

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
349-1200, Town Hall Room  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such  
ABSENT: Trustee Woiwode  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Gary Gibbons, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

A. Presentation to Friends of Hope Borbas Okemos Library

Supervisor McGillicuddy invited Cecilia Kramer and Joan Smith to the podium for presentation of a plaque for fifty (50) years of dedicated service to the community. Cecilia Kramer, President of Friends of Hope Borbas Okemos Library, accepted the plaque and expressed her thanks to the Board for its support to the Friends and the library over the last fifty (50) years.

Joan Smith, Okemos Librarian, gave a preview of the events the library will host during the week-long celebration of the Friends golden anniversary and invited everyone to attend.

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Eleanor Luecke, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos, spoke in support of the Appeal of SUP #03071 (Leslie Brogan), Aggrieved Status. She also expressed concern over traffic congestion at the Okemos Road/Grand River Avenue intersection.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman, Okemos, expressed his belief regarding traffic congestion, the 2003 budget deficit, and the possibility of a tax increase.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Manager Richards clarified that the 2003 budget contained \$1.7 million more in expenditures which had been planned by the Board. One million dollars came from the road paving program which the Board included in the 2003 budget as a one-time expense for road improvements. The remainder was for projects scheduled in 2002, which did not see completion until 2003.

Trustee Such formally requested that the Supervisor remind citizens to keep their public remarks to agenda items only.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

**Trustee Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:**

- **Delete the subject matter of Agenda Item #8, “Questions for the Attorney” and insert “Action Items/Ends”**
- **Re-number subsequent Agenda Items accordingly**

**Seconded by Trustee Such.**

VOICE VOTE: 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Such moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Dan C. Wertz, Superintendent of School, Office of the Superintendent, Okemos Public Schools, 4406 North Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: Support for extension of Preliminary Plat #96022 (Central Park Estates)
- BI-2 Eleanor V. Luecke, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: Extension of Preliminary Plat #96022 (Central Park Estates)
- BI-3 Eleanor V. Luecke, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: E-mail on Rezoning #03050 (S. Whitehills Limited Partnership)
- BI-4 Stephen D. Fuller, 1045 W. Woodside Drive, Haslett; RE: Rezoning #02080 (Eyde)
- BI-5 Michigan Townships Association, 512 Westshire Drive, Lansing; RE: Impending additional revenue sharing cuts
- BI-6 Maureen A. Sullivan, 6348 Lake Drive, Haslett; RE: Signage, lights and condition of Marsh Road
- BI-7 Eleanor Luecke, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: Additional Suggested Traffic Solutions
- BI-8 Clarissa Dallas, 2100 Long Leaf Trail, Okemos; RE: Support for Ember Oaks Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District
- BI-9 Susan C. Benivegna, 1413 Forest Hills Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for Ember Oaks Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District
- BI-10 Arti and Upendra Shah, 3593 Otsego Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for Ember Oaks Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District
- BI-11 John Van Camp, 3582 Cabaret Trail, Okemos; RE: Support for Ember Oaks Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District
- BI-12 John and Laurie Fata, 3911 Breckinridge Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for Ember Oaks Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District
- BI-13 Arti and Upendra Shah, 3593 Otsego Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for Ember Oaks Subdivision Streetlighting Special Assessment District

(2) Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 John W. Midgley, Managing Director, Ingham County Road Commission, 301 Bush Street, Mason; RE: Hulett Road-Bennett Road Roundabout

(3). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

- SC-1 Michigan Townships Association Legislative Fax October 17, 2003 Edition
- SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative Fax October 24, 2003 Edition

**Trustee Such 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 Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

**Trustee Such moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 21, 2003 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 344,805.46
Public Works	\$ 305,303.33
Public Safety Building Debt	
Check #1088-Bank One/Bond Fees	\$ 512.50
Total Checks	\$ 650,621.29
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 11,019.35
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 661,640.64</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 344,307.81</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Nokomis Outstanding Debt to the Township Resolution

**Trustee Such moved NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, that the Township shall expend funds in the amount of \$44, 866.04 from the 2003 General Fund Budget for the purpose of covering the outstanding balance of the Loan Receivable from Nokomis Learning Center to the Township, and that the 2003 General Fund Budget be amended to include this expenditure. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

[Signed and Sealed Resolution in Official Minute Book]

E. Fire Act Grant Application

**Trustee Such moved to authorize the Fire Department to apply for a Fire Prevention & Safety Grant through the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$2000.00 with the Township's share coming from the 2003 Fire Department's Special Equipment Budget. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

F. Sale of Forfeited Vehicles

**Trustee Such moved to approve the sale of both the black, 1996 Chevrolet Tahoe, VIN: 1GNEK13R2TJ255015 and the black, 1996 Oldsmobile Cutlass, 2 dr., VIN: 1G3WH12M3TF209536. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

8. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

David Pierson, 1305 S. Washington Ave, Lansing, attorney on behalf of Dr. Gregory Brya, spoke in opposition to the Appeal of SUP #03071 (Brya).

Eckhart Dersch, 2203 Butternut, Okemos, member and on behalf of the Land Preservation Advisory Board, presented its recommendation for Board acceptance of the Hubbell Banyon Park L.L.C. land donation, a 58 acre parcel located west of Okemos Road and south of Burcham Drive.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the Appeal of SUP #03071 (Leslie Brogan), Aggrieved Status.

Rx Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, thanked the Board for its action on the Nokomis Learning Center debt.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. Acceptance of Hubbell Banyon Park, L.L.C. Land Donation

**Trustee Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, does hereby accept by gift the above referenced property, in accordance with the agreement signed by Robert Hubbell, Manager, subject to the conditions stated above. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.**

Board Members discussed the following:

- Connection to existing greenways
- Appreciation to the property owner for the generous donation
- Appreciation to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for its efforts on this project
- Hubbell donation connection to property preserved by Scott Fairmont in Sapphire Lakes of approximately seventy-eight (78) acres, for a total of 138 acres of connected property
- Originally part of an eighty (80) acre farm
- Outstanding acquisition which acquires more greenspace

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: Trustee Stier  
Motion carried 5-1.

[Signed and sealed Resolution in Official Minute Book]

B. Appeal of SUP #03071 (Leslie Brogan), Aggrieved Status

Director Kieselbach gave an overview of the appeal as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 30, 2003.

**Trustee Such moved to deny the appeal of Special Use Permit #03071 filed by Leslie A.**

**Brogan as the individual has not shown she is an aggrieved person in that her property will suffer some special damages as a result of the decision of the Planning Commission which is not common to other property owners similarly situated. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Appellant's assertion in a phone call with a Trustee that she lives in the floodplain near this site and any additional run off as a result of this development would affect her property
- Request for staff to closely monitor water run off at this location during the site plan review process

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Stier, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

9. HEARINGS

- A. Johnson Indian Island Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District #48  
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the public hearing at 6:41 P.M.

Director Severy introduced the matter as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 31, 2003.

Supervisor McGillicuddy inquired as to how long Lot 11 has been split into four (4) parcels and if they are all buildable lots.

Director Kieselbach answered that Lot 11 was split quite a while ago. He further indicated the zoning district is 65 feet minimum frontage. If the lots were created prior to 1960, they would be considered lots of record.

Supervisor McGillicuddy further inquired if all four (4) lots were conforming with the zoning district.

Director Kieselbach indicated he believed they were.

Treasurer Hunting asked if the lots would be allowed by right to cross the wetlands next to the road with access points, driveways, etc.

Director Kieselbach stated because of their proximity to the lake, they would be regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The MDEQ would grant minimum access for these lots. If they were developed, the MDEQ may encourage a single shared driveway.

Supervisor McGillicuddy asked if the road which appears to dead end into Lot 11 could be extended to the south.

Director Severy responded that the map indicates a deep ditch just south of the road. If the road was to be extended, a bridge would have to be built across the ditch or a culvert in the ditch.

Trustee Such stated a common driveway would be the preferred option as was done just to the north of this property.

Director Severy indicated the next step would be to set up an assessment district through Resolution #3, which would also order the Township to prepare the plans and estimate.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed the public hearing at 6:47 P.M.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, offered his opinion as to citizen perception of community values.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. Comprehensive Development Plan Review, Community Values Chapter

Board members discussed the following changes to the Community Values Chapter:

- Technical changes to be given to staff
- Page 1 – delete first paragraph
- Page 1, line 13 - include 2003 Community Attitude Survey in the list contained in sentence 2
- Page 1, line 10 and line 14 values, vision, goals and objectives should be consistent with each other
- Page 8, line 43 – include mixed use as a strategy and in other appropriate areas throughout the document
- Necessity for including any strategies under Goal 3
- Include reference of current sign ordinance review
- Page 11, line 8 - appropriateness of reference to the Public Improvement Program in that location
- Page 11, line 45 – reference joint effort with Ingham County Road Commission
- Page 12, line 26, objective D– inclusion of third strategy to indicate alternative surfaces could be used on pedestrian/bicycle pathway system
- Page 12, line 32 – reference that seven (7) foot pedestrian/bicycle pathway is millage based and include strategy that a millage in 2004 will need to be passed to continue that plan
- Reference(s) to projects which have expended considerable staff time (e.g., greenspace plan)
- Timeline of remaining chapters

Supervisor McGillicuddy recessed the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reconvened the meeting at 7:29 PM

11. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Intergovernmental Meeting

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the Intergovernmental Meeting and introduced the Township's guests.

The representatives and Board members discussed areas of interest and potential cooperation.

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP:**

- Citizen reaction to the Meridian Township Greenspace Plan
- Meridian Township Land Preservation Millage rates and effective dates
- Provision for maintenance of greenways included in Meridian Township Greenspace Plan
- Adoption of the M-43 Access Management Plan
- Concern over speed limit reduction on roads
- Opt in of digital photography capability with the Ingham County Drain Commission for development purposes
- Components of the Act 425 Agreement with the City of Williamston
- Agreement with M-43 contractor to make several large improvements to a park in exchange for allowance by Township for contractor staging area

**CITY OF EAST LANSING:**

- Traffic and transient traffic flow on Lake Lansing Road corridor, Coolidge/Abbot Road, and Grand River Avenue
- Creation of East Lansing Traffic Task Force
- Combination of undulations, traffic islands, four way stop signs, cul-de-sacs and “pinching” at street corners to effectuate traffic calming on neighborhood streets
- Meridian Township and East Lansing Police Departments targeted enforcement for speed limits and neighborhood noise
- Adherence to the letter and spirit of provisions within the Act 425 Agreement with Meridian Township

**BATH TOWNSHIP**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 6, 2003 \*Approved\*

- Types of properties included on the Meridian Township Greenspace Plan
- Mutual concern with Chandler and Abbott Roads traffic
- Act 425 Agreement with East Lansing as an alternative to annexation
- Better communication between entities as a precursor to annexation
- Inquiry on the success in reduction of speed limits for roads within Meridian Township

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Correction to Greenspace Plan map to reflect name change to Edgewood Education Center
- Bennett Woods property deeded to the Ingham County Road Commission for future Hulett/Bennett Road roundabout
- Deeded road right-of-way for right turn lane on Dobie Road and Kinawa Drive
- Potential for acquisition of additional road right-of-way near Chippewa Middle School to facilitate islands on Okemos Road
- Declining enrollment as the catalyst to explore sale of 51 acres of school owned property located on Hulett Road for potential single family home development
- Lack of authority to effectuate reduction in number of students and parents driving students to school
- Reduction in busing services as a cost effective measure
- Commendation to the Meridian Township Police Department for its efforts towards the Crisis Management Plan
- Kinawa Drive resurfacing and reformulated lanes as an improvement and aid to reduction of speed

Areas of potential regional cooperation:

- Continuance of Meridian Township's Greenspace Plan into surrounding communities
- Transmittal of draft and final Meridian Township Greenspace Plan to surrounding communities
- Creation of Joint Traffic Task Force with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission as the facilitator
- Contact with Ingham County Road Commission for potential replication of intersection configurations on Barnes Street, between Martin Luther King and Washington Streets as an option for traffic calming
- Educate the Ingham County Road Commission and State Police on local municipality perspectives towards traffic movement

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Eleanor Luecke, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos, reminded Board members of LINC's suggestions for traffic solutions sent previously to the Board in two letters. She also indicated LINC believes the Township's appeal process is developer friendly.

Christina Riddle, 2049 Hamilton Road, Okemos, member of Mid-Michigan Greenways Committee, spoke in support of the Greenspace Plan and to expand greenways from the center out into neighboring communities. She also inquired as to the next steps in the process of its adoption.

William White, 4695 Okemos Road, Okemos, extended an invitation to the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Economic Development Corporation at 7:30 AM in the Township Hall Room for a presentation by the Michigan State University Urban Planning Department on Small Town Design Initiative relative to the Downtown Development Area. He also invited citizens to the Liberty Fest being held at the Hampton Inn on Okemos Road on November 8, 2003.

John Veenstra, 320 Piper, Haslett, stated he understood there would be a trail from Hagadorn Road to Okemos Road with the development of Hartick Park. He believes the trail should continue along the Consumers right-of-way to link up to Legg Park. He urged the Board to continue pursuing the idea of a recycling service for Meridian Township residents.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:16 P.M.

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SUSAN MCGILlicUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary