

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD BUDGET DELIBERATIONS MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra (6:03 P.M.), Wilson  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Finance Gretchen Gomolka, Director of Assessor David Lee, Parks and Recreation LuAnn Maisner, Human Resources Director Deb LaPine, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Supervisor LeGoff called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. PUBLIC REMARKS  
Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed appreciation for the Township Manager's opening budget remarks. He believed the Township's Parks Department should exclusively serve the residents of Meridian Township. Mr. Provencher requested that all parks within the Township have restroom facilities.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, complimented the Township Manager and Department Directors for their hard work on the budget. He suggested the \$200 fee to appeal a township officials' decision should be partially refunded if the appellant prevails. Mr. Bowlby suggested the Greenwood Subdivision sewer work be removed from the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). He proposed a footnote be placed within the budget document which explains the seemingly large dollar figure for the Downtown Development Authority's Operating Costs as noted in the 2013 Projected Total.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 RECOMMENDED BUDGET  
Township Manager Walsh gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2014 Recommended Budget. The presentation included the fund balance of the General Fund, capital expenditure projects, police and fire expenditures, local roads fund budget, motor pool purchases, millage rates/property tax revenue, increases in pension legacy costs, water and sewer cash, rate comparisons and projects.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Timeline for Board approval of the budget
- Appreciation for the in-depth work by staff to present the recommended budget to the Board
- Manager’s proposal to return any tax revenue beyond projections, up to 1%, to employees on a per capita basis
- Effect of carry-over projects on the Fund Balance
- Baseline fund balance is \$5.4 million
- Extensive discussion last year on lump sum v. percentage increase in staff wages
- Equalized payment to all employees is equitable and fair
- Staff request for the Board not to discuss potential wage increases as the Township is currently in negotiations with its eight (8) unions
- Appreciation for the proposed reduction in the motor pool fleet
- Appreciation for the minimization of legal costs, especially avoiding the use of outside labor counsel
- Discrepancies in the 2013 original budget v. 2013 projected total are “normal” due to fluctuation
- 82 new home starts to date this year v. 30+ last year
- Request for copies of the Powerpoint presentation to be made available
- Request for budget summaries in broad categories to begin in 2014
- Suggestion to analyze report content during Policy Governance Review
- Board decision on projects which utilize discretionary funding
- Projection for completion of contract negotiations with eight (8) unions
- Staff compensation issues will be discussed, possibly in a closed session, sometime in October

**Trustee Scales moved to cancel the September 24, 2013 Township Board Budget Deliberations Meeting. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, requested the Powerpoint presentation be made available to the public, both in the public packet and online.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

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ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary