

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017 **10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland
ABSENT: Treasurer Brixie
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL
The Supervisor called the roll of the Board.
4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
Supervisor Styka opened public remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed the goals, as presented, are too ambitious.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, indicated the pension liability is a big issue. He inquired as to the timeline for the deployment of the new Township website.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

6. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2017 Study Session Dates

Clerk Dreyfus moved to hold a recommended study session on January 24, 2017 at the Central Fire Station. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

Trustee Sundland moved to change the recommended study session from August 29, 2017 to August 22, 2017. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

B. 2016 Year End Financial Summary

Board and staff discussion:

- Status of Township finances
- Park Millage Fund

C. 2016 Action Plan Overview

Board and staff discussion:

- Positive efforts to revitalize target areas (i.e., Carriage Hills, Haslett Village Square, downtown Okemos)
- Expand focus of redevelopment as there is more to Haslett than Haslett Village Square
- Impact of the Master Plan on the Township's vision for the future
- Concerns regarding the future of Meridian Mall
- Economic development and risk management
- Brownfield funding
 - Future study session
- Medical marihuana & its decriminalization
 - Future study session

Trustee Opsommer moved to recess the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

The Supervisor recessed the meeting at 12:11 P.M.

Trustee Opsommer moved to reconvene the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

The Supervisor reconvened the meeting at 12:52 P.M.

D. 2016 Departmental Year End Review

Board and staff discussion:

- Over-arching zoning ordinance review
- "Modernize" the zoning ordinance (e.g., parking, PICAs)
- Sinking sidewalk on Grand River Avenue
 - Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) right-of-way controls the pathway stabilization repair and is delaying action due to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) issue
 - Township options relative to the pathway's functionality as it is an important pathway
- Concern with Township-wide overtime expenses

E. 2017 M-Team Department Plan

Board and staff discussion:

- Goals are not listed in priority order
- Comments on the Grand River Corridor were not "laser-focused" on targeting redevelopment
- Language for Action Plan Item C
 - Pension debt v. liability
 - Possible inclusion of debt range figures in the goal
 - Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) valuation
- Addition of website development to Action Plan Item D
- Importance of a comprehensive review of the Mixed use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance
- Medical marihuana review for potential ordinance adoption
- Railroad quiet zone as an M-Team goal
 - Haslett's "dirty secret" is the railroad passing through town

F. Creating 2017 Action Plan

Board and staff discussion:

- Action plan logistics for 2017
- Board member transmission of a communication to the Board recording overtime expenses for minutes taken at Board meetings

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed employee overtime should not count towards retirement.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, stated unfunded pension liabilities could be higher if interest rates remain low. He requested the Board's goals be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Mr. Bowlby believed the BRT is unlikely to be funded, and the Township should plan on repairing the Grand River pathway.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (None)

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 3:05 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary