

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer
ABSENT: Trustee Sundland
STAFF: Assistant Township Manager Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Deputy Chief Ken Plaga, Interim Fire Chief Lori Schafer, Director of Parks and Recreation LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Black History Month Recognition

Carrie Owens, Meridian Township resident, was honored as the first African American Teacher to be hired into the Okemos Public Schools in 1964.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Steve Vagnozzi, 2114 Woodfield Rd, Okemos; supports the motion regarding Redi-Ride Service, this will add an hour and a half of service hours in the mornings and evenings to assist residents to get to and from work. Functionally equivalent to Spec-Tran. Suggested the Township add a standard cancelation clause to the CATA agreement.

Milton Scales, 1534 Downing St, Haslett; praised Ms. Carrie Owens, who trail-blazed a path for black teachers in Meridian Township. He mentioned the first black teacher in Haslett, Marilouise Smith-Mays. She was an English Language, Arts and French teacher at Haslett High School, from 1977 until her retirement in 1993.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Assistant Manager Perry Reported:

- Urged residents to use caution because of flooding roads; Ingham County Road Department barricades are being put up; advised residents to respect barricades
- Storm sewers and sanitary sewers are at capacity resulting in groundwater issues
- Manager met with the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce along with the Supervisor

- Second mediation meeting for Walnut Hills with Summer Park Realty
- Meeting to discuss the Municipal Building; 2 million in HVAC improvements need to be done, and available options
- Sleepy Hollow Special Assessment District meeting February 22, 2018

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- Redi-Ride expanded Boundaries went into effect yesterday, CATA sent out notices via social media and on buses. CATA Board meeting February 21, 2017 at Township Hall.

Clerk Dreyfus reported:

- February 14, 2018 Groundwater Management Board meeting; Capital Grounds infrastructure project was discussed and the geothermal review to protect the groundwater as they are completing the project, eliminating parking at back of the Capital and putting in greenspace
- Groundwater Management Board also addressed the Williamston 100 year floodplain, the groundwater infrastructure and wells in Williamston haven't been tested in many years and it is now being thoroughly reviewed and analyzed

Trustee Jackson Reported:

- February 13, 2018 quarterly LEAP Board of Directors meeting, new executive leadership
- Demmer Center in the MSU College of Business; designed to assist local business in problem-solving, expanding the capabilities of local businesses
- LEAP's Lansing Youth Startup Expo; school kids to present Entrepreneurial ideas to the community March 27, 2018

Trustee Deschaine reported:

- February 15, 2018 Police Awards Recognition Night
- Community members spoke regarding the care and follow-up from the Police Department

Treasurer Brixie reported:

- Open late until 8:00p.m. February 13, 2018 for tax collection due to office closed early previous Friday because of snow
- 97.2% tax collection rate
- February 28, 2018 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting

Supervisor Styka:

- Madison Hubble; Meridian Township, resident finished 4th in the Olympics
- Referee from Okemos is officiating in the 2018 Olympic Hockey competitions
- Bridge Magazine reported Okemos, Haslett, East Lansing and Williamston all top schools

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasure Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

A. Communications

Clerk Dreyfus 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 Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

B. Minutes

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 6, 2018as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

C. Bills

Clerk Dreyfus moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$202,577.99
Public Works	\$445,996.72
Trust & Agency	\$3,908,897.09
Total Checks	\$4,557,471.80
Credit Card Transactions Jan 18 to Jan 31, 2018	\$13,177.41
Total Purchases	<u>\$4,570,649.21</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$435,624.47</u>

Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board Discussion:

- Board member asked about the security cameras that were installed at the Municipal Building – was it sent out for bids?
- The work was bid and a grant was received for the cameras

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Wetland Use Permit #18-01 (Mayberry Homes)

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving Wetland Use Permit #18-01 with the conditions set forth in the resolution of approval. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

Board Discussion:

- Board member belief that this site was unnecessarily upzoned, this is an example of “density creep,” site could have been successful with 18 homes and preserved more green space, concerns about drainage issues

- Board member support, but reminded the Board that when making development decisions, every little bit helps to protect green space, show we are a progressive community in how we protect green assets

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

B. Fire Service Agreement- Alaiedon Township

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the agreement between Delhi Charter Township and Meridian Charter Township for Fire and Rescue Services within Alaiedon Township and authorize the Township Manager and Fire Chief to sign the agreement. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Trustee Opsommer moved to amend item “4. Non-Discrimination” as follows:

The parties agree that neither shall discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, (added) **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY**, or marital status. Breach of this covenant may be regarded as a material breach of this contract which allows the nondiscriminatory party to immediately terminate this agreement. **Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board Discussion:

- The Township’s previous Board made a commitment to this issue and that includes contracts that have protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Board member states strong support for the original ordinance and that contracts and service agreements sometimes have missing language, ensuring they don’t slip through
- Board member belief that both communities support the non-discrimination ordinance and both communities went through these changes at the same time
- 3-year agreement, with cost increases each year

Vote on Amendment:

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Vote on Original Motion:

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

C. Land Preservation Acquisition-Ponderosa Land Preserve
AMENDED PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Trustee Deschaine moved to support the attached resolution to acquire parcel number 33-02-02-35-200-012 and 33-02-35—426-007 from Ponderosa LLC utilizing grant funding reimbursement through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; A donation from the property owner, Ponderosa LLC; And funds from the Land Preservation Millage to add 89 acres of land to the Land Preservation Program. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board Discussion:

- Adding 10% to Land Preservation acreage, increasing and protecting green space
- Amended agreement which stipulates the three-way purchase, appraisals completed for Township & State, if seller wants appraisal, they will have to pay
- Inquiry regarding barrels discovered on property and how this will affect the property
- Director Maisner clarified that there was old farm equipment found on the property during the Phase 1 environmental study, a Phase 2 environmental study to ensure there is no contamination will be conducted
- Rescinding the purchase agreement if environmental conditions exceed the land value

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

D. Planning Commission Appointments

Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the appointments made by Supervisor Styka of Alisande Shrewsbury to the Planning Commission for a term ending on 12/31/2019 and Peter Trezise to the Planning Commission for a term ending on 12/31/2020. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board Discussion:

- Board members discussed the appointments and the experience factor of the candidates
- Public should know that extensive government experience is not a requirement-to serve on a public board

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Redi-Ride Service Hours Expansion

Board Discussion:

- MT Transportation Commission passed a motion recommending the expansion of service hours from 7:30a.m.-9:00 a.m. and 5:00p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- CATA obtained two grants: Job Access and Reserve Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Funds (NFF); three-year grants which could fund a portion of expanded service through 2022
- CATA agreed to fund the 50% local match for the NFF and JARC grants
- Students who have transportation to school are not allowed to ride, it is used for activity transportation in which they have no other means of getting around
- CATA works with schools if there is a school bus available they will not schedule a ride
- A flat rate of \$2.50 was discussed to generate an estimated \$38,293 annually
- This expansion adds 27% more bus hours and increases hours of operation by 37.5%, adding 4600 more rides per year.
- Discussed discounted rates for seniors, Medicare cardholders, and persons with disabilities
- Meridian Cares helps residents with fare costs
- Redi-Ride service should not be subsidized more than it already is, \$2.50 is reasonable and expansion will enhance this service for the residents
- CATA millages, grant terms and upcoming CATA millage, and cancellation policies
- Cost per hour for Redi-Ride: \$55/bus hour and book about 3 rides per hour
- Spec-Tran bus service vs. Redi-Ride
- CATA approves fair box changes, \$2.50 flat rate is easier to get approved when comparable service is offered elsewhere, versus creating new fare structures
- If the board acts now it could go into effect in August 2018

Consensus of the Board to place this item on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Katherine White, 140 East Brody Rd, East Lansing; MSU journalism student asked questions about the Redi-Ride services and grants.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Brixie:

- Gave recognition to the Communications Department for the 175th Anniversary display that has been traveling across the Township and is in the Municipal Building for viewing.

Trustee Jackson:

- Mentioned that the school systems in Meridian Township have contributed considerably to the character of the community by bringing diverse teachers to the area.

Trustee Opsommer:

- CATA board meeting on February 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at Meridian Township Municipal Building

Trustee Deschaine:

- Economic Development Corporation meeting March 1, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.

Supervisor Styka:

- Corridor Improvement Authority meeting February 28, 2018 at the Central Fire Station, and the CIA is looking for board members, such as business owners in the corridor

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:29 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Maggie Rodgers-Sanders, Secretary