

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson  
ABSENT: Supervisor LeGoff  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Dreyfus called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Trustee Scales moved to appoint Julie Brixie President Pro Tem pursuant to Act 359 of 1947 (the Charter Township Act) until the return of the Supervisor. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

President Pro Tem Brixie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

President Pro Tem Brixie opened Public Remarks.

Marsha Madle, Chair, Meridian Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), 1373 Sebewaing Road, Okemos, welcomed new and returning Board members. She stated the MEDC is looking forward to working with Board members to continue economic development efforts in making Meridian Township a place to live and do business.

Mickey Martin, Supervisor, Williamstown Township, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston expressed appreciation for the regional cooperation (specifically police services) between the two Townships.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, congratulated new and returning Board members on their election/reelection. He spoke to the issue of the past practice of Policy Governance by the previous Board. Mr. Bowlby displayed and read several quotes taken from the [policygovernance.com](http://policygovernance.com) website and the Board's Policy Manual. To ensure accountability, he suggested this Board make official motions to the Township Manager, explicitly stating what is expected and by what date.

President Pro Tem Brixie closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. Treasurer's Quarterly Report

President Pro Tem Brixie thanked Judge Clinton Canady for appearing at the Township Hall today to swear in Board members and Park Commissioners.

President Pro Tem Brixie gave an update on delinquent personal property tax collection totals for tax years 2007-2011, 2012 total tax year collections and distributions as of November 15<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> respectively, and current fixed maturity investments and non-fixed investments as of October 31, 2012.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the most recent Tri County Regional Planning Commission's (TCRPC) urban services management district committee meeting. He offered brief information on membership and the group's focus on the urban services management district.

Trustee Veenstra attended the November 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of TCRPC where a presentation was given from staff of the Capital Regional Airport on Port Lansing. He noted the airport has a port of entry and an air freight service.

Trustee Styka thanked citizens for the opportunity to be a member of the Township Board.

Trustee Scales also thanked the 10,056 citizens who voted for him to be a Township Trustee, noting he would also work diligently for those who did not select him when they cast their vote.

Trustee Wilson thanked members of the previous Board for their service, and voiced a desire for them to continue in some capacity of Township service. She thanked Judge Clinton Canady for his participation in the swearing in ceremony, thanked fellow Board members for a job well done and expressed appreciation to all the citizens who voted on election day.

#### 6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Scales moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Appreciation for the Township Manager's memorandum outlining the rationale for allowing two Board members to request an item be placed on the agenda

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

#### 7. CONSENT AGENDA

President Pro Tem Brixie reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Scales moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to amend the 2013 Board Meeting Schedule by changing the February 19, 2013 Regular Meeting to a Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Past practice of setting date specific Board meetings when members will be unable to attend

**Clerk Dreyfus amended his previous amendment by changing the proposed February 19, 2013 Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments to March 5, 2013. The amendment was accepted by the seconder.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to amend the 2013 Board Meeting Schedule by changing the Tuesday, January 8, 2013 Policy Governance Meeting to Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Opposition to having the Board meet on Saturday morning for Policy Governance as citizens are accustomed to Board meetings being held on Tuesday evenings
- Policy Governance Meeting is similar to a work session and no other business is usually conducted
- Value of the Board holding an additional meeting in an informal setting to set/amend policy goals for the year
- Board member preference not to spend money to employ a policy governance consultant
- Citizens are welcome to participate through public comment at the Policy Governance Meeting
- Citizens will have sufficient prior notice of the Saturday Policy Governance Meeting

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-1 (Veenstra).

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 ON THE MAIN NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
 MOTION: Motion carried 5-1.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member request that the record reflect his no vote was due to his objection to the 2013 Board Meeting Schedule as amended

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Kristen Cole and Dan Hamilton, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); RE: Opt out of Public Act 152 of 2011
- BI-2 Joan Blosser, 9349 Coleman Road, Haslett; RE: Request to reestablish a legal nonconforming structure

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 Thomas Maleck, 1457 East Pond Drive, Apt. 32, Okemos; RE: Resignation from appointment to the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board

(3) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 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 November 15, 2012

**Trustee Scales 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 Wilson.**

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

B. Minutes

**Trustee Scales moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 8, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

C. 2013 Township Board Meeting Schedule

**Trustee Scales moved to adopt the 2013 Township Board Meeting Schedule Resolution. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

D. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 155,352.14
Public Works	\$ 366,434.14
Total Checks	\$ 491,786.28
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,506.90
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 498,293.18</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 368,281.69</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson**

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

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

- E. Resolutions to Open Bank Accounts  
**Trustee Scales moved to adopt a resolution entitled “Authority to Open an Account” at PNC. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**Trustee Scales moved to adopt a resolution entitled “Authority to Open an Account” at the following institutions:**

- Flagstar**
- Independent Bank**
- Lake Trust Credit Union**
- Mason State Bank**
- Mercantile Bank of Michigan**
- Michigan Class Investment Pool – administered by Cutwater Asset Management**
- MSU Federal Credit Union**
- Multi Bank Securities**
- Pershing LLC**
- Group of Wells Fargo Advisors**
- First Clearing LLC**
- Summit Community Bank**

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

- F. Authorization to Sell Surplus Vehicle  
**Trustee Scales move to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicle at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:**

**2007 Ford Road Rescue Ambulance VIN No. 1FDXE45P77DA08320**

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra

Motion carried 5-1.

G. Assessing Stipulations

Trustee Scales moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Paula M. Powers in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 442703  
PAULA M. POWERS  
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Original Assessed Value</b>	<b>Original Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-11-327-008	5725 Pine Ridge	2012	\$78,300	\$78,300

**Proposed Revised Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Revised Assessed Value</b>	<b>Revised Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-11-327-008	5725 Pine Ridge	2012	\$72,500	\$72,500

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

Trustee Scales moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Paula M. Powers in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 442706  
PAULA M. POWERS  
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Original Assessed Value</b>	<b>Original Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-11-327-006	5753 Pine Ridge	2012	\$87,400	\$87,400

**Proposed Revised Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Revised Assessed Value</b>	<b>Revised Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-11-327-006	5753 Pine Ridge	2012	\$67,500	\$67,500

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

**Trustee Scales moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with King Foods in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 401195  
 KING FOODS  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Original Assessed Value</b>	<b>Original Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-21-226-010	2010 Grand River	2010	\$418,800	\$418,800
33-02-02-21-226-010	2010 Grand River	2011	\$409,900	\$409,900
33-02-02-21-226-010	2010 Grand River	2012	\$397,400	\$397,400

**Proposed Revised Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Revised Assessed Value</b>	<b>Revised Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-21-226-010	2010 Grand River	2010	\$389,500	\$389,500
33-02-02-21-226-010	2010 Grand River	2011	\$384,500	\$384,500
33-02-02-21-226-010	2010 Grand River	2012	\$373,800	\$373,800

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**Trustee Scales moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with R & D Hannah Plaza, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 396227  
 R & D HANNAH PLAZA, LLC  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Original Assessed Value</b>	<b>Original Taxable Value</b>
33-02-02-20-152-007	4790 Hagadorn	2010	\$3,408,100	\$3,386,868
33-02-02-20-152-007	4790 Hagadorn	2011	\$3,259,300	\$3,259,300
33-02-02-20-152-007	4790 Hagadorn	2012	\$3,156,800	\$3,156,800
33-02-02-20-152-008	4750 Hagadorn	2010	\$1,039,000	\$955,265
33-02-02-20-152-008	4750 Hagadorn	2011	\$992,200	\$971,504
33-02-02-20-152-008	4750 Hagadorn	2012	\$961,900	\$961,900

**Proposed Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Proposed Assessed Value	Proposed Taxable Value
33-02-02-20-152-007	4790 Hagadorn	2010	\$2,945,000	\$2,945,000
33-02-02-20-152-007	4790 Hagadorn	2011	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000
33-02-02-20-152-007	4790 Hagadorn	2012	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000
33-02-02-20-152-008	4750 Hagadorn	2010	\$1,100,000	\$955,265
33-02-02-20-152-008	4750 Hagadorn	2011	\$1,100,000	\$971,504
33-02-02-20-152-008	4750 Hagadorn	2012	\$1,100,000	\$997,734

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**Trustee Scales moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with R & D Okemos Retail, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 396228  
 R & D OKEMOS RETAIL, LLC  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-15-400-024	1754 Central Park	2010	\$1,228,700	\$1,196,400
33-02-02-15-400-024	1754 Central Park	2011	\$1,183,000	\$1,183,000
33-02-02-15-400-024	1754 Central Park	2012	\$1,139,100	\$1,139,100

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-15-400-024	1754 Central Park	2010	\$1,045,000	\$1,045,000
33-02-02-15-400-024	1754 Central Park	2011	\$995,000	\$995,000
33-02-02-15-400-024	1754 Central Park	2012	\$995,000	\$995,000

**Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

- 8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)
- 9. HEARINGS (None)
- 10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS  
 President Pro Tem Brixie opened and closed Public Remarks.

- A. Resolution Objecting to the Transfer of All Unsold Tax Reverted Properties from the Ingham County Treasurer to Meridian Township  
 Manager Richards summarized the objection to transfer of properties as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 14, 2012.

Board members discussed the following:

- Request by the Ingham County Treasurer to come before the Board early next year to explain the tax foreclosure process

**Trustee Wilson moved the Township Board approve the resolution objecting to the transfer of properties #33-02-02-10-376-005 and #33-02-02-29-256-001 from the County Treasurer to the Charter Township of Meridian. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Continued Board member and staff discussion:

- Board member preference for the Township to acquire the property on Lady Slipper Lane so no other person buys it in private sale
- Brief explanation of the process for tax foreclosed properties
- Properties were reviewed and rejected by the Park Commission and the Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Both properties were offered at auction and did not sell
- Concern with liability issues if the Township owns the properties
- Associated costs with subsequent land management if property is purchased
- Subdivision restrictions prohibit building on either property
- Drain assessment costs associated with each parcel
- Board member belief the Ingham County Drain Commissioner stated he does not place drain assessments on Township owned property
- Board member understanding of liability law is that unimproved land does not incur liabilities
- Various types of liability (e.g., contamination)
- Belief there is no benefit to the Township for owning the property

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

- B. Board Representative Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals  
 President Pro Tem Brixie explained the process of board representation on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Trustee Wilson moved to appoint Trustee Scales as the Board representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals for one year. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS (None)

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

President Pro Tem Brixie opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, requested Board members give rationale for their votes. He questioned Township Attorney advice that Board members not release legal opinions to the public and probed the motive behind that decision. Mr. Bowlby addressed the role of the Planning Commission and suggested a different timeline for the project approval process.

President Pro Tem Brixie closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Veenstra agreed in principle that, where feasible, legal opinions written by the Township

Attorney should be made available to the public. He thanked voters for approving the millage to bond for the new central fire station. Trustee Veenstra noted a talk by Jeff Andreson, the state climatologist, where he discussed the fact that Michigan is warmer in winter and wetter over the last 30 years, with Spring arriving approximately ten (10) days earlier.

President Pro Tem Brixie inquired if there was Board interest in placing medical marijuana regulation for Meridian Township on the next Board meeting agenda.

**It was the consensus of the Board to place medical marijuana regulation on the December 4, 2012 Board agenda.**

14. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION

**Trustee Scales moved that the Township Board go into closed session to discuss collective bargaining strategies pursuant to MCL 15.268(c). Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Trustee, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

President Pro Tem Brixie recessed the meeting at 6:54 P.M.

The Board adjourned to the Administrative Conference Room for a closed session.

**Trustee Styka moved to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Trustee, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

President Pro Tem Brixie reconvened the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Pro Tem Brixie adjourned the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

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JULIE BRIXIE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEM

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BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary