A. Clerk Dreyfus – Election Results

Clerk Dreyfus reported a voter turnout in Meridian Township of 54%, approximately 12% higher than the statewide turnout. He relayed unofficial results cast by Meridian Township voters for candidates on the ballot. Clerk Dreyfus noted the electorate in mid-term elections is of older age than in presidential years, indicating those voters aged 60 and older outnumber the under 30 voter by a more than 2-1 margin. He stated in his role as clerk, he will work to increase voter turnout through voter registration drives in high schools, establishing the process of pre-registration.

Trustee Styka voiced support for the resolution supporting students over profits. He expressed appreciation to the Township Manager for keeping the new central fire station project “on track.”

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, where a presentation on the bus rapid transit (BRT) system was made by the Deputy Director of the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA). He noted this project proposes, in part, to have a dedicated bus lane in each direction and one vehicle traffic lane in each direction with no passing. Trustee Veenstra questioned the lane reduction, even with the projected 40-50% decrease in car traffic. He indicated discussion also took place on the proposed lime kiln, with the first step identified as conducting a feasibility study. Trustee Veenstra added that TCRPC voted to be the fiduciary agent for the \$300,000-\$400,000 study.

Clerk Dreyfus reported a six session workshop for entrepreneurs titled “Credit for Capital” is available through the Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan, adding more details are available at [www.yourfoundationforbusiness.com](http://www.yourfoundationforbusiness.com). He also reported his attendance at yesterday’s Environmental Commission meeting where a presentation was made on brownfield redevelopment by an employee of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The representative from MDEQ discussed availability of grants and loans and many items related to brownfield redevelopment.

Trustee Scales and Trustee Styka expressed appreciation to Trustee Veenstra for his diligent watch of the BRT, adding that road diets are a good idea sometimes and sometimes they are not.

Trustee Scales announced the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Dr. Howard Tanner and his wife Helen, adding Helen Tanner was a recent recipient of the Township’s Parks Volunteer Award.

Trustee Veenstra announced a road diet proposal for Lake Lansing Road from Marsh Road west to just beyond Murphy Elementary School, a reduction from four (4) lanes to three (3) lanes.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Styka moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

**Trustee Scales offered the following friendly amendment:**

- **Move Agenda Item #13C up after Agenda Item #11**

**The maker and seconder accepted the friendly amendment.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk  
Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Veenstra moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL:

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Brent Forsberg, TA Forsberg, Inc., 2422 Jolly Road, #200, Okemos; RE: Michigan Food Innovation District
- BI-2 Eckhart Dersch, President, Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, (LINC), PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: Threatened White Oak on Cornell Road
- BI-3 Carla Larzelere, 3713 Kiskadee, East Lansing; RE: Support for the special use permit request by Hilarie Krumm to operate a pre-school (group day care home) at 1251 Sweetwood Drive, Okemos
- BI-4 Jake Arndt, C & J Electric, 7687 Oneida Rd, Grand Ledge; RE: Building Department

(2) Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason; RE: Notice of Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries to be held on November 13, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Drain Commissioners office for the following drainage districts: Addison, Ardmore, County Place, Crestwood, Daniels, Daniels Extension-Branch 1, Dobie Heights, East Point, Haslett Village Square Branch of the Pine Lake Outlet, Hathaway, Hill Haven, Hillbrook, Hoskins, Indian Lakes No. 2, Kent Drain, Lake Lansing Road Branch of the Pine Lake Outlet, Lake O' The Hills, Meadows, Meridian Hills, Mud Lake Outlet-Old English Estates Branch, Mud Lake Outlet-Tihart Branch, Nemoka, Okemos Tile, Pine Creek Branch of the Pine Lake Outlet, Pine Lake Outlet-Northport Branch, Pine Lake Outlet-Wildflower Estates Branches 1, 2 and 3, Red Cedar-Braemoor Branch, Red Cedar Manor, River Downs, Riverwood Drain and Branches, Shoals #6, Red Cedar Branch, Timber Meadows South, Turtle Crossing, Walden Pond, Wellington Estates, Whitehills Woods and Wilkshire

(3) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Director Kieselbach; ITC Holdings Tree Grant Completion

(4) On File in the Clerk's Office

Material handed out at the October 21, 2014 Meeting

Bruce M. Peffers, 4932 Sioux Way, Okemos; RE: Rental Licensee Fees in Meridian Township

Andrew Smith, 5035 Algonquin Way, Okemos; RE: Rental Property Registration Fees

Julia White, 2386 Seminole Drive, Okemos; RE: Rental Properties

Miles McNall, 1711 Shaker Boulevard, Okemos; RE: Fees to Register Single Family Homes as Rental Property  
Keith Hanna, 4518 Manitou Drive, Okemos; RE: Rental Fees  
Steve Easley, 4587 Manitou Drive, Okemos; RE: Rental Property Fees  
Natasha Isaacs, 5005 Algonquin Way, Okemos; RE: Maintain or Increase Rental Housing Fees  
Laura Bell, 2345 Indian Hills Drive, Okemos; Re: Rental Properties

**Trustee Veenstra 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 Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

**Trustee Veenstra moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 21, 2014 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

**Trustee Veenstra moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:**

Common Cash	\$ 392,761.33
Public Works	\$ 57,067.15
Total Checks	\$ 449,828.48
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 15,085.33
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 464,913.81</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 806,684.56</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill List in Official Minute Book]

D. Resolution Supporting Students Over Profit

**Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Meridian urges the Governor and Legislature to develop and enact an equitable, transparent and accountable system for funding public schools—both traditional schools and charter schools—that enables every school to provide a quality education to each and every child in our state.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Meridian urges the Governor and Legislature to adopt meaningful reforms that address issues highlighted in the recent *Detroit Free Press* series on charter schools and their for-profit management companies, including reforms that hold those management companies to the same transparency requirements as traditional public schools and ensures dollars are invested in classrooms, not padding corporate profits.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all schools must be run with the primary goal of serving children, not making a profit off of them; there should be a moratorium on opening any more for-profit charters until state laws are changed so that the corporations can be held accountable, and a fair education funding formula establish that guarantees equal opportunity to a high quality education for all students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Meridian will submit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and Legislature and encourage others, including parents, students and taxpayers, to contact the Governor and Legislature to convey a similar message.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

E. 2015 Township Board Meeting Schedule

Trustee Veenstra moved to adopt the 2015 Township Board Meeting Schedule Resolution as follows:

<b>Tuesday, January 6, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Joint Meeting (Township Boards and Commissions)</b>
<b>Saturday, January 10, 2015</b>	<b>10:00 A.M. Policy Governance Review</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 20, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 3, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 17, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 3, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 17, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 7, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 21, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 5, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 2, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 16, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 7, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 21, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 4, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Town Hall Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 18, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 1, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 8, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting (Budget Deliberations)</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 15, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 6, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting (Proposed Budget Hearing)</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 20, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 3, 2015</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting</b>

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015 6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 1, 2015 6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2015 6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting**

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

F. Additions to the Tax Roll

**Trustee Veenstra moved to assess the charges identified in the staff memorandum with parcel identification available in the Treasurer's Office dated October 31, 2014 for Delinquent Special Assessments, Utility Bills, False Alarms, Nuisance, Lot Mowing/Code Violation, Snow Removal and Miscellaneous Agreements as a tax lien against the subject properties as authorized by Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 41.727, 41.728 and Meridian Township Ordinance Code Sections 58-32, 58-33, 78-98, 78-155, 46-5, 82-27, 18-1 and 18.15. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

G. Fire Department Promotion – Full-Time Firefighter

**Trustee Veenstra moved to authorize the Fire Chief to promote part-time firefighter Trevor Baker to a full-time firefighter position effective November 10, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

H. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

**Trustee Veenstra moved to ratify the appointments of Takoma Curtis, Cody Lewis, Matthew Mardeusz and Rebeckajo Lewis to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (See Agenda Items #12B, #13B)

11. HEARINGS (None)

Meridian Township Forfeiture Information

Township Manager Walsh summarized the circumstances surrounding Board questions regarding the Police Department's forfeiture program.

Cullen Harnkess, Bodwin & Associates, 2970 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, availed himself for Board questions relative to information he provided for the Board packet.

Board and prosecuting attorney discussion:

- Layman's explanation of constructive ownership

- Required notice of seizure/forfeiture to the court cannot take place until a judicial forfeiture has commenced
- No open forfeiture file with the court exists until post-conviction under the Omnibus Act
- Notice of the seizure to the prospective claimants have been hand delivered
- Notice of the seizure to the prosecuting attorneys have been given orally and in writing
- Possible claims against the Township if property is seized, the defendant does not enter into a settlement and is ultimately found not guilty
- Provisions built into the forfeiture law to protect municipalities from the recourse of possible litigation
- Built in provisions do not provide any guarantees if an individual is wrongly accused
- Concern that forfeiture laws can erode an individual's civil liberties
- Board member belief that forfeiture laws incentivize seizure when a legal firm receives monetary gain for prosecution
- 55<sup>th</sup> District Court places conditions on the bond in the event of a drunk driving offense to curtail recidivism
- Repeat drunk driving offenders are typically placed into sobriety court in Ingham County
- Provision in the Omnibus Act which allows the claimant to make a motion to the court for the return of their vehicle pending the forfeiture proceeding
- Board member preference for the offender to have the "ransom" money returned in the event that individual is not convicted
- Crimes this act is used for in Meridian Township include: heroin violations, drunk driving, felony theft offenses, criminal use of financial transaction devices, embezzlement, narcotics, etc.

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

A. Meridian Area Resource Center (MARC) Annual Lease Agreement

Township Manager Walsh summarized the proposed annual lease agreement as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 3, 2014.

**Trustee Styka moved to authorize the Township Manager to have the Meridian Activity Center lease amended to add language that either party has the right to terminate the agreement upon 30 days written notice and to eliminate the payment of utility costs as outlined in Exhibit B, Item Number 1, and to further authorize the Township Manager to sign the amended lease agreement on behalf of the Township. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Board discussion:

- Use of the MARC has been important to this community
- Value the community receives from the MARC in the potential development of businesses in the area outweighs the payment of utilities
- Benefit to the Township to have the MARC building occupied and not remain a "blighted" property
- Inside of the building has been refurbished and increases the resale value
- 30 day cancellation provision allows for the property not to be tied up in the event of a sale
- Unused buildings do not equate to blight
- Prior to use of this building by the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA), the building was used to hold classes and have meetings
- Contribution by the Township is the unpaid rent, property taxes and utilities
- Possible long-term goal of selling the MARC property and the old central fire station property as a package
- In the event of a sale of the building, MABA and MARC could be relocated to the "old" Haslett Library
- Building is covered under the Township's umbrella insurance policy and MABA has paid for liability insurance
- MABA will provide a more detailed financial statement to the Board in the near future
- Subleasing provisions have been followed
- Sylvan Learning Center has a room rental agreement for a specific number of hours per week on a monthly basis
- Air conditioning is on a timer so it is being turned off when the building is not in use

- Heat is on a timer so it is being turned down when the building is not in use
- Many technological devices are used within the building which cause increased electrical usage
- Current revenue is being used for staffing and to maintain the facility
- Preference for a contribution to be made towards the utilities once revenues increase

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: Supervisor LeGoff  
Motion carried 5-1.

**B. Zoning Amendment #13040 (Planning Commission), Amendment to Add Adult Care Facilities – Introduction**

**Trustee Wilson 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, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article I by amending Section 86-2 Definitions; Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 2 Residential Districts by amending Section 86-368 RR district; Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 3 Commercial, Retail, and Business Districts C-1, C-2 and C-3 by amending Section 86-403 C-1 commercial district, and Section 86-404 C-2 commercial district; Chapter 86, Article VI Special Use Requirements and Restrictions by amending Section 86-654 Nonresidential structures and uses in resident districts; and Chapter 86, Article VIII, Division 2 Off-Street Parking by amending Section 86-755 Schedule of requirements for parking spaces.”**

**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 Trustee Scales.**

Board discussion:

- There is a need to address the changing demographic in the Township
- Board member suggestion for inclusion of the dates for Township Board discussion within the body of the resolution
- Board member concern with unintended consequences of the ordinance language
- Standards already exist for child care centers as noted on page 3
- Planning Commission separated the child care centers from the adult care centers and added the section for the adult care centers

**Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:**

- **Amend the adult care center, family adult care home and group adult care home definitions in Section 86-2 by deleting “those receiving funds through an Area Agency on Aging” and insert “they”**

**The amendment was accepted by the maker.**

Continued Board discussion:

- Township authority absent a license to have the defined adult facilities comply with the proposed amendment
- Child care homes have specific standards required by the state
- Seventeen year old disabled person is considered a minor and other laws govern them in a group home for persons with disabilities
- Adult care standards are for the building and fire code standards to ensure safety
- Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) standards are general

- Board member request for a copy of OSA standards
- Inquiry as to why the Board cannot adopt Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) policies regarding licensure requirements for an adult care facility

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY COMMENT: I can respond to that. Because this is a zoning ordinance. So if you are copying what state law already requires, that is one thing. But if you're applying those same type of regulations on people where it's not already required by the state, then it has to fit into the zoning ordinance where we are putting it right now. What we have to do, which I don't have those in front of me, is look at what those requirements are. Are they about safety of the structure, of the building? Are they about having sprinklers, or are they about how many hours and how many people have to be inside and what kind of treatment can you provide. In a zoning ordinance, we have to be careful that we are not overstepping what is zoning regulation.

**Trustee Styka withdrew his amendment at this time, pending receipt of information before the next time this item is placed on the agenda.**

Continued Board discussion:

- Concern with changing how current businesses like this are run without those owners having an opportunity to provide input to the Board
- Board member request for this item to be placed on the next agenda for introduction
- Board member preference to have adult care facilities come under OSA standards as a separate issue
- Confusion among Board members regarding this issue after the Attorney's comment

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY COMMENT: What I said is that we need to be careful that we are only putting requirements and regulations in a zoning ordinance that are zoning related. That's what I was trying to convey. There are different ways to add regulations, whether they are zoning or non-zoning. Today, what's before you is this information that has been introduced and there is a motion on the floor to deal with that specific introduction.

Information on OSA Regulations: Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item # 10)

Q. If we wanted to then come back and say now that we've got the information on what the regulations are from the Office of Aging, and we want to have that be for all adult care facilities, how do we then get that adopted?

A. This is the introduction; so if it comes back and it's modified and you want to add it to the next final adoption, you can do that. Or, you can bring back a different change to the ordinance, which is zoning and would require an introduction and another final adoption.

Q. So we would be doing the whole process again by amending the ordinance again that we just amended?

A. On that specific section. Or you can do it by getting the information, and continue to discuss it, decide if you want to add this to your final adoption at a following meeting.

Q. Can we put this off for one (1) or two (2) meetings so we can get all this information?

A. You can put it on for as many as you want, that's right. You could put it on for discussion and then final adoption. You could put it on for final adoption next time, discuss it, not finally adopt it and wait until the next meeting to finally adopt it. Or, you could put it on for the next meeting, discuss it and finally adopt it.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member preference to "get it right" the first time
- Preference for providing the Board with OSA regulations to see if they fit with the Board's intent for this ordinance
- Church group came before the Board 6-12 months ago and were allowed to open an adult care facility through the special use permit process and this zoning amendment has been introduced to correct a deficiency
- Township is not holding up an applicant on an adult day care issue

**Trustee Veenstra moved to postpone introduction of the motion on the floor until the next regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

C. Acceptance of County Park Parcels

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the transfer of Parcels #33-02-02-21-451-002 (.26 acres in Wonch Park) and #33-02-02-21-453-005 (located in Ferguson Park) from Ingham County for park purposes for the full consideration of two dollars (\$2.00). Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board discussion:

- Motion is being made as a housekeeping measure

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Cat Sutter, Community Relations Advocate, American Textile Recycling Services (ATRS), 209 W. Monroe Street, Jackson, urged the Board to amend its zoning ordinance to allow for recycling and donation boxes in the Township through a temporary use permit process.

Patrick Bennett, American Textile Recycling Services (ATRS), 209 W. Monroe Street, Jackson availed himself for Board questions. He added that 100% of the donations made by ATRS belong to the Michigan Humane Society,

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Donation/Recycling Drop-Off Boxes

Director Kieselbach summarized the concept of allowing donation/recycling drop-off boxes in the Township as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 31, 2014.

Board discussion:

- Donation/recycling drop-off boxes currently allowed through approval of a special use permit request
- Cost of a special use permit fee
- Special use permit fees are based on acreage of the site
- Preference for continuation of the SUP process for drop-off boxes
- Current process for drop-off boxes is too cumbersome and lengthy
- ATRS is a for-profit organization which provides a small percentage of its profit to the Humane Society
- 220 donation/recycling drop-off boxes have been placed throughout Michigan with the permission of property owners and businesses on behalf of the Michigan Humane Society
- Some donation boxes have been placed at Michigan Humane Society locations
- Sample ordinances provided to the Board were not from entities located in Michigan
- Request for sample ordinances from entities located in Michigan
- Necessity of the Township maintaining control over drop-off box placement
- Negative impact on the Salvation Army and Good Will, both of whom have store fronts in Meridian Township
- Suggestion to retain the SUP process with Planning Commission input, but allow for a modified fee schedule
- SUP would be required for every location
- Large portion of the donations are items which cannot be sold at Salvation Army and Good Will
- Donation facilities recycle the commodities at their highest and best use

- Board member preference to lower the fee charged
- Bins are labeled Michigan Humane Society and ATRS as the operator of the bins
- Board member request for a breakdown of the money involved
- Issue before the Board is one of a zoning nature
- Part of Meridian Township's goals and policies is to increase recycling
- Ordinance change will make the process available to all interested parties
- Board member preference to simplify procedures to allow for more drop-off box locations for any qualified organization
- Applicant looking to place a maximum of five (5) bins within Meridian Township

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY COMMENT: If I may interrupt, as much as you want that information (and I think everyone is interested in that), that's not a valid basis for discussing the zoning issue today. The zoning is not for them; we are making zoning changes that would allow anybody that comes in with a similar type request, whether they are for profit, non-profit, whatever their interest is. You are talking about adding something zoning (aesthetics, how it adds to or takes away from the property, parking, driving around, trash, all of those issues), not are they making money. It really isn't a valid part of the discussion in the zoning decision.

**It was the consensus of the Board to retain the special use permit requirement for donation/recycling drop-off boxes.**

B. 2012 International Fire Code

Fire Chief Cowper addressed the adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 30, 2014.

Board member discussion:

- Adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code for congruency with the 2012 Building Codes
- State of Michigan adopts a Building Code and it cannot be altered
- State does not adopt a Fire Code so Meridian Township can use any code
- Request before the Board is to adopt the 2012 Fire Code
- Fire Code is received with blanks to be filled in by the individual municipalities
- New language adds "and/or automatic sprinkler system" to the stand pipe language to ensure the fire truck can come within 100 feet of the connection to pump water
- Concern with adopting a blanket Fire Code
- Board member preference to have "strikes" and "caps" when changes are made in a document

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY COMMENT: Can I say that what this is is that you are adopting by reference the entire International Fire Code, so this won't have strikes because the whole International Fire Code is there. You are adopting this actual language, so to offer you that would be really confusing, because then we would only be showing you this, not even the International Fire Code. The sections are not the same. Sections that were there before are not the same numbers as they are now. Say it was 905.2 before; it's not 905.2 this time where we're filling in the blanks. It might be 907.6. It is not exactly the same.

Continued Board member discussion:

- Need for better explanations as to what is being changed
- Preference to receive a copy of the 2012 International Fire Code
- Request for changes to be placed in legislative format and in context

Clarification of exact changes to the International Fire Code: Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item # 10)

Q. Can that be arranged by the next meeting?

A. I don't know. I'll have to look at the International Fire Code and see. Some of the language is exactly the same; it isn't changed, but we have to put it in here and show it this way because we are filling in blanks in the International Fire Code. It is the same language and the same exact thing as before, so it is not a strikeout and it's not new. We'll try to figure it out so we can show you what's in the code and what this says.

**It was the consensus of the Board to have staff provide more information on this topic and place the item on for action at the November 18, 2014 Board Meeting.**

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Clerk Dreyfus stated there are two (2) components to the SUP process, noting site requirements can be waived at Planning Commission discretion and the Planning Commission can approve all locations for drop boxes at once with a cost of only one (1) fee.

Trustee Veenstra reminded the public the next meeting of the Township Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. for the purpose of Goal Setting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

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ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary