



AGENDA

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF
MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 5, 2016
6:00 P.M.



1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER⁺
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
3. ROLL CALL
4. PRESENTATIONS
5. PUBLIC REMARKS^{*}
6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS
8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)
 - A. Communications
 - B. Minutes
 - (1) November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting
 - (2) December 1, 2015 Regular Meeting
 - (3) December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting
 - C. Bills
 - D. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment
10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY
11. HEARINGS (CANARY)
 - A. The Square, 2655 Grand River Avenue – Brownfield Hearing
12. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)

****Public Comment**

 - A. Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes) – **Final Adoption**
 - B. Proposed Mobile Food Units Ordinance – **Final Adoption**
 - C. Zoning Amendment #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication – **Final Adoption**
 - D. 2016 Flags Over Meridian
13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)

****Public Comment**

 - A. The Square, 2655 Grand River Avenue – Brownfield Hearing
 - B. 2016 Goals Document
 - C. 2015 Township Citizen Survey Results
 - D. Welcoming Resolution
14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS^{*}
15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT
16. ADJOURNMENT

***PUBLIC REMARKS (Any topic - 3 minutes per person)**

****PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda item specific - 3 minutes per person)**

*Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by writing or calling the following:
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4258) – Ten Day Notice is Required.*

Meridian Charter Township: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198, (517) 853-4000 Township Hall Room; www.meridian.mi.us

⁺ Appointment of President Pro Tem and/or Temporary Clerk if necessary

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING COMMUNICATIONS, JANUARY 5, 2016

(1) Board Deliberations (BD)

BD IIA Board of Directors, Liason for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC), PO Box 40, Okemos;
RE: Brownfield Plan for The Square on Grand River

(2) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Pam Fraker, 351 Newman Road, Okemos; RE: Disappointment in the direction of the Township and its priorities
- BI-2 Dr. B Ray Horn, 2790 Sirhal Drive, Apt. 115, East Lansing; RE: Township/Board Code of Ethics
- BI-3 Dr. B Ray Horn, 2790 Sirhal Drive, Apt. 115, East Lansing; RE: Secondhand smoke at Stratford Place Senior Facility
- BI-4 Karla Hudson, 6009 Skyline Drive, East Lansing; RE: Mismanagement of Meridian Redi-Ride
- BI-5 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: Fed Up with CATA's scheduling system
- BI-6 Sandra Draggoo, Executive Director, Capital Area Transportation Authority, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Response to Ms. Rose regarding Redi-Ride and Spectran scheduling systems
- BI-7 Hannah Henning, 5924 Patriots Way, East Lansing; RE: Chick-fil-A Coming to Meridian
- BI-8 Benjamin J. Price, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, 313 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing; RE: Notice of Intent to Establish a Condominium Project at 2900 Hannah Boulevard, East Lansing
- BI-9 John P. Gardner, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to Comcast's channel lineup

(3) Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Chair Brian Dale; RE: Letter of resignation from the DDA effective December 9, 2015
- CL-2 Planning Commissioner Thomas Deits; RE: Supervisor's remarks at the Meridian Township Board meeting of December 8, 2015

(4) Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 Capital Area Transportation Authority; RE: Notice of public meeting on Designing the Grand River Avenue Corridor (BRT project) to be held at the Meridian Township Hall on January 14, 2016 beginning at 4:30 PM

(5) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Clerk Brett Dreyfus; RE: Article in the December 8, 2015 edition of the *Great Lakes Echo* titled "Michigan lags in charging stations for electric vehicles"
- SC-2 Clerk Brett Dreyfus; RE: Revitalization Toolkit presented to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission from Civilis Consultants, PO Box 28502, Portland, Oregon

**CLERK'S OFFICE
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
JANUARY 5, 2016**

Board Deliberations (BD)



LIAISON FOR INTER-NEIGHBORHOOD COOPERATION

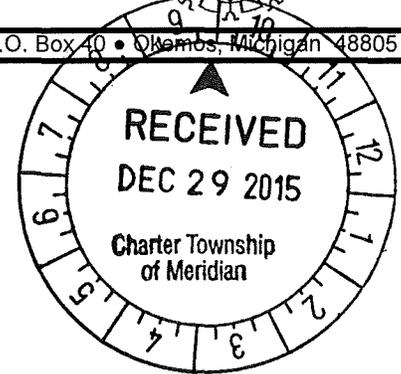


A MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FEDERATED HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 40 • Okemos, Michigan 48805

December 29, 2015

To: Meridian Township Board of Trustees
From: Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
Re: Brownfield Plan for the Square on Grand River



Dear Meridian Township Board,

It comes as a great surprise to us that the developer of The Square on Grand River has proposed a Brownfield Plan for the properties upon which the mixed use planned unit development is to be built. Because the amount of the proposed tax-capture is nearly \$5,000,000 over 16 years (or just under \$302,000 per year) we think that the Township Board should look very carefully at the Plan and the circumstances surrounding its promulgation before making a decision on whether to approve the Plan. We have several questions that we think should be answered either before or at the public hearing on the Plan scheduled for January 5, 2016.

- 1) The first question is why is it only now coming to light that there are long-standing underlying problems with the site, such as environmental contamination and debris from a landfill and former cement plant, that require extensive remediation before construction can begin. After a detailed review of the staff memos, meeting minutes, and staff presentations from Planning Commission and Township Board meetings on the project, beginning with the concept plans and continuing through to the final Township Board approval, it was never divulged by the staff that there was documented environmental contamination on the site. In fact, none of the activities on the site prior to the current retail use were mentioned. We find it hard to believe that no one in the Department of Community Planning and Development, some of whom have been employed by the township for 30 years, did not have knowledge of the previous uses on the property. This is especially troubling given the confirmed release from a waste oil underground storage tank (UST) in 1997 and a closed leaking underground storage tank (LUST) on the Western Parcel, and the potential for these documented releases to require remediation before construction on the project began. If the staff did know about these problems, why did they not advise the Planning Commission or the Township Board about these releases and their potential to impede development on the site?
2. We find it equally, if not more, surprising that the current property owner was apparently unaware of potential negative impacts from previous activities on the site. Given that the current property owner has a long history in the real estate market in the township we find it difficult to believe that they were naïve to the underlying condition of the properties. If they did know about potential limitations on development due to previous uses, why was this not divulged either during the lengthy discussions on the project or on the Health Impact Assessment form submitted by the applicant?
3. According to the Brownfield Plan, Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) activities were performed on these properties as early as March 2011, and again in September 2013, where several instances of environmental contamination were discovered. Yet on the **Health Impact Assessment** form the applicant indicated “NO” to the question of whether “...there is a nearby known source of

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contaminated soil?" **They further mis-represented** the conditions on the site by answering "NO" to the question "Is the proposed project/development located near any facility handling or disposing of hazardous waste?" and "NO" to the question "Is there historic evidence of solid or hazardous waste disposal or releases on or adjacent to the site?" It is a fact that both an automobile oil-change facility (Valvoline) and an automotive repair shop (Kildea Car Care, formerly Longwood Auto Repair) operate on property adjacent to the site and that both handle hazardous waste (used motor oil is considered hazardous waste as are other liquids commonly associated with auto repair, such as anti-freeze, brake fluid, cleaning solvents, and other lubricants.)

4. The site is also adjacent to several parcels in an Industrial zone, many of which are likely to have handled hazardous waste in the conduct of their businesses, as described in the Phase I ESAs. It is also a fact that there was historic evidence of solid or hazardous waste disposal on the site as evidenced by the BEA activities in 2011 and 2013. If it is true that the township (i.e. staff) knew of problems associated with past uses on the site it would be useful for you, the Township Board, to know to what extent these problems were communicated to the current property owner and/or the applicant.
5. We believe that the current property owner knew, or should have known had they employed "due diligence", about potential adverse conditions on the site and that they failed to disclose this information during the numerous opportunities during which the project was discussed. Whether knowledge of these facts would have changed the outcome of the process is not clear, but now that the facts are known it offers an opportunity for the developer to redesign the project to minimize the need for extensive remediation (at the taxpayer's expense). We also wonder whether the contaminants noted in the northern portion of the Western Parcel are a result of the long-abandoned gas station or whether they might be consistent with ongoing contamination from the adjacent sites (oil change and auto repair facilities).
6. It has been proposed that the project will generate approximately \$9.8 million in Incremental Property Taxes Paid over the 16-year Brownfield Plan. We wonder whether this represents an accurate assessment of the incremental property tax increase and suggest that similar claims of incremental tax increases, such as those made by the Lodges of East Lansing and Hannah Lofts (both large apartment complexes constructed as a component of a MUPUD) be investigated to determine whether developer-estimated claims of incremental tax increase are validated by past experience. Have the claims of increased taxes accruing to the township by the Hannah Farms developments actually materialized? Along the same lines, there have been several recent instances where property tax assessments have been successfully appealed by property owners that resulted in a substantial reduction in property taxes collected by the township on these properties. What is the likelihood that future taxable value assessments on the properties comprising the site might be appealed and result in lowered property tax income for the township? How might this impact the township's liability for funding the Plan?
7. To what extent can other entities to whom taxes are paid "opt-out" of allowing their *ad valorem* taxes to be used to finance the plan? If there is an "opt-out" provision, does the township have to provide the funds to replace those losses?
8. We are also concerned about the high cost of remediation activities and would like to see an independent audit of the cost of Eligible Activities as described in the Brownfield Plan. We believe that a large part of the Eligible Activities arise from the current design of the project, which places

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the residential component on the largely contaminated Western Parcel (also immediately adjacent to the Industrial zone), and could be substantially reduced by a redesign of the project, moving the residential buildings to the eastern part of the site.

9. Based on data presented during the hearing/approval process at the township level, the filing and approval of the Plan by the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority comes as a surprise, but may have a “silver lining” in that it gives the township Board an opportunity to rethink whether this is the right project for the site, or whether the project could be redesigned to better suit the limitations of the site. We would point out that the township is under no obligation to approve the Plan. We understand that the prospect of approximately \$5,000,000 in increased tax revenue resulting from the project may be alluring, despite the loss of approximately \$5,000,000 in additional taxes to be captured as a result of the Plan, and we would like to point out that the Township Board should not be made to feel that they are being “held hostage” by the developer. Given the long-term revenue generated by a ~400-bed project over a 50-year or more lifetime, it is very evident that the developer can afford to absorb the costs of remediation and still earn a sizable profit from their investment, resulting in nearly \$10,000,000 in additional tax revenue to the Township.

We hope that the Meridian Township Board of Trustees will consider these points during their deliberations on the Plan and believe that these are just a few of the important questions that need to be asked and answered before the Board can make an informed decision on the Plan.

With best regards,

The Board of Directors of Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

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**CLERK'S OFFICE
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
JANUARY 5, 2016**

Board Information (BI)

Sandy Otto

From: Fraker, Pam <fraker@cns.msu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, December 05, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Board
Subject: Just plain embarrassing !

We sue a family who has owned Pygmy goats,welcome with fan fare Chick fil A a well known discriminator and are actually thinking of giving a 4.5 million deduction to Campus Village with the biggest yawn of a plan that we've seen in awhile. I'm extremely disappointed in this communities priorities and values. We look mindless and greedy. You are the oversight folks!

Sorry to be back again but I'm very disappointed in the direction of the Township and it's less than admirable priorities.

Sent from my iPad
Pam Fraker
University Distinguished Professor
National Academy of Sciences
Dept of Biochemistry
Building 603
Michigan State University
E. Lansing ,Mi 48824
Phone 517-353-3513

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BI-1

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Sandy Otto

From: Dr B Ray HORN <ibci@umich.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Board
Cc: Deborah Guthrie; Frank Walsh; Mark Kieselback
Subject: Does the Township, specifically the Board, have a 'Code of Ethics'

Does the Township, or specifically the Board, have an explicit 'Code of Ethics'?

If so, where is it explicitly posted for the public to easily see and review to hold the Board and Township accountable?

If not, why not? If not, there are scores of examples on Google and other search engines.

If not, I would strongly recommend and formally request that a third-party 3-5 (max) blue-ribbon panel -- without a Township conflict of interest (including employees) and with expertise in doing so [a MSU or U-M ethics Professor, for example] -- be invited [as chair] to generate such a code (or review the current one, if exists) to be presented to the Board and the public before the end of February 2016 for review, open and transparent debate, and approval.

A deadline for Board approval should be before the end of March 2016 and so scheduled if possible.

Built into it should be the requirement of re-review and reapproval every 5-years.

The 'Code' statement should not be part of the Township's 'Personnel Manual' but stand as an independent umbrella in relation to it. It should reflect the values (made explicit) of the Township specifically.

This request should be made public by prominently posting on the Township website and including in the working 'packet' of each Board and commission member and party of interest.

Your consideration of this request would be much appreciated. I stand in representation of a many Township residents who fear or who are too timid to publically voice their concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr.B.Ray HORN
2790 Sirhal Drive [Meridian Township]
< LinkedIn.com >

PS - Confirmation of receipt of this email would be appreciated.



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BI-2

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Sandy Otto

From: Dr B Ray HORN <ibci@umich.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 4:28 AM
To: Board
Cc: Frank Walsh; Mark Kieselbach; Frank Christmas; Kevin Reed
Subject: SUBJECT: Secondhand smoke at Stratford Place senior facility (2790 Sirhal Dr, 48823, Meridian Township). A MISUNDERSTANDING.
Attachments: Original letter to Landlord copied to Township Board - Capture.PNG

SUBJECT: -- TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE -- Secondhand smoke at Stratford Place senior facility (2790 Sirhal Dr, 48823, Meridian Township). A MISUNDERSTANDING.

What needs to stressed is that there is no such thing as "a smoke free **common area**" when there are 60 doors opening directly into those common areas, where many heavy chain smokers remain and smoke throughout the day and night.

Particularly heavy smoke permeates in the evening hours, when few visitors enter or exit the few outside doors. And the shut-ins must cough themselves to sleep.

It is analogous to having an entire building (even with an internal private business with a smoker, which we have) in a nearly sealed (especially during the winter) jar of a hazardous substance in the indoor air with many frail and chronically ill senior citizens inside 24/7. And they are unable to go out.

A belief that the smoke remains in individual rooms is a denial of the laws of physics. Empirical scientific evidence abounds in support of this fact.

The Property Manager is a part-time manager not living in the Township, and she is also an addicted, uncaring chain smoker herself whose priorities are renting units, collecting rent, passing building inspections, etc. for the wealthy property owners and investors in faraway Texas or abroad.

She attends to the building only part-time and apparently has little if any interest in the welfare of the tenants in the smoke-filled building. She has the personal power but no incentive to make the entire facility smoke free. She simply does not care.

The health-concerned and chronically ill elder senior tenants seek a smoke-free FACILITY.

Is the township going to take a leading role and create an ordinance that protects its dependent and frail elder residents, which is entirely under its authority, or is the Township going to continue to neglect an immediate health protection need?

Suppose, for example, it was your own elderly mother who was being forced to breath contaminated air all day and all night. Health protection is allegedly the Board's priority. And public integrity is no minor issue.

Evidence and free nonsmoking legal advice sources were attached to previous emails relative to this critical Township health and safety issue.

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Authoritative scientific evidence shows without doubt that there is no such thing as a smoke free "common" area unless in a separate building.

Your prompt attention to this immediate health issue would be appreciated.

Dr.B.Ray HORN
Meridian Stratford Place #115
2790 Sirhal Drive [Meridian Township]
< LinkedIn.com >

PS -- The original letter sent to the Board is attached.



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Dear Ms Lisa Darrow, Stratford Place Mgr

Internet links to key concerns and summaries of scientific and other evidence are found in the attachment FYI as a good faith gesture.

This supplements the quantity of related information already passed to you for more than a year about secondhand smoking and elder health costs and dangers.

Beyond the evidence found via these links, there is a "mountain" of information of undeniable evidence of the health costs and hazards. Herein is only exemplary,

The harmful and costly effects of secondhand smoke, which cannot bypass the laws of physics, and which is ubiquitous in the Stratford Place seniors-only elder facility, is without reasonable doubt a health hazard to the occupants and those who serve them.

Third-party initiatives to protect the health of seniors who rent contiguous rooms sharing common hallways and other amenity spaces (all exchanging contaminated air), and to protect senior facility management and custodial employees, senior health home care workers, among others are gaining momentum quickly.

The facility is replete with very vulnerable elder seniors with chronic and serious health problems, some of which must be on oxygen 24/7. We experience about 1-2 deaths per year.

It would make Stratford Place proud to be a socially responsible corporate model and take an exemplary leadership role in this initiative. Adverse public media can only harm the reputation of the facility, its operators, and its investors wherever they are.

Please take the time to review the linked materials and do the right thing within your scope of agency. This is not only health care cost reduction issue but a moral one.

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Brett Dreyfus

From: Brett Dreyfus
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Brett Dreyfus
Subject: Mismanagement of Meridian Redi-Ride

From: Karla Hudson [<mailto:Hudson.KC@live.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 9:22 AM
To: Frank Walsh
Subject: Mismanagement of Meridian redi-ride

Hello Frank,

If you would please forward my latest Meridian Redi-ride experience to the Township Board. After this experience I am looking even more forward to our work group. Please keep me posted as to the first meeting date. I know we are all wanting to improve issues such as the one I have outlined below.

Karla Hudson

From: Karla Hudson [<mailto:Hudson.KC@live.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 5:34 PM
To: 'Sandy Draggoo' <SDraggoo@cata.org>; 'Debbie Alexander' <DWAlexander@cata.org>
Cc: cataboard@cata.org
Subject: mismanagement of Redi-ride

Hello,

I am writing to share with you all my Meridian redi-ride experience of Saturday Dec. 5. The pick up was for 9:50 taking me to the MSU Community Music School on Hagadorn road. My children take piano lessons and this facility.

We are ready for our ride and wait the ten minutes before calling to check on our late ride. I call and get a hold time of seven minutes. In desperation I email paratransit@cata.org hoping one of the schedulers will see my email. I am still on hold at 10:15, now longer than seven minutes. Keep in mind my piano lessons start at 10:30. By 10:20 I am still on hold and becoming concerned that we will be late to our lesson. Fortunately, a family friend happens to stop by and takes us to the music school.

At 10:30 I get a call on my cell phone as the scheduler finally saw my email. I heard from her that the driver had difficulties with a passenger and the other driver was behind and could not cover my ride. She also indicated that the scheduling office was short staffed and that is the reason I never did reach a person at their office. You should also know that at 10:35 the driver showed up at our home and my husband sent them away as I was already gone. What a terrible waste of time and resources!

What different could have happened here? Well, CATA supervision could have stepped in with some type of back up bus. Wow, what an idea! How to give the office staff extra support with others do not show up? Consider developing an emergency list of supervisors or staff who are willing to come in "on call." See these ideas would have saved me the passenger and your drivers and schedulers from a very difficult transportation experience.

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I also want you to know that this is not the first time these issues have come up on Meridian redi-ride. I have heard often from drivers when they get behind how unsupported they feel with no supervisors out with a bus to help when they get behind. The long phone hold time is just a symptom of a continuous problem. The customer has no way of contacting individuals when a real emergency is happening.

I expect that you will review my ideas for improvement. I look forward to hearing back from you regarding ways you will prevent such a horrible transportation experience from occurring again.

Karla Hudson
517-336-9830

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Brett Dreyfus

From: Donna Rose <wild-rose@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 6:05 PM
To: Sandy Rios; DWAlexander@cata.org; Paratransit@cata.org
Cc: Board; Frank Walsh; Fred Wurtzel; hudson.kc@live.com; Michael Hudson; ody.norkin@gmail.com; EdgarS@michigan.gov
Subject: Fed Up With CATA

Dear CATA,

What in the world is going on with your Redi Ride and Spectran scheduling systems. Either the system has some bugs, or your representatives and web site are being dishonest with those you serve.

Earlier this week I made rides for the week. I spoke to your call-taker, Theresa. I wanted to schedule a Redi Ride to go to the City Limits Bowling Lanes on Saginaw on Friday Dec 18 to be there by 11:30AM. She told me that I could get a Redi Ride, but it wouldn't be until 11:24PM, but I said that would work as long as I could be there by noon when bowling began. I had her on speaker phone and others heard this conversation, including my boyfriend. She said they would have one other pickup to do, but I would be there by noon. So imagine my surprise when Redi Ride arrived and 10:45 to pick me up? I wasn't ready, so I called to find out what happen. Denise told me that Redi Ride was there to pick me up at 10:47, the time I scheduled originally, but that wasn't true. My ride was booked with Theresa for 11:24. I have witnesses and you have a recording you can refer to. I had to ask Denise to try and find me a Spectran and pay that fare, and did not have the fare to take Spectran back home as I had planned, since Redi Ride once again wasn't available for my return trip. My income is modest and this was a hardship for me. I was going to put my ride on a credit card using Uber, but a friend was able to come and get me.

Don't you answer your feedback comments on the "My Spectran" website? I wrote almost two weeks ago describing a scheduling mishap with the computer system and never received a reply. I scheduled a ride using Spectran to go to an address on Hayford in Lansing for Tuesday Dec. 8. The schedule did fine with my trip going, but on my return trip it misrepresented what happened. I was ask by the hostess to request a return trip around 9PM. So I did that and the computer offered me a ride with a window beginning at around 9:45P which I declined. I then ask for a return at 8:45 and I was given an 8:40PM time which I took. I looked at a review of my rides and saw that the computer was showing that I had denied a trip which would have begun at 8:55, not 9:45PM as was actually offered to me. So I wrote on the feedback regarding this discrepancy. If I had been offered the 8:55 trip, I would have taken that one. One of the people visiting at the same address lives one block from me and we could have ridden together, but it didn't work out that way, which is so inefficient. The system misrepresented what trip I denied. Since I know much of this data will be reported to the federal government, don't you think it should accurately reflect what trip I actually denied? Is CATA purposely trying to make it look like we have denied a trip closer to our request time than what was actually offered? Is CATA trying to shift its responsibility for capacity issues and limitations on the riders?

These things and more have ground my patience down to its last nerve. I try to be grateful for the services provided, but there is a point where a person has just had enough with all of the mistakes, mishaps and poor customer service. When something goes wrong we can't even easily reach a call taker on the phone due to such inappropriately long hold times. Your Board meets for an hour a month in a place where bus service, #6 shuttle, ends before the end of the meeting, and then they sit there like handpicked apples without a comment or concern about anything going on, except for the four who asked to attend a transit meeting in Texas in January, while Spectran and Redi Ride could use more funding. And that travel request was approved by the same irresponsible Board when all Board members could use training right here at home. I don't want to pay for that. Then you are asking people who have a good reason to need a PCA to travel with them to recertify for this accommodation after being eligible for this service for

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BI - 5

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23 years? Who is paying for that? I am so tired of paying my taxes for services which don't work properly and where my money is squandered. When I think of all of the vulnerable people you serve and their inability to speak up when they should, it really gets under my skin. When I worked at Community Mental Health, I saw such scenarios often.

After writing a number of letters to you all and attending some Board meetings, I am just totally fed up. One way or another these things will be solved and CATA customers will be treated with the respect they deserve. How do you expect to win the next millage with this kind of customer service? You cannot take the tax payers, i.e. riders, for granted any longer. We will work around you all if we have to. We will get the service we all deserve and need with or without your help! We will hold you, and your Board of Directors, liable. I am tired of fooling around.

Truly,
Donna Rose, LMSW
6207 Cobblers Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-489-2233

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BI-5

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Brett Dreyfus

From: Sandy Draggoo <SDraggoo@cata.org>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:20 PM
To: wild-rose@sbcglobal.net
Cc: Debbie Alexander; CATA Board of Directors; Board; Frank Walsh; hudson.kc@live.com; Mike Hudson (mjh@msu.edu); ody.norkin@gmail.com; EdgarS@michigan.gov; f.wurtzel@att.net
Subject: Response back to you

Donna, Debbie shared your email with me. I did not get a copy of it. Maybe you meant it to come to me instead of Sandy Rios. Sandy is not part of Paratransit anymore. I am responding to your email below.

With regard to your Meridian Redi-Ride trip on December 18, 2015, Debbie and I listened to the call between you and Teresa on December 16, 2015, at approximately 2:35 p.m. The recording indicated Teresa provided you with a pick up time of 10:45 a.m. and that you accepted that time by saying "ok". The recording did not reveal that the time of 11:24 a.m. was ever discussed. The operator did show up at the scheduled time of your 10:45 a.m. trip.

With regard to your trip on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015, the system does not keep a record of what trip times were offered on myspectran.org; however, it did record that you denied the trip at 8:55 p.m. There isn't any penalty to the customers for denying trips. We will test the system to determine if there are any functional problems like you described and if so, they will be addressed.

I want to clarify your statement regarding the Board member travel approval you heard at the November board meeting. First there were only three Board members approved to attend the American Public Transit Board Members' Seminar. That meeting is in April 2016. As of today, only one Board Member is going to attend. This Seminar is for Board Members from transit systems all over the United States and Canada and the training received there is not available locally as you suggest. When the Board approves travel, it is always for the most that can attend and then individual schedules are checked and usually that number is diminished --- as the case has proven to be.

I have sent a copy of this answer to our CATA Board since you had spoken about their actions and I have clarified them for you. I hope you have a good Christmas.

Sandy

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BI-6

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Sandy Otto

From: Hannah <tiggerhjb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 9:10 AM
To: Board
Subject: Chick-fil-A coming to Meridian

Dear Township Board Members,

I am a longtime resident of Meridian township and a mother of four. Our family is super excited about Chick-fil-A coming to Meridian and Okemos! We hope they are able to build quickly and, as a busy mom of four, I'm especially excited about the drive thru option. Looking forward to eating great chicken in 2016! Thank you all for representing us!

Hannah Henning
Sent from my iPhone

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BI-7

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Lansing
313 S. Washington Square
Lansing MI 48933

Farmington Hills
32300 Northwestern Highway - Suite 230
Farmington Hills MI 48334

Grand Rapids
1700 E. Beltline NE - Suite 200
Grand Rapids MI 49525

Detroit
333 W. Fort Street - 11th Floor
Detroit MI 48226

Holland
151 Central Avenue - Suite 260
Holland MI 49423

Walter S. Foster
1878-1961
Richard B. Foster
1908-1996
Theodore W. Swift
1928-2000
John L. Collins
1926-2001

Scott L. Mandel
Michael D. Sanders
Brent A. Titus
Stephen J. Lowney
Jean G. Shtokal
Brian G. Goodenough
Matt G. Hrebec
Melissa J. Jackson
Nancy L. Kahn
Deanna Swisher
Thomas R. Meagher
Doug A. Mielock
Scott A. Chernich
Paul J. Millenbach
Dirk H. Beckwith
Brian J. Renaud
Bruce A. Vande Vusse

Lynwood P. VandenBosch
Lawrence Korolewicz
James B. Doezema
Anne M. Seurynek
Richard L. Hillman
Steven L. Owen
John P. Nicolucci
Michael D. Homier
David M. Lick
Scott H. Hogan
Richard C. Kraus
Benjamin J. Price
Frank T. Mamat
Michael R. Blum
Norman E. Richards
Jonathan J. David
Frank H. Keynolds

Pamela C. Dausman
Andrew C. Vredenburg
John M. Kamins
Jack A. Siebers
Julie I. Fershtman
Todd W. Hoppe
Iris K. Linder
Jennifer B. Van Regenmorter
Thomas R. TerMaat
Samuel J. Frederick
Frederick D. Dilley
Alexander A. Ayar
David R. Russell
Zachary W. Behler
Joshua K. Richardson
Joel C. Farrar
Seth A. Drucker

Laura J. Genovich
Liza C. Moore
Glen A. Schmiege
Gilbert M. Frimet
Mark J. Colon
Paul D. Yared
Ryan E. Lamb
Karl W. Butterer, Jr.
Lisa J. Hamameh
Barbra E. Homier
Mindi M. Johnson
Anna K. Gibson
Nichole J. Derks
Patricia J. Scott
Lindsey E. Bosch
Nicholas M. Oertel
Nichole F. Stratten

Lauren B. Dunn
Alicia W. Birch
Archana R. Rajendra
Ray H. Littleton, II
Joseph J. Viviano
John W. Mashni
Adam A. Fadly
Allison M. Collins
Leslie A. Dickinson
Julie L. Hamlet
Emory D. Moore
Michael C. Zahrt
Taylor A. Gast
Rachel N. Gizicki
Tyler J. Olney
Mark J. DeLuca

Webb A. Smith
Allan J. Claypool
Gary J. McRay
Stephen I. Jurmu
Scott A. Storey
Charles A. Janssen
Charles E. Barbieri
James B. Jensen, Jr.

Writer's Direct Phone: 517.371.8253

Fax: 517.367.7353

Reply To: Lansing

E-Mail: BPrice@fosterswift.com

December 11, 2015

Meridian Township Board
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864



First Class Mail

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: East Lansing Athletic Club and Health Science Pavilion Condominium
Meridian Township
Ingham County, Michigan

Enclosed please find a Notice of Intent to Establish Condominium Project as required by Section 71 of the Michigan Condominium Act.

If you have any questions about this Notice or the project, please let me know.

Sincerely,

FOSTER SWIFT COLLINS & SMITH PC

Benjamin J. Price

The address of the property is: 2900 Hannah Blvd.

BJP:ss
Enclosure

cc: Sparrow Development

JAN 05 2016

BI-8

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH CONDOMINIUM PROJECT UNDER
SECTION 71 OF THE MICHIGAN CONDOMINIUM ACT**

TO: Meridian Township
Ingham County Board of Commissioners
Ingham County Road Commission
Ingham County Drain Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Transportation

Please take notice that Sparrow Development, Inc., a Michigan Corporation, of 1215 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48912, intends to establish a condominium project in Meridian Township Township, Ingham County, Michigan, on the property described in Exhibit A attached hereto. This condominium project may include up to two condominium units. Sparrow Development, Inc. intends to record a Master Deed for said condominium project. The name of this condominium project will be East Lansing Athletic Club and Health Science Pavilion.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2015

**SPARROW DEVELOPMENT, INC., a Michigan
Corporation**

By: 
Mark Brett
Its: President

JAN 0 5 2016

BI-8

(page 2 of 3)

JAN 0 5 2016

EXHIBIT A

EAST LANSING ATHLETIC CLUB AND HEALTH SCIENCE PAVILION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Property located in the Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, and more particularly described as:

That part of the West 1/2 of Section 20, Town 4 North, Range 1 West, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan, commencing at the West 1/4 corner thereof; thence North 00 degrees 24 minutes 40 seconds East 23.75 feet along the West Section line; thence South 89 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds East 826.38 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds East 752.26 feet to the South right of way line of the Grand Trunk Western Railroad, being 100 feet wide; thence North 85 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 973.56 feet; thence Northeasterly 119.72 feet along the arc of a 2746.33 foot radius curve to the left whose chord bears North 83 degrees 45 minutes 04 seconds East 119.71 feet; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds West 850.30 feet; thence North 89 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds West 1088.84 feet to the point of beginning.

The address of the property is: 2900 Hannah Blvd.

JAN 0 5 2016

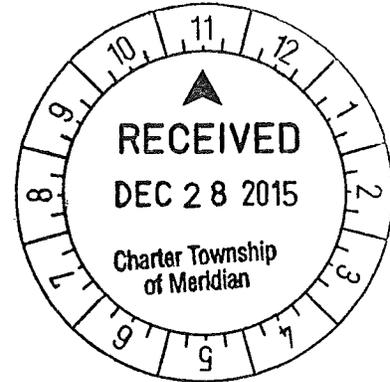
BI - 8

(page 3 of 3)



December 18, 2015

Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864



Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of some changes to the channel lineup. Customers are being notified of these changes via bill message.

National Geographic Channel (channel 109) and National Geographic Channel HD (channels 199 and 1261) are now available on the TV 450 Latino and the TV 300 Latino channel lineups. Fox Sports 1 (channel 731) and Fox Sports 1 HD (channels 223 and 1620) are now available on the TV 300 Latino channel lineup.

Also, effective January 7, 2016, GAC (channel 147) will be available on the Digital Starter channel lineup.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner
Director, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

JAN 05 2016

BI-9

JAN 05 2016

**CLERK'S OFFICE
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
JANUARY 5, 2016**

Commission Linkage (CL)

Peter Menser

From: Dale, Brian G <Brian.Dale@edwardjones.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 6:00 PM
To: undisclosed.for.privacy
Subject: RE: 2016 Celebrate event update

To whom It may concern:

I, Brian G Dale, Hereby resign from the Okemos DDA Board and all the positions attached.

Effective immediately December 9th, 2015

Brian G Dale, AAMS

Video Conferencing Now available!

You can also Find me on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn!](#)

Brian Dale, AAMS@
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones
4733 Okemos Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 349-4681
www.edwardjones.com

If you are not the intended recipient of this message (including attachments) or if you have received this message in error, immediately notify us and delete it as well as any attachments.

If you do not wish to receive any email messages from us, excluding administrative communications, please email this request to messages@edwardjones.com along with the email address you wish to unsubscribe.

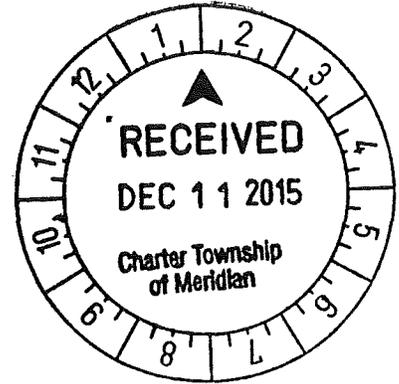
For important additional information related to this email, visit www.edwardjones.com/US_email_disclosure. Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. d/b/a Edward Jones, 12555 Manchester Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 © Edward Jones. All rights reserved.

JAN 05 2016

CL-1

JAN 05 2016

December 10, 2015



To: Meridian Township Board

From: Thomas L. Deits
4045 Van Atta Rd
Okemos MI 48864

RE: Supervisor's remarks at the Meridian Township Board meeting of December 8, 2015

During the discussion of Appointments to Boards and Commissions at the December 8 2015 Meridian Township Board meeting, Clerk Dreyfus asked Supervisor LeGoff why, if I had requested reappointment to the Planning Commission and my reappointment had been recommended by the Chair of the Planning Commission, I had not been reappointed.

Supervisor LeGoff's reply, in its entirety, was:

"Because he has missed about 1/3 of the planning commission meetings"

This is not the case. My attendance record during my present term of office to date is 79.4 percent. This is slightly lower than my attendance record at 167 Planning Commission meetings since 2008 (the first year data is available online) of 82% only because I took an extended absence for travel in late 2014 (missing 3 meetings) with the permission of the Planning Commission Chair, consistent with the by-laws of the Planning Commission. Outside of this absence, my attendance record in my current term is 84%.

I have taken and continue to take my duties as Planning Commissioner seriously and have spent considerable effort and money to arrange my work travel schedule around Planning Commission meetings over the years. The Chair of the Planning Commission clearly did not consider my attendance record to be of concern as he recommended my reappointment, nor was it an issue in the two prior reappointments I received to the Planning Commission.

Supervisor LeGoff's remark is a falsehood that is personally embarrassing to me and damaging to my professional reputation. I expect a retraction and an apology.

JAN 05 2016

CL-2

JAN 05 2016

**CLERK'S OFFICE
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
JANUARY 5, 2016**

Regional Linkage (RL)

**bus rapid
transit**



PUBLIC MEETING

Designing the Grand River Avenue Corridor Meridian Township Open House

Thursday, January 14, 2016

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Meridian Township Hall

5151 Marsh Road

Okemos, MI 48864

More than just a public transit investment, the CATA BRT project seeks to improve the overall multimodal transportation network and create unique public spaces throughout the corridor.

The project is being built within the existing right of way, which – based on available space – may constrain the elements that can be included in the design. The purpose of this open house is to gather input from Meridian Township residents to determine the elements that matter most to you. Potential elements that could be incorporated in the design include bike lanes or sharrows, wider sidewalks, and public space enhancements, such as landscaping and public art. Please join us and share your vision for the corridor with your community.

In the event that you're unable to attend our open house, stay connected with us on [facebook.com/rideCATA](https://www.facebook.com/rideCATA) or twitter.com/rideCATA to participate in our online survey – make sure your voice is heard!



JAN 0 5 2016

RL-1

JAN 0 5 2016

**CLERK'S OFFICE
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
JANUARY 5, 2016**

Staff Communications (SC)

Michigan lags in charging stations for electric vehicles

By: [CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE \(HTTP://GREATLAKESECHO.ORG/AUTHOR/CAPITAL-NEWS-SERVICE/\)](http://GREATLAKESECHO.ORG/AUTHOR/CAPITAL-NEWS-SERVICE/) | December 8, 2015



Some private companies have begun providing charging stations.

By Yuehan Liu

Michigan has only two percent of the nation's public charging stations for electric vehicles. Lansing has the most stations—27—and Detroit has two stations less.

There are 11,254 alternative fueling stations, which can charge electric vehicles, and 31,265 charging outlets in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, while Michigan only has 271 stations and 681 charging outlets.

Robert Feldmaier, director of the [Center for Advanced Automotive Technology \(http://autocaat.org/Home/\)](http://autocaat.org/Home/) at Macomb Community College, said there is a reason why Michigan doesn't have many charging stations: "California has a lot, but Michigan doesn't, because there aren't that many electric vehicles here, so there isn't that much demand."

Feldmaier said there are few charging stations near Macomb County, so most people charge their electric vehicles at home.

Some public places having charging stations provided by private companies, not the government. "Usually a start-up business puts charger stations at public places or restaurants to let people use them and to sell some other electric product," Feldmaier said.

A numbers of campuses have charging stations, including Grand Valley State, Western Michigan, Wayne State and Michigan State universities, University of Michigan and University of Detroit Mercy.

Jeff Cranson, director of communications at the Department of Transportation (MDOT), said MDOT has plans to help increase electric charging stations.

"The department will cooperate with local agencies or private entities to co-locate electric charging stations as permitted under current federal regulations. Funding would come from the entity looking to install and operate the charging station," he said.

Cranson said permits were issued to allow plug-in charging at two MDOT park-and-ride lots: Grand Blanc Township and the Ann Arbor Transit Authority. Both installations operate at no cost to the user.

JAN 05 2016

SC-1

JAN 05 2016

Bruce Westlake, from the [Michigan Electric Auto Association](https://sites.google.com/site/michiganelectricautos/) (<https://sites.google.com/site/michiganelectricautos/>) in Saline, said electric cars can be more expensive than regular cars, but they're cheaper to operate.

A new road funding law is raising the registration fee for electric cars.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, registration fees for passenger and commercial vehicles will increase by 20 percent. A plug-in hybrid vehicle will have a surcharge of \$30 annually and an electric vehicle surcharge will be \$100 annually.

Cranson said the fact that electric cars don't pay gas tax might be the rationale for the surcharges. But "opponents of that measure, especially advocates for the environment, argue that it is a disincentive to use alternative technology."

This story was produced by Capital News Service.

JAN 05 2016

SC-1

(page 2 of 2)

JAN 05 2016

Brett Dreyfus

From: Brett Dreyfus
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Board
Cc: Frank Walsh; Peter Menser; Mark Kieselbach
Subject: Michelle Reeves Revitalization Toolkit
Attachments: Reeves Revitalization Toolkit.pdf

Good morning, Board members:

Michelle Reeves is the urban strategist from Portland OR who is working with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to help communities in the Mid-Michigan area examine mixed-use developments, economic development, and core area revitalization through innovative design, creative planning and strategic partnerships.

She visited Meridian Township on November 5, and with a number of Board members accompanying her, we took an eye-opening tour of three high-priority redevelopment areas in our community.

She came back to the Lansing area on December 10th and shared her insights with a variety of community leaders and public officials. I participated in this event and found her PowerPoint presentation and general discussion to be very informative. Her follow-up presentation enhanced what we learned previously about redevelopment, and why it's important for businesses, property owners, and local municipalities to work together to maximize economic growth while protecting the key assets, aesthetic values and environmental qualities we desire to maintain or improve.

Attached is a Revitalization Toolkit that summarizes the key concepts she presented. Feel free to pass this information on to members of our community who might benefit from thinking about these "field-tested" strategies concerning redevelopment in Meridian Township.

Brett Dreyfus

Meridian Township Clerk

Charter Township of Meridian
5151 Marsh Road • Okemos, MI • 48864

DIRECT LINE: (517) 853-4324
dreyfus@meridian.mi.us • www.meridian.mi.us

*"Building an environmentally & economically
sustainable community!"*



JAN 05 2016

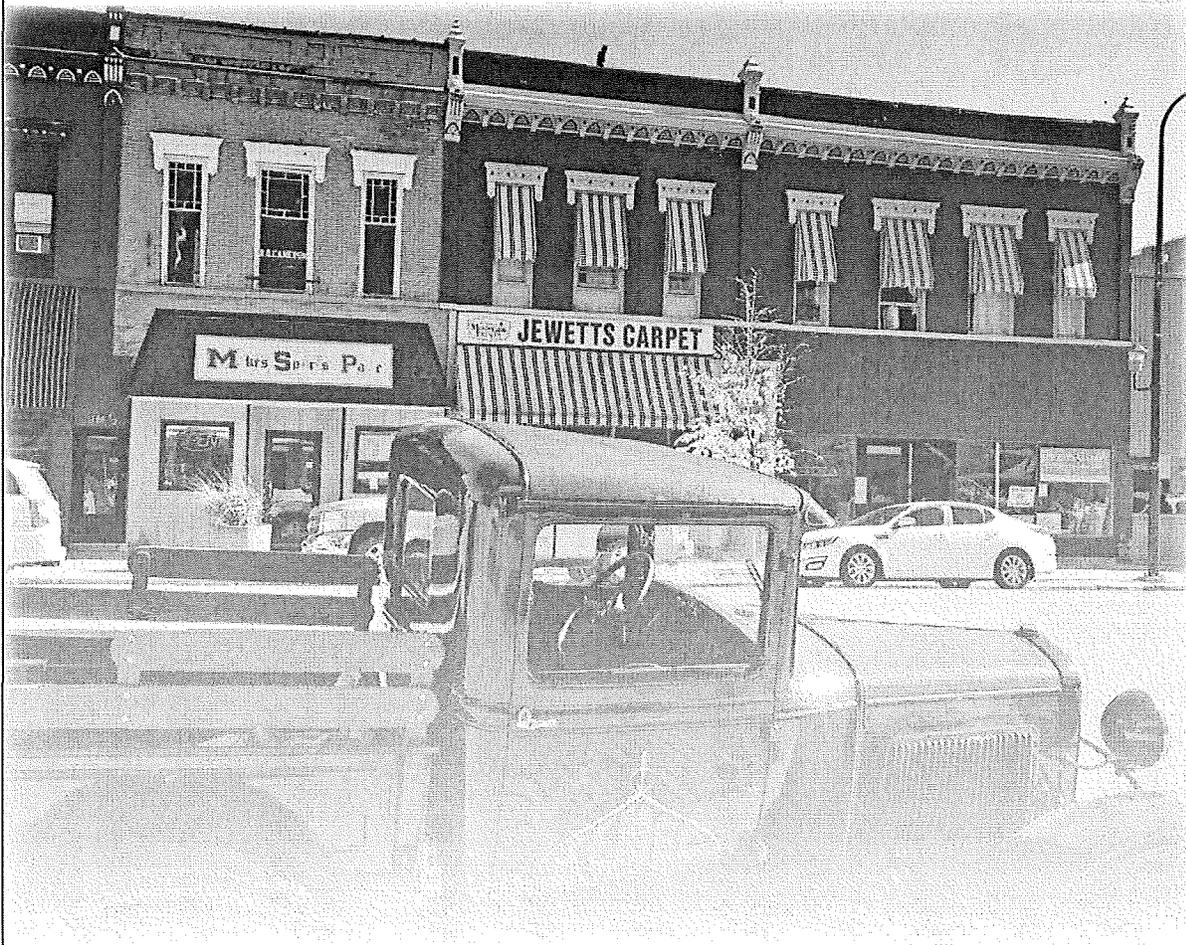
SC-2

JAN 05 2016

Revitalization Toolkit

presented to

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission



CIVILIS CONSULTANTS

PO Box 28502
715 NW Hoyt St #28502
Portland, OR 97228
503.867.8465

michele@civilisconsultants.com

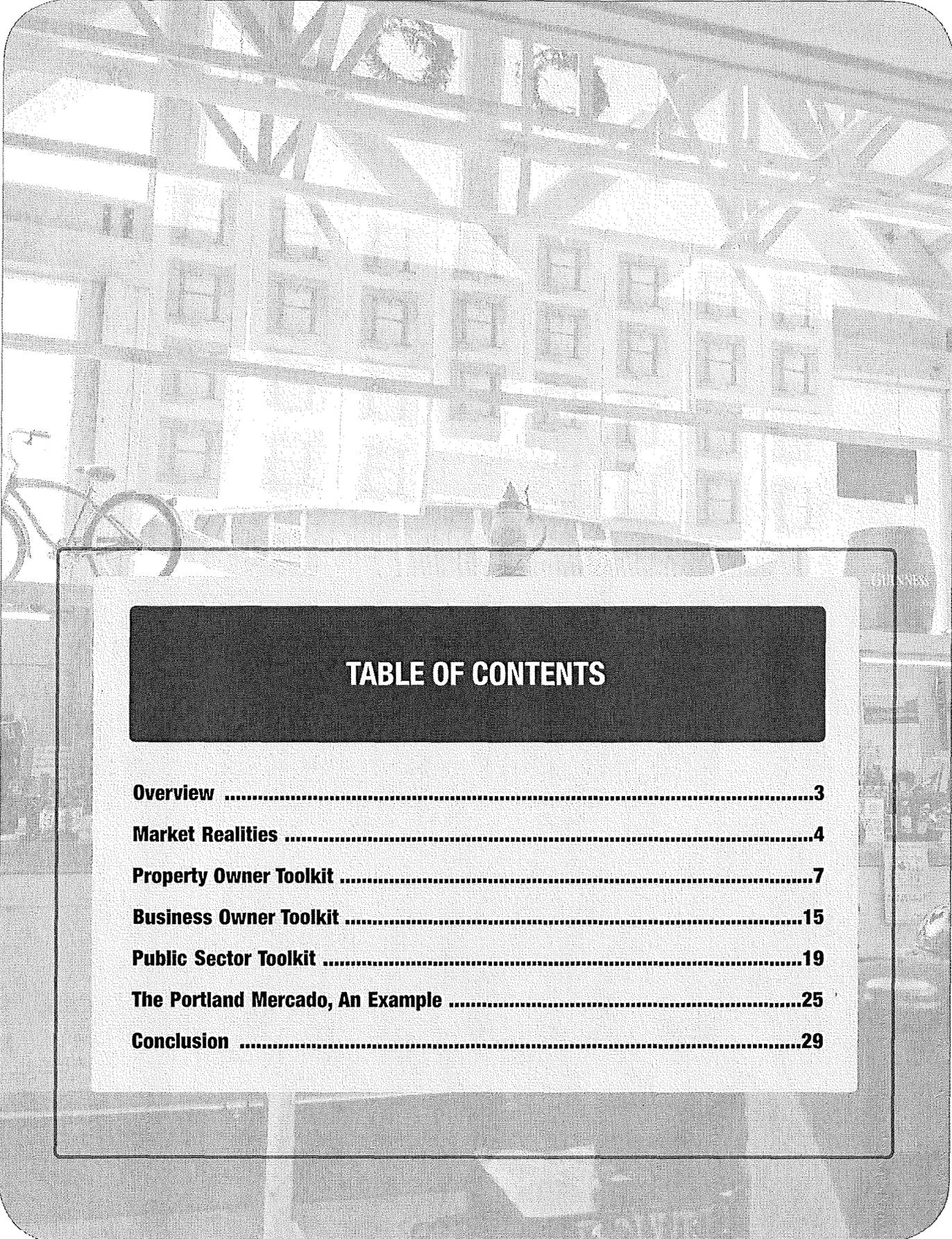


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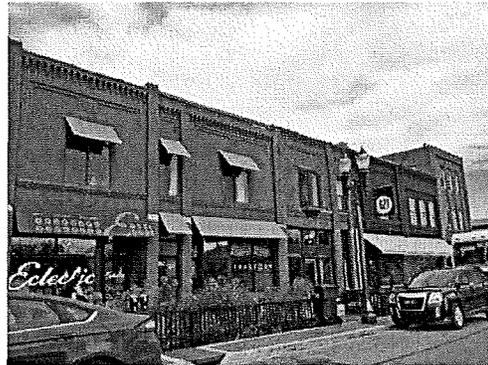
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OVERVIEW

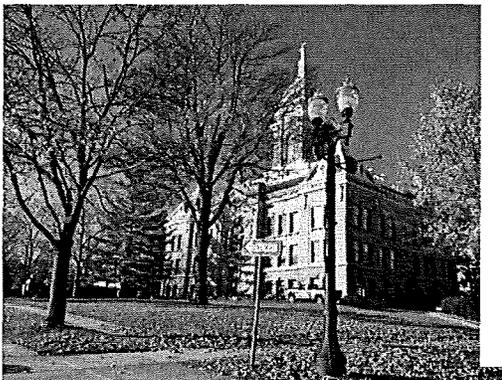
In November 2015, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission invited Civilis Consultants to Michigan with the goal of studying various types of districts under their regional jurisdiction, and identifying areas where economic improvement could be catalyzed.

Below is a description of the district typologies and areas visited within each.

- **Urban Districts.** Old Town, REO Town, and Downtown Lansing are urban or urban adjacent areas with larger nearby populations and central business district types of uses.
- **Downtowns.** These included smaller town centers like St Johns, Mason, and Charlotte, as well as the university adjacent downtown of East Lansing.
- **Mid Century Corridors.** Generally these are arterials that have dated buildings, shallower lots, residential uses directly adjacent, vacancies, and a preponderance of local businesses. The corridors studied in Delhi, Delta, Meridian, and DeWitt Townships were usually combinations of Mid Century and 2nd Tier Corridors, the latter of which is described below.
- **2nd Tier Corridor.** These busy streets are still frequented by national tenants, but they tend to be businesses that are pulling from a slightly lower income and educational attainment demographic. Fast food restaurants are usually prevalent.



Downtown Lansing is an Urban District



Mason



Meridian Township

MARKET REALITIES

It is common when looking at revitalization to hear public agencies say, “*The best thing we could do is bulldoze the whole thing and start over. Get some new projects going.*” This was echoed in some of the visited Mid-Michigan districts, coupled with a desire for mixed-use, a desire expressed on corridors and in existing urban mixed-use areas. So what market conditions are needed in order to attract the type of new construction—retail and residential—that places typically wish for?

NEW RETAIL CONSTRUCTION

New retail/commercial construction that draws national credit tenants wants to see the following conditions in an area in order to justify the high cost of building and tenanting these projects:

- *High income demographics in the surrounding areas.* This helps tremendously with tenanting and provides for the widest possible pool of potential businesses to tenant the project.
- *High educational attainment in the surrounding areas.* There are many businesses, like a Trader Joe’s, for instance, that look to educational attainment as a positive indicator, sometimes even more so than income.
- *High sales per square foot in similar businesses.* If you are going to be recruiting national tenants to a new development, they will immediately look to see what sales equivalent businesses are achieving on the street as a comparison. If you don’t have like businesses, or you don’t have high sales per square foot in like businesses, it is very hard to recruit new development.
- *Large lots.*

On a first-pass basis, I think it’s fair to say that most of these conditions are not being met in the study areas.

NEW HIGHER DENSITY RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

In the drive to create more walkability, communities strive to add housing density, and often zone specifically to attract these projects. Unfortunately, it’s not a case of “zone it and it will come.” Instead, you have to ask the question, “Is this where higher density residential developers want to build?” Let’s consider what conditions drive new residential product:

- *High comparables for residential sales/rents nearby.* This is driven by lending. It’s nearly impossible to get new residential projects funded if you can’t prove to a bank that renters/buyers will pay the amount projected in your proforma. If there aren’t other like projects to compare them to, the bank will

not lend you money. Therein lies the catch-22 of developing a new type of product in a district. If you can't get the comparables, the banks won't lend. If the bank won't lend, you don't get the new product comparables.

- *Pedestrian amenities and services within (enjoyable) walking distance.* It's easiest to create successful higher-density residential projects when you have a critical mass of great restaurants, shops, and a grocery store nearby. Part of the key is that those services need to be accessed in a pedestrian-scaled environment that feels comfortable.
- *Low traffic volume/low speed streets, with on-street parking.* Market-rate higher density new construction projects generally are not built on streets with four to six lanes, where cars are traveling 40-50 mph with no on-street parking. These roads tend to be loud, they feel dangerous, and are not where developers are going to build desirable infill projects.
- *District character/brand.* It's always easiest to sell/lease residential and rental product in a place that has a clear identity and brand to tap into that entices people to live there.

Essentially, you have to put yourself in the shoes of a developer. They want low risk projects, which means developing next to areas that are already working. They have no interest in catalyzing growth and solving land use problems. So it is unlikely that you are going to see new residential product coming into low rent downtowns with inward facing uses on the ground floor, or on busy corridors with fast moving traffic.

Does that mean you should give up on the idea of attracting new construction? No. But, it's generally not something you want to focus on in the early stages of revitalization.

Your primary focus should first be to think about how to improve market conditions to a point favorable for attracting new development. This requires a nimble toolkit that revolves around improving what you have—current businesses, buildings, parking lots and infrastructure.



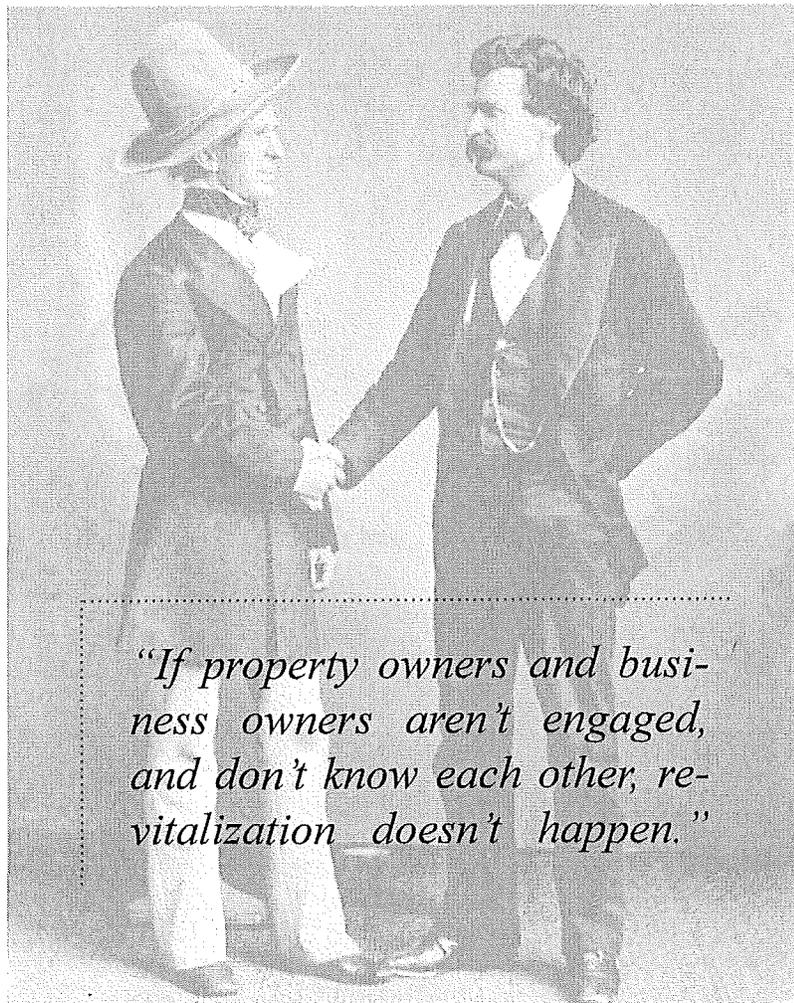
Developers Want to Build in Successful Places

Through shorter-term projects and strategic investments, it is possible to make progress, improving sales per square foot, creating nodal pedestrian amenities, and building district brand and identity.

There are three broad groups that need to execute on short-term goals in order to increase economic output in the types of areas we studied:

- Property Owners
- Business Owners
- Public Sector

To make headway with renewal, these three groups will have to work closely to align goals and achieve change, which requires collaboration with stakeholders whose voices are not always well represented in traditional planning: current property owners and business owners. It may also take some multi-jurisdictional conversations to investigate impact fees, infrastructure upgrades, and other burdensome development charges that can dampen plans for revitalization before they even begin.



“If property owners and business owners aren’t engaged, and don’t know each other, revitalization doesn’t happen.”

PROPERTY OWNER TOOLKIT

It's always easiest to bring vibrancy and activity by building up from the existing authentic character of a street, using the existing classes of business and building-types, and by honoring the general traffic/transportation patterns that exist on the street.

There are three areas to consider for immediate action by property owners that will make space easier to lease, and that will incubate successful outward-facing businesses that create district identity and strong rents. These action items are going to focus on the ground floor, because that is where the identity of a district is almost entirely established. If street-level buildings, businesses, spaces and the public sphere are not working hard to get visitor's attention, those potential consumers will pass by, leaving everything unnoticed, at best, or disliked, at worst.

There is a fundamental rule for retail commercial districts, whether you are a dentist or a women's clothing boutique: *People form their opinion of a business and your district long before they walk in the door!*

Therefore, the most immediate and highest impact way to improve district brand and experience is to work with each individual building to change the story it tells from the street. This is vitally important because a place tells a story 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so every space better be telling a great story, all the time, open or closed. Every building should **show** me something about the district, the area, the businesses, and why I might want to stop there as a customer, or why I might want to lease space if I were a business. How buildings look really matters.

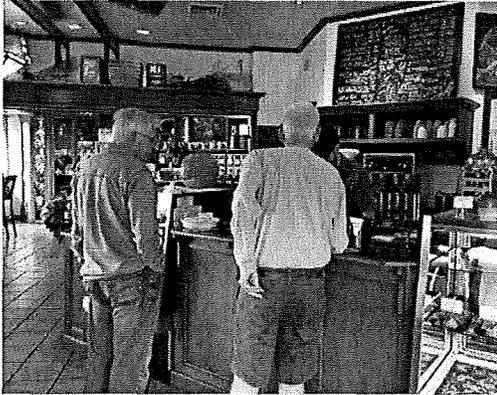
The three areas of focus for property owners are listed below:

- Building Interiors
- Building Exteriors
- Parking Lots/Sidewalks

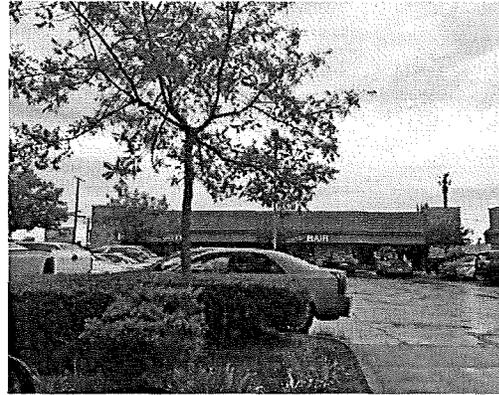
Building Interiors

Subpar interior space is important because the interior experience shapes our perception of the business it houses and plays a huge role in a) how leasable the space is; and, b) how successful a business will be in a space. In other words, you can take a great business, and put them in a horrible looking (or smelling) space, and they will fail. Likewise, you can take a fair business and put it in a rocking space, and it will do well.

Consider the interior of the coffee shop, pictured below left. It is clearly a neighborhood gathering spot, and is offering a modern but cozy retail experience on the interior. It's very well done.



Surprising Strip Mall Interior in Carmichael, CA



The Dated Strip Mall That Houses the Coffee Shop

You might be surprised to learn that this space is inside a dated little strip mall in Carmichael, CA, pictured above right.

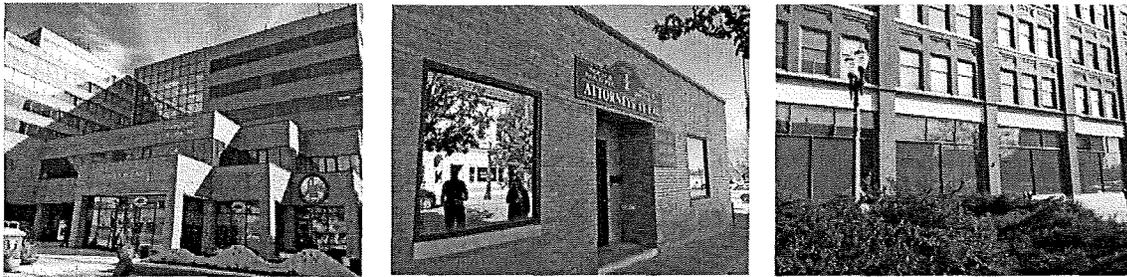
There are basic elements that create a framework for success in ground-floor commercial space, which is particularly important in districts that have been largely taken over by smaller local businesses. These basic elements include:

- *Right Size Spaces.* Most of the troubling vacancies, or less-than-optimally tenanted spaces were in buildings that included dated strip mall/box infrastructure or buildings that provided essential services, like department stores, in another era. Unfortunately, that means a lot of the spaces are too big. In order to appeal to the widest possible pool of tenants and uses, spaces need to be designed so they can be divisible down to sizes more likely to be absorbed by the local market: about 1,000 SF to 1,500 SF is optimal for retail.
- *Remove Acoustical Tile False Ceilings.* An acoustical tile false ceiling that would be at home in a 1990s office space, complete with a recessed fluorescent lighting unit, is not a great look for retail success. Nor does it attract higher-level professional office users. The formula for success is to rip out false ceilings, expose the roof deck and truss structure, put insulation above the deck, and roof over that.
- *Remove UV Window Film.* Stop reflective windows. We want to see into spaces!
- *Great Lighting.* One-story spaces should have opaque skylights. There should be good, neutral, general interior lighting, with various types of spot-

lighting to create 'rooms' within a store, to highlight specific types of products, and to lead people through the space.

- *Create Interior Window Infrastructure.* In order to develop displays that draw the eye and make people willing to come into businesses, every window has to have the correct infrastructure: namely, a) positionable lighting; b) a grid structure so that items can be hung from the ceiling; and c) display platforms or fixtures if windows aren't at grade.

WE WANT TO SEE IN YOUR WINDOWS MID MICHIGAN!



Building Exteriors

The four elements needed to execute on a great exterior building experience, that will draw maximum customer attention and loyalty, are listed below. These are truly the low hanging fruit areas for improvement in the study areas.

- *Color.* There is no cheaper or easier way to bring vibrancy and excitement to a place than by introducing color. When was the last time that someone called you up and said, "Oh my gosh, the coolest building just got painted on our street, you have to come see it!" That is exactly what happened with the building pictured to the right. Every building in all of your districts should be using color to show visitors something about their business, about the area, and about the experience they want to provide.



Second Floor Office Space in Concrete Block Bldg

- » *Highlight Building Detail.* Every building has interesting elements or unique materials that can be highlighted to make the structure interesting, engaging, eye catching, and inviting. This is doubly important on a corridor, where potential consumers are hard to engage. In the example below, you can see a mid-century building painted all white that was largely used as legal offices. The owner of the practice was retiring, and was going to begin leasing space. Using color to make the building more appealing, and to highlight building detail, completely changed market perception of the space.



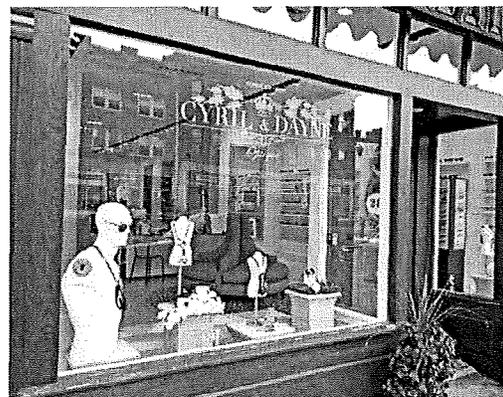
BEFORE: Drab Mid-Century Legal Office



AFTER: Highlights Horizontal Siding, Shapes & Windows

- » *Transparency.* The hardest thing that any business has to do is get someone to walk through the door, whether it's for the first time or as a repeat customer. This is particularly true for a small business with which we have no familiarity. The bottom line is that customers do not like to enter businesses unless they can see inside, unless they can understand the experience on offer, and unless there is merchandise in the windows that appeals to them. This lesson is all too often lost with small ground-floor businesses, especially if they have blocked their windows. Consumers should be able to tell whether a store is open or closed, and know what a business actually does by glancing at the windows for a second or two.

This idea of transparency is doubly important for food businesses because their customers are unique—their only job is to hang out and the product is multi-sensory! So every restaurant/bar should be showcasing its customers, essentially making them very visible, in order to attract more visitors and make a place feel vibrant!



Good Example of Transparency in Optical Store

- » *Exterior Lighting.* Every place, every building, and every business is telling a story, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just because a business closes at 5 pm does not mean their responsibility for contributing to the experience of being in the district ends at 5 pm. It is building lighting, tree lighting, product lighting, sign lighting—everything other than street lighting—that tells us a district is safe, a district is welcoming, a district is interesting, a district is open for business.



Seating Area in Former Parking Lot at Night

A great example of interior/exterior execution is this Trader Joe's renovation, shown in the before-and-after photos below. It was a mid-century box with a large parking lot located near a freeway. Notice how they introduced transparency by opening up the facade, and they used warm natural wood as a dominant color to create an inviting atmosphere in a sea of asphalt. Of course, it has great lighting too!

This building is priming people to want to shop, to want to spend money, to want to partake of the Trader Joe's experience long before they walk in the door!

Emerick Architects



BEFORE: Dated Box Last Used as a Gym

Emerick Architects



AFTER: Reimagined Into Vibrant and Compelling Retail

Parking Lots/Sidewalks

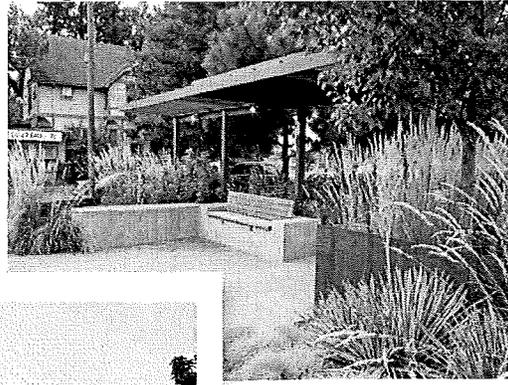
The last area of improvement involves tackling parking lots and sidewalks—they can be used to advantage, creating identity, generating revenue, and providing a necessary buffer from busy traffic on fast corridors.

Below is a strip mall redevelopment that has worked hard to make the parking lot an engaging place from all angles. From the bus stop, which is incorporated into the development, to the street, which has interesting landscaping and a cool rusted metal wall to block out the image of cars being so dominant. It also creates a welcome gateway to those passing by, on foot or by car, with a walkway between the store-sidewalk and the street-sidewalk. And, it used some of the parking spaces in front of the restaurant to create a beautiful outdoor seating area, softening the edges of the hardscape.

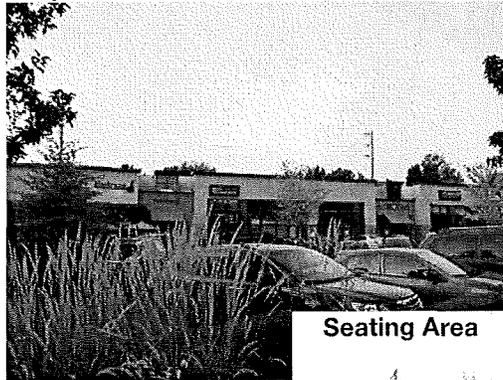
Parking Lot Screen



Integrated Bus Stop



Strip Mall



Walkway



Seating Area



The recipe for improving the parking lot and sidewalk experience is shown below:

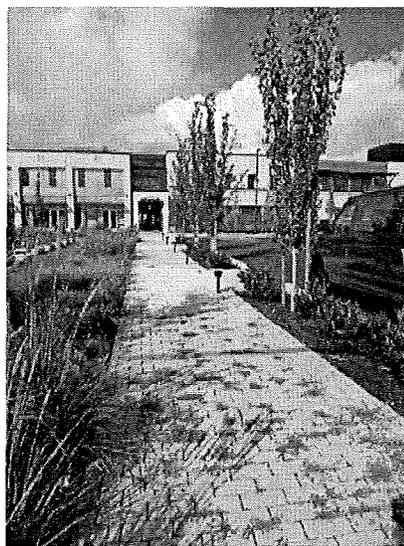
- *Engage Both Sidewalks.* One of the challenges of having a recessed building is that businesses and buildings have two sidewalks to engage—the one directly in front of the building (the store sidewalk), and the one directly adjacent to the street (the street sidewalk). To optimize the consumer experience, businesses and buildings have to create a great experience on both.



Even Parking Lots Can Be Pedestrian Friendly

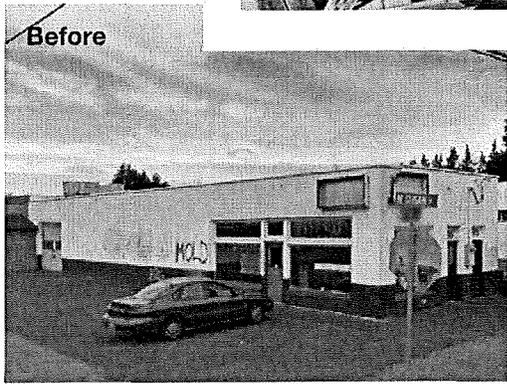
- *Create a Pedestrian Walkway Between Both Sidewalks.* Every recessed building should have an area focused for walkers to pass through the parking lot, like the one pictured to the right, and the one below right, which leads to a medical-office building. (Please notice the public garden they programmed into the parking space as well on the left!)
- *Create a Store Zone.* Most older corridor buildings have parking infrastructure built directly to the edge of the building/sidewalk where people go into and out of the businesses. This is a mistake. Generally, with recessed buildings, you want to create a buffer between the parking and the actual stores and businesses by developing a store zone where people can circulate, sample products, maybe go to a food cart, or use a seating area.

On the next page is an example of an auto body shop to micro restaurant building conversion. Notice they removed the parking entirely to create a strong store zone in the front of the building: an outdoor seating area. The building, the businesses, and the former parking lot are all coordinated together to create an experience that is fantastic, whether the businesses are open or closed. On the latter, it definitely lets us know that interesting things are happening here, and it makes you want to return and check it out when businesses are open.



Great Walkway Between Sidewalks!

THE OCEAN
AUTO BODY SHOP TO MICRO-RESTAURANT CONVERSION



BUSINESS OWNER TOOLKIT

Most of the places I visited had an interesting mix of local businesses, and that is really their authentic identity: a repository of local know-how and skill, whether it's appliance repair, cooking food, a junk yard, holding a religious service, or inking a tattoo. All of these districts are amazing petri dishes of local entrepreneurship. This needs to be celebrated, expressed, encouraged and built upon. These streets need to tap into that identity in every way—advertising, promotion, events, leasing strategies, etc.

Any place with a concentration of local businesses is unique, with attributes not found anywhere else in the United States. This is a brand you can build from to create something special and one-of-a-kind.

There are two areas businesses should think about to improve economic performance:

- Show, Don't Tell
- Leverage Adjacencies

SHOW, DON'T TELL

Every business should show us what they do, not try to tell us who they are and what they are about with a sign.

Consider the photograph to the right. This is a dentist's office in a medical tourism town in Mexico where North Americans come for affordable dental work.

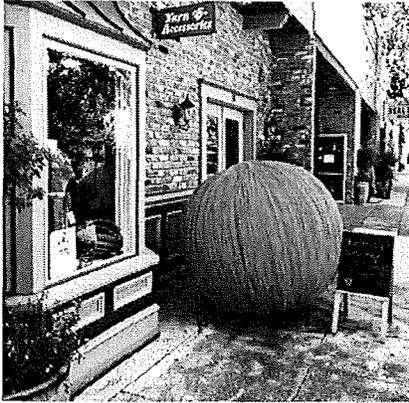
Now consider, how do people feel when they go to the dentist? Nervous. How do they feel going to another country to get medical care? Nervous. Do you think they travel there alone? No.

What is this practice showing us to assuage these concerns? It demonstrates success in the finish work, caring and calmness with the color and design, and they have a great place to sit and wait.

They take care of everything!



Beautiful Dental Office In Mexican Medical Tourism Town



Giant Ball of Yarn! (Courtesy of Megan Curry)

This is one of my favorite examples of Show, Don't Tell. It is a yarn store and she created a 4-5 foot diameter ball of yarn that she rolls outside every day when she is open. She totes it inside when she is closed, but it is still visible inside the store, creating a compelling view after hours. It says so much about her, the shop, what they sell. And boy does it draw the eye!

There is no business that cannot show us something about who they are and what sort of experience they offer. Pretend signs are illegal and words don't exist: how would you get people's attention and show them what your business is about?

Leverage Adjacencies

Adjacencies in retail-theory are the science of what merchandise is placed adjacent to each other in a store to increase sales. The same theories apply to building brand in a retail district. How do you do a better job of connecting what is there and cross-pollinating sales and retail activity between the businesses?

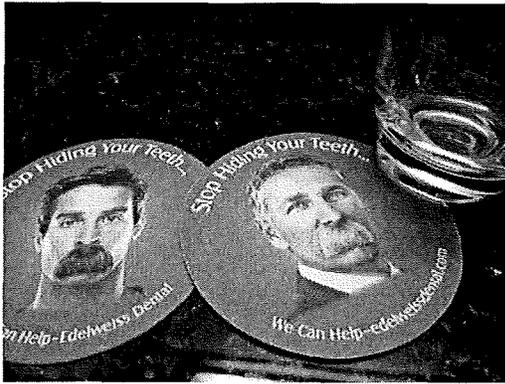
There are two broad types of adjacencies to consider in a district. The first is physical and the second is emotional.

Physical Adjacencies

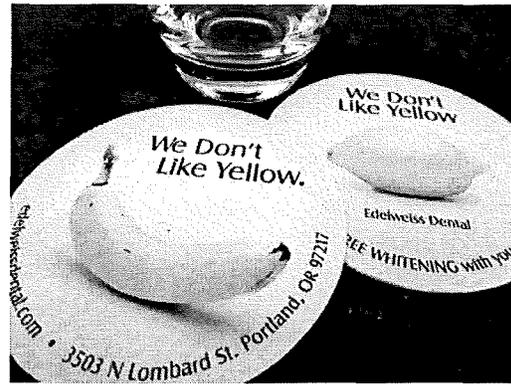
Everything that is next to a business impacts that business, whether it is a bus stop, a parking lot, or another store. You have to leverage what is adjacent to a place of business so that the sum of the parts is greater than each individual element.

To develop adjacencies, you must first get businesses to work together and get to know each other. Believe me, there is no business that can't figure out how to create an adjacency with their neighbors.

As an example, let's take two disparate uses, such as a dentist and a bar. It would seem, on the surface, difficult to create an adjacency. But a creative new dental practice did just that. They thought about what bars need and they came up with coasters. So they created funny, original coasters that could be used as a coupon and provided them to the adjacent bar. The coasters were so popular, he now provides them to other bars on the street, which is a busy corridor that also serves as a State designated "high and wide" freight route.



Dentist's Coaster



Dentist's Coaster Coupon

These are funny. These create connection. They are a great example of creating a physical adjacency between two very different types of businesses.

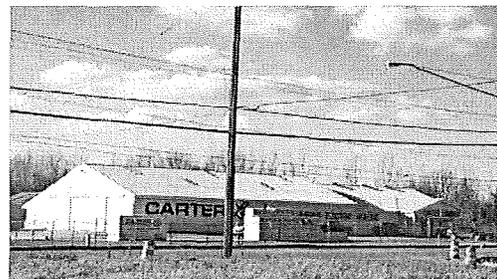
This same dentist pipes music towards a bus stop next to his office to make waiting for transit a more enjoyable experience for folks on the sidewalk. This is not only thoughtful, but he's really owning the adjacency of the bus stop.

Every business needs to engage with what is next to them, particularly focusing on creating nodes around places where people get out of their car and walk.

Emotional Adjacencies

Emotional adjacencies are things that you might be able to interconnect within your district, around a vertical market or a theme. Events also create emotional adjacencies, such as Santa Con, a pub crawl for people dressed as Santa! This interconnects all the bars in a district, for instance.

An example of an unrealized emotional adjacency was in a suburb of Portland, OR called Tigard that had a wedding planner, a high-end stationary store, a jewelry store, a caterer, and one of the largest ballroom dance floors west of the Mississippi. They were not collaborating, but they had an obvious emotional adjacency around weddings in common.



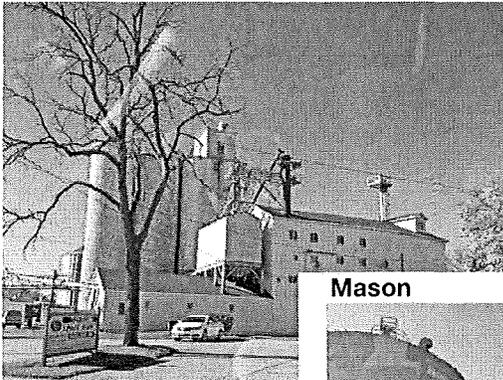
Great Collection of Man Businesses on Old 27

One of my favorite possibilities for creating a strong emotional adjacency was in the light-industrial area of Old 27. They could create the coolest **"man district"** in the area that contains an auto junk yard, multiple types of lumber yards, sprinkler contractor, sports bars, auto body, kitchen & bath, etc.

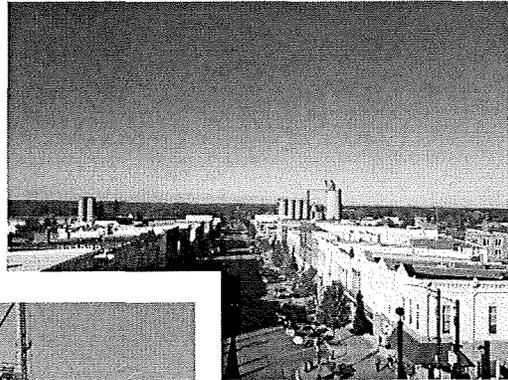
Adjacencies are key to building brand, district identity, and developing unique experiences, all hallmarks of successful districts. Creating a cool 'Man District' on Old 27 with each of these artisan businesses showing what they do would be very compelling—and successful—on a wide, busy street.

Another adjacency to explore in some of the smaller downtowns is the connection to agriculture. There is quite a bit of growing going on in the region, some of particular interest, like the high grade of soybean exported out of Charlotte for high-end tofu in Japan. This could be expressed in a variety of ways, perhaps starting with events, like a tofu festival that has a taste test contest for faux meat made of tofu. Blue ribbon Tofurkey!!

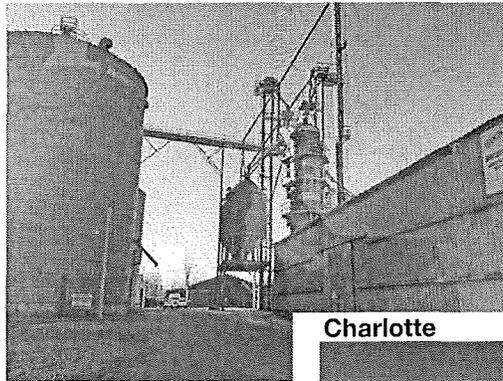
Charlotte



St Johns



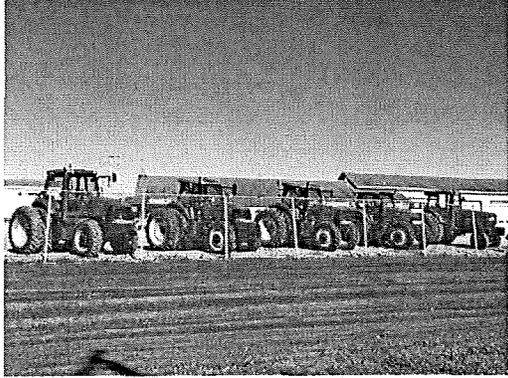
Mason



St Johns



Charlotte



PUBLIC SECTOR TOOLKIT

How can the public sector help the private sector implement all of the aforementioned improvements? By using the power to convene, by incentivizing small, incremental improvements, and by rewarding what they want to see in their regulatory framework.

Let's look at those one by one.

The Power to Convene

Successful districts, and indeed successful places of all stripes, usually have a tight-knit band of stakeholders working in concert to promote their district, lobby for their district, and advocate for change in their district. In contrast, it is common in economically underperforming places to see a complete and utter lack of relationship between district stakeholders. If this is not remedied, improvement will be hard to catalyze. The bottom line is that every single business, and every single building, is impacting every other business and building. No man is an island in a commercial district. And if they aren't working together, it's akin to working against each other.

Unfortunately, it can be hard to get district associations up and running without some catalytic help in the early stages because these areas are comprised of small, locally-owned businesses whose owners are maxed out trying to make ends meet. They often don't have the bandwidth or experience to fully get an organization running in their spare time. Indeed, most private sector stakeholders have no interest in randomly attending meetings and electing treasurers.

Public sector agencies are in a unique position help facilitate local organizational capacity, particularly in the form of early financial support and technical assistance. Early support can include providing small contract funds for an outside person to help organize a district-wide event and produce district-wide marketing collateral. Also, providing technical assistance on how to build an organization is very helpful as well. (Almost no-one intrinsically understands how to build a non-profit, membership-based organization!)

It's worth noting that the best place to start when building an organization is to convene a gathering to plan and implement an event or a doable project! You build relationship by doing.

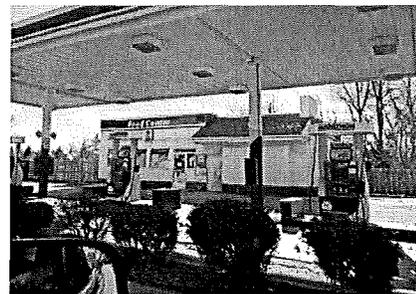
Incentivize Incremental Improvement

It is common for the public sector to try to catalyze improvement by placing public funds into one large mega project somewhere. This usually does not bring about the desired change because even if the upper floors of the project absorb into the market, the ground floor spaces can still have difficulties with leasing if new construction is

developed in an area with depressed retail conditions. Essentially you are just creating more vacancy in an area that struggles with vacancy. And, even if you complete one sexy new project, if the rest of the existing businesses and buildings are not executing on creating a great experience, it won't really matter.

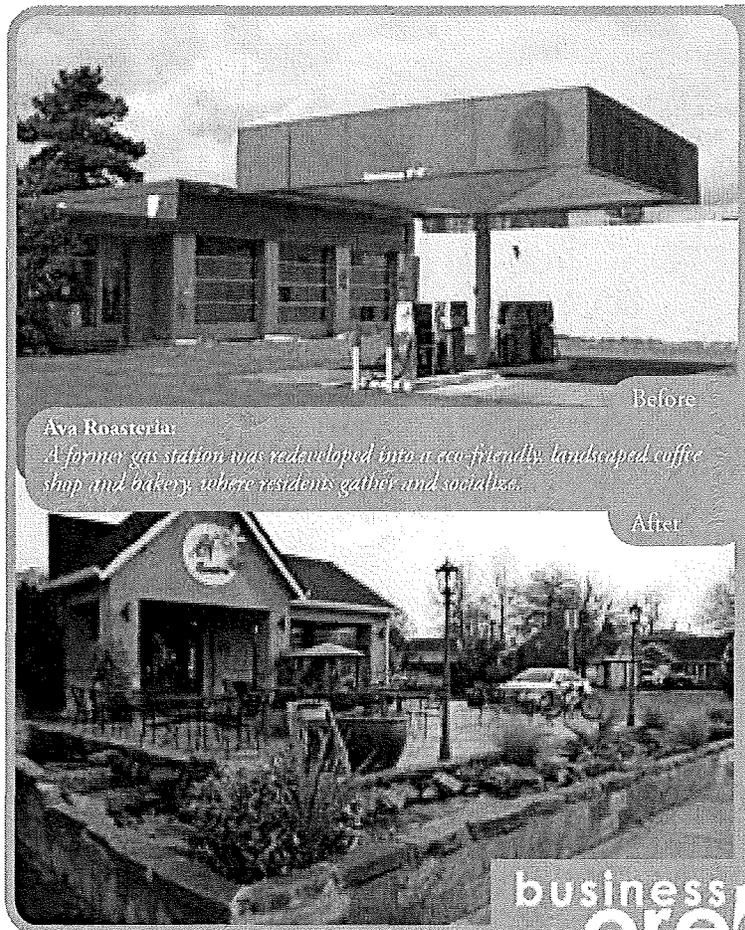
To make real progress, you have to weave together a tapestry of new visual experiences within the existing fabric in a place. This means incentivizing small changes. The most proven way to do this is through various types of improvement programs. In the case of the types of districts studied in Michigan, the following improvement programs could be useful.

- **Facade Improvement Program.** Storefront improvement is designed to improve the impact of the exterior of a building. Funds have to come with retail and design technical-assistance, or you won't see vibrant new buildings emerge from the boring beige shells that exist today. And make no mistake, a building that uses public money to repaint itself beige is not a good use of the people's dollars!
- **Interior Improvement Program.** Don't forget about the inside of buildings with improvement programs. Generally, you want to direct these funds toward improvements that stay with the building and increase space impact, such as the addition of skylights, removing carpet, improved lighting schemes, and removing false ceilings.
- **Window Improvement Program.** There was a very low level of window execution in all of the districts studied. Businesses should think of their building as the frame, and the window as the art. In order to have a great window display, you must have a grid above the window, positionable lights, and platforms up to the windowsill (if windows aren't at grade). Investing in this type of infrastructure with a retail assistance program would yield great dividends.
- **Parking Lot Improvement Program.** This is not a re-striping fund! This should be used solely to create attractive sidewalks, store zones, food cart pods, and outdoor seating areas! Anything that brings activity and generates revenue.
- **Brownfield Improvement Program.** There was a great little gas station that is going to be torn down in Delhi. It was close to the street and a cute small size that could easily be re-imagined as something else. For inspiration, a similar gas station in Beaverton, OR was turned into a 24 hour coffee shop with Brown-



One of Delhi's More Interesting Buildings

field assistance funds. This is a woman-owned business, this was her first time developing property, and she undertook the project because she loved her community. She now has several locations around the region. This is a great example of catalyzing local business with existing buildings, and mitigating brownfields at the same time. The images below show the creation of Ava Rosteria.



Ava Rosteria

A former gas station was redeveloped into an eco-friendly, landscaped coffee shop and bakery, where residents gather and socialize.

Before

After

business
oregon.

- » **Retail Trainings.** There were many stores that could improve performance with just some small changes in layout and circulation. For instance, customers like to walk into a store and see a stage in the center that has interesting products to interact with. Then they want to turn to the right, circulate around the store in a counterclockwise direction, and check out. There were a lot of small, local businesses that located their cash wraps immediately to the right of their front door, forcing customers to move to the left, which is very uncomfortable for consumers.

There is no better way to build relationship between the public and private sector than for the public sector to say, *"We are going to bring you some technical expertise on how to make more money from your building and your business. And, we are going to give you some funds to implement what you learn."* And there is no better way to build relationship between stakeholders in a district than to have them work together to spend this money wisely.

Again, build relationship by doing!

Reward What You Want to See

As we've already covered, a large part of renewal is about reusing and improving what is already there. In order to do that, it has to be cheaper and easier to rehabilitate a building than to build new. If a place's entire fee and code structure is set up to regulate new greenfield development, then it is most likely making adaptive reuse prohibitively expensive.

Enticing building owners and businesses to improve their buildings and land usually involves the following:

- **Fee & Tax Structure.** If a simple improvement project triggers greenfield-scale impact fees, requires all new utility upgrades, and tacks on street improvements, then rehabilitation will never happen because places with economic challenges cannot support these fees.
- **Zoning and Use.** When a district begins to fall on harder times, there is a tendency to think it can be regulated out of the bad market. As a result, it is not uncommon for jurisdictions to become increasingly more restrictive, outlawing the sorts of businesses that gravitate toward lower-rent areas (pawn shops, vintage/used merchandise, bars, adult uses, auto uses, office space, etc). Unfortunately, that doesn't mean more attractive uses will come to replace these tenants. Instead, these districts typically wind up with vacant spaces and very unhappy property owners when use limits come into effect. Active use should be encouraged but it can come in the form of more blurred use-categories, like showroom/warehouse or manufacturing/retail.
- **Prize Activity.** To make a district more vibrant, and to improve brand association, we are typically looking to upgrade existing uses to more active businesses (such as light industrial to retail or office to restaurant). Unfortunately, upgrading the use of a building typically triggers a host of expensive upgrades, not to mention the need for higher parking minimums, all of which puts a halt to projects and prevents the very upgrade needed to improve economic performance in commercial areas. So look at your building code, fee structures, and parking minimums and figure out where you have impedi-

ments to upgrading the intensity of use of your buildings, either in terms of time, cost, or process. As an example, consider the auto-body shop to restaurant conversion described and pictured on Pages 13-14—this is exactly what you should be encouraging on your corridors. Does your regulatory framework encourage or discourage a project that changes an auto use to a restaurant use, removes some off-street parking and allows an outdoor seating area in its place?

For corridors, site intensification should be rewarded as well. Mid-century arterials usually have shallow lots and residential neighborhood immediately adjacent. To bring improvement and vitality to this dated commercial infrastructure, consider the following process:

1. Improve and re-tenant an existing building.
2. Create a mixed-use office/retail building on the busy street.
3. Place residential on the back of the lot, or on the side street, where it has site lines to existing residential and is away from the loud, unsafe busy street.

This is a much more sustainable way to develop on older corridors. Below is an example of site intensification on a commercial lot that fronts on the very busy former Highway 99 in Portland, Oregon. The following page shows before and after pictures for Vanport.

VANPORT PROJECT, THREE DIFFERENT USES ON THE SAME LOT:
RETAIL, OFFICE, AND BACK-OF-LOT ROW HOUSES



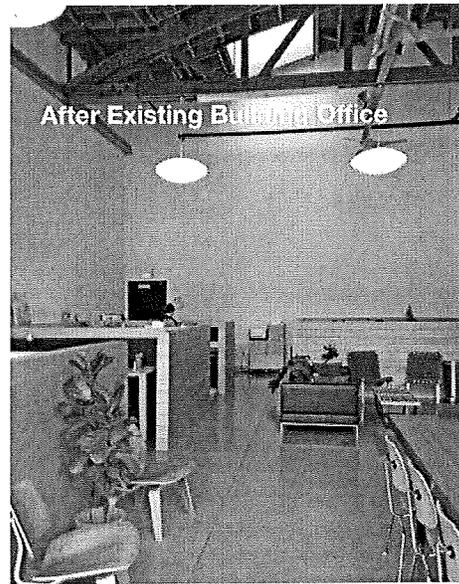
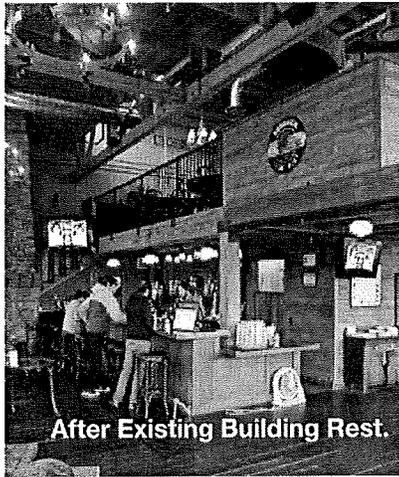
Original Lot

Phase 1: Existing Building Renovation

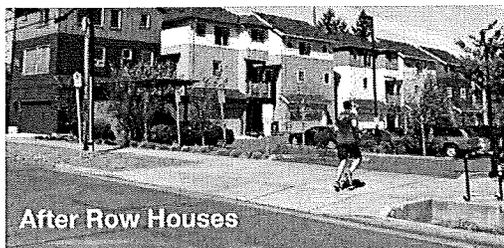
Phase 2: New 3-Story Mixed-Use Office/Retail Building Constructed

Phase 3: Row Houses Built Near Existing Residential, Away from Busy Road

VANPORT PROJECT



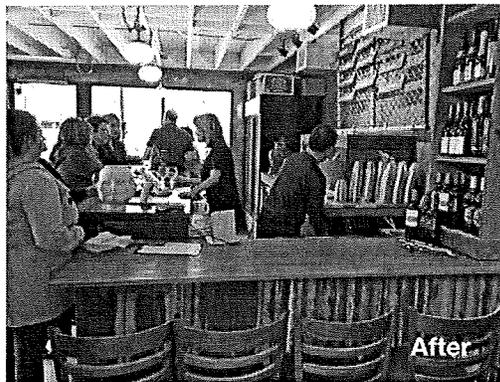
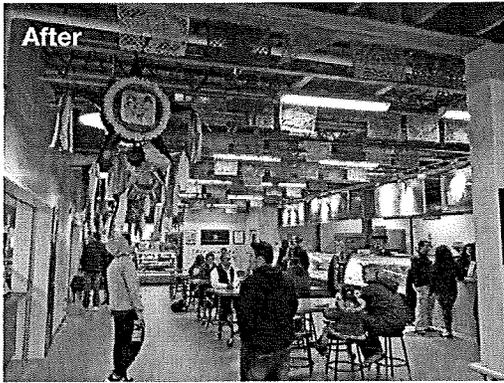
The Vanport project, located on a stretch of former HWY 99 on Portland, Oregon's Martin Luther King Junior Blvd, includes an adaptive reuse of a mid-century building into retail on the front and office on the back, as well as the addition of a new mixed-use office/retail building.



At the rear of the entire lot, furthest from the highway, residential row houses were built and are pictured on the right. This was Phase 3 on the schematic of the previous page.

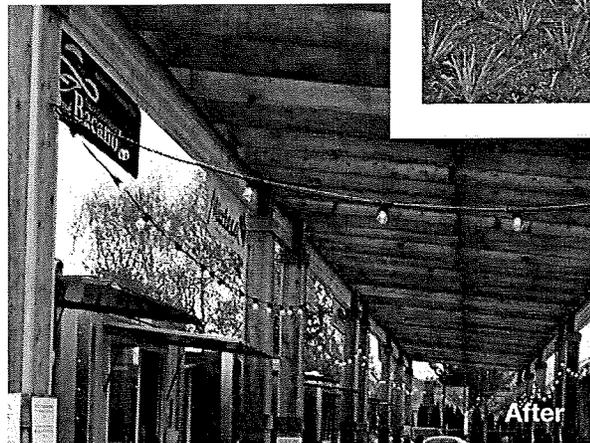
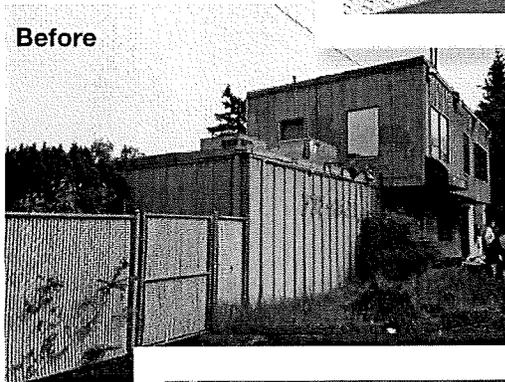
Building Interior

There was a very limited budget for this project so interior improvements were going to be simple. Good lighting, exposed truss structures, and no carpet went a long way to create an interesting, and affordable, one-of-a-kind experience inside the market building.



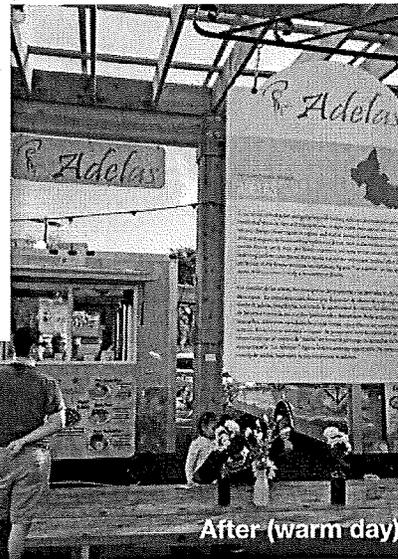
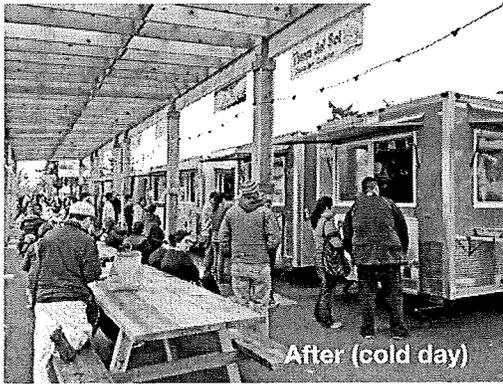
Building Exterior

In these before and after pictures, you can see that the building was improved dramatically by following the concepts of color (to SHOW Latino), building-detail (the building block nature of the structure), transparency (create storefronts, blur the line between interior/exterior, and roll-up doors), and festive lighting. This building is a bright pick-me-up for everyone who drives by it on a cold, dreary Oregon day.



The Parking Lot

This site was overly dominated by parking, which could be better put to use generating revenue, creating vibrancy, and building brand for the project and the corridor. The back half of the lot was reserved for parking and site access, with the front half reserved for creating a cool place! This is Portland's most awesome food cart pod—it is colorful, it is attention getting, it is attractive, it showcases people, and it ties the project together.



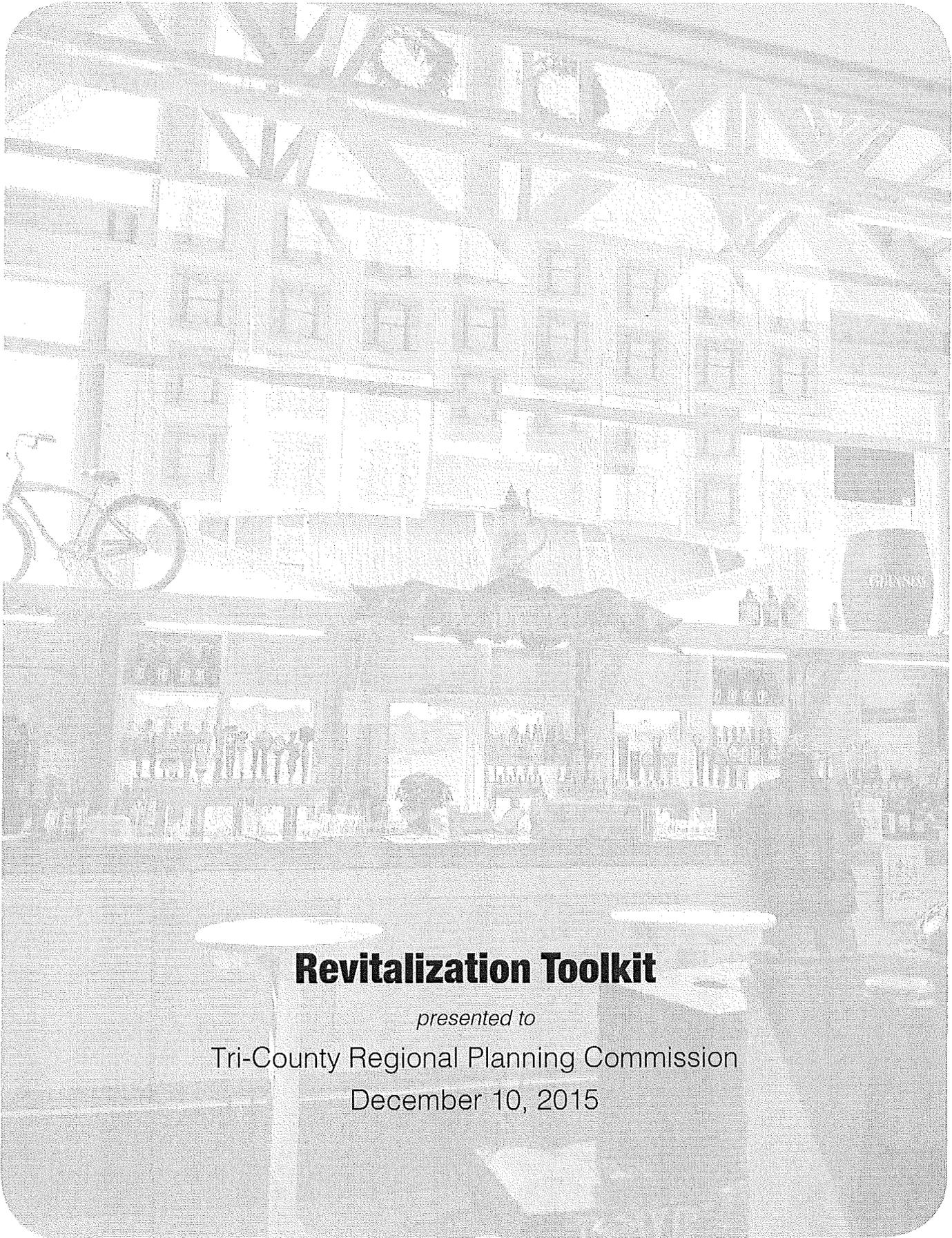
CONCLUSION

You have two huge areas of strength in the places I toured in Mid-Michigan—amazing building stock from a wide variety of eras, and wonderful, one-of-a-kind local businesses. These are the two areas to leverage for revitalization and district identity building.

- » *Building Stock.* For the downtowns and urban districts, it's about visually highlighting all of the gorgeous historic buildings, differentiating them from each other to create interest for the eye, and tenancing them with outward facing uses. Each of the small downtowns had wonderful older buildings, with perhaps Charlotte having the greatest variety of heights and widths besprinkled along their streets. (The more visual variety there is, the more eye catching it will be.) On the mid-century corridors, the key will be finding dated strip malls and working with owners to redevelop, energize and re-tenant existing buildings, and then, to intensify the sites with new buildings that offer a mix of residential, retail, or office. It's especially good to focus on structures that are ideally suited to division into smaller spaces: these achieve more per square foot, are in high demand, and allow an owner to tenant mix for identity and brand, whether it's around health and wellness (for a building set way off the street with little visibility), or restaurants (for a building closer to the street, with better visibility, but some buffer from the traffic).
- » *Local Businesses.* A distinct identity can be created in any place where there are interesting collections of small, one-of-a-kind businesses, experienced local resources, or people offering world-class services. Small business expertise and performance are the basis upon which you want to brand your districts, helping them to better highlight their offerings and work together to offer an integrated experience. Frankly, streets that are stuffed with the same old national tenants you find in every other community are difficult to turn into beloved community assets. But, to compete successfully, local businesses have to execute at a high level, because bricks & mortar is more and more about delivering an authentic and fantastic experience rather than about selling a commodity.

The next step for revitalization will involve getting all of the stakeholders together—private and public sector—to take this collection of great businesses and buildings, and SHOW us what they stand for: who these businesses are, and what sort of experience they provide, showcasing local talent and expertise. And the best way to do that is to organize around creating hot spots of activity, with businesses collectively working together and property owners upgrading buildings, all with assistance and support from the public sector.

Mid-Michigan has all of the building blocks needed to bring more economic activity and brand connection. I look forward to seeing their successes in the months and years ahead.



Revitalization Toolkit

presented to

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

December 10, 2015

9B (1)

PROPOSED BOARD MINUTES

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted.

ALTERNATE MOTION:

Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting with the following amendment(s): [insert amendments].

**JANUARY 5, 2016
REGULAR MEETING**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - DRAFT -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra (6:02 P.M.), Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Associate Planner Peter Menser, Township Attorney Steven Schultz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor LeGoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. PRESENTATIONS

A. Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer – 6201 Lake Drive

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian hereby recognizes and celebrates Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing for the successful blight removal in Haslett, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan. The Township Board also looks forward to future collaborations with Treasurer Schertzing, the Haslett Beautification Association, and other volunteers who will help with placemaking for this prominent property in Meridian Township.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Resolution recognizes a process utilized by the County Treasurer through provisions in state law

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Scales, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Cullen Harkness – New Forfeiture Law

Township Prosecuting Attorney Cullen Harkness updated recent changes to forfeiture statutes approved by the state legislature, four of the seven bills which are germane to Meridian Township (House Bills 4503, 4504, 4505 and 4506). He explained what each bill accomplishes, focusing on the portion which will require detailed annual reporting in 2017 to the Michigan State Police of any forfeiture activity by a municipality. Prosecutor Harkness noted House Bill 4505 raises the burden of proof in the Controlled Substances Act for forfeiture from a preponderance of the evidence to clear and convincing evidence, a higher standard.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Kirk Green, 5473 Okemos Road, East Lansing, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy). He requested the Township revisit zoning in the surrounding area.

Tim McCarthy, 6076 Columbia, Haslett, ~~offered comments relative to Board conduct at the November 3, 2015 meeting. He spoke to a lack of leadership and confusion during the meeting.~~ APOLOGIZED FOR HIS "OUTBURST" AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 BOARD MEETING. HE ELABORATED HE WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE LACK OF COOPERATION, DISTRUST AND ANGER AMONG BOARD MEMBERS. HE COMMENTED SEVERAL TIMES ON A LACK OF "TOTAL LEADERSHIP AND MUCH CONFUSION." MR. MCCARTHY STATED THAT EXCHANGES BETWEEN TRUSTEE VEENSTRA AND CLERK DREYFUS SEEMED TO BE MORE ON "UPMANSHIP" THAN ON SPECIFICS. HE FELT THE DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DRAIN ISSUE WENT "ON AND ON" AND WENT NOWHERE. HE ENCOURAGED RESIDENTS TO WATCH HOM-TV ON A REGULAR BASIS AND TO ATTEND A BOARD MEETING "A COUPLE OF TIMES A YEAR."

Brent Forsberg, 2422 Jolly Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the proposed Smith Drain project.

Ann Alchin, 5972 Cypress, Haslett, spoke to the unknown value the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) receives from the Township through staff attendance at every DDA meeting, adding most everything accomplished by the DDA is handled by Township staff. She noted Township staff devoted \$8,000 worth of time to the latest Celebrate Downtown Okemos event, which was not reimbursed by the DDA.

Ghulam Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy). As the owner of two affected parcels, he voiced support for the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer, SAD No. 52.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the fact that most of the Board goals are staff duties. He suggested including only objectives the Board is responsible for promulgating and approving in order to obtain a true assessment of the Board's success.

Mr. Bowlby addressed Clerk Dreyfus' support for a solar panel project at a Meridian Township municipal building, and how Treasurer Brixie mischaracterized the Clerk's statements referring to comments he made regarding the rates of return for an investment in solar energy. He indicated he agreed with the Clerk that most Township investments have a low rate of return, adding he believed the Clerk was referring to investments with a small "i" and not a large "I". Mr. Bowlby noted it is clear the Township cannot purchase solar panels and call it an "Investment" as defined by state law.

Mr. Bowlby addressed public attendance during the goal setting meeting at 1:00 P.M. on a Monday afternoon, a meeting which was set to allow an opportunity for public input from those who cannot normally attend evening meetings. He stated the rationale used for the 1:00 PM starting time was not borne out by the fact only three members of the public attended, all of whom have previously attended evening meetings. He spoke to the Township Manager's glowing characterization of the Communications Department's ability to negotiate a public, education and government (PEG) fee which resulted in an additional \$100,000 of revenue. Mr. Bowlby clarified the PEG fee was simply passed on to the users, as noted in customers' bills, as well as the five percent (5%) franchise fee.

Suzanne Marlow, 2096 Lac Du Mont, Haslett, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy).

Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road, East Lansing, spoke in support of his rezoning request, Rezoning #15060. He submitted additional petition signatures to rezone his property which would allow him to keep his pygmy goats.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Assistant Township Manager Perry encouraged members of the public to use all available methods to express their views to Board members and staff about any issues relevant to the Township.

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Veenstra addressed a letter in the Board packet regarding the condition of the gravel road to the recycling center. He suggested if the road is not repaved, regular maintenance be performed by the Township.

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering clarified the Township does not have equipment to grade gravel roads, but placed additional asphalt millings and used a Township owned backhoe to do so.

Trustee Veenstra reiterated public comment that Comcast does not pay PEG fees, but those fees are passed on to its customers.

A. Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Treasurer Brixie gave an update on delinquent personal property tax collection totals for tax years 2010-2014, 2015 total tax year collections as of November 10, 2015, 2015 tax year distribution totals as of October 29, 2015, and current fixed maturity investments and non-fixed investments as of October 31, 2015. She added October, 2015 was a large investment month as the rates have changed significantly and allowed the Township to take advantage of increased rates of return. Treasurer Brixie highlighted the graph on investment diversity by maturity, a table on current investment portfolio size and a pie chart on diversity by investment type. She explained the inclusion of the DDA loan for tracking purposes and the Board's awareness, while acknowledging that it "technically" is not a Township investment.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the last Meridian Economic Development Corporation meeting where the future of the MARC building was thoroughly vetted. He noted a guest speaker from the Fledge, an incubator located in Grand Ledge, spoke about incubators as a for profit model, and highlighted some of their qualities. He reported the MEDC gave \$1,000 to sponsor the mini-maker at Meridian Mall, and a discussion ensued about the exposure, publicity and public relations for the MEDC as a result of that sponsorship.

Clerk Dreyfus reported Michelle Reeves, a nationally recognized expert in urban revitalization from Portland, Oregon, visited the Township and she, along with several fellow Board members, traveled to key places in the Township. He indicated several issues were discussed, including life stages of strip malls, how innovative small businesses weave a tapestry of business types to create novelty and diversity and how to create a more visible and vibrant commercial area by reviewing parking, street facing buildings, facades, colors and form based code. Clerk Dreyfus announced Ms. Reeves will return in December to provide a summary of the greater Lansing area.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at a food trade show at the Lansing Centre titled "Making it in Michigan", noting Forsberg Development's effort to create a food hub in the Jolly/Okemos Road area. He offered an explanation of the purpose of a food hub which is to consolidate different types of operation from farm to table. Clerk Dreyfus announced the report from *Public Integrity* ranked Michigan 50th in the nation in a series of categories relative to state integrity.

Trustee Scales requested a moment of silence for Haslett resident Will Goodale, a ten year old who lost his battle with a malignant brain tumor. He reported Blondie's Barn, located at 5640 Marsh Road, Haslett, is offering a free meal on Thanksgiving Day from 12:00-2:00 P.M.

Trustee Styka reported the Cable Communications Commission (CCC) met two weeks ago and is looking at the feasibility of broadband for the entire community. He clarified the DDA loan mentioned earlier was for LED street lighting in downtown Okemos to provide safety for pedestrians in the area. Trustee Styka announced Detroit's City Council is preparing to enact zoning ordinances relative to medical marijuana businesses being 1,000 feet from churches, schools and child care. He urged the Board to revisit this issue, as Board members previously spent a significant amount of time developing a compromise measure to address this concern.

Trustee Veenstra expressed his support for the broadband issue being worked on by the CCC.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the monthly Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA) meeting last week. She announced the Okemos Education Foundation (OEF) fundraiser will be held this Thursday.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Add Agenda Item #9G: Appointment of the Redi-Ride Committee**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Clerk Dreyfus offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Delete Agenda Item #13D: Railroad Quiet Zone**

The amendment was accepted by the maker of the main motion.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Deliberations (BD)

- BD 12B-1 Ghulam H. Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos; RE: Sewer hookup and use of second home at 1998 Jolly Road
- BD12B-2 Ghulam H. Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos; RE: Shared driveway at 1998 Jolly Road
- BD12D-1 Ghulam H. Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos; RE: Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer, SAD No. 52
- BD13C-1 Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road, East Lansing; RE: Goats
- BD13C-2 Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road, East Lansing; RE: Goats
- BD13D-1 Frank Hatfield, 1578 Sylvan Glen, Okemos; RE: Train Whistles

(2) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 John M. David and Jonelle Golding, 3578 Stagecoach Drive, Okemos; RE: Abandonment of Forsberg Drive
- BI-2 Thor Strong, 1086 Trails End, Okemos; RE: Forsberg Drive Determination
- BI-3 Will Tyler White, 13783 Main Street, Bath; RE: Annual Rental Inspections
- BI-4 John P. Gardener, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to Comcast's channel lineup effective January 7, 2016
- BI-5 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Drive, East Lansing; RE: FOIA Statement
- BI-6 Beth Hubbell, 1158 Woodside Drive, Haslett; RE: Entrance to the Meridian Recycling Center

(3) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Director Deborah Guthrie; RE: Press release titled “Meridian Cares Team Aims to Raise \$10,000 for Those in Need”
- SC-2 Darla Jackson, Human Services Specialist; RE: Flyer on the Meridian Cares Emergency Needs Fundraiser

(4) On File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Material handed out at the November 3, 2015 Board Meeting

- Matt Brown, 3566 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Kevin & Monica Baker, 3596 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Matt Brown, 3566 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Carlene Hooker, 3663 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Sam Kane, 3565 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Ken and Brenda Miller, 3681 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Ken and Brenda Miller, #33-02-02-33-351-016), RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Geraldine Morse, 3565 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Suresh Muringathery & Sunita Joseph, 2422 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Mark & Melody Wisniewski, 2414 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to sewer installation on Kansas Road
- Valerie Malcolm, 1966 Lac Du Mont, Haslett; RE: Support for Railroad Quiet Zones
- Kristine West, 200 Winterberry Lane, Okemos; RE: Support for Railroad Quiet Zones
- Richard L. Baldwin, 5547 Star Flower Drive, Haslett; RE: Opposition to Railroad Quiet Zones

Treasurer Brixie 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 Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 3, 2015 Regular Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 1,270,803.13
Public Works	\$ 357,062.77
Total Checks	\$ 1,627,865.90
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 12,439.72
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 1,640,305.62</u>

ACH Payments \$ 368,110.09
Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

D. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment
Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointment of Anthony Kozlowski to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Ratification of Police Officer Appointment
Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointment of Alana Jannette to the position of Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

F. Amendment to the Consumers Energy Streetlight Contract
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the installation of a street light for the Kinawa Drive Safety Project and a street light at the intersection of Marsh & Tihart Roads, and authorize the Township Manager and Township Clerk to sign the Authorization for Change in Standard Lighting Contract (Form 547) as prepared by Consumers Energy. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

G. Appointment of the Redi-Ride Committee
Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Deb Alexander (CATA), Todd Sharp (representing the schools), Cherie Wisdom (Senior Center), Diane Engle, Dr. B. Ray Horn, Karla Hudson, Ody Norkin, Lori Reyes and Donna Rose. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (See Agenda Items #12D, #13A)

Q. A Board member requested to enclose - when we have a lawsuit against the Township - he believed in attaching the letter that comes [to the Township]. The letter is usually addressed to me as the Township Clerk so it's not addressed to the Board; he felt that in terms of full disclosure, since it is correspondence, that we should include this in the Board packet.

And of course that would mean that it would also be uploaded online; so there's the letter sent notifying us of a lawsuit and then there's the actual lawsuit that is an attachment to that letter. I would like to ask your opinion on the merits of including that type of correspondence or the non-merits of doing that type of notification.

ATTORNEY INQUIRY: Who is the letter from?

CLERK'S RESPONSE: This letter is from Thomas Loeb, Attorney at Law from Farmington Hills. This is regarding the recent lawsuit that was just reported in the paper.

A. First of all, there's two questions. One is the complaint or the pleadings; those are obviously a public record which have been filed with the court and there's no order that has sealed those or prevented their disclosure. Those are a public record and it is just a matter of policy for the Board whether you want to include or not include those in your packet or in the materials that you make available. As for the letter, if the letter is from an opposing attorney and does not contain any attorney/client privileged communication, it's a matter of policy whether you want to include the correspondence (a cover letter or something like that) or not. If the letter has anything to do with our insurance defense counsel, the Township attorney, or somebody representing the interests of the Township, any member of Board or any employee associated, then it would be advisable to check with us before you do anything to make sure we are not disclosing something that might be subject to the attorney/client privilege.

Q. So would it be fair to say that in any matter involving a lawsuit, we should first review it with you before we consider including it in the Board packet.

A. I would respectfully request that you do so.

Q. Should we, as a Board, deliberate and vote on a policy about whether or not to include these kinds of materials in our packet?

A. That is for the Board to decide.

Board discussion:

- Board member request and support to have legal correspondence regarding lawsuits placed on a future agenda as a discussion item to allow the Clerk to receive guidance in this area

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Kevin Baker, 3596 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD.

Carlene Hooker, 3663 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD, as it is a dead end dirt road.

Piotr Lupa, 3575 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD, believing it a basic amenity.

Larry Bryan, President, KEBS, Inc., 2116 Haslett Road, spoke in support of the reapproval of Final Preliminary Plat for Georgetown No. 3.

Ken Miller, 3681 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD.

Steven Freemire, 3622 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke to the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD as an environmental issue. He urged Board support for this project.

Linda Kraai, 3657 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke to options for financing the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD, providing language from the Act which allows monies to come from the Township Improvement Revolving Fund (TIRF). He clarified that septic systems are a cost effective way to dispose of waste and are not harmful to the environment.

Brenda Miller, 3681 Kansas Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer SAD.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Rezoning #00150 (St. King) – Final Adoption

Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2015-07, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #00150” from RC (Multiple Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional and Office).**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- Rezoning would allow the owner to lease to all types of tenants

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Rezoning #15030 (Sumbal) – Introduction

Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15030” RR (Rural Residential) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition which would allow the property to revert to RR (Rural Residential) if the applicant was not successful in obtaining a variance to allow a shared driveway.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief this rezoning is unnecessary as the Township created the problem when it passed an ordinance prohibiting more than one home per parcel many years after the two homes had been built on the property
- Board member belief this property should have been grandfathered in

- Second house has been unoccupied as the Township would not allow the available sewer to be hooked up to the second home and would not issue a rental license
- Board member understanding that because the Township would not allow occupancy for the second home, the grandfathering has lapsed
- Rezoning would allow the property to be split into two (2) parcels
- Property is served by one (1) driveway
- Ingham County Road Department would not allow more than one (1) driveway
- If the lot is split, the single driveway would be on the west parcel
- If use of the shared driveway is not permitted, the main house would have no driveway
- Clarification by staff that the prior owner had the second home registered as a rental
- Previous owner was cited in 2003 for being in noncompliance with the Building Code and repairs were necessary in order for the second home to remain habitable (some rooms did not have heat)
- Previous owner let the rental license lapse instead of repairing the second home
- Township cited the second home as uninhabitable and it has remained that way since 2004
- Rezoning request is being made to allow the second home to be on its own parcel and bring the house into compliance
- Updated Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to be adopted soon shows surrounding property is zoned RA
- Reversion to the RR zoning designation was a condition offered by the applicant in the event he is unsuccessful in acquiring the shared driveway variance
- Township ordinance states the non-conforming grandfathering lapses after 3 months
- Board member belief there are many homes in the Township in a similar situation
- Board member preference to add amending ordinances to lengthen the time of grandfathering on non-conformity to the 2016 Board goals
- Staff clarification the non-conformity on this property is because there are two (2) houses on one (1) parcel
- Issue put forth by one Board member is because the front yard footage does not meet the standard for a RR zoned parcel and is separate from abandonment of the use of the house

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Final Preliminary Plat – Georgetown No. 3

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby re-approves Preliminary Plat #05012, Georgetown, for a period of two years, November 17, 2015 to November 17, 2017, with the following condition:

1. All previous conditions placed on the preliminary plat approval shall remain in effect.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) was not apprised of the reapproval of the plat in a timely manner which required this subsequent action

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **The developer shall be required to pay for paving the pathway**

Continued Board and discussion:

- Appropriateness of placing a condition dealing with the responsible party for the financial obligation of a paved pathway during the preliminary plat reapproval process

- Discussion of this issue arose in March, 2015 during the preliminary plat approval process and the Board chose not to change the condition which required the developer to provide the easement, but did not require the developer to build the pathway
- Item before the Board tonight is simply to correct something which was not approved through the MDEQ
- Appropriate time to make changes to the preliminary plat would be when and if an extension is requested

The motion died for lack of a second.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 6-1.

- D. Kansas Street Sanitary Sewer, Special Assessment District No. 52 – **Resolution #3**
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve Kansas Road Public Sanitary Sewer Improvement Special Assessment District #52, Resolution #3, which approves the construction; and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specifically benefited thereby; approves the plans and estimate of cost in the amount of \$147,200; declares the petition sufficient; determines the special assessment district; and directs the Supervisor to make a special assessment roll and affix a certificate to the completed special assessment roll.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Even with withdrawal of support for the project by one of the original petitioners, the validity of the petition is intact as the threshold outlined in the ordinance is still met
- Board member concern with three (3) separate properties on Kansas Street which have failed septic systems
- Testing of water on one (1) property on Kansas Street revealed a high nitrogen content, an indicator of poor soils
- Failed septic systems and poor soils contaminates surface water and ground water and a serious health risk
- Nitrogen can be fatal to infants who drink the water
- Kansas Street is located in an infill area of the Township
- The area has been on the sewer map to receive sewer in the future
- This is an aging neighborhood which has aging infrastructure
- Board member belief installation of the sewer will increase property values and enable rehabilitation of some of the homes on Kansas that are vacant due to failed septic systems
- Payback time for terms of the payments is not being determined at this time
- Resolution #4 sets a public hearing once actual costs are determined

Trustee Scales offered the following amendment:

- **The Township will pay 33% of the cost or \$47,200, whichever is less.**

Supported by Trustee Veenstra.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board member acknowledgment of the necessity of the sewer, but concern over the hardship placed on several residents
- Township can help lessen some of the financial burden
- Staff concern with the precedent being set as this would be the first sewer special assessment subsidized by the Township
- Board member belief the proposed subsidy sets a bad precedent
- There is a serious human health threat on Kansas Street

- Possible need for a policy to determine how financial aid would be given to each resident who hooked up but did not believe they could afford the assessment
- Concern with subsidizing public infrastructure when only a select few would benefit
- Concern subsidizing this type of public infrastructure could lead to public desire for other infrastructure types to be subsidized (e.g., sidewalks, drains)
- One way to minimize the impact to those residents on Kansas Street who have a valid septic system would be to not require residents pay for the cost of the infrastructure until the property owner is ready to hook up
- Board member preference to seek a longer payback period for residents when that issue is properly before the Board
- Water table on Kansas Street is relatively high and many of the existing septic systems are old
- Public Act 368 of 1978 (Public Health Act) allows the local jurisdiction to amend the requirement that connection to a public sanitary sewer is required when available, which Meridian Township has done
- Meridian Township only requires residents to hook up to the public sanitary sewer if their septic system has failed
- Board member comparison of this sewer assessment to an at large drain assessment
- Board responsibility to provide health, safety and welfare to all Township residents
- Board responsibility to provide solutions to assist the citizens on Kansas Street in paying this assessment
- Need to ascertain the appropriate point in this SAD process to thoroughly vet the financial component
- Suggestion for staff to provide numbers for the various financial scenarios vetted this evening
- Law allows an interest rate of up to 5% and the Board could tie the interest rate to the rate of inflation if less than 5%, which would effectively create a "break even" situation if a resident waited ten (10) year to hook up
- Board decision to pay part of the assessment is a policy decision which would impact overall funds

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff,
NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 3-4.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Main sewer would be installed in the center of the road
- Installation of the lateral sewer connection has the potential to affect trees

Legality of the Township paying part of the cost of sewer installation: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

Q. Does the attorney concur with Director Perry's opinion that it is legal for the Township to pay part of the cost of this sewer

A. I concur with Director Perry's conclusion. It is a policy matter, however.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Smith Drain

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Chapters 8 and 19 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, a petition for the consolidation of the Smith Drain Drainage District; Sunwind Branch of the Smith Drain Drainage District; Jolly - Okemos Drain Drainage District; Smith, Jolly Oak Branch Drain Drainage District; Smith, Hiawatha Lakes Branch 7 Drain Drainage District, and the Turtle Crossing Drain Drainage District is authorized to be executed by**

Meridian Charter Township, and that the Supervisor and Clerk are authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this petition. The consolidated drainage district shall be known as the Smith Consolidated Drain Drainage District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Chapters 8 and 19 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, a petition for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, providing structures, adding lands not within the existing drainage districts, adding branches and relief drains, relocating along a highway, adding structures and mechanical devices that will properly purify or improve the flow, adding pumping equipment necessary to assist or relieve the flow and for the consolidation of the Smith Drain; the Sunwind Branch of the Smith Drain; the Jolly - Okemos Drain; the Smith, Jolly Oak Branch Drain; the Smith, Hiawatha Lakes Branch 7 Drain; and the Turtle Crossing Drain, is also authorized to be executed by Meridian Charter Township; and that the Supervisor and Clerk are authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this petition. The consolidated drain shall be known as the Smith Consolidated Drain.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and file the petition for the consolidation of the Drains and Drainage Districts and for the maintenance and improvement of the consolidated Drain, as permitted under Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Complex issue with existing culvert problems underneath Jolly Road
- Smith Drain has capacity issues
- Consolidation is a step forward for the community
- Costs will be determined prior to the project moving forward
- Individual Township parcels will not be assessed, but the Township will be assessed at a large percentage as determined by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC)
- The Township's at large percentage will correspond to the magnitude of the public health issue as determined by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner
- Concern the potential cost may be a considerable amount
- Primary property owner involved will continue to cooperate with the ICDC to find a solution which handles the water problems in the Jolly/Okemos Road area
- Resolution authorizes the Supervisor and the Clerk to submit the petition to the ICDC

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

[Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 8:15 P.M.]

[Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 8:26 P.M.]

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett again asked for a definition of an illegally controlled substance as mentioned in the personnel policy. He also asked if the Township maintained that medical marihuana was an illegal drug. Mr. Bowlby commented on Rezoning #15060, stating Mr. McCurdy has complied with every request from the Township. He suggested the possible use of a conditional rezoning as a solution to the concerns expressed by the Planning Commission which ultimately lead to their recommendation for denial of the rezoning request.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Personnel Policy Manual – Draft

Human Resources Director Joyce Marx responded to the ten (10) issues submitted to her by Board members, stating her comments were placed in the personnel policy dated October 29th in blue while the Township Attorney's comments were noted in red. She stated the Township is promoting a zero tolerance policy for the Township relative to medical marihuana. Chief Hall offered several comments as to why medical marihuana does not "fit" with law enforcement personnel, most notably that under federal law, a controlled substance (e.g., medical marihuana) user cannot possess a firearm or ammunition. He also added that under federal law, he could not transfer weapons to someone who uses controlled substances (e.g., medical marihuana), which would prohibit the Police Chief from giving a weapon to a law enforcement officer who uses medical marihuana. Chief Hall stated there is no standard for driving under the influence of drugs (e.g., medical marihuana) like there is for alcohol, so the driving pattern of a driver is analyzed and physical tests are conducted to determine whether an arrest is going to be made. He added there is no current method to determine the extent that medical marihuana is affecting a police officer's performance.

Chief Hall also spoke to various effects with types of medical marihuana provided through different sources. He emphasized the potential department liability for use of medical marihuana by police officers. Chief Hall noted police department adaptation of public use of medical marihuana and responds accordingly.

Board and discussion:

- Board member preference for police to be exempt from allowing police officers to be qualified patients in Michigan's medical marihuana program
- Appeal to federal law (except for the law enforcement component) has been tried by many communities as an attempt to invalidate Michigan's medical marihuana law, none of which have succeeded
- Federal perspective on medical marihuana is changing, as approximately half the nation now has legal medical marihuana, with five (5) states legalizing marihuana for all types of marihuana consumption
- Board member belief Michigan will have a proposal placed before voters in 2016 for full legalization of marihuana and, according to pollsters, is likely to pass
- Concern by one Board member that he takes Ambien, a controlled substance, and would be prohibited from using a weapon

ATTORNEY COMMENT: Controlled substance is a defined term under the federal law. Ambien, being a prescription drug, is not considered a controlled substance. We are talking about heroin, we are talking about marihuana, we are talking about drugs that are illegal under federal law. Obviously Ambien, once approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), is no longer illegal under federal law. The term controlled substance was being used by the Chief in the context of the federal law that prohibits the use of Schedule 1 controlled substances.

Chief Cowper stated Fire Department policy allows for termination if fire personnel use alcohol while on duty. He believed the same policy would apply to drugs and the use of medical marihuana by fire personnel would be a deterrent when driving heavy equipment. Chief Cowper indicated the Township has a physician who decides which employees in suppression are fit to return to work in the event of an injury which is treated with pain killer(s). He spoke to the combined years of experience by the Fire Chief, Police Chief and Human Resources Director in knowing what is best for Meridian Township residents and police and fire personnel, believing medical marihuana has no part in employee performance of their live-saving duties.

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Perry added public works' employees must have a certified commercial driver's license (CDL), a federal government mandate which must have state compliance or incur the loss of federal road funding. He indicated a public works employee who failed a drug test by using medical marihuana would lose their CDL certification and could no longer operate equipment necessary in the performance of their job.

Board discussion:

- Public perception of medical marihuana has changed rapidly since 2008
- Passage of the personnel policy as written would prohibit a prospective employee who is a qualified medical marihuana patient from working for the Township
- Scientific research is showing positive effects of marihuana use
- Social policies on the impact of marihuana are also being researched
- Statistics regarding crime in Denver, CO revealed no difference in crime between dispensaries and provisioning centers when compared to liquor and retail stores
- Roadside testing can now detect nanograms of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in an individual's system and should be readily available within the next 18 months
- Police personnel, fire personnel, and public works personnel required to obtain a CDL should be required to pass a drug test and be exempt from being allowed the use of medical marihuana even if a qualified user
- Board member belief that medical marihuana users are still being demonized
- Board member suggestion to amend the second bullet point under Section IV (Workplace Safety), Subsection B (Employee Assistance and Drug-Free Awareness) by adding "except for a qualified patient in Michigan's medical marihuana program" at the end of that bullet
- Inclusion of a separate bullet point which would exclude police, fire and public works' employees who must obtain a CDL license
- Board member suggestion to amend Section IV (Workplace Safety), Subsection C (Required Testing) by adding "Applicants who are qualified patients in Michigan's Medical Marihuana Program will not be disqualified due to a positive result for the presence of marihuana." As the second sentence to the first bullet point labeled "Pre-employment"
- Board member belief that with the aforementioned suggestions, the Township is sending the signal that it is acknowledging the movement in society towards acceptance of marihuana use
- Acceptance of marihuana use is an economic boon to communities who embrace it

Testing for marihuana use: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

Q. What are the current tests available being used in the courts?

A. I'm probably not the expert on all of the testing protocols out there. Perhaps the Chief is more adept at that. It's not the testing that presents the issue; it's the fact that once you ingest marihuana, it remains in your system for a lengthy period of time. In fact, a study by the National Drug Court Institute indicated the estimated detection period for occasional users is about four (4) days; the estimated detection period for frequent users (which I think could include somebody who using medical marihuana for purposes of treatment) would be ten (10) days. The difficulty that you have with medical marihuana is the fact that if you adopt a zero tolerance policy (which we have for alcohol), it stays in your system for a lengthier period of time than alcohol does. So, that becomes the problem. There are undoubtedly ways to test (whether by blood test or otherwise), that could detect the amount that's in your system, but the issue is a practical one of it can be there for days at various levels. It is very difficult to assess from a test whether it is affecting your performance or not. Then you get into the situation the Chief raised of the kind of field testing they do to determine whether someone is impaired. That's a different issue than what we have here. We have some practical issues that we have to deal with because, I agree with Clerk Dreyfus, we are in kind of a transition period here and it creates some difficulties for us as an employer.

Continued Board discussion:

- Valid concerns raised by the three (3) directors for their employees
- Board member suggestion that the Township attorney draft language which would give accommodations for employees who perform no driving functions during their hours of employment
- Safety concern over parks and recreation employees who drive a lawnmower in an impaired state
- Board member concern with the practicality of carrying a prescription in its original container when it is dispensed in a large container
- Staff recommendation to insert "or provide other proof of the prescribed medication" after "licensed pharmacist" in the second bullet on page 15 to address the aforementioned Board member concern regarding the original container

- Board member suggestion to insert “Drug and Alcohol” in the middle of the title of subsection C on page 15 labeled “Required Testing”
- Q. What is the liability on the Township if a qualified medical marihuana user (who is also an employee) is in an accident while operating Township equipment which does not require a CDL license?
- A. Your question, Trustee Wilson, presents the dilemma we face with medical marihuana today. It certainly presents a very difficult issue for anybody that has a CDL or works in the police or fire department. It presents another greater practical issue (and its one that our liability carrier struggles with and communities like ours struggle with) and that is the decision as to whether or not the actions of our employees were reasonable or not under the circumstances or were affected or impaired by alcohol, prescription drugs or marihuana. Such an issue isn't always decided by us. It's decided by a judge or a jury when something unfortunate happens. That's the difficult situation that we face.

We checked with our insurance agent who recommends we have a zero tolerance policy for all employees. I wanted to know how other communities are dealing with this as well. One of the communities I contacted (because I know one of the Assistant City Attorneys) is the City of Ann Arbor, which has a fairly progressive view when it comes to the issue of medical marihuana and marihuana in general. Notwithstanding the situation the City of Ann Arbor is in, they have a zero tolerance policy for all employees, and they have that because they have to look at the issue of an employee with marihuana in their system from a host of perspectives; the law enforcement, the health safety issues we face with our departments and the DPW. But they also have to look from the perspective of what happens if one of their employees is involved in any kind of incident that could lead to a claim against the municipality.

I absolutely concur with Clerk Dreyfus' view that there are those who feel that marihuana has been demonized; but, there are also those that do not feel it has not been demonized. The issue comes if you have an injured member of the public and that injury was caused in whole, or in part, by one of our employees. In the eyes of a jury, where do they cast the liability and responsibility and is the defense of that claim made infinitely more difficult if it is determined that person had medical marihuana in their system. The law and public perception is evolving, but we are not there yet. That is the difficult situation we face. I hate to say it, but we are dealing with kind of the lowest common denominator type of situation. Sadly, but true, that drives us in a number of areas. It's the reason we have a zero tolerance policy for alcohol as well within our Township right now. If you tested at .02 in a liability claim, it still is going to affect the outcome of that claim which raises a difficult situation for this Board in deciding where you draw that line. Medical marihuana, and I want to be sure this is taken the proper way, is not legal under state law or federal law; but, under Michigan law, you have a defense to a prosecution for a marihuana related offense if you are a qualifying patient or a qualifying caregiver. We have not decriminalized marihuana in the State of Michigan in any respect, but what we have done is provide a defense if you meet the certain qualifications within the act.

It presents a very difficult and, in many respects, an illogical situation in which we are faced. Somebody is authorized and has a defense to a claim of illegality if they go through the process of becoming a qualifying patient or a qualifying caregiver. But, they are still utilizing something that is not legal to sell and is not legal to possess under either state or federal law. It's a challenge the legislature is dealing with today and has not yet come up with a solution which is we authorize and provide a defense for those who need to utilize marihuana for medical reasons, but we provide no legal means for them to acquire the marihuana.

When the law was initiated, it was something that people have tended to forget, but it shows the difficulty. When initiated law #1 was proposed, the drafters were very careful not to utilize the word "sale" in the law, because they knew that a law being initiated to authorize the sale of marihuana would have no chance of passing. They focused on the use without dealing with the difficult question of purchase and sale and, instead, authorized caregivers to grow limited amounts for up to five (5) patients. This created a very ambiguous and difficult situation for Boards like you and for the public, generally, because what's happened over time is the law has been viewed as authorizing the possession and use of medical marihuana, but yet provides no legal means for acquiring it except to grow your own or have someone grow it for you. It's a long way of coming around to the fact that we, as a society, have not yet caught up to the practical reality. Unfortunately, you are faced with having to deal with a significant group of society that still has a zero balance view of this regardless of the job you work in. For police and fire and public works employees who have to have a CDL, the federal law puts us in a situation where we can't have anything but a zero tolerance policy. The question is what do we do with the rest of our employees who don't need a CDL and aren't in law enforcement but may drive for us. An employee may operate a lawn mower or other motorized equipment and if an accident occurs involving a member of the public, how are we viewed and what are the risks to the Township in terms of liability. For example, our insurance carrier still advocates a zero tolerance policy. Many communities that are struggling with this issue have said, notwithstanding their overall view, we are going to stick with the zero tolerance policy until the law catches up with society. That's the difficulty we have in front of us.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member concern that if a zero tolerance policy is not adopted, the Township's insurance carriers could drop us or increase our premiums
- Insurance carrier relayed it could be detrimental to a defense for the Township if a zero tolerance policy was not adopted for employees who drive Township vehicles
- Under the influence in operating a vehicle is not defined in the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, but would be determined by the courts in the event of a lawsuit against the Township

It was the consensus of the Board to include a zero tolerance policy for the use of medical marihuana by employees.

Continued Board discussion:

- Paid maternity leave should be viewed as a new benefit
- Preference for paid maternity leave to be covered during negotiations with the seven (7) unions
- All issues subject to negotiations should not be included in the Personnel Policy
- Paid maternity leave is a policy question
- Township Board does not have to provide only the minimum required under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- Board member belief the United States is the only developed country which does not provide for paid maternity leave as a benefit

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss the concept of paid maternity leave during the budget process for possible inclusion as a benefit.

Board discussion:

- Page 35 – inclusion of language allowing an employee to report harassment by their direct supervisor to the Human Resources Director or any other Director
- Page 18 – Total ban on smoking across all Township properties would include Township parks and there would be a mix of the personnel policy with local ordinances
- Personnel policy to prohibit smoking applies to Township employees only on any Township properties

It was the consensus of the Board to have the language regarding a smoke-free workplace remain as presented on Page 18.

It was the consensus of the Board to include cyber harassment in all forms of harassment on Pages 34 and 35, including cyber bullying on pages 16 and 17.

It was the consensus of the Board to accept the correction on Page 20 that the conflict of interest circumstances are examples only.

Continued Board discussion:

- Page 20: Concern that an employee cannot serve on any outside Board

ATTORNEY COMMENT: I don't read that as to prohibit an employee from serving as a board member or elected official provided it does not present a conflict of interest. We have situations of incompatible offices; we have situations where people serving on an elected Board of Commission (such as the County Board) might be incompatible with the Township Board. It is more directed at situations that would put an employee in a position where they have a duty of loyalty to both and can't satisfy both.

For example, if you are a member of a corporate Board, and yet you are an employee here and that corporation was seeking some kind of benefit from the Township, you'd have an incompatibility there; not in the elected official sense, but certainly a conflict of interest. I think we wouldn't want our Planning Director to be on the Board of Directors of Delta and then have them come in for a building change or something. I think that's more what it was aimed at; maybe we can tweak the wording.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board members will allow the Township Attorney and Human Resources Director to "wordsmith" that language now that Board intent is clear
- Page 20 - Outside Employment: Board member request to include language that approvals shall expire at least annually which allow the circumstances to be reviewed

ATTORNEY COMMENT: It really is not so much annually; it's at the discretion of the administration. You could have a conflict that could come up in the middle of the annual term that you might want to withdraw the position to engage in outside employment. I would recommend that we use some language that really leaves it to administration to decide. I have never seen this applied arbitrarily, but you have situations which come up in the middle of the year and you need to address them.

Continued Board discussion:

- Insertion of the language annually causes the Township to do something affirmative
- Board member suggestion to use the verbiage "at least annually"
- Page 4 - 182 day limitation period for employment-related claims is standard language to promote quick resolution of any situations which may arise
- 182 day limitation is not a waiver of rights, but rather a condition of employment
- 182 day limitation is a policy decision which has been generally accepted in many personnel manuals over the last 30 years

ATTORNEY COMMENT: A decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals issued on September 15, 2015 involving a former employee of the Douglas J Management Company specifically upheld their policy of 182 days to bring a claim. I have written a lot of policies which include this language. The reason for this is not to deny people their rights to bring a claim, but frankly bring your claim when everyone's memory is fresh, the witnesses are available, the documents are available, as opposed to three (3) years later when memories have faded, documents are gone and witnesses may have left and taken another job out of state. It's to promote quick resolution of any issues that might arise.

Board discussion:

- Concern if an employee learns something after the 182 day period which affects their employment situation

ATTORNEY COMMENT: The policy is specifically drafted that its 182 days from the date the employee knew of the claim or could have known of the claim. So if they don't know about it, and it comes up later, that's when the clock starts to tick. If they didn't realize that they had been improperly passed over for a promotion because they didn't have the information available to them and they learned of it three (3) months later, the six month clock starts then.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Concern with implementation of a new condition of employment for existing employees

ATTORNEY COMMENT: Under the law, an employer has the right to issue amended policy. Employees, by continuing to work here, are assumed to accept those policies as of the date they are adopted. In fact, this will be distributed to employees and they will be asked to acknowledge they received the policy. It will apply on a go forward basis.

It was the consensus of the Board to accept the 182 day limitation period for employment related claims as presented by staff.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Suggestion to draft a separate IT policy
- Township currently has a network connection policy form that all employees must sign relative to appropriate use of Township networks (e.g., download of software)
- Page 6: Anniversary date relative to promotions
- Previous process to receive a step increase on the starting date with the Township even if the employee has just received a promotion has been a long term practice and contained in all union contracts
- In four recent examples, the greater increase was due to the promotion from a union position to a non-union position, not the step increases themselves
- Board member preference to reward an employee for their longevity with the Township by adhering to their original hire date as the anniversary date
- Promotion usually includes a significant salary increase
- The promotion is the reward for an employee's longevity and good work
- Anniversary date should be the date an employee starts the new position
- Possible use of a protection clause if the promotion is less than the step increase at the current job
- Time and resources are spent in training our employees and it is important to retain them
- Changing an employee's anniversary date would be a bad business practice which would affect employee morale
- Concept of "time in grade" is used by the state and the anniversary date becomes the date of the new position
- Proposed personnel policy defines the promotion date and the step increases occur annually one the date of that promotion

It was the consensus of the Board to retain the language concerning the anniversary date and the promotion date as written.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Drug screening policy has been in place in the Township since 1997
- Page 24: Subsection L: Employee Travel and Reimbursement
 - Rates should be established
 - Township has a form which is completed and approved by the Township Manager which designates specific meal rates and IRS mileage rates
 - Board member suggestion for the form to be reviewed

ATTORNEY COMMENT: I agree with the idea the form needs to be reviewed and is subject to change over time as conditions change. I wouldn't recommend placing the form in this handbook because you have to amend the handbook and come back to the Board every time you want to change a rate.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board member suggestion to continue discussion on the personnel policy at the next meeting and move forward with the remaining agenda
- Page 27: Paid personal leave – policy is in every collective bargaining agreement and has been administered as outlined for many years
- Page 28: Bereavement leave – Board member belief the various individuals which can grant bereavement leave in excess of the allowed three (3) days lacks consistency and should rest with one person
- Page 29: Jury Duty – Board member request for clarification of language to ensure the employee turns over the jury duty payment to the Township in order to receive Township payment for time spent on jury duty
 - State of Michigan requires employees to submit payment received from jury duty minus mileage payment

It was the consensus of the Board to require employees to submit payment received from jury duty in order to receive Township payment for time spent on jury duty.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Page 5: Flexible work schedule and flexible work hours–Request by Directors to more clearly define flexible work schedule and flexible work hours to be consistently applied across the Township

It was the consensus of the Board to accept the new definition of flexible work schedule and flexible work hours.

Board discussion:

- Page 11: Explanation of the progressive discipline – written reprimand was not included as noted on page 37
- Need for consistent use of language throughout the document
- Page 24: non-employees distribution of literature on Township property
 - Board member belief the entire section needs to be reworded to be made constitutional

ATTORNEY COMMENT: I think what needs to be clarified here is that we are only dealing with our employees in the workplace. What this should be edited to say should maybe be: “Non-employees may not solicit employees or distribute literature to employees in the workplace.”

Treasurer Brixie moved to take up the remaining agenda items past 10:00. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1. (LeGoff)

B. Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)

Associate Planner Menser summarized the proposed CIA as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 10, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Lengthy timeline to move through the process to establish the CIA
- Preference for inclusion of language within the resolution which states the Township does not desire to establish a TIF
- Board member preference for the boundaries to be redrawn in conformity with the suggestions made in the letter from Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC)
- Board member belief the point of the CIA isn’t necessarily to redevelop every parcel contained within the CIA
- CIA has the ability to seek grants and set placemaking themes
- Township Attorney opined that residentially and industrially zoned properties can be included
- Preference to include the entire corridor as proposed to avoid gaps in the event there was implementation of streetlighting, for example

It was the consensus of the Board to accept the CIA boundary as proposed by the EDC.

C. Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy)

Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 12, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief the pygmy goats are inoffensive
- Property borders rural residential
- Board member belief over 100 people have expressed support for retention of the goats
- Other remedies suggested by the Planning Commission would require changes to our existing ordinances
- Reminder that the rezoning stays with the property irrespective of the owner
- Board cannot limit the number of animals on RR zoned property
- Nearby properties do not meet the requirements to be rezoned to RR
- Applicant can offer conditions to place restrictions on the property which would stay with the land
- Board member preference to amend the Township's zoning ordinance for RAAA
- Property is uniquely situated and appropriate for a RR zoning designation
- Property gives the interurban pathway a destination and is part of the Township's placemaking efforts
- Other reasons exist to rezone a property which is not consistent with the Future Land Use Map (FLUM)
- Appreciation for the Planning Commission's thorough analysis
- Commercial operations for livestock require a minimum of ten (10) acres
- Property could have a maximum of four (4) livestock

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the December 1, 2015 Board meeting.

~~D. Railroad Quiet Zone~~

E. Sale of Township Property Adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive

Director Kieselbach summarized the request to sell Township property adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 12, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Township is limited by deed stipulation in how much it can charge in the sale
- Board member preference to include attorney costs if legally allowed to do so
- Parcel in question is isolated from the rest of the parks property
- Driveway runs across Township property and limits its use
- Easement for access to the parks from the neighborhood was not discussed by the Park Commission
- Board member request for staff to ask the Director of Parks and Recreation regarding an easement to the Township property from River Glen Drive

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the December 1, 2015 Board meeting.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Scales requested clarification about a communication in the packet relative to the fee charged for a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the regular meeting of the Transportation Review Committee of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on November 12th.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 10:53 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary

9B (2)

PROPOSED BOARD MINUTES

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 1, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted.

ALTERNATE MOTION:

Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 1, 2015 Regular Meeting with the following amendment(s): [insert amendments].

**JANUARY 5, 2016
REGULAR MEETING**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - DRAFT -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: Supervisor LeGoff
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Director of Information Technology Stephen Gebes, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Human Services Specialist Darla Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Dreyfus called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Trustee Styka as Supervisor Pro Tem for this evening's meeting. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Darla Jackson, Human Services Specialist – Meridian Cares Program

Ms. Jackson explained her role as the advocate for needy residents who live in Meridian Township, providing resources whenever possible. She outlined the Meridian Cares Program and the various opportunities for giving this holiday season.

Trustee Scales announced Henry Kwok, proprietor of Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Road, will donate 15% of his profits for Thursday, December 10 with a goal of a \$500 contribution.

Treasurer Brixie announced the Rotary Club is assisting Ms. Jackson with a Turkey Basket Program. She reported the Treasurer's office staff meets the residents who need the Township's assistance to meet basic needs on a daily basis and it is gratifying to be able to refer them to the Human Services Specialist to receive assistance.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, addressed two (2) items in the Board packet which were not in the public packet. He addressed the manner in which the Aldi project was graded, stating runoff flows from the Aldi property onto the pathway where the newly constructed portion of the pathway meets the older pathway.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, showed calculations regarding solar energy panels based on 100 kilowatt installation, demonstrating the amount of time to pay back the installation cost and the subsequent return on investment based on an average of 14 cents per kilowatt hour.

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Revised potential move in date at the new central fire station is estimated to be December 24th
- Kinawa School project has had work for the pathway and the crossing section put in; waiting on Consumers to place the streetlight
- Request to have the Board move the health care plan forward tonight in order to enroll the 101 employees who utilize the Township's insurance
- 2016 goals will be placed on for discussion at the December 8th meeting in the format discussed by the Board
- Met with East Lansing on the wastewater treatment plant last week where it was determined there are significant upgrades which need to be made that will ultimately affect future Township sewer rates
- All members of the Redi-Ride workgroup who had been selected by the subcommittee have been notified

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Clerk Dreyfus addressed remarks he had made relative to rezoning of 5458 Okemos Road at the last Board meeting, apologizing for his remarks which may have appeared critical of the Planning Commission. He voiced appreciation for the Planning Commission's diligence and hard work in researching all of the issues which come before it.

Treasurer Brixie reported the winter tax bills were mailed today and are due on February 16th, noting the last day to pay in 2015 is December 30th. She encouraged residents to either pick up forms in the Treasurer's office or download the online form for electronic automatic recurring payment in order to avoid long lines. She reported the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board has approved a contract to revamp the CATA website to make it more user friendly. She announced a portion of pathway has been installed on the south side of Mount Hope Road which runs from the CATA bus stop east to Okemos Road.

Treasurer Brixie indicated the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) met and continues to work on more meaningful names for land preservation properties, noting the Northwest Preserve has been renamed to Towar Woods. The new Land Stewardship Assistant, Kelsey Dillon, was introduced to LPAB Board members.

Trustee Veenstra attended the regular meeting of the Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) last Thursday, noting information was released that the region needs to make a major increase in its rate of recycling, currently at approximately 15%. He noted this region's recycling rate needs to increase to 30% in order to have a regional recycling processing center in the area. Trustee Veenstra indicated the Township must mandate apartment complexes make recycling available to its residents. He agreed with Mr. Provencher's comment that the Township Attorney's response to the questions raised about the new personnel policy should have been made available to the public. Trustee Veenstra agreed with Mr. Bowlby that the Township should "invest" in the installation of solar panels as it helps clean up the environment.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at this evening's Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) meeting where its 2016 budget was approved. She announced LEAP's direct impact to the region was \$122 million in new private investment for 2015, which created 408 direct jobs in the region. Trustee Wilson added there were eleven highlighted projects which LEAP was directly involved in, noting Mitten State Malt was a LEAP project here in Meridian Township. She indicated she was appointed as an at large member of the 2016 steering committee for LEAP.

Trustee Scales reported he testified at the Ingham County Commission meeting on November 24th in support of the Ponderosa subdivision residents desire to not allow Forsberg Drive to go through. He offered information on how the meeting was conducted, and questions asked of the Director of the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD). Trustee Scales believed indicators point to a decision by December 8, 2015, adding a resolution has been prepared by the ICRD in support of the position of the Ponderosa residents.

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- Move Agenda Item #12A to a discussion item or be made an action item at the December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

The motion died for lack of a second.

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Jerry Fedewa, GS Fedewa Builders, 5570 Okemos Road, East Lansing; RE: Sierra Ridge Lift Station Payment Extension

BI-2 Joyce Van Coevering, 5530 Strawberry Lane, Haslett; Feedback regarding the Kansas Road Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District

BI-3 Thomas J. Dart, Jr., 3569 Cabaret Trail, Okemos; Re: Ponderosa Estates Connection

(2) Staff Communications (SC)

SC-1 Associate Planner Wyatt; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of November 19, 2015

SC-2 Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; RE: Ingham County Board of Commissioners' Resolution Authorizing Deer Hunting on the Ingham County Farm, 3860 Dobie Road, Okemos

(3) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Material handed out at the November 17, 2015 Board Meeting

Steven Freemire, 3622 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Kansas Road Sanitary Sewer Project

Material submitted at the November 17, 2015 Board Meeting

Linda Kraai, 3657 Kansas Road, Okemos; RE: Opposition to the sewer project on Kansas Road

Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road; RE: Additional petition signatures in support of Rezoning #15060

Treasurer Brixie 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 Clerk Dreyfus.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Bills

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 144,805.00
Public Works	\$ 14,745.95
Trust and Agency	\$ 30.00
Total Checks	\$ 159,580.95
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,971.45
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 166,552.40</u>

ACH Payments \$ 59,183.95

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

C. Disposal of Surplus Equipment

Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the Director of Information Technology to dispose of decommissioned computer equipment requested as follows:

- A. Two (2) Compac Proliant ML-370 servers purchased 2005
- B. Five (5) Compac Proliant ML-350 servers purchased 2003-2004
- C. One (1) Dell PowerEdge 1800 server purchased 2004
- D. Three (3) Dell PowerEdge 2650 servers purchased 2002
- E. One (1) Compac Proliant 7000 server purchased 1999
- F. One (1) Promise RM8000 Disk array purchased 2004
- G. One (1) Dell Prevision 370 workstation purchased 2005
- H. Twelve (12) Dell Optiplex 745 personal computers purchased 2003-2004
- I. Five (5) Dell Optiplex GX 270 personal computers purchased 2002
- J. Three (3) CF-18 Panasonic Toughbook laptop computers purchased 2002
- K. One (1) Dell Optiplex GX 260 personal computer purchased 2001
- L. Four (4) HP VL 420 Personal computers purchased 2001
- M. Five (5) 17" Cathode Ray Tube PC SVGA monitors purchased 2000-2002

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Ernie Shafter, Campus Village Communities, 919 W. University, Suite 700, Rochester, reported findings on the site known as The Square which was previously approved by the Board. He noted poor soils, buried concrete and other issues were discovered on site. Mr. Schafer requested the Board schedule a public hearing and "special meeting vote" as his company would like to close and purchase this property prior to the end of the year. He added brief testimony will be given at the hearing by Eric Helzer from Advanced Redevelopment Solutions on conditions of the site as well as brownfield information.

Bob Pena, 2100 Vine Street, Lansing, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060 which would allow Mr. McCurdy to keep pygmy goats on his property.

Eric Helzer, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions, PO Box 204, Eagle, gave a brief overview of the property known as The Square. He noted all three parcels have contamination on the site, subsurface fill and debris and, in its current state, the site is not buildable. He outlined several other known problems, including a landfill in one corner of the property.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced appreciation for placement of the Personnel Policy in the public packet, in support of Rezoning #15060 and in opposition to the brownfield for the development known as The Square, as he believed it a loss of tax dollars owed to the citizens of Meridian Township.

Ghulam Sumbal, 1998 Jolly Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Rezoning #15060, which would allow Mr. McCurdy to retain the pygmy goats on his property. He spoke in support of final adoption for his rezoning request, Rezoning #15030.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, continued to ask for a definition of an illegally controlled substance mentioned in the Personnel Policy. He spoke in opposition to the brownfield for the development known as The Square, characterizing it as a \$5 million "tax grab." Mr. Bowlby stated the Township should take the approximate \$300,000 from taxes and use it for solar energy array, which he believed would benefit the Township more than the aforementioned high density student apartment complex which will increase traffic on Grand River Avenue

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

A. Personnel Policy Manual – Final Document

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Personnel Policy final document dated November 24, 2015 as presented to the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Appreciation to all staff who diligently worked on this update
- Appreciation to staff for incorporating the values of the Board into all facets of the work produced
- Staff has incorporated the Board goal regarding the environment through direction for an energy efficient workplace
- Board member reminder the Personnel Policy is a living document, subject to revision and amendment in the future

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the Personnel Policy by deleting the phrase "or illegally controlled substance" at the top of page 15.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board member concern the second bullet point on Page 24 is an unworkable policy
- Second bullet point on Page 24 does not discourage individuals (citizens, developers, contractors, etc.) from speaking with employees in their work areas but controls who comes into Township offices
- Board member preference for smoking by employees to be banned on Township property
- Board member preference for qualified employees to be allowed to use medical marijuana currently prohibited as noted in the second paragraph on Page 14

Clerk Dreyfus offered the following amendment:

- **Amend the second bullet point on Page 24, by deleting "management" and inserting**

“staff”

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member concern another Board member is attempting to “wordsmith” this language into something that is not the interpretation of the personnel manual
- Staff does not have the authority to allow people “in and out” of Township offices
- Management will handle this issue with common sense
- The Personnel Policy is subject to discretion by management
- Strict interpretation of this language is not practical
- Board member belief the practical application would be a blanket management approval for allowing the public to enter the premises

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 2-4. (Trustees Styka, Scales, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie)

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board member’s previous suggestion to set up a schedule of reimbursements and amounts relative to employee travel and reimbursement instead of as an attachment (Page 24, subsection L) did not appear in the Board packet
- Staff obtained state reimbursements and amounts and is working to update the form used by the state for employee travel reimbursements and amounts to be attached to the personnel policy
- Board member request for paid maternity leave to be added to the Personnel Policy
- Public policy (e.g., maternity leave) should be separated from the personnel policy
- Board member belief paid maternity leave should be addressed during contract negotiations
- Appreciation to Director Marx for her diligence is updating a policy which was more than 20 years old
- Board member belief adoption of the Personnel Policy is setting public policy

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

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra

Motion carried 5-1.

B. Rezoning #15030 (Sumbal) – Final Adoption

Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2015-08 entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15030” from RR (Rural Residential) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition which would allow the property to revert to RR (Rural Residential) if the applicant was not successful in obtaining a variance to allow a shared driveway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief this rezoning solves a problem created by Township staff’s interpretation of Township ordinances

- Board member's opposition to the applicant's condition placed on the approval (reversion back to a RR zoning designation if the variance is not approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals)
- Future Land Use Map has this property zoned RA
- Variance for a shared driveway could cause problems in the future if the lot is split and the second parcel is sold
- Appreciation to staff for enforcing the Township's rules and regulations

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

C. Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy) – Introduction

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15060" from RAAA (Single Family- Low Density) to RR (Rural Residential).**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- RR is an appropriate zoning designation for this parcel as it is compatible with other zoning designations in the area
- Rezoning addresses a proven community need (the desire for rural character in this area of the Township)
- This Board action is a solution to the problem of goats on Mr. McCurdy's property
- Significant public support exists to allow the McCurdy's to keep the pygmy goats on their property
- Board member quote "government works best when those doing the governing are listening to those who are governed."

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

D. Sale of Township Property Adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby authorizes the Township Manager to proceed with an agreement to sell the 0.09 acre parcel adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive to Mr. Brian Fleming, subject to the following conditions:

1. The buyer is responsible for all closing, recording, and transfer fees.

Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board discussion:

- Property owner's only access to his home is across this Township owned "landlocked" parcel

Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:

- **Amend condition #1 by deleting the “and” before “transfer fees” and adding “and any other costs incurred by the Township including legal fees”**

Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Township attorney has reviewed the deed received from the state which contains specific language prohibiting inclusion of legal fees for this transaction

Trustee Styka withdrew his motion.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- E. The Square, 2655 Grand River Avenue – Brownfield (Set Public Hearing Date)
**Treasurer Brixie moved to hold a public hearing on the proposed brownfield plan for The Square on Grand River as an agenda item for the January 5, 2016 Board meeting.
Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Board discussion:

- Difficulty for the Board to call a special meeting on such a large issue around the winter holidays
- Board member confidence the seller will allow the buyer an extension on his option to purchase as there is considerable contamination on the property
- Adoption of a special meeting on December 17th would not have resulted in the proposed buyer meeting the seller’s deadline for sale by the end of the year as the Board would still have to adopt the plan at a subsequent meeting
- Board member opposition to “giving away” \$4.6 million of taxpayers money
- Board member inquiry if the Project Summary sheet in the packet was written by the applicant

The Chair ruled Trustee Veenstra out of order.

Clerk Dreyfus called the question.

VOICE VOTE: 5-1 (Trustee Veenstra)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-2.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Scott Fairmont, 4429 Apache Drive, Okemos, availed himself for questions on Rezoning #15040 when discussed by the Board.

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

- A. Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes)
Director Kieselbach summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 24, 2015.

Board, staff and developer discussion:

- Explanation of a community septic system
- Plan calls for a community septic system in the northeast corner of the property to be shared by all property owners contained in this proposal
- Inquiry as to how a community septic system would be maintained
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is the agency which would regulate the community septic system
- Developer comes to the Township and asks if the homeowners association cannot maintain the community septic system in the future, would the local unit of government "accept" it
- If the Township's response is no, the homeowners association submits a plan to the MDEQ for maintenance of the system in the future
- Board member inquiry if there is a regular inspection maintenance schedule for a community septic system and who oversees that schedule
- MDEQ, as the regulatory agency, has reporting requirements
- Board member request for more information
- MDEQ has a specific program for community septic systems
- Developer must hire a certified engineer, establish a five (5) year plan, and place three (3) years' worth of maintenance into an escrow fund
- The homeowners association must submit an annual plan which is reviewed by the MDEQ
- Northeast corner has fine sand which will absorb the liquid
- MDEQ requires maintenance of financial assurance
- Condition makes the rezoning request consistent with the Future Lane Use Map
- Board member suggestion to look at the sewer map and contemplate public sewer for the site
- Area is outside of the proposed urban services management area (USMA)
- Courts have affirmed the MDEQ cannot compel a local unit of government to maintain a community septic system
- 17 homes could be placed on the site by right with RR zoning, subject to the established Township process
- Board member inquiry if the RAA zoning designation impacts the greenspace priority corridor
- Unruh Drain has an easement across it so the developer could not plat into the drain easement
- A planned unit development requires 50% of the developable land to be set aside as open space
- Board member preference to have the 25 homes clustered, which would allow for more preservation of land with the possibility of no impact to the priority corridor
- Intent by the developer to have a minimum lot width of 100 feet as a result of public interest
- RR zoning requires 200 feet of frontage and would result in wetlands within the lots
- Intent by the developer for the wetlands to remain intact with homeowner association ownership to preserve the wetlands
- Concern with homeowner ownership of wetlands
- Size of lots in Ember Oaks (a PRD with RAAA zoning) are 100 feet in width and 20,000 square feet in area
- Purview of the Board whether to adopt a policy to not accept responsibility in the event of failure of a community septic system

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

- B. Essential Wetland Determination - Sierra Ridge Subdivision
Director Kieselbach summarized the essential wetland determination for Sierra Ridge, Phase III, Lots 62-64 as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 20, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Township's wetland consultant has indicated this wetland is not essential
- Storm drainage will be looked at when plans for the pathway are submitted
- Board member inquiry if the wetland will be filled in order to construct the pathway
- Desire for safe passage by pedestrians and bicyclists while protecting wetlands
- Board member deference to the paid wetland consultant's opinion
- Design and construction of the pathway is subject to approval of the Engineering Department

- Board member opinion the entire wetland will not be filled in order to allow water to flow from east to west to maintain the health of the larger wetland across Newton Road
- Statement by the developer that it is in his best interest to ensure water moves off the site onto the larger wetland to the west
- Applicant's promise to work with the Board to help maintain the health of the larger wetland across Newton Road
- Property owners will own all the way to the right-of-way
- Wetland does not meet any of the ten (10) listed criteria for an essential wetland

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

C. Proposed Mobile Food Units Ordinance

Director Kieselbach summarized the mobile food units issue as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 23, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- No good way to apportion a fee which simulates a brick and mortar operation
- Concern with hours since this is an "outside" business with customers outside near a residential use
- Board member preference to adjust the hours from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM to protect nearby residents
- Board member inquiry as to the vendor fee for the Farmers Market
- Farmers Market charges a fee to its vendors
- Board member preference to keep the hours as written (6:00 AM until midnight) and then revisit the hours if a problem arises
- Board member consensus to limit the hours from 6:00AM until 11:00 PM

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

D. Zoning Amendment #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 24, 2015.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board agreement to bring the Township into compliance with state law
- Planning Commission discussed placing a map into the ordinance regarding site locations in the future
- Language in Section 86-438 (a) (1) c was language recommended by the Township attorney which the Planning Commission did not feel necessary to include
- Board has the option to insert the language recommended by the Township attorney
- Allowing wireless communication facilities in residential areas is currently in the ordinance
- Zoning amendment brings the township in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act of 2012
- Colocation is allowed by right under this amendment
- Timing of colocation approval once the application is deemed complete to comply with the state law
- Planning Commission intention to review the township's wireless communication ordinance in the future
- Board consensus to add language in Section 86-438 (a) (1) c as recommended by the Township attorney

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 8, 2015 Board meeting.

E. 2016 Township Health Care Plan

Director Marx summarized the challenge of providing consistent health care coverage for 2016.

Justin Spewak from Ballard Benefit Works, Inc. provided a Powerpoint presentation on comparisons between the cost of the Township renewing its current employee health care plan to the cost of self-funding the plan in order to provide the same benefits and Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions to employees as in 2015.

Board and presenter discussion:

- If there are no catastrophic claims, the costs for self-funding will be lower than the projected \$1,514,070
- Mr. Spewak has not had a client hit the aggregate in his 20 year career
- With self-funding, clients with catastrophic claims have the majority of the cost go to the stop loss pool and experience average or flat renewals
- Township Board has the right, on an annual basis, to review health care and stay with the hard cap or go with the 80-20, where the Township pays 80% of the premium and the employee pays the remaining 20%
- The proposed self-funded plan comes in under the hard cap
- Employee compliance with the hard cap by moving to a high deductible plan which allowed for significant savings
- Township was able to contribute money (Health Savings Account) to help employees with their high deductible and still stay under the hard cap
- Self-funding, through stop loss insurance, does not significantly increase the financial risk
- No need for added Board involvement as \$35,000 is not a significant additional monetary risk
- Risk award ratio is excellent as there are potential significant gains which can be captured
- A properly structured stop loss limits the risk by individuals to a family total of \$35,000 instead of \$35,000 for each family member through a private insurer
- Board member inquiry as to the challenges of a self-funded health program
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) is unique in that it owns its stop loss pool which is community rated and funds its self-funded product by running the stop loss product across its entire product line
- Downside of self-insurance is improper budgeting
- Ballard Benefit Works considers BCBSM the vendor of choice for self-funding
- "Tipping point" would be if BCBSM changed the underwriting methodology on its stop loss pool from community rating to experience rating
- Change did not occur when BCBSM went from a public entity to a mutual fund
- "Specialty prescriptions" (new drugs) have greatly impacted the cost of prescription coverage
- Presenter belief this product is the best performing product in the industry today
- Proposed product does not limit employee or retiree access to health care

Trustee Scales moved that the Board authorize the Manager to move forward with health care that is self-insured. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board and staff discussion:

- Bringing the issue to the Board provides outside oversight
- This process makes the issue transparent
- Self-insured and self-funded are interchangeable terms
- Two of the three staff people involved in assessing health care do not take the Township's health insurance
- Board member declaration of her intent to abstain from voting
- Board member reminder that the Board must approve any member's abstention from voting
- Employee healthcare costs were budgeted by the Board and it is a function of management to sign the healthcare contract

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, offered history on public access to federal employees. He indicated when he visits Township offices, he stands at the counter to conduct business unless invited by staff to enter specific work areas. He addressed the fact there is no seating allowed for mobile food units, specifically focusing on pedestrians and bicyclists.

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka announced Supervisor LeGoff has made her recommendations for the 2016 Board and Commissions appointments and the list will be contained in the December 8, 2015 packet for Board action.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Pro Tem Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:14 P.M.

TRUSTEE STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR PRO TEM

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary

9B (3)

PROPOSED BOARD MINUTES

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted.

ALTERNATE MOTION:

Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting with the following amendment(s): [insert amendments].

**JANUARY 5, 2016
REGULAR MEETING**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - DRAFT -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Associate Planner Peter Menser

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor LeGoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Rotary Presentation – Community Room at the Central Fire Station

Carrie Hindmon, President, Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club, PO Box 133, Okemos presented Chief Cowper with a check for \$5,000, half of the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Foundation's commitment of \$10,000 towards the central fire station community room. Chief Cowper graciously accepted the check, voicing his appreciation of the funds towards a room which will serve residents of Meridian Township for many years to come.

Zach Krieger and Tiffany Dowling, M3Group, 614 Seymour Ave, Lansing, offered history on the M3 Group. Ms. Dowling noted M3 Group is a full service branding agency, adding she is also a publisher for three (3) mid-Michigan magazines. She defined branding as the Township's promise to who it is serving, what it stands for and the residents' perceptions of the Township. Ms. Dowling characterized the first part of the process as a lengthy information gathering phase, speaking with stakeholder groups and making telephone calls. She indicated the second phase is to create messaging as there is likely a "gap" between where the Township is today and where it wants to be, adding visuals will help bridge that gap. Ms. Dowling noted the last step is the refinement process, ensuring all supporting materials fulfill the brand piece.

Board and presenter discussion:

- Branding is important because it is about how the Township projects itself to the community
- M3Group believes there may be a disconnect between what the community perceives the Township does and what the Township would like residents to perceive
- Branding will help figure out how the Township can be more relevant to the stakeholder groups

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Larry Bryan, KEBS, Inc., 2116 Haslett Road, Haslett, availed himself for Board questions on the Final Plat for Georgetown No. 3.

Dan Opsommer, 1804 Sherbrook Way, Haslett, expressed appreciation for Supervisor LeGoff's recommendation of his appointment to the Planning Commission. He requested Board support for his appointment. He offered family history and employment background information.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, addressed the issue of firearms used in workplace homicides. He offered information on workplace safety and spoke to the fact there is no ban on bringing weapons to the workplace in the new personnel policy. Mr. Bowlby spoke to Township installation of solar arrays on Township buildings as a form of return on investments.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, requested the Ingham County Drain Commissioner meeting of December 15th at 6:30 PM regarding the Smith Drain Drainage District be placed on the calendar located on the homepage of the Township's website.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Results of the 2015 Citizen Survey are in and will be presented to the Board three (3) weeks in advance of the next Board meeting
- Work on the sidewalk in front of Aldi will take place in the Spring due to the nature of the problem with Aldi bearing all the cost of the work
- Anticipated move in date for the new fire station is December 24th with fire department setup on approximately January 15th
- Central Fire Station ribbon cutting to take place February 1st
- Meeting with Mayor Meadows and Manager Lahanas from the City of East Lansing on Friday to discuss mutual issues

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance last week, along with Deputy Clerk Horvath, at the Train the Trainer sessions mandated by the state's Bureau of Elections. He noted the goals of this session are to stay up to date on changes in election law and receive tips, ideas and suggestions on how to train Meridian Township's 150+ election inspectors. Clerk Dreyfus announced the first election of 2016 will be both a Republican and a Democratic Presidential Primary, held on March 8th. He reported his attendance at the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting last Thursday as the Township Board representative where discussion took place on the following issues:

- Expansion of outreach efforts to potential new businesses
- Welcome packets and brochures for specified groups
- Expansion of Celebrate Okemos to a community wide event
- Use of unexpended Meridian Area Resource Center (MARC) funds
- Food truck ordinance

Treasurer Brixie reported that as the treasurer to the EDC, she attended the most recent meeting where members are beginning the EDC's budget process. She reported that as the Board's Land Preservation representative, she attended a site visit for possible land acquisition. She noted her attendance at the 35th anniversary of HOM-TV Annual Awards Banquet last night, along with Trustee Scales, where interns were honored for contributing over 10,000 hours of service to Meridian Township this year.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance, as the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) representative, at the most recent EDC meeting, where she gave her LEAP report. She reminded Board members she had forwarded her LEAP report to each of them last week.

Trustee Styka reported the Cable Communications Commission met last week and discussed a possible name change in the near future, as it addresses broader issues than just cable companies.

Trustee Scales reported information was received from Consumers that the streetlight at Marsh and Tihart Roads is scheduled to be installed on December 18th.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Styka moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Trustee Wilson requested Agenda Item #9B (2) (November 17, 2015 Minutes) be moved to Action Item #12K.

Board discussion regarding the 2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule:

- Concern regarding the definition of "Anniversary Date" with respect to salary increases, particularly when the Anniversary Date falls close to the schedule annual step increase
- Board member belief the Township's definition of anniversary date being the date an employee is hired by the Township is not appropriate when the employee is promoted to a new position
- The date the employee assumes a new position should become the new anniversary date
- The State of Michigan does not follow this Township personnel procedure
- Board member assertion that large salary increases have occurred in the past due to this inappropriate definition, and occurs again several times in 2016
- One position goes from approximately \$45,000 to \$48,000 per year as of January 1st due to a step increase, and then increases again to \$51,000 within 30 days due to the definition of anniversary date
- Another position goes from approximately \$83,000 to \$86,000 on January 1st due to the step increase, and then increases to over \$89,000 per year in less than four (4) months
- Board member concern these anniversary date salary increases are not a wise use of Township funds

Trustee Veenstra requested Agenda Item #9F (2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule) be moved to Action Item #12L.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

Trustee Styka 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 Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

(1) Trustee Styka moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 16, 2015 Special Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor
LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

~~(2) moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by~~

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 437,942.22
Public Works	\$ 320,384.83
Total Checks	\$ 758,327.05
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 3,356.82
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 761,683.87</u>

ACH Payments \$ 495,817.21

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

D. Ratification of Police Officer Appointment

Trustee Styka moved to ratify the appointment of Daniel King to the position of police officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment

Trustee Styka moved to ratify the appointment of Bryant Zamensky to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

~~F. 2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule~~

G. Resolution for Charitable Gaming License – Listen & Believe Charitable Fund

Trustee Styka moved that the request from Listen & Believe Charitable Fund of Haslett, requesting they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a gaming license or registration be approved. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Dan Lee, 5445 Okemos Rd, East Lansing, spoke in opposition to Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy). Mr. Lee lives across the street and south of the McCurdy property. He stated he contacted several neighbors and they knew nothing about the rezoning issue until the sign went up. He said he "guessed" the letters supporting the rezoning are not from the surrounding area, particularly the Keystone Subdivision. Mr. Lee questioned if comments made by the applicant referring to "bigger and better things" might mean cows, crops or tractors on the property. He felt the subject property, as well as the land to the north of his property, should be "cleaned up." Mr. Lee expressed concerns about property values and additional rezoning requests due to this potential rezoning.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, voiced his disappointment that current Planning Commissioner Tom Deits was not recommended for reappointment to the Planning Commission. He spoke to Commissioner Deits' extensive experience and planning knowledge and urged the Board to reappoint Mr. Deits in opposition to the Supervisor's recommendation. He maintained the Board has opposed Supervisor nominations in the past, and that reappointing Mr. Deits is in the best interest of the Township.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Daniels Drain

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan, as follows:

- 1. The Township Board tentatively designates the properties more particularly described in the attached property description as a special assessment district against which all or a part of the cost of said public improvements is to be assessed by special assessment, fee, or charge whether pursuant to the Drain Code of 1956, as amended, or the Public Improvement Act, Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan 1956, as amended.**
- 2. The Township Board shall conduct a public hearing at the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, on the 26th day of January, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., local time, for the purpose of discussing the proposed drain project, to hear objections to the proposed special assessment district, to review the estimated cost of the proposed project, and to address the special assessments, fees, or charges, and to hear objections thereto. Alternative plans of financing the proposed project will also be on the meeting agenda as part of the public hearing. Notice of the public hearing shall be provided by first class mail and by publication as required by the Drain Code, Act 188, and other applicable laws.**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering summarized the need for the public hearing as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 4, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Legal description has changed and the new Exhibit A is the correct one
- Board member concern the assessments in the subdivisions not be too high
- Board member belief the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and The Ponds should bear the major share of the cost as they are the primary beneficiaries

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Budget Amendments

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the 2015 End of Year Budget Amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$61,000 which projects a use of fund balance of \$1,058,911. Based on audited 2014 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2015 will be \$6,054,119. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka summarized the 2015 end of the year budget amendment request as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 3, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Board member concern with the state revenue sharing reduction of \$200,000 in the middle of the year
- Fluctuation was based on projected revenue from the state sales tax collection

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Rezoning #15060 (McCurdy) – Final Adoption

Trustee Scales moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2015-09, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15060” from RAAA (Single Family- Low Density) to RR (Rural Residential).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

Board discussion:

- Board member statement 100 people have expressed to the Board support for the goats
- Applicant has paid the proper rezoning request fee
- Under the RR zoning designation, there is no limit on the number of goats and chickens, but horses, cattle, sheep and pigs are limited by number (a total of 4 potential livestock; i.e., combination of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs)
- Applicant does not have ten (10) acres on this parcel, so does not qualify as a commercial farming operation
- Board member inquiry if there is a special use permit (SUP) process needed for a commercial goat operation
- Once it becomes a commercial operation, it falls under the Right to Farm Act and is a use by right
- Board member preference for retention of the goats to have been handled in a different manner which did not require rezoning to RR

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes) – Introduction

Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15040” from RR (Rural Residential) and CR (Commercial Recreation) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Board member preference for a map to be placed on the overhead for the public to have better comprehension where the property is located
- Board member preference for the pathway to the subdivision west of Powell Road to be installed by the applicant
- Developer is proposing to keep the wetlands by developing a small number of homes on one (1) acre lots
- Map was included in the Board packet when this item was on for discussion
- Developer has been recognized as an environmentally award winning builder and is known for his innovative development in the past
- Board member preference for the property to retain its RR zoning designation and build 17 homes, while allowing for wetland protection, rather than 25 homes under RAA zoning
- Area borders the rural third of the Township

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 6-1.

E. Essential Wetland Determination - Sierra Ridge Subdivision

Clerk Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, pursuant to Section 22-156 of the Township Code of Ordinances, hereby identifies Township Wetland #4-46, located along and east of Newton Road and north of the Lake Lansing Road as non-essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Charter Township of Meridian. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Subject wetland does not meet any of the ten (10) criteria listed
- Board member belief the subject wetland has no value
- A larger wetland exists on the west side of the road which would be more than sufficient for the purposes of drainage

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

F. Proposed Mobile Food Units Ordinance – Introduction

Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____ entitled "Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article IV, by amending Division 1, Section 38-121; Division 2, Section 38-151; and by adding Division 3, Section 38-165 through Section 38-180."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it was introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Mobile food units are an item not currently covered in the code of ordinances
- Attorney recommendations clarify some language as outlined in the updated staff memorandum dated December 8, 2015
- Most recent version included Board requested change in hours of operation from 6:00 AM until 11:00 PM
- Prohibition of outdoor seating in Section 38-177, subsection 4 makes it difficult for patrons to eat at the site of the mobile food unit location
- Concern with competition for parking spaces with brick and mortar businesses
- Mobile food units are leasing space and should be allowed to offer seating if the property owner chooses to permit seating or tables
- Mobile food units are located in a parking lot only through permission by the property owner

Trustee Veenstra moved to delete Section 38-177 (4) which reads:

- "Outdoor seating, including but not limited to table, chairs, booths, stools, benches, or stand up counter, shall not be permitted."

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Planning staff will make the determination on the amount of allowed seating based on available space
- Staff preference not to remove subsection 4 without standards being established
- Inclusion of the prohibition is restrictive

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Brixie

Motion carried 5-2.

Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment:

- Create Section 38-177 (4) to read: Outdoor seating, including but not limited to tables, chairs, booths, stools, benches, or standup counters may be permitted with the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development."

Trustee Scales offered the following friendly amendment:

- Amend proposed Section 38-177 (4) by deleting the word "may" and inserting the word "shall"

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie

Motion failed 3-4.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief including the various types of outdoor seating is unnecessary
- Staff language was all encompassing to avoid an argument of what constitutes outdoor seating
- Seating issue is in the vending ordinance and the vendor would be responsible for any violations by patrons
- Concern that the vendor would be responsible for policing the parking lot for any potential seating violations by patrons if the Director of Community Planning and Development said no to outdoor seating
- Board member concern there is a violation of due process to hold the vendor accountable for actions by its customers
- Township will manage this issue with “common sense”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Scales
Motion carried 6-1.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend Section 38-177 (5) by deleting the word “flags”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board and staff discussion:

- Concern with interpretation of the language contained in subsection 5 which would prohibit a US flag on the site where the mobile food vending unit is parked
- Inclusion of all types of flags is related to the mobile food unit
- Board member belief subsection 5 deals with advertising, and the insertion of that word after “No” at the beginning of this subsection would solve the problem

Trustee Veenstra revised his amendment to read:

- **Amend Section 38-177 (5) by inserting “advertising” after the word “no” and deleting the word “flags”**

The revised amendment died for lack of a second.

Continued Board discussion

- Need to urge caution with legislating “at the table” as language does matter
- Board member suggestion to table this ordinance and apprise the Director of Community Planning and Development of each Board member’s concerns
- Intent of this subsection is to avoid “blinking lights and strobe lights”
- Suggestion by the Township Manager for two Board members to sit down with the Director of Community Planning and Development to work out the issues and bring this ordinance back to the Board in January
- Board member belief there is no need for a committee and this should be voted upon tonight in order to move forward

Trustee Scales moved to table. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra
NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 2-5.

Continued Board discussion:

- A committee is unnecessary and this matter should be voted upon tonight

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra
NAYS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 2-5.

**Treasurer Brixie offered the following amendment:
Amend Section 38-177 (5) after “parked” by inserting “, unless expressly allowed
elsewhere in the ordinances.”**

Board discussion:

- Amendment provides a reasonable balance
- Concern language still prohibits banners, flags etc. on the truck or site where the mobile food unit is parked
- Staff interpretation that the prohibition on flags on the truck or adjacent on the property that are put up by the vendor
- Staff interpretation would not take away the zoning right of the property owner to have a flag on the owner’s site
- Board member belief the Board frequently legislates “from the table” at its meetings
- While in agreement with the intent of not having excessive strobe lights, blinking lights, etc., current language is much more restrictive
- Board member suggestion to add language to subsection (5) which refers directly to the mobile food vending unit

Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:

- Amend Section 38-177 (5) by inserting “portion of the” after “or on the”

The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker.

Continued Board discussion:

- Amendment, as drafted, still prohibits a food truck which serves Mexican food from flying a Mexican flag

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie,
Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Veenstra
Motion carried 5-2.

Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:

- Amend Section 38-168 to insert “CR (Commercial Recreation)” after “C-3 (Commercial)”

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member concern the ten (10) foot setback minimum from any right-of-way line is overly restrictive

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
MOTION: NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- G. Zoning Amendment #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication – **Introduction**
Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**, hereby **INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. _____**, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, DIVISION 4, by amending Section 86-2 Definitions and Section 86-438 through Section 86-438(f) Wireless Communications Facilities Overlay District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Planning Commission is working on further amendments to the Wireless Communication ordinance
- Proposed changes to the ordinance are to comply with existing state law

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- H. Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)
Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN** shall hold a public hearing to discuss the creation of a CIA at its meeting on January 26, 2016. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Letter of encouragement from LEAP about the creation of a CIA in Meridian Township
- Board member preference for the subsequent resolution of approval to contain language that a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District will not be created
- Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) letter objected to residential areas at the east end along Grand River Avenue being included in the CIA boundary
- Setting the public hearing does not preclude changes to the boundary

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 6-1.

- I. Final Plat – Georgetown No. 3
Trustee Styka moved [and read into the record] **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN** approves the Final Plat of Georgetown No. 3. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board discussion:

- Reapproval keeps Georgetown No. 3 “alive”
- Board member concern the pathway easement is not shown on the plat
- Board member belief the developer should pay for the cost of paving the pathway
- Easement documents have already been received from the developer
- State Plat Act prevents this type of easement from being placed on the plat
- Several areas on the maps are labeled as parks and will be used for stormwater detention as most of them are wetland areas

- Wetlands will not be cleared but remain in their natural state
- Planned Residential Development (PRD) requires 20% of the developable area to be left as open space

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 6-1.

J. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Supervisor's list of appointments to Boards and Commissions as follows:

PUBLIC BODY	POSITION	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	EXPIRES
Building Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Potterpin	Peter		12/31/2018
Building Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Wallin	Charles	C	12/31/2018
Building Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2018
Board of Review (2 year term)		Galbraith	Diane		12/31/2017
Cable Communications Commission (3 year term)		Lathrop	Andrew		12/31/2018
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Brouse	Suzanne	H	12/31/2017
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Friedland	Arlene	L	12/31/2017
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Langhals	Kathleen		12/31/2017
Community Resources Commission (2 year term)		Lincoln	Katherine	N	12/31/2017
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Spanos	James		12/31/2019
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Weaver	Scott		12/31/2019
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2017
Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2017

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Authority (4 year term) Downtown Development Authority (4 year term) Downtown Development Authority (4 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2019
		Vacant			12/31/2019
Economic Development Corporation (6 year term)		Barr	Malinda		12/31/2021
Economic Development Corporation (6 year term)		Walsh	Frank	L	12/31/2021
Environmental Commission (3 year term)		Dickman	Donald		12/31/2018
Environmental Commission (3 year term)		Vacant			12/31/2018
Land Preservation Advisory Board (4 year term)		Harmes	Roland		12/31/2019
Land Preservation Advisory Board (4 year term)		Mayes	Jon	E	12/31/2019
Land Preservation Advisory Board (4 year term)		Lee	Yuman		12/31/2019
Local Officials Compensation Commission (5 year term)		Holda	Amy		12/31/2020
Pension Trustees (3 year term)	Ex Officio	Brixie	Julie		11/20/2018
Pension Trustees (3 year term)	Employee Rep.	Keiselbach	Mark		12/31/2018
Planning Commission (3 year term)		Ianni	Dante		12/31/2018
Planning Commission (3 year term)		Jackson	Patricia		12/31/2018
Planning Commission (3 year term)		Opsommer	Daniel		12/31/2018
Zoning Board of Appeals (3 year term)		Ohlrogge	Carol		12/31/2018

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- The Board cannot perform all of the work of the Township it is statutorily required to do without the help of residents in the Township who volunteer to serve on various Boards and Commissions
- Inquiry as to why Commissioner Deits was not reappointed to the Planning Commission
- Supervisor's rationale given was that Commissioner Deits missed approximately one-third of Planning Commission meetings
- Commissioner Deits frequently makes amendments to motions for purposes of clarity
- Commissioner Deits is an articulate individual with great institutional knowledge on planning issues
- Richard Searls requested not to be reappointed to the Environmental Commission
- Board member concern there are four (4) vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

K. November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Wilson moved to have the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting come back to the Board at the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2016 amending the public comment of Mr. Tim McCarthy that reflects what he said during public comments. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Importance of having the minutes reflect what the public is saying to the Board which then becomes public record once adopted
- Board member belief the minutes sum up Mr. McCarthy's statement
- Mr. McCarthy's comments were critical of specific Board members which were not reflected in the minutes
- All Board member are treated equally with respect to praise or criticism
- Some of Mr. McCarthy's statements were not specific and difficult to discern
- Comments critical of Board members or Township staff are usually edited for clarity and to avoid unnecessary personal attacks
- Reminder that minutes are not a transcript of Board meetings, but a record of Board action
- Board member preference for Mr. McCarthy to come back to the Board at its next meeting if he feels the minutes do not adequately express his point of view
- Need for consistency when Board members are named by the public
- Mr. McCarthy also encouraged the public to come to Board meetings and/or watch Board meetings and that should be included in the minutes
- Board member preference for a policy to decide whether Board member names will be mentioned or excluded from the minutes
- Under state statute, minutes are under the authority of the Clerk to produce and disseminate

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

L. 2016 Proposed Non-Union Wage Schedule

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the 2016 non-union wage schedule, with a 1% wage adjustment as presented. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief Township personnel have the right to have their personnel issues discussed in closed session
- Suggestion for no names to be mentioned to alleviate concern
- No promotions are contained in the proposed salaries for non-union employees

- Township Manager stated the 2015 reorganization, which included the reduction of three (3) positions down to two (2) (with improved customer service) resulted in an annual savings of \$109,000
- Reorganization resulted in the reduction of two (2) vehicles from the Township's fleet
- Township Manager statement that eight years of this reorganization will result in a \$1 million savings
- Board member suggestion that the aforementioned savings can be doubled by using it to pay down on the pension obligation over an eight year period

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, voiced support for the 2016 Goals Document, but believed the completed and ongoing heading could be improved by separating them out from one another and include a percentage of completion for the ongoing items.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, believed some of the confusion in the 2016 Goals Document is due to the Board's request for one single document which would summarize what was accomplished in 2015. He outlined his interpretation of the timeline laid out by the Township Manager at a previous meeting. Mr. Bowlby believed it was the Board's intention to take the list of 150 goals provided tonight and pare out the pieces which aren't a board goal (e.g., maintaining the sewer system to prevent backup). He noted several goals suggested by various Board members at the last meeting (e.g., smoking ban in the common areas of private facilities, electrical charging stations in Township parks, form based code, etc.) were not included. Mr. Bowlby suggested getting rid of items imminently done, take out the fluff, and define the major items to be completed this year, placing them in order of priority.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. 2016 Goals Document

Board discussion:

- Agreement with the public to separate out the completed and ongoing goals and provide a percentage of completion to the ongoing items
- Agreement with the public that some items on the list are unnecessary because they are not Board goals
- Board member preference for the grandfathering not to expire in three (3) months as it is too short relative to homes
- Amend Goal # 5 (y) to remove the word woefully
- Amend Goal #5 aa to read: Seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs as the current language is more of an accomplishment than a goal
- Appreciation to the Manager and his team as the document captured the vision of seven (7) Board members
- Board member preference to create two (2) documents out of this document; one of which is a strategic plan (long-range goals) and the other is an action plan (short-term goals)
- Board member preference to "not throw the baby out with the bath water"
- Need to include management team's order of prioritization
- Some items have been completed in 2015 (e.g., provide public safety services to Alaiedon and Williamstown Townships) but will continue on an ongoing basis until decided otherwise
- Board member suggestion for a change of prioritization in Goal #9 relative to (n): Provide focused oversight of all vacant homes
- Requested clarification from the Manager as to the difference between the action plan and the rest of the document

- Manager's belief the 2016 goals document is as much a document for the entire community as it is for the Board
- Action plan are the top ten (10) items of importance
- Township Manager's view that the nine (9) listed goals are the Board's strategic plan
- Board member suggestion to not include #10 on the 2016 Action Plan list as it is not realistic to review all aspects of our planning and development ordinances, especially those relative to the mixed use planned unit development (MUPUD)
- Board member preference to bring "Provide focused oversight of all vacant homes" up to the 2016 Action Plan page
- Board member preference to change Action Plan #10 to Review of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD)
- Board member clarification Township ordinances deal with the consequences of vacant homes
- Board member preference that staff resources not be expended to deal with the private sector issue of oversight of vacant homes; problems with vacant homes can be addressed through nuisance provisions in Township ordinances
- Board member appreciation the management team made good choices in the items listed on the action plan
- Change #2 on the 2016 Action Plan from "...finalizing the 2010 Master Plan" to "...updating the 2005 Master Plan"
- Board member preference to change Goal #4 (dd) from "Review the Redi-Ride public transportation system" to "Improve the Redi-Ride public transportation system"
- Acknowledgment that the majority of Board members are removing items off the list
- Board member belief #10 on the Action Plan should be removed and placed in the Strategic Plan; change the language as previously mentioned
- Manager's suggestion to file this document "as is" and "redo" another one
- Previous suggestion by Mr. Provencher to provide columns was implemented in this document
- Manager's request for Board members to submit their written items which were not included in this rendition of the document so they can be incorporated when the document is next discussed at the January 5, 2016 Board meeting
- Major upgrades to the City of East Lansing's wastewater treatment plant should be included as an item in the 2016 Action Plan
- Board member preference to retain the review of the MUPUD on the action plan as the Board encourages development of MUPUDs when it is not an appropriate situation to do so
- Grandfathering issue previously mentioned deals with the non-conforming use of the property, not the structure

It was the consensus of the Board to have the Township Manager move forward as directed during discussion of this item.

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, suggested the Township Manager remove the language highlighted in red and post the document titled "2016 Goals Document", renaming it the 2015 Plan. He further suggested changing the "2015" to "2016", eliminate what has already been accomplished, reinsert the language in red and post this document to the website. Mr. Bowlby believed his suggestion will eliminate any confusion.

Mr. Bowlby reminded Board members that at the last meeting, Trustee Scales read the title of Goal #2 as "Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance public health, safety and welfare" and that change needs to be made. He stated Trustee Scales read in Goal #6 as "Meridian Township shall promote and enhance diversity across the Township" which was not reflected in this most current edition of the 2016 Goals Document. Mr. Bowlby noted no Board member commented on weapons and firearms in the workplace. He commended Trustee Styka for the manner in which he ran the Board meetings as Supervisor Pro Tem, adding he would do an excellent job as Supervisor.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed concern overregulation relative to the mobile food units defeats the purpose of placemaking and enhancing the community. He voiced apprehension with leaving action to the discretion of staff relative to outdoor seating.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Veenstra agreed with Mr. Provencher it is important to make the mobile food unit ordinance attractive to vendors and should not be overly restrictive.

Trustee Scales urged residents to join him for lunch at Asian Buffet on Thursday, December 10th, where the proprietor will donate 15% of profits on that day to the Meridian Cares Program.

Trustee Wilson pointed out new artwork by Cornell Elementary School students (K-4th grade) was placed in the Town Hall.

Treasurer Brixie voiced appreciation to Rotary District 6364 for awarding a grant to the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club in the amount of \$2,150, adding this amount was matched to provide the Township with the \$5,000 check presented this evening. She welcomed the newest Planning Commissioner, Dan Opsommer. Treasurer Brixie thanked prior and current residents for their service on the Township's various Boards and Commissions.

Trustee Styka wished everyone Happy Holidays.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:29 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary

**Charter Township of Meridian
Board Meeting
1/5/16**

GGOM/can

**MOVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE MANAGER'S
BILLS AS FOLLOWS:**

COMMON CASH	\$ 500,454.87
PUBLIC WORKS	14,455.22
TRUST & AGENCY	1,652,810.41
TOTAL CHECKS:	\$ 2,167,720.50
CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS	31,858.13
TOTAL PURCHASES:	<u>\$ 2,199,578.63</u>
ACH PAYMENTS	<u>\$ 844,393.20</u>

**Attachment:
Copy of Petty Cash Transactions**

Included in total of Common Cash

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 EXP CHECK RUN DATES 01/05/2016 - 01/05/2016
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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. 4ALLPROMOTIONS	CARABINER KEY RINGS - 500 QUANTITY	321.00	
	POLICE DEPT. HALLOWEEN BAGS	261.61	
	TOTAL	582.61	
2. 4IMPRINT	CERAMIC MUGS - 144 QUANTITY	443.52	
3. A C & E RENTALS INC	RENTAL OF AIR COMPRESSOR	95.00	
4. ABSOLUTE SALES INTERNATIONALL	INSTALLATION OF NEW CAMERA SYSTEM	4,150.00	
5. ADAM STEBBINS	REIMB MILEAGE OCT TO NOV 2015	231.15	
6. ADORAMA	PANASONIC CAMCORDERS	131.59	
	PANASONIC CAMCORDERS	131.59	
	TOTAL	263.18	
7. AIRGAS GREAT LAKES	STANDING PO - MEDICAL OXYGEN	80.72	
	STANDING PO - MEDICAL OXYGEN	64.40	
	STANDING PO - MEDICAL OXYGEN	260.10	
	MEDICAL OXYGEN	269.20	
	TOTAL	674.42	
8. ALLGRAPHICS CORP	JERSEYS FOR OKEMOS, HASLETT AND WILLIAMSTON	740.00	
	JERSEY - WILLIAMSTON	841.00	
	JERSEYS FOR OKEMOS, HASLETT AND WILLIAMSTON	3,800.00	
	JERSEY - SCREEN SET UP CHARGE	25.00	
	JERSEYS FOR OKEMOS, HASLETT AND WILLIAMSTON	1,984.00	
	JERSEY - SCREEN SET UP CHARGE	25.00	
	TOTAL	7,415.00	
9. APEX SOFTWARE	SUPPORT FOR APEX DRAW SOFTWARE	1,435.00	
10. ASAP PRINTING	FORMS AND PAMPHLET PRINTING	145.50	
11. AT & T	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	74.97	91225
	LONG DISTANCE CHARGES	39.83	
	TOTAL	114.80	
12. AT&T	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	74.68	91226
	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	85.72	91226
	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	110.01	91226
	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	83.97	91226
	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	2,250.49	91226
	SERVICE FOR DEC 2015	2,406.49	91226
	TOTAL	5,011.36	
13. AT&T MOBILITY	WIRELESS 11/5 TO 12/4	52.23	91227

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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
14. AUTO VALUE OF EAST LANSING			
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	179.22	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	213.22	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	39.21	
	SUPPLIES - AUTO	37.08	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	(13.29)	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	12.49	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	28.47	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	12.69	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	6.38	
	OPEN PO REPAIR PARTS 2015	28.66	
	TOTAL	544.13	
15. AVALON TECHNOLOGIES INC	ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR SOFTWARE	2,400.00	
16. BANNASCH WELDING INC			
	PLOW REPAIR PARTS/WELDING	80.61	
	MT TRACKLESS PLOW REPAIR	322.41	
	ADDITIONAL TO PO#51888 & 51971	90.13	
	TOTAL	493.15	
17. BARYAMES CLEANERS			
	UNIFORM CLEANING EXPENSE	518.40	
	STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM CLEANING	163.45	
	TOTAL	681.85	
18. BECKS PROPANE	PROPANE FOR GLENDALE CEMETERY	235.45	
19. BRAD BACH	INVESTIGATOR'S CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT	325.00	
20. BRD PRINTING			
	MERIDIAN MONITOR MAP FORMAT-WINTER	2,028.25	
	MAILING SERVICES-MERIDIAN MONITOR	343.23	
	TOTAL	2,371.48	
21. BRETT DREYFUS	MILEAGE REIMB APRIL TO DEC 2015	332.30	91235
22. BRIAN CANEN	INVESTIGATOR'S CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT	325.00	
23. CATHERINE ADAMS	MILEAGE REIMB 11/2 TO 12/15	47.15	
24. CATHEY CO	HOSE REELS	1,287.75	
25. CDW	HP PRINTER AND HIGH YEILD TONER	1,730.81	
26. CHARLES GLUMB	INVESTIGATOR'S CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT	325.00	
27. CHARLOTTE CABINETS, INC	COUNTERTOP & DELIVERY/INSTALLATION	722.49	
28. CHRISTINE HINTERMAN	REFUND PERFORMANCE GUAR PG#2014-024/4132 HAGADORN	500.00	
29. CINTAS CORPORATION #725			
	MECHANICS UNIFORMS 2015	25.70	
	MECHANICS UNIFORMS 2015	25.70	
	MECHANICS UNIFORMS 2015	25.70	
	TOTAL	77.10	
30. CITY OF EAST LANSING			
	SHARED ASSESSOR SERV - OCT 2015	5,114.46	
	SHARED ASSESSOR SERV - NOV 2015	5,669.04	
	TOTAL	10,783.50	
31. CITY OF LANSING	WATER RESCUE CLASSES	100.00	

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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
32. CITY PULSE	TWP NOTICES	66.78	
33. COCM	MEMB & CONF 2016 - HECKAMAN, MONIQUE, ESSER	180.00	
34. COMCAST CABLE	JAN CABLE SERVICE	162.78	
35. COMFORT FIRST HEATING AND COOLING	REFUND PE15-0489 5959 BUTTONWOOD DR - CANCELLED	60.25	
	REFUND PM15-0838 5959 BUTTONWOOD DR - CANCELLED	65.00	
	TOTAL	125.25	
36. COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE	SUREFIRE LIGHT BATTERIES	50.57	
	BATTERIES FOR WEAPONS NIGHT FIRE	50.57	
	TOTAL	101.14	
37. COURTESY FORD	FORD REPAIR PARTS JAN-JUN 2015	93.47	
	NEW BATTERY	116.00	
	FORD REPAIR PARTS JAN-JUN 2015	214.09	
	FORD REPAIR PARTS JAN-JUN 2015	59.35	
	FORD REPAIR PARTS JAN-JUN 2015	114.13	
	TOTAL	597.04	
38. CREATIVE PRODUCT SOURCING	DARE PRODUCTS	2,149.08	
39. CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	HNC - BOTTLED WATER	15.00	
	HNC - 50# HARDI CUBE	8.50	
	HNC - BOTTLED WATER	9.00	
	TOTAL	32.50	
40. CURTIS SQUIRES	REIMB FOR MILEAGE 09/14/15 TO 12/17/15	63.25	
41. D&G EQUIPMENT INC	RADIATOR / FAN AND MOUNTS	6.92	
	RADIATOR / FAN AND MOUNTS	717.54	
	TOTAL	724.46	
42. DAVID CHAPMAN AGENCY	RENWAL INSURANCE PKG 1/1/16 TO 1/1/17	158,090.00	
43. DBI	LABELS	64.25	
	BATTERIES	10.51	
	SUPPLIES	5.18	
	SUPPLIES	34.66	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	12.99	
	MISC SUPPLIES	34.30	
	LABELS - CLERK	43.98	
	CALENDAR-LAMINATED FOR CLERK'S OFFICE	23.99	
	MISC OFFICE SUPPLIES	97.69	
	MISC OFFICE SUPPLIES	89.34	
	TOTAL	416.89	
44. DCPAH	PROF SERVICES FOR CANINE - ABBY	75.00	
45. DELTA DENTAL	JAN PREMIUM	12,482.03	
46. DIETZ JANITORIAL SERVICE INC	CUSTODIAL SERVICES 2015	3,336.90	
	CUSTODIAL SERVICES 2015	343.00	
	TOTAL	3,679.90	

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47. DJS TACTICS & ASSOC			
	RE-CERT FOR PPCT DT INSTRUCTOR - CANEN	280.00	
48. DLT SOLUTIONS INC			
	ANNUAL AUTODEST AUTOCAD	1,035.60	
49. DMD TOWERS			
	REFUND PERF GUAR 5151 MARSH RD CELL TOWER SITE	1,250.00	
50. DOTY MECHANICAL INC			
	REFUND-OVERPM'T PM15-0917 4329 AZTEC	10.00	
51. EAST LANSING POLICE DEPT			
	3RD QTR OHSP GRANTS	5,618.00	
52. EASTSIDE SOCCER LEAGUE			
	18 SOCCER TEAMS @ \$15 EACH	270.00	
53. ELIZABETH O'KEEFE			
	REFUND FOR OVERPMT OF PARKING VIOLATION	60.00	
54. ERIN BIERLY			
	REIMB FOR MAIL CART & MISC OFFICE SUPPLIES	48.07	
55. EVIDENT INC			
	POUCHES	155.00	
56. EYDE COMPANY LLC			
	REFUND PERF GUAR - GEORGETOWN #2	250.00	
	REFUND OF PERF GUAR - 2827 EYDE PARKWAY	1,200.00	
	TOTAL	1,450.00	
57. FEDEX			
	TRANSPORTATION CHARGES	8.97	
58. FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT			
	STANDING PO - FIRE GEAR CERTIFICATION/REPAIRS	1,358.80	
	TURNOUT GEAR WASHING & YEARLY INSPECTON	329.00	
	TOTAL	1,687.80	
59. FIRST ADVANTAGE LNS OCC HEALTH			
	MDOT RANDOM DRUG TESTING - CLINIC COLLECTION	86.87	
60. FIRST COMMUNICATIONS			
	NOV SERVICE	834.62	
61. FISHBECK, THOMPSON, CARR & HUBER			
	WETLAND CONSULTING FEES	73.15	
	WETLAND CONSULTING FEES	73.15	
	WETLAND CONSULTING FEES	762.00	
	WETLAND CONSULTING FEES	439.50	
	WETLAND CONSULTING FEES	2,532.90	
	WETLAND CONSULTING FEES	1,641.35	
	TOTAL	5,522.05	
62. FRONTLINE MEDICAL			
	STANDING PO - AMB COT CERTIFICATION/REPAIRS	932.56	
63. FULL COMPASS SYSTEM LTD			
	CHROMAFLOOR BLUE/GREEN	1,808.82	
64. GARDEN PROJECT			
	REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN SUPPORT	2,500.00	
65. GIGUERE HOMES INC.			
	REFUND PERF GUAR - 4079 HIGHLAND TERRACE PB14-0570	750.00	
66. GOODYEAR COMMERCIAL TIRE			
	EMERGENCY FLAT REPAIR	710.79	
67. GRANGER			
	SERV - MUN BLDG	111.00	
	RECYCLING-SERVICE CTR	128.51	
	SERVICE - FIRE STATION	62.92	
	RECYCLING - PS & MUN BLDG	87.00	
	SERV 2100 GAYLORD C SMITH CRT	17.50	
	TOTAL	406.93	
68. GRANGER			
	SERV- HNC 3998 VAN ATTA RD	142.41	

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69. GREENFIELD OUTDOOR FITNESS	FITNESS EQUIPMENT GRANT FOR WONCH PARK	17,555.00	91228
70. HASSELBRING CLARK CO	DOCUWARE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT	528.00	
71. HENDERSON GLASS	WINDSHIELD - FORD ESCAPE	226.83	
72. IMAGE TREND INC	ANNUAL SUPPORT & DASHBOARD	6,020.00	
73. INGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT	3RD QTR OHSP GRANT	4,472.00	
74. INGHAM COUNTY TREASURER	BOR/MTT - TAXABLE VALUE CHG ORDERS FOR PRIOR YEAR	3,846.55	
75. IRON MOUNTAIN	RECORD SHREDDING SERVICE - NOV	32.00	
76. JACK DOHENY COMPANIES INC	VACTOR SUCTION TUBE REPAIR	4,500.00	
	ADDITIONAL VACTOR REPAIRS	7,500.00	
	ADDITIONAL VACTOR REPAIRS	12,676.94	
	TOTAL	24,676.94	
77. JEFF ADAMS	REIMBURSEMENT FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	63.58	
78. JEFFORY BROUGHTON	NEW PA AMP	212.50	
	RADIO REPAIR	599.50	
	STONE MOUNTAIN SWORD MICROPHONES	500.00	
	RADIO REPAIR	518.50	
	RADIO REPAIR	477.00	
	RADIO & SPEAKER REPAIR	170.00	
	RADIO REPAIR	325.00	
	TOTAL	2,802.50	
79. JEROME J GALLAGHER PH.D.	EVALUATION FOR EMPLOYMENT APPLICANT	400.00	
80. JOHN HECKAMAN	REIMB MILEAGE - CEDAR CREEK 12/14/15	11.50	
81. JOHN MCDERMOTT	REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAINING	511.11	
82. JOHNSON & ANDERSON INC	CONVERSION OF FLEET SERVICES CMMS TO CITYWORKS PER	180.00	
83. JOHNSON,ROBERTS & ASSOCIATES	BACKGROUND PHQ REPORT	26.00	
84. JUDY HOOD	INVESTIGATOR'S CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT	325.00	
85. KINDCAID HENRY	REFUND PERF GUAR - 1984 DOGGY DAY CARE PARTIAL REL	500.00	
86. KIWANIS CLUB OF HASLETT	NEW MEMBER FEES 2016 - P MENSER	105.00	
87. L3 COMM MOBILE VISION INC	DVR RECORDING SYSTEM FOR BOOKING AND SALLY PORT	3,576.90	
	OVERHEAD MONITORS AND CONTROLS FOR PATROL CARS	1,199.00	
	TOTAL	4,775.90	
88. LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT	3RD QTR OHSP GRANTS	3,161.00	
89. LANSING SANITARY SUPPLY INC	STANDING PO - CLEANING SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT	83.66	

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90. LANSING UNIFORM COMPANY	FALL INSPECTION - STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	740.00	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	142.95	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	111.00	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	49.50	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	90.00	
	FALL INSPECTION - STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	400.00	
	STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	140.00	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	103.10	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	142.50	
	FALL INSPECTION - STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	638.00	
	POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE - SHOES AND BOOTS	687.95	
	FALL INSPECTION - POLICE SHOES AND BOOTS	1,106.90	
	24 BODY ARMOR, LEVEL IIIA 2 CARRIERS, SOFT TRAUMA	595.00	
	STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	80.00	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	103.10	
	STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	12.00	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	139.95	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	192.95	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	175.45	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	51.55	
	POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE - SHOES AND BOOTS	149.95	
	STANDARD POLICE UNIFORM PURCHASE	259.00	
	STANDING PO - UNIFORMS	110.40	
	TOTAL	6,221.25	
91. LORI SCHAFER	REFUND OF HEALTH INS PREMIUMS CANCELLED 11/30/15	216.84	91230
92. LYDEN OIL COMPANY	55 GALLON BULK OIL	2,337.60	
93. MARK FINEOUT	REFUND OF PERF GUAR 2080 HAMILTON RD	550.00	
94. MARK'S LOCK SHOP, INC.	RECOMBINATE SAFE FOR TREASURER	111.50	
95. MAX R	32 GALLON WASTE CONTAINERS TOP LOAD	1,300.00	
96. MEDICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS OF	AMBULANCE BILLING FEE-NOV	6,073.91	
97. MERIDIAN DRY CLEANERS	STANDING PO - UNIFORM CLEANING	404.50	
98. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PETTY CASH	REIMB - PETTY CASH	395.56	
99. MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION	RENEWAL MEMB 26-75 FARMERS & VENDORS	250.00	
100 MICHIGAN PIPE & VALVE	DRAINAGE PIPE FOR HARRIS CENTER	739.20	
101 MICHIGAN RECYCLING COALITION	MEMBERSHIP - L HARVEY	150.00	
102 MICHIGAN.COM	FARMERS MARKET ADVERTISING	147.00	
	LEGAL NOTICES	446.17	
	TOTAL	593.17	
103 MIRACLE RECREATION EQUIPMENT CO	OUTDOOR SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT SYSTEM FOR WONCH PAR	3,616.00	
104 MOORE MEDICAL LLC	EMS AMBULANCE SUPPLIES	1,529.64	
105 MSU POLICE DEPT	3RD QTR OHSP GRANTS	4,285.00	
106 MTH MANAGEMENT	REFUND-OVERP'MT REINSPECT FEE CR150122	63.00	

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107 MUZZALL GRAPHICS	BUSINESS CARDS - GREGORY AKIN	44.74	
	BC-DOUGLAS BANDER HULST	44.74	
	TOTAL	89.48	
108 NEW HORIZONS COMPUTER LEARNING	TECHNICAL TRAINING COUPONS	3,850.00	
109 OFFICEMAX	RECYCLED MULTI-USE WHITE COPY PAPER	1,371.01	
	LAB STOOL & TABLE FOR PLANNER	148.50	
	LAB STOOL & TABLE FOR PLANNER	107.10	
	TOTAL	1,626.61	
110 ONE WAY ASPHALT PAVING	FIRE STATION ASPHALT REPAIRS PER CONTRACT	3,290.00	91233
111 OVERHEAD DOOR OF LANSING	INSPECT AMBULANCE BAY DOOR	150.00	
	MISC PART/2100 GAYLORD SMITH COURT	214.09	
	TOTAL	364.09	
112 PATRICIA STEVENSON	FARM MRKT VENDOR	7.00	
113 PETER MENSER	REIMB MILEAGE 12/10 & 12/11/15	20.70	
114 PITNEY BOWES	LEASING PMT	822.00	
115 POST HARDWOODS	REFUND PERF GUAR - LOGGING E OF 127 GRAND RIVER	2,500.00	
116 PRINTING SYSTEMS INC	ENVELOPES - SUPPLIES	166.84	
	AV APPLICATIONS FOR MARCH 8, 2016 ELECTION	485.51	
	TOTAL	652.35	
117 PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS SERVICES INC	JAN PREMIUM	9,623.80	
118 PRO-TECH MECHANICAL SERVICES	LABOR/ PARTS FOR 2100 GAYLORD C SMITH COURT	356.91	
	LABOR AT 2100 GAYLORD C SMITH COURT	70.00	
	TOTAL	426.91	
119 PROTECH PROJECTION SYSTEMS INC	TRAINING PROJECTOR AND SCREEN	2,419.00	
120 REBECCA PAYNE	INVESTIGATOR'S CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT	325.00	
	REIMBURSE MILEAGE 2/15 TO 11/20	254.15	
	TOTAL	579.15	
121 RECLAIMED BY DESIGN	OPERATE TOWNSHIP RECYCLE & TRANSFER CENTER JAN-DEC	2,000.00	
122 RM ELECTRIC INC	REPAIR - RESTROOM AT NORTH MERIDIAN RD PARK	656.62	
123 RW MERCER	REFUND PERF GUAR 2841 HANNAH-RESIDENCE INN	21,560.00	
124 SAFETY KLEEN	SUPPLIES	191.45	
125 SAFETY SERVICES INC	HIGH VIS YELLOW SWEAT SHIRTS	190.44	
126 SAFETY SYSTEMS INC	ALARM SYSTEM REPAIRS N. FIRE	370.00	
127 SIRCHIE FINGERPRINT LABORATORIES	EVIDENCE RIFLE BOX	83.46	
128 SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL	REIMB FOR RENT - CRC FUNDS - EMERGENCY	250.00	91236

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INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 01/05/2016 - 01/05/2016
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
BANK CODE: GF

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
129 SPARROW OCCUPATIONAL	TESTING FOR NOVEMBER 2015	4,765.41	
130 SPARTAN DISTRIBUTORS	BELT & SPRING	86.72	
	SPRING	44.18	
	COUPLING	221.98	
	BEARING	73.35	
	LUG NUTS & STUD-WHEEL	145.88	
	STUD-WHEEL	49.95	
	TOTAL	622.06	
131 SPRINT	CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE FOR SGT'S VEHICLES	97.62	
132 STANLEY STEAMER OF GREAT LAKES	CLEAN HVAC SYSTEM N.FIRE STATION	620.00	
133 STATE OF MICHIGAN	MAILING/POSTAGE WINTER TAX BILLS & NOTICES	5,236.89	
134 SUCHART SIVAVAJCHAIPONG	CRC FUNDS - TO AVOID EVICTION	150.00	91234
135 SUZANNE THREADGOULD	FARM MARKET VENDOR	14.00	
136 TDS	DEC SERVICE	1,331.08	
137 THE HARKNESS LAW FIRM PLLC	LEGAL FEES-UTC	6,893.84	
138 THE LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE INS CO	JAN PREMIUM	3,511.90	
139 THE MERIDIAN COMPANY	REFUND - OVPMT PM15-0931 4198 SARAN	10.00	
140 THE PEN GUY	BIC CLIC PENS 1,000 QUANTITY	575.12	
141 THE POLACK CORPORATION	PARTS LABOR DURMS DEVELOPER & TONER	924.92	
142 TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING	GLRC DUES FOR 2016	6,287.50	
143 TRIDENT INSURANCE SERVICES	CLAIM #TNT-0118870	10,000.00	
144 TRITECH FORENSICS	EVIDENCE TAPE	129.72	
145 TVU NEYWORKS	LIVE REMOTE BROADCAST EQUIPMENT	24,525.00	
	LIVE REMOTE BROADCAST EQUIPMENT	500.00	
	MONTHLY DATA SERVICE	500.00	
	TOTAL	25,525.00	
146 U.S. BANK EQUIPMENT FINANCE	COPIER CONTRACT	1,507.87	
147 UNIVERSITY CLUB OF MSU	INTERN AWARDS EVENT	2,365.00	
148 VERIZON WIRELESS	SERVICES AUG 24 TO SEP 23	2,708.43	91231
	SERVICES OCT 24 TO NOV23	1,846.19	91232
	TOTAL	4,554.62	
149 VIRIDIS DESIGN GROUP	TOWNER ROAD PARK PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,000.00	
150 WEST SHORE FIRE	STANDING PO - SIREN MAINTENANCE	675.00	
151 WOODCRAFT KITS	HNC- KITS FOR CLASS	272.00	
152 ZOLL MEDICAL CORP	MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR HEART MONITOR/PATIENT CARE	236.25	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		477,429.12	

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INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 12/07/2015 - 12/07/2015
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
BANK CODE: GF

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. CONSUMERS ENERGY	CRC FUNDS-PAST DUE UTILITIES	250.00	91224
2. MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	MML DUES 9/1/15 TO 8/31/16	7,304.00	91177
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		7,554.00	

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INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 12/16/2015 - 12/16/2015
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
BANK CODE: GF

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	DIESEL & GASOLINE FOR NOV	15,471.75	91229
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		15,471.75	

Hand CKs not on main report -
Are included in total - common cash.

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INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
 EXP CHECK RUN DATES 01/05/2016 - 01/05/2016
 BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
 BANK CODE: PW

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. AMY FREVOLO	OVERP'MT OF FINAL - ROYA-006290-0000-03	50.00	
2. CARL SCHLEGEL INC	SAND & DRIVEWAY MATERIALS	1,633.64	
3. DELTA DENTAL	JAN PREMIUM	1,471.50	
4. FIRST AMERICAN TITLE	OVERPMT OF FINAL UB - COLU-006230-0000-04	52.57	
5. GRANGER	SERVICE - SEWER DEPT	105.00	
6. IDC CORPORATION	LIFT STATION CONTROLS/SCADA SYSTEM REPAIRS	826.95	
7. INGHAM COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT	OPEN PO FOR COLD PATCH	462.74	
8. JOHNSON & ANDERSON INC	CITYWORKS IMPLEMENTATION-STEPS 1&2 OF YOUR JANUARY SCADA PROTOCOL UPGRADE PROPOSAL 10-5-15 J&A#17678	35.00 440.00	
	TOTAL	475.00	
9. MANNIK AND SMITH	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THRU NOV 27 - PROJECT M41500 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THRU NOV 27 - PROJECT M41500	232.75 995.75	
	TOTAL	1,228.50	
10. MARTIN JARMOND	OVERP'MT OF FINAL - EAME-003643-0000-01	40.90	
11. MAYBERRY HOMES	REFUND WRONG SIZE METER/CORE-002709-0000-01	95.55	
12. MICHIGAN METER TECHNOLOGY GROUP	METERS PARTS WATER METER - PARTS METERS	2,110.53 138.00 286.71 2,076.36	
	TOTAL	4,611.60	
13. RAJARAM LOGANATHAN	REFUN DUE TO WRONG SIZE METER/CORE-002709-0000-02	1,210.75	
14. SAFETY SERVICES INC	BOMBER JACKETS HIGH VIS YELLOW SWEAT SHIRTS HIGH VIS YELLOW SWEAT SHIRTS HOODED PULLOVER HIGH VIS YELLOW SWEAT SHIRTS	97.82 172.49 124.80 25.43 337.49	
	TOTAL	758.03	
15. STANLEY ELLIS	OVPMT FINAL UB KODI-002538-0000-02	109.37	
16. TDS	DEC SERVICE	149.21	
17. THE LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE INS CO		478.64	
18. TRI TITLE AGENCY LLC	REFUND OVERP'MT FINAL BILL BEUN-005905-0000-01 OVERPMT OF FINAL BILL/TOMA-001933-0000-00	180.90 44.75	
	TOTAL	225.65	
19. VERIZON WIRELESS	SERVICE OCT 24 TO NOV 23	469.62	26163
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		14,455.22	

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INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 12/09/2015 - 01/05/2016
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
BANK CODE: TA

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. ADAM T DELANEY			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-29-402-055	14.71	11680
2. ANDREW & SARAH FINLEY			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-29-402-056	1,354.41	11681
3. CENTRAL LOAN ADMINISTRATION			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-14-352-008	309.51	11682
4. EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
	SUMMER 2015 TAX & DELINQ PERSONAL PROP TAXES	12,014.78	11694
5. FIFTH THIRD BANK			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-11-427-007	410.04	11684
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-20-426-001	1,178.43	11683
	TOTAL	1,588.47	
6. FINITI			
	REFUND OVPMT WINTER TAX 33-02-02-17-408-003/2657 R	123.00	11695
7. FLAGSTAR BANK			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-29-252-007	4,588.26	11685
8. G&A ASSOCIATES			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-17-451-006	257.80	11686
9. GARY WARRINER			
	REFUND OVPMT WINTER TAX 33-02-02-17-427-008/5154	18.60	11696
10. HASLETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
	WINTER & SUMMER 2015 TAXES	297,186.54	11697
11. INGHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL			
	WINTER 2015 & DELINQ PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	75,337.42	11698
12. JEFFREY & CHANDRA GRABILL			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-21-328-017	179.04	11687
13. JIJ PROP LLC DBA FIESTA CHARRA/LAW			
	MTT - F GORDON #08-276-003 @ 5900 PARK LAKE	1,028.54	11678
14. JIM SCHUON PHOTOGRAPHER			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-92-275-470	26.79	11688
15. JUDITH P ALLSWEDE TRUST			
	REFUND TAX TRIBUNAL - 6035 PORTER	270.74	11673
16. LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE			
	WINTER 2015 & DELINQ PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	625,643.18	11699
17. LOGAN D CRUMBAUGH			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-28-126-011	7.13	11689
18. MASON STATE BANK			
	REFUND OVPMT WINTER TAX - 33-02-02-08-276-003/5900	478.53	11700
19. NINA LANY & THOMAS LUKE			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-28-226-007	964.45	11690
20. OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
	WINTER & SUMMER 2015 & DELINQ PERSONAL PROP TAXES	609,888.25	11701
21. PNC MORTGAGE			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-34-155-018	1,357.74	11691
22. R LOGANATHAN/G SATHYANARAYANAMURTHY			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-32-454-008	196.56	11692
23. WALTER & ELEANOR GOFF			
	REFUND DEC BOR #33-02-02-16-327-049	188.48	11693
24. WILLIAMSTON SCHOOLS			
	WINTER 2015 PROPERTY TAXES	19,787.48	11702
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		1,652,810.41	

Credit Card Transactions - December 3rd to December 28th, 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Merchant Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name</u>
2015/12/22	AC&E RENTALS OKEMOS	\$36.00	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/25	ADOBE	\$63.58	DARKUS BEASLEY
2015/12/09	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$17.99	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/10	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$52.38	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/10	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$10.90	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/16	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$24.95	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/17	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$61.06	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/18	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$101.24	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/24	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS	\$15.25	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/08	AMAZON.COM	\$155.05	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/10	AMAZON.COM	\$124.53	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/22	AMAZON.COM AMZN.COM/BILL	\$529.99	WADE PRESTONISE
2015/12/22	AMAZON.COM AMZN.COM/BILL	\$55.98	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/14	AMER SOC CIVIL ENGINEERS	\$253.00	YOUNES ISHRAIDI
2015/12/05	APPLEBEES 838765183873	\$28.88	JOAN HORVATH
2015/12/21	ARKANSAS FLAG AND BANN	\$331.26	JULIE BRIKIE
2015/12/15	ASAP PRINTING	\$257.73	JOYCE A MARX
2015/12/11	ASFPM MADISON WI	\$70.00	YOUNES ISHRAIDI
2015/12/03	B&H PHOTO MOTO	\$198.90	STEPHEN GEBES
2015/12/10	B&H PHOTO MOTO	\$375.70	STEPHEN GEBES
2015/12/15	BANNASCH WELDING	\$84.00	KEITH HEWITT
2015/12/23	BARYAMES CLEANERS 12 HASL	\$11.10	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/07	BUILDERS HARDWARE	\$90.15	PETER VASILION
2015/12/22	BUILDERS HARDWARE	\$22.70	PETER VASILION
2015/12/17	CATHEY COMPANY	\$141.99	TODD FRANK
2015/12/08	CHAPELURE	\$8.45	DEBORAH GUTHRIE
2015/12/18	CMP DISTRIBUTORS INC	\$125.00	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/23	COMCAST OF LANSING	\$9.54	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2015/12/10	COMCAST OF LANSING	\$19.08	DEBORAH GUTHRIE
2015/12/22	COMCAST OF LANSING	\$127.59	DEBORAH GUTHRIE
2015/12/03	CREATIVE IMAGES LLC	\$54.50	CAROL MORGANROTH
2015/12/07	CTC*CONSTANTCONTACT.COM	\$115.00	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/10	DOLRTREE 185 00001859	\$25.00	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/09	DOMINO'S 1206	\$31.52	DARKUS BEASLEY
2015/12/11	EAST LANSING PARKING	\$2.80	FRANK L WALSH
2015/12/03	ELITE K-9 INC.	\$179.39	KEN PLAGA
2015/12/10	ESRI INC	\$64.00	STEPHEN GEBES
2015/12/07	FLICKR PRO 1 MONTH	\$5.99	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/12	GAN*MEDIA MICHIGAN-CCC	\$565.69	DENISE GREEN
2015/12/08	GFS STORE #1901	\$16.99	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/18	GIH*GLOBALINDUSTRIALEQ	\$431.85	PETER VASILION
2015/12/11	HAMMOND FARMSLANDS	\$20.96	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/10	HAMMOND FARMSLANDS	\$90.75	KYLE WILKINS
2015/12/10	HAMMOND FARMSLANDS	\$13.75	KYLE WILKINS
2015/12/11	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HDW	\$22.07	KEN PUNG
2015/12/18	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HDW	\$7.96	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/03	HOBBY LOBBY #360	(\$1.29)	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/03	HOBBY LOBBY #360	(\$3.98)	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/03	HOBBY LOBBY #360	\$32.91	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/09	IACP	\$150.00	DAVID HALL
2015/12/11	IN *SIGN A RAMA	\$22.50	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/09	INT'L ASSOC OF ADMIN PRO	\$141.00	KRISTEN COLE
2015/12/22	INT'L ASSOC OF FIRE CH	\$234.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/22	INT'L CODE COUNCIL INC	\$372.00	JOHN HECKAMAN
2015/12/22	JACK DOHENY COMPANIES NOR	\$43.14	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2015/12/03	KIMBALL MIDWEST	\$98.20	TODD FRANK
2015/12/07	LARRY CUSHION TROPHIES	\$275.00	ANDREA SMILEY

2015/12/10	LEGEND DATA SYSTEMS	\$114.85	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/12	LEOS LODGE	\$159.00	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	LEOS SPIRITS AND GRUB	\$392.00	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/08	LEXISNEXIS RISK DAT	\$100.00	GREGORY FRENGER
2015/12/23	LOWES #01596*	\$138.97	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/03	MARKERTEK VIDEO SUPPLY	\$124.57	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/15	MEIJER #209	\$32.97	CAROL HASSE
2015/12/11	MEIJER INC #025 Q01	\$11.58	DARCIE WEIGAND
2015/12/19	MEIJER INC #025 Q01	\$51.99	MICHAEL DEVLIN
2015/12/12	MEIJER INC #025 Q01	\$11.16	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/15	MEIJER INC #025 Q01	\$40.00	DARLA JACKSON
2015/12/16	MEIJER INC #172 Q01	\$26.97	GRETCHEN M GOMOLKA
2015/12/08	MI EMS LICENSE	\$50.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/22	MI EMS LICENSE	\$50.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/23	MI EMS LICENSE	\$25.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/09	MI STATE POLICE PMTS	\$300.00	SCOTT DAWSON
2015/12/03	MICHAELS STORES 9987	\$69.47	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/04	MICHAELS STORES 9987	(\$34.97)	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/04	MICHAELS STORES 9987	\$21.98	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/13	MICHAELS STORES 9987	(\$46.42)	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/22	MICHAELS STORES 9987	\$24.74	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/15	MICHIGAN BATTERY EQUIPME	\$178.00	TODD FRANK
2015/12/16	MICHIGAN BATTERY EQUIPME	\$178.00	TODD FRANK
2015/12/16	MICHIGAN RECREATION & PAR	\$370.00	LUANN MAISNER
2015/12/16	MICHIGAN RECREATION & PAR	\$370.00	DEREK PERRY
2015/12/07	OFFICEMAX CT*IN#226841	\$214.56	CAROL HASSE
2015/12/07	OFFICEMAX CT*IN#227007	\$24.16	CAROL HASSE
2015/12/07	OFFICEMAX CT*IN#229466	\$78.66	CAROL HASSE
2015/12/11	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPOT #61	(\$5.46)	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/10	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPOT #61	\$25.42	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/10	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPOT #61	\$94.50	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/15	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPOT #61	\$27.54	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/15	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPOT #61	\$79.09	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/08	OKEMOS HARDWARE INC	\$9.99	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/06	OKEMOS HARDWARE INC	\$5.99	MARK VROMAN
2015/12/17	OKEMOS HARDWARE INC	\$3.99	TOM OXENDER
2015/12/17	OKEMOS HARDWARE INC	\$24.95	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/09	ONLINE LABELS	\$45.50	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/15	ORIENTAL TRADING CO	\$92.69	MICHAEL DEVLIN
2015/12/22	PAAM	\$100.00	GREGORY FRENGER
2015/12/09	PANERA BREAD #600715	\$20.54	GREGORY FRENGER
2015/12/11	PANERA BREAD #715	\$85.02	DARCIE WEIGAND
2015/12/03	PANERA BREAD #715	\$13.99	ROBIN FAUST
2015/12/03	PARTY CITY	\$29.66	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/04	PARTY CITY	(\$7.41)	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/07	PARTY CITY	\$65.85	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/05	PETSMART INC 724	\$7.00	CATHERINE ADAMS
2015/12/16	PIZZA HOUSE OF EAST LANS	\$2,264.18	GRETCHEN M GOMOLKA
2015/12/05	POS SUPPLY SOLUTIONS	\$176.81	STEPHEN GEBES
2015/12/14	PP*MIAGRITOURISM	\$475.00	LUANN MAISNER
2015/12/08	PREUSS PETS	\$7.20	KATHERINE RICH
2015/12/11	QUALITY DAIRY 31280027	\$5.82	DARCIE WEIGAND
2015/12/04	QUALITY TIRE	\$249.20	KEN PUNG
2015/12/04	QUALITY TIRE	\$249.20	TODD FRANK
2015/12/27	QUILL CORPORATION	\$105.98	MICHAEL DEVLIN
2015/12/18	QUILL CORPORATION	\$76.87	CAROL HASSE
2015/12/19	SALLY BEAUTY #0516	\$4.99	MICHAEL DEVLIN
2015/12/23	SEARS ROEBUCK 1170	\$99.99	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/11	SENTRY SAFETY SUPPLY	\$246.64	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2015/12/23	SHAFER REDI MIX	\$1,230.66	ROBERT MACKENZIE

2015/12/18	SPORTS STOP	\$53.70	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/22	SS STORAGE JOLLY	\$128.00	DENNIS ANTONE
2015/12/07	STAMP-RITE INC	\$99.75	KATHERINE RICH
2015/12/22	STAMP-RITE INC	\$115.00	SANDRA OTTO
2015/12/04	STAPLES 00103242	\$37.38	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/07	STATE DEQ WATER TEST	\$64.00	KATHERINE RICH
2015/12/16	SUMMERTIME CONCRETE INC	\$145.50	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$735.97	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$74.13	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$893.56	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$793.45	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$997.63	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$160.46	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$1,001.54	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$1,632.95	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$846.33	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$565.98	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/11	TARGET 00003657	\$175.00	RICHARD GRILLO
2015/12/03	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	(\$159.00)	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/11	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$7.57	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/16	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$14.97	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/21	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$4.99	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/23	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$158.76	LAWRENCE BOBB
2015/12/15	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$8.89	DENNIS ANTONE
2015/12/10	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$5,000.00	FREDERICK COWPER
2015/12/10	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$531.46	FREDERICK COWPER
2015/12/22	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$72.98	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/08	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$38.41	PETER VASILION
2015/12/09	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	(\$35.28)	PETER VASILION
2015/12/09	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$35.28	PETER VASILION
2015/12/09	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$8.97	PETER VASILION
2015/12/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$14.00	PETER VASILION
2015/12/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$13.99	PETER VASILION
2015/12/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$16.48	PETER VASILION
2015/12/03	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$24.88	MIKE ELLIS
2015/12/03	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$79.01	KYLE WILKINS
2015/12/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$288.00	KYLE WILKINS
2015/12/04	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$53.41	TODD FRANK
2015/12/04	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$65.48	JANE GREENWAY
2015/12/10	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$7.98	JANE GREENWAY
2015/12/07	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$102.86	DAVID LESTER
2015/12/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$322.43	DAVID LESTER
2015/12/21	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$37.50	DAN PALACIOS
2015/12/20	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$121.41	WILLIAM PRIESE
2015/12/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$94.94	KEITH HEWITT
2015/12/19	THE PARTS PLACE-NAPA	\$54.88	TODD FRANK
2015/12/11	TOP HAT CRICKET FARM INC	\$24.74	CATHERINE ADAMS
2015/12/04	USA BLUE BOOK	\$170.57	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/11	USA BLUE BOOK	\$232.23	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/18	USA BLUE BOOK	\$231.25	JOE VANDOMMELEN
2015/12/22	USPS 25387095524303547	\$49.00	ANDREA SMILEY
2015/12/05	WAL-MART #2866	\$10.59	CATHERINE ADAMS
2015/12/15	WAL-MART #2866	\$14.93	KEN PUNG
2015/12/09	WAL-MART #2866	\$35.95	KRISTI SCHAEADING
2015/12/11	WAL-MART #2866	\$20.71	KRISTI SCHAEADING
2015/12/08	WAL-MART #2866	\$26.43	CHRISTOPHER DOMEYER
2015/12/08	WALGREENS #11286	\$12.60	DARCIE WEIGAND
2015/12/26	WM SUPERCENTER #3726	<u>\$119.25</u>	ANDREA SMILEY

\$31,858.13

ACH Transactions

December 3rd to December 28th, 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
12/11	ICMA	\$ 33,580.44	Payroll Deductions
	Various Financial Institutions	263,283.91	Direct Deposit 12/11 Payroll
	IRS	99,520.60	Payroll Taxes
12/22	ICMA	34,148.91	Payroll Deductions
	Various Financial Institutions	258,767.20	Direct Deposit 12/23 Payroll
	IRS	101,150.38	Payroll Taxes
12/11 & 12/16	Consumers Energy	53,941.76	Utilities
	Total ACH Payments	\$ 844,393.20	

12/22/2015 12:35 PM
 User: hudecek
 DB: meridian

JOURNALS POSTING REPORT
 POSTING REPORT

Post Date GL Number	Journal	Summ/Det	Ref # Description	DR Amount	CR Amount
12/22/2015	AP	D	722389 122215 REIMB - PETTY CASH		
101-170.201-870.000			MILEAGE	12.08	
101-170.191-870.000			MILEAGE	16.39	
101-300.301-728.000			OPERATING SUPPLIES	24.65	
101-300.371-870.000			MILEAGE	16.68	
101-170.201-870.000			MILEAGE	11.50	
101-170.191-870.000			MILEAGE	14.23	
101-170.226-814.000			MEETING EXPENSE	6.40	
101-170.253-955.000			MISCELLANEOUS	10.00	
230-750.806-880.000			COMMUNITY PROMOTION	2.11	
230-750.806-955.000			MISCELLANEOUS	9.30	
101-170.253-955.000			MISCELLANEOUS	25.30	
101-300.301-728.000			OPERATING SUPPLIES	10.00	
101-170.191-870.000			MILEAGE	14.67	
230-750.806-955.000			MISCELLANEOUS	15.90	
250-000.000-956.070			EMERGENCY FUND	30.00	
101-170.191-870.000			MILEAGE	24.15	
101-170.191-825.000			PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES/DUES	10.59	
101-170.191-870.000			MILEAGE	10.35	
230-750.806-955.000			MISCELLANEOUS	2.50	
230-750.806-880.000			COMMUNITY PROMOTION	45.50	
230-750.806-955.000			MISCELLANEOUS	7.79	
101-170.277-728.000			OPERATING SUPPLIES	23.31	
101-300.336-728.000			OPERATING SUPPLIES	20.00	
101-300.336-728.000			OPERATING SUPPLIES	14.49	
230-750.806-880.000			COMMUNITY PROMOTION	5.59	
101-170.253-870.000			MILEAGE	12.08	
101-000.000-202.000			ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		276.87
230-000.000-202.000			ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		88.69
250-000.000-202.000			ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		30.00
				<u>395.56</u>	<u>395.56</u>
				<u>395.56</u>	<u>395.56</u>

Date	Name	Description	#	\$ amt	Initials
10-01-15	Danielle Hughes	mileage	4607	12.08	my
10-09-15	Erin Bierly	mileage	4608	\$16.39	my
10-12-15	Kelly Blask	Food (training)	4609	\$24.65	my
10-20-15	J. Heckman	mileage	4610	\$16.68	my
10-29-15	D. Hughes	mileage	4611	\$11.50	my
11-03-15	E. Bierly	mileage	4612	\$14.23	my
11-16-15	C. Hasse	Food - goal setting luncheon	4613	\$6.40	my
11-16-15	J. Brixie	Jeep assessment filing	4614	\$10.00	my
11-19-15	D. Guthrie	Pollution Isn't Pretty	4615 4615	\$2.11	my
11-19-15	Alyssa Burgio	Parking	4616	\$9.30	my
11-20-15	Julie Brixie	mileage	4617	\$25.30	my
11-24-15	Darla J. (Meridian) Cares charge	Meridian Cares Charge	4618	\$30.00	my
11-25-15					
11-25-15	Darla J. (Meridian) Cares payback	Meridian Cares payback		+\$30.00	my
12-01-15	Dave Hall	Safety Advisory Committee	4619	\$10.00	my
12-2-15	Erin Bierly	PO mileage	4620	\$14.67	my
12-02-15	Coty Kenneth	Meridian Cares Basket	4621	\$15.90	my
12-03-15	Darla Jackson	meridian cares charge	4622	\$30.00	my
12-3-15	Joan Horvath	Mileage to CAMCA	4623	\$24.15	my
12-7-15	Joan Horvath	Mileage Ingham co. Clerk Mtg	4624	\$10.59	my

12-7-15	Joan Horvath	Mileage	4625	\$ 10.35	ENT
12-8-15	Alysia Bugio	Parking	4626	\$ 2.50	ENT
12-9-15	Coty Kenneth	Golden Tape	4627	\$ 45.50	ENT
12-14-15	Darla Jackson	Cash for Meridian Cares + tax sales	4628	\$ 30.00 ↙	JB
12-15-15	Darla Jackson	Meridian Cares payBack	—	+ \$ 30.00 ↘	DUR
12-15-15	Alysia Burgio	Reimbursement ^{story} sheet	4629	7.79	ENT
12-16-15	LeRoy Harvey	office calendar	4630	\$ 23.31	ENT
12-16-15	Bill Priese	Nat. Safety Council Meeting	4631	\$ 20.00	DUR
12-16-15	Jason Hillard	H2O Supplements Power Pack	4632	\$ 14.49	DUR
12-16-15	Deborah Guthrie	Meridian Cares Basket	4633	\$ 5.59	DUR
12-17-15	Mary Ann Groop	Mileage	4634	\$ 12.08	JB

Payroll ID: 13

Pay Period End Date: 12/04/2015 Check Post Date: 12/11/2015 Bank ID: PR

				VNE ER		3,426.29	78,887.73
Gross Pay This Period	Deduction Refund	Ded. This Period	Net Pay This Period	Gross Pay YTD	Dir. Dep.	Expense This Period	
397,625.69	0.00	136,819.06	260,806.63	4,373,420.34	263,283.91	125,037.25	
Tax Type	State / Loc		App Wages	Prior Ded	+2200.72 CKS	Taxable Gross	
Social Security			397,625.69	7,771.21	265,484.63	389,854.48	
Medicare			397,625.69	7,771.21	(4678.00) HSA	389,854.48	
Federal			397,625.69	44,215.34	260,806.63	353,410.35	
State	MI		397,625.69	44,215.34		353,410.35	
Local	LANSING		41,717.49	2,448.37		39,269.12	

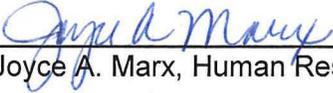
Net pay 260,806.63
 Federal w/H 39,872.38
 State w/H 13,237.78
 City w/H 419.88
 Social security (EE+ER) 48,342.18
 Medicare (EE+ER) 11,306.04
 misc. deductions 6512.10
 HSA 4678.00

\$ 385,174.99

JB
 Please transfer
 from
 common cash
 to Payroll
 ✓ Wb
 12/19/15

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Joyce A. Marx, Human Resources Director

DATE: December 29, 2015

RE: **Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment**

The Township Board approved the use of part-time Paramedic/Firefighter personnel to supplement our full-time roster. The program is operating successfully with cooperation from full-time staff.

The following candidate is presented for approval:

- **Amanda Arnett**
 - Amanda graduated from Lansing Community College with a General Associates Degree and a Paramedic Certificate.
 - In addition to being a licensed paramedic and holding various certifications, she has completed Firefighter I & II, Wildland Firefighter II, Auto Extrications, Advanced Stabilization, and NIMS 100 & 200.
 - Amanda is currently employed with Mercy Ambulance and Sparrow Hospital. She also completed an internship with Meridian Township.

The following motion is for Board approval:

MOVE TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF AMANDA ARNETT TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME PARAMEDIC/FIREFIGHTER.

11 - A

13 - A

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM:



Mark Kieselbach
Director of Community Planning and Development



Peter Menser
Associate Planner

DATE: December 22, 2015

RE: The Square on Grand River brownfield request

The Township Board approved the mixed use planned unit development (MUPUD) permit for The Square on Grand River, a mixed use redevelopment project in the Meridian Pointe shopping center at 2655 Grand River Avenue, at its July 21, 2015 meeting. Since approval, the developer discovered environmental contamination and widespread fill and debris on the project site. To address the contamination the developer is seeking reimbursement for site cleanup through Ingham County's brownfield program.

The approval process for a brownfield plan requires approval by the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA), Meridian Township Board, and Ingham County Board of Commissioners. At a meeting on November 23, 2015, the Ingham County BRA voted to approve the brownfield plan.

Please refer to the copies of the brownfield plan previously distributed. If you need another copy, please contact staff.

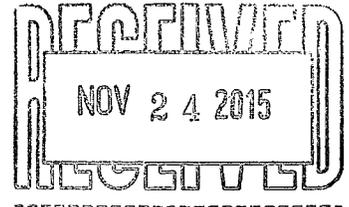
Attachment

1. Letter from Ingham County Economic Development Coordinator Sandy Gower



INGHAM COUNTY
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

121 E. Maple St., Mason, Michigan 48854 phone: 517-676-7285 www.ingham.org



The Authority's mission is the maintenance and implementation of a Brownfields redevelopment program throughout Ingham County and to support the cleanup and redevelopment of environmentally contaminated and previously used development sites, that promote the economic development goals of Ingham County.

DAN GOUGH
Chairman

BRUCE MOORE
Vice Chair

AARON HARRIS
Treasurer

**CHONG-ANNA
CANFORA**
Secretary

BRIAN MCGRAIN
Commissioner/Member

MARK POLSDOFER
Member

**MICHAEL
FREDERICK**
Member

THOMAS MORGAN
Member

Member

Member

Member

Sandra L. Gower
Economic Development
Coordinator

November 23, 2015

Mr. Frank Walsh, Manager
Meridian Charter Township
5151 Marsh Rd.
Okemos, MI 48864

RE: Square on Grand River Brownfield Plan

Dear Mr. Walsh:

The Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (ICBRA) at its meeting on November 23, 2015 approved a Brownfield Plan for the Square on Grand River development in Meridian Township. The ICBRA is pleased to be able to assist with this project. The plan is being forwarded to you under separate cover by Eric Helzer.

As per Act 381, the plan must also be approved by the Township Board and the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Both entities must hold a public hearing before adopting the plan. The taxing jurisdictions whose taxes will be captured must also be notified in writing of the public hearing. The County will hold its public hearing after the Township has approved the plan.

Please let me know when you have a date set for the public hearing. I will plan on attending that hearing. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to working with the Township on this project.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Gower
Economic Development Coordinator

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET: BROWNFIELD PLAN – THE SQUARE ON GRAND RIVER

Project Name: The Square on Grand River

Applicant/Developer: Entity Name: Campus Village Communities
Contact: Ernest Schaefer
Mailing Address: 919 W. University, Rochester MI 48307
Phone: (248) 609-0401

Eligible Property Location: The eligible Property consists of three (3) parcels located at: 2671 Grand River (ID No. 33-02-02-20-205-018); and 2655 Grand River (ID No. 33-02-02-20-205-015); and 2655 Grand River (ID No. 33-02-02-20-205-019) East Lansing, MI 48823.

Property Size: Approximately 12.521 acres
(5.87 acres {-018} + 3.151 acres {-015} + 3.50 acres {-019})

Type of Eligible Property: Facility (Contaminated)

Project Description: **The Square on Grand River Project**

This Brownfield Plan (the "Plan") anticipates significant future investments by Campus Village Communities, a Rochester-based developer that primarily builds housing. This Plan contemplates redevelopment upon all three (3) Eligible Properties with a majority of the investment occurring on the 5.87-acre parcel located at 2671 Grand River (ID No. 33-02-02-20-205-018) which has been vacant for 17 years and is underutilized.

The Square on Grand River (previously called "The Avenue on Grand River") is a mixed-use redevelopment project with apartments and retail space which will span 223,000 square feet over 12.5 acres on a site east of Dawn Avenue and west of Park Lake Road. The plan contains 146,532 square feet of apartment containing 184 apartments ranging between one and four bedrooms (401 total beds) plus approximately 10,000 square feet of commercial retail space in a four-story mixed-use building with frontage and access on Grand River Avenue. The development is just west of a shopping center at Park Lake Road and Grand River Avenue that contains Foods for Living, State of Fitness and a Salvation Army store.

The estimated \$21 plus million project (not including land) is different because it will include work space for Michigan State University student entrepreneurs. This unique Entrepreneurial Hub and Young Professional Community Development concept will retain a number of those students in the area. As such, the apartments are geared toward young professionals or recent college graduates, with 75 percent of the units having one or two bedrooms.

Eight apartments will be available to those with low incomes, two will be designated as barrier-free and three others are labeled handicapped accessible. The barrier-free units will be on the upper floors of one building, accessible by an elevator. Low-income and handicap-

accessible apartments will be equipped with roll-in showers.

Once complete, 51 immediate new full time jobs will be created and an undetermined number of additional new full time jobs will be phased in as a result of the Entrepreneurial Hub and Young Professional Community Development.

Added project features include pocket parks, public seating plaza adjacent to Grand River Avenue (includes public wi-fi, an art sculpture, planters and benches), public dog park, sidewalk planters, fitness park, pool and clubhouse, fitness center, business center, community conference rooms and kitchen space, and access to the new public loop trail.

Construction was scheduled to begin this fall, with occupancy available by August 2016. However, environmental contamination and wide-spread fill and debris was found across most of the parcel located at 2671 Grand River. The project is currently on hold until alternative site construction methods are evaluated and tax increment financing through the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act (Public Act 381 of 1996) is secured, which is the subject of this Plan.

**Eligible Activities
and Eligible Costs:**

\$4,599,702 of eligible activity costs made up of: Baseline Environmental Assessment Activities, Due Care Activities, Additional Response Activities, Demolition Activities, Brownfield Plan Preparation, Contingency, Interest and Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority ("ICBRA" or "Authority") Application Fees. \$4,829,687 in total capture with adding the capture for Authority Local Site Remediation Revolving Fund ("LSRRF").

Estimate Job Creation:

51 immediate new jobs will be created upon completion of the project and an undetermined number of additional new full time jobs will be phased in.

Duration of Plan:

16 years (2031), total estimated Plan duration with capture for reimbursement of Eligible Activities and LSRRF deposits.

**Property Taxes
Generated By Project:
(for the life of Plan)**

Over 16 Years - 2016 to 2031:
Approximately **\$9,823,786** in new Incremental Property Taxes Paid.

Gain in Taxes (by Year 2031): Cumulative

100% Pass-through	\$ 30,391	To Meridian Charter Township: Debt millage
100% Pass-through	\$ 2,724,495	To Okemos School District: Local School Operating (LSO) millage
100% Pass-through	\$ 1,063,671	To Okemos School District: School Debt millage
100% Pass-through	\$ 911,718	To State Education Tax (SET)
	\$ 263,824	Additional Taxes to All Local Millages on a Pro-rata Basis (excluding any Taxing Unit levying a millage not allowed for tax capture)
	\$ 4,994,099	Total New Tax Revenue to Others

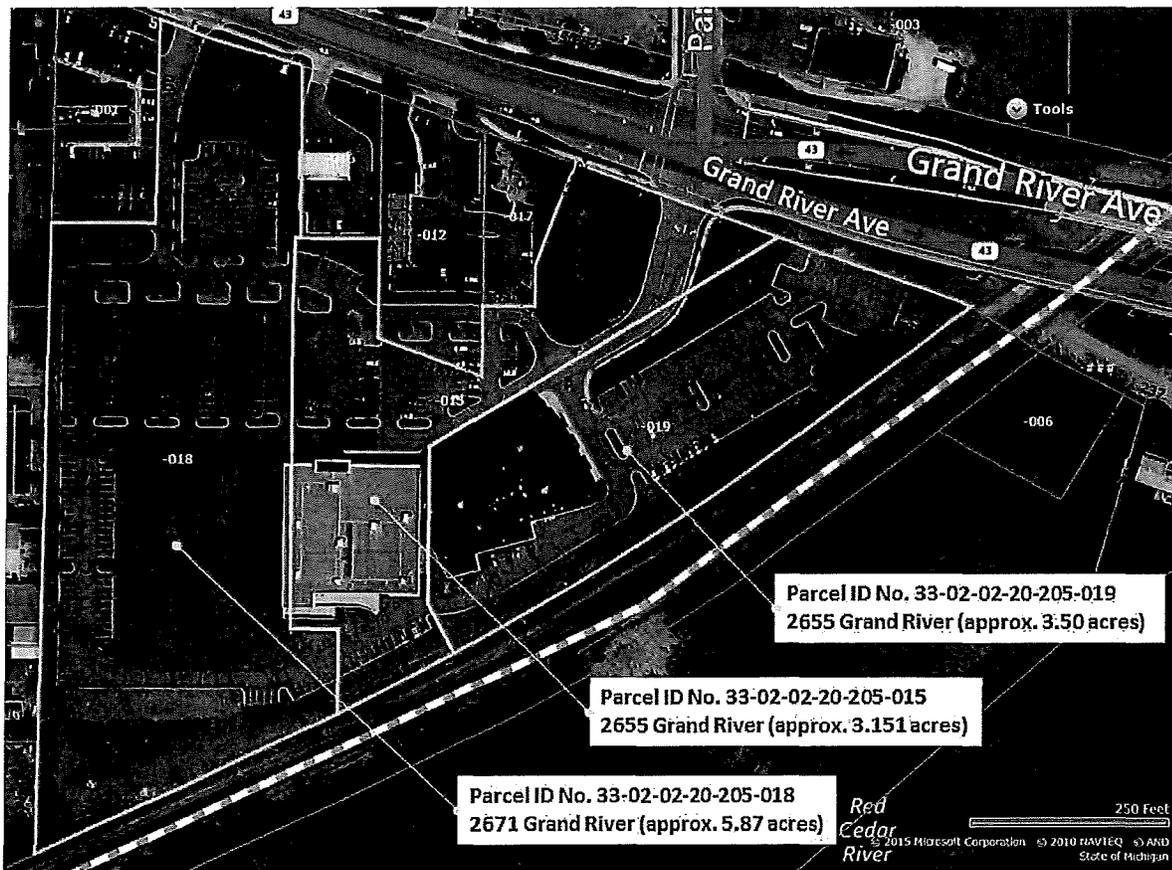
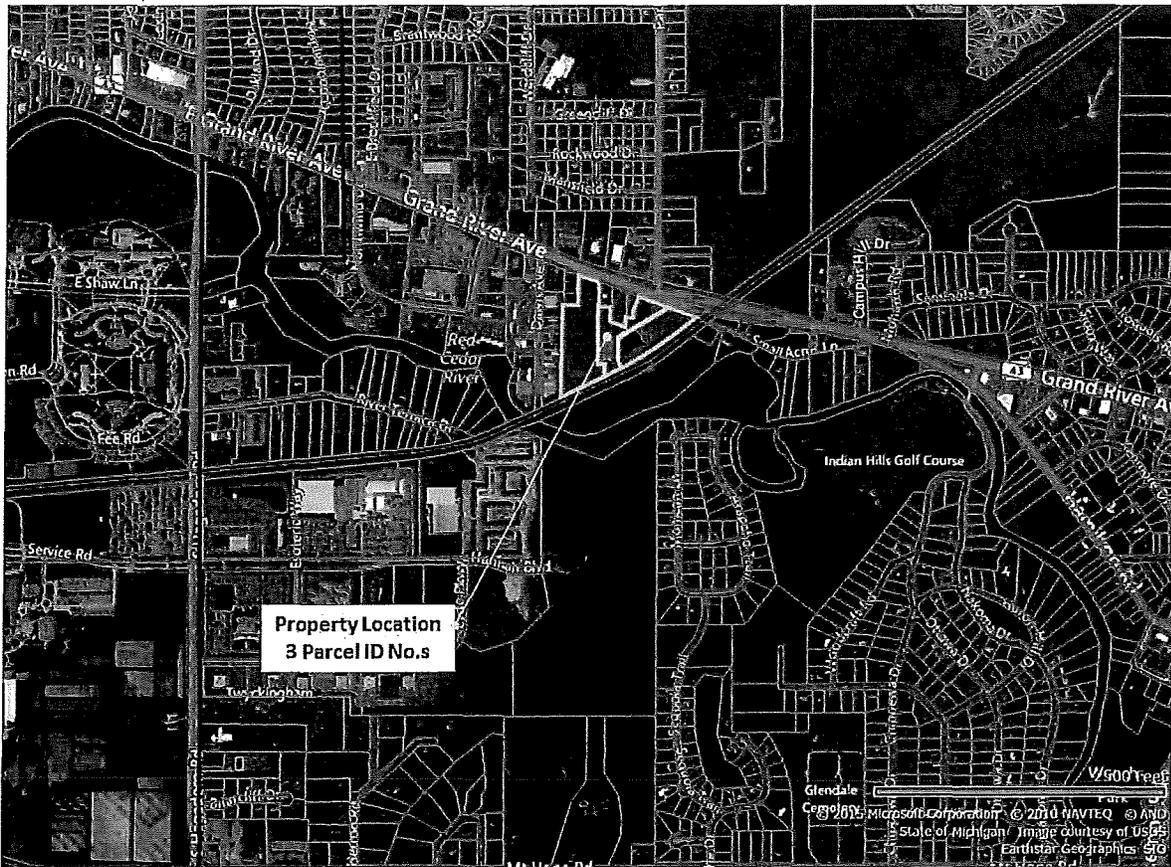
Taxes Captured (by Year 2031): Cumulative

\$ 229,985	For Authority LSRRF
\$ 4,599,702	Local Taxes To Developer (Eligible Activities)*
\$ 0	Sch. Taxes To Developer (Eligible Activities)*
\$ 4,829,687	Total New Tax Capture - Authority (see Table 2)

Total New Taxes (by Year 2031): \$9,823,786 (\$4,994,099+ \$4,829,687)

* Interest is included and will be calculated on all eligible activities.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ELIGIBLE PROPERTY (SECTION 13(1)(H))



MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: Mark Kieselbach
Mark Kieselbach
Director of Community Planning and Development

DATE: December 29, 2015

RE: Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry Homes) – Final Adoption

Attached for the Board's approval is a resolution for final adoption of Rezoning #15040. As directed by the Board, the Clerk has had the proposed amendment published in the form in which it was introduced.

Attachment

1. Resolution

G:\Community Planning & Development\Planning\REZONINGS (REZ)\2015\REZ #15040 (Mayberry)\Staff Reports\REZ 15040.TB final.doc

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01
Rezoning #15040
Mayberry Homes
E. side of Powell Road, north of Grand River
FINAL ADOPTION

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 5th day of January 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, Mayberry Homes requested the rezoning (Rezoning #15040) of approximately 25.5 acres located on the east side of Powell Road and north of Grand River Avenue from RR (Rural Residential) and CR (Commercial Recreation) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request at its September 14, 2015 and October 12, 2015 meetings and recommended approval at its October 12, 2015 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board discussed the rezoning at its meeting on December 1, 2015 and has reviewed the staff and Planning Commission material forwarded under cover memorandum dated November 24, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is designated in the Residential 0.5 to 1.25 dwelling unit per acre classification on the 2005 Master Plan Future Land Use Map; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition to limit the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre is consistent with the 2005 Future Land Use Map designation of Residential 0.5 to 1.25 dwelling units per acre; and

WHEREAS, rezoning the subject site to RAA (Single Family- Low Density) is compatible with the variety of single family residential zoning districts found along Powell Road including RR (Rural Residential) north of the site and RA (Single Family-High Density) on the west side of Powell Road and at the southeast corner of Powell and Tihart Roads; and

**Resolution to Approve RAA
Rezoning #15040 (Mayberry)
Page 2**

WHEREAS, the Township's traffic consultant reviewed the applicant's traffic assessment concluding no further traffic report will be necessary based on the low number of trip increases and the lack of sight distance concerns; and

WHEREAS, public water is available to serve the site but public sanitary sewer service is not readily available to serve the site and the applicant has proposed to use on-site septic system; and

WHEREAS, the rezoning will result in a logical and orderly development pattern for the Powell Road area; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board introduced Rezoning #15040 for publication and subsequent adoption on December 8, 2015.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby **FINALLY ADOPTS** Ordinance No. 2016-01, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #15040" from RR (Rural Residential) and CR (Commercial Recreation) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) with the voluntary offer of a condition limiting the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 5th day of January 2016.

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC
Township Clerk

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP
OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
PURSUANT TO REZONING #15040**

The Charter Township of Meridian ordains:

Section 1. Amending the Zoning District Map.

A. The Zoning District Map of Meridian Township, as adopted in Section 86-312 of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, as previously amended, is hereby amended by changing the RR (Rural Residential) District symbol and the CR (Commercial Recreation) symbol and indications as shown on the Zoning District Map, for the property legally described as:

A parcel of land in the Northwest 1/4 and Southwest 1/4 of Section 23, T4N, R1W, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan; the surveyed boundary of said parcel being described as BEGINNING at the West 1/4 Corner of Section 23, T4N, R1W, Michigan Meridian; thence N00 degrees 04'18" E, along the West section line, 593.98 feet; thence N89 degrees 51'33" E, 1325.98 feet; thence S00 degrees 02'33" E, along the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 23, 593.97 feet to the East-West 1/4 line; thence N 89 degrees 51'33"E, along said East-West 1/4 line, 33 feet; thence S00 degrees 15'17" E, 100 feet; thence S89 degrees 51'33" W, 691.98 feet; thence S00 degrees 19'35" E, 279.61 feet; thence S89 degrees 35'16" W, 668.06 feet; thence N00 degrees 19'35" W, along the West section line, 382.79 feet to the point of beginning; said parcel contains 25.52 acres.

to that of the RAA* (Single Family-Low Density) conditioned on limiting the number of residences to no more than one unit per acre. A corresponding use district is established for the above described property.

Section 2. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective seven (7) days after its publication or upon such later date as may be required under Section 402 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3402) after filing of a notice of intent to file a petition for a referendum.

Elizabeth LeGoff, Township Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC, Township Clerk

Legal description confirmed by:

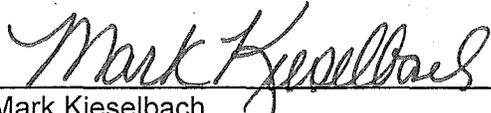
Mark Kieselbach, Director
Community Planning and Development

Stephen O. Schultz, Township Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM:


 Mark Kieselbach
 Director of Community Planning and Development


 Peter Menser
 Associate Planner

DATE: December 22, 2015

RE: Mobile Food Units – *Final adoption*

The Township Board voted to approve the mobile food unit ordinance for introduction at the December 8, 2015 meeting. Based on discussion at the meeting three provisions were changed to read as follows (changes in bold):

Sec. 38-168. Location.

Mobile food vending shall be permitted in the C-1 (Commercial), C-2 (Commercial), C-3 (Commercial), **CR (Commercial Recreation)**, RP (Research Park), and PO (Professional and Office) zoning districts.

Sec. 38-177. Requirements.

Any persons engaging in mobile food vending shall comply with the following requirements:

4. Outdoor seating, including but not limited to tables, chairs, booths, stools, benches, or stand up counters, shall **be subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.**
5. No banners, streamers, flags, flashing lights, blinking lights, or strobe lights shall be permitted on the mobile food vending unit or on the **portion of the site** where the mobile food vending unit is parked **unless expressly allowed elsewhere in the Code of Ordinances.**

In addition to the adopting the ordinance, the Township Board will have to revise the Planning Division fee schedule to include the application fee for mobile food vending. A motion has been provided for the Board's consideration.

MOTION TO AMEND THE 2016 PLANNING DIVISION FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE THE APPLICATION FEE OF \$60 (PER 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS) FOR A MOBILE FOOD UNIT VENDING LICENSE.

**Mobile Food Units
Township Board (1/5/16)
Page 2**

Attached for the Board's approval is a resolution for final adoption of the ordinance. As directed by the Board, the Clerk has had the proposed ordinance published in the form in which it was introduced.

Attachment

1. Resolution to approve for final adoption.

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ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02
Chapter 38
Mobile Food Units
Township Board
FINAL ADOPTION

RESOLUTION

At the regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 5th day of January 2016 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances, Chapter 38, regulates vending in the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received requests to operate mobile food vending units in within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the current vending ordinance does not have regulations related specifically to mobile food units; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board was requested to consider amending the vending ordinance to add mobile food units; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board discussed a mobile food unit ordinance at its meetings on September 15, 2015, October 20, 2015, and December 1, 2015 and has reviewed the material forwarded by staff under cover memoranda dated September 9, 2015, October 15, 2015, and November 23, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the ordinance is to allow and encourage mobile food units that add to the vibrancy and desirability of the Township, while providing a framework under which such businesses operate; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment is consistent with Board Policy 1.3(3) to cultivate a thriving economic community by encouraging local business development; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board introduced the mobile food unit ordinance for publication and subsequent adoption on December 8, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby **FINALLY ADOPTS** Ordinance No. 2016-02 entitled "Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article IV, by amending Division 1, Section 38-121; Division 2, Section 38-151; and by adding Division 3, Section 38-165 through Section 38-180."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 5th day of January 2016.

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC
Township Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN,
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN,
CHAPTER 38, ARTICLE IV,
BY AMENDING DIVISION 1, SECTION 38-121;
DIVISION 2, SECTION 38-151; AND BY ADDING DIVISION 3,
SECTION 38-165 THROUGH SECTION 38-180

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN ORDAINS:

Section 1.

- A. Amendment to Section 38-121 of Article IV Vendors, Division 1, Generally. Section 38-121 entitled Conduct defined as vending of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 38-121. Conduct Defined as Vending.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following conduct, except mobile food vending as defined in Division 3 of this Article, shall be defined to be vending and persons engaged in such conduct shall be deemed to be vendors:

(1) through (2) Remains as written.

- B. Amendment to Section 38-151 of Article IV Vendors, Division 2, License. Section 38-151 entitled Required; exception of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 38-151. Required; exception.

(a) Remains as written.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to:

(1) through (7) Remains as written.

(8) Mobile Food Vending Units.

- C. Amendment to Article IV Vendors. Article IV entitled Vendors of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, is hereby amended by adding Division 3, Sections 38-165 through Section 38-181 to read as follows:

DIVISION 3. MOBILE FOOD UNITS.

Sec. 38-165. Title.

This article shall be known and cited as the Mobile Food Unit Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian.

Sec. 38-166. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

1. *Mobile Food Vending* shall mean vending, serving, or offering for sale food and/or beverages from a mobile food vending unit.

2. *Mobile Food Vending Unit* shall mean any motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer, stand, cart, or other device designed to be portable and not permanently attached to the ground from which food is vended, served, or offered for sale.

3. *Vendor* shall mean any individual engaged in the business of mobile food vending; if more than one individual is operating a motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer, stand, cart, or other device designed to be portable, then vendor shall mean all individuals operating such motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer, stand, cart, or other device designed to be portable.

4. *Operate* shall mean all activities associated with the conduct of business, including set up and take down and/or actual hours where the mobile food vending unit is open for business.

Sec. 38-167. Purpose.

In the interest of allowing and encouraging mobile food units that add to the vibrancy and desirability of Meridian Township, while providing a framework under which such businesses operate.

Sec. 38-168. Location.

Mobile food vending shall be permitted in the C-1 (Commercial), C-2 (Commercial), C-3 (Commercial), CR (Commercial Recreation), RP (Research Park), and PO (Professional and Office) zoning districts.

Sec. 38-169. License Required.

No vendor shall engage in mobile food vending without a license issued by the Director of Community Planning and Development authorizing the vending. All licenses shall be prominently displayed on the mobile food vending unit. No vending by a mobile food vending unit of food and/or other consumables shall be permitted unless it meets the definition of mobile food vending as defined by this article and complies with all terms and conditions of Article IV, Division 3.

Sec. 38-170. Exceptions to License Requirement.

Mobile food vending occurring at the Meridian Township Farmers' Market or in conjunction with a Township sponsored event is exempt from the license requirement. Written permission from the Director of Community Planning and Development to operate at the Farmers' Market or Township sponsored event is required.

Sec. 38-171. Duration; Non-Transferability.

Licenses may be issued by the Director of Community Planning and Development for a period of 120 days from the date of issuance. The license may be renewed by a vendor in good standing. Any license issued under this article is non-transferable between vendors, properties, and mobile food vending units.

Sec. 38-172. Application.

A vendor desiring to engage in mobile food vending shall submit an application to the Department of Community Planning and Development. No application shall be processed until it is complete.

1. A mobile food vending application form available in the Department of Community Planning and Development containing the following information:
 - a. The applicant's name, address, phone number, and email.
 - b. The address and/or parcel number of the property where the mobile food vending unit will be located.
 - c. The name, address, phone number, and email of the party responsible for operating the mobile food vending unit, if different from the applicant.
 - d. Written permission from the owner of the property on which the vending will occur.
 - e. A site plan, drawn to a legible scale, showing the location of the mobile food vending unit, existing buildings, parking, streets, driveways, and sidewalks.
 - f. Zoning of the subject property.
 - g. Any license, permit, or authorization required by any other ordinance, statute, or administrative rule.
 - h. Other information the Director of Community Planning and Development deems necessary to thoroughly evaluate the application.

Sec. 39-173. Fees.

An application for a permit under this ordinance shall be accompanied by a fee in the amount established in the schedule of fees adopted by the Township Board. There shall be no proration of fees. Fees are non-refundable once a license is issued by the Director of Community Planning and Development.

Sec. 38-174. Requirement of state license.

Prior to issuance of a mobile food vending license, an applicant shall submit evidence of a license issued by the Ingham County Health Department or any other relevant agencies to engage in mobile food vending.

Sec. 38-175. Setbacks.

A mobile food vending unit shall be setback a minimum of 10 feet from any property line, street right-of-way line, structure, or other mobile food vending unit.

Sec. 38-176. Signage.

One non-illuminated freestanding portable sign that is no more than three feet in height and six square feet or less in surface display area per side may be used by a mobile food vending unit. Under no circumstances shall such sign be placed upon a sidewalk or pathway or impede pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Sec. 38-177. Requirements.

Any persons engaging in mobile food vending shall comply with the following requirements:

1. A waste receptacle and a recycling bin shall be provided at the site of the mobile food vending unit. The vendor shall remove all litter, debris, and other waste attributable to the operation as needed or at least on a daily basis.
2. Products shall not be displayed outside the mobile food vending unit.
3. Mobile food vending may only occur between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week.
4. Outdoor seating, including but not limited to tables, chairs, booths, stools, benches, or stand up counters, shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.
5. No banners, streamers, flags, flashing lights, blinking lights, or strobe lights shall be permitted on the mobile food vending unit or on the portion of the site where the mobile food vending unit is parked unless expressly allowed elsewhere in the Code of Ordinances.
6. All exterior lighting associated with the mobile food vending unit, whether on the mobile food vending unit itself or placed on the site where the mobile food vending is occurring, shall be shielded to direct the illumination downward.
7. A mobile food vending unit shall not make or cause to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise. The operation of all mobile food vending units shall be in compliance with the Township noise ordinance, including generators. No loud music, other high-decibel sounds, horns, or amplified announcements are allowed.
8. The vendor shall not utilize any electricity or power without the prior written authorization of the power customer; power cables or similar devices shall not be extended across any street, alley, sidewalk, or pathway.
9. A mobile food vending unit when parked on a street, alley, or roadway shall be parked in conformance with applicable parking regulations and shall not hinder the lawful parking or operation of other vehicles.
10. The mobile food vending unit shall not be located so as to block a public sidewalk or pathway, designated fire lane, or otherwise impede pedestrian or vehicular movement.

Sec. 38-178. Revocation.

The Director of Community Planning and Development shall revoke the license of any vendor who ceases to meet any requirement of this article or violates any other federal, state, or local regulation, makes a false statement on their application, or conducts activity in a manner that is adverse to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Immediately upon such revocation, the Director shall provide written notice to the permit holder by certified mail to their place of business or residence as indicated on the application. Immediately upon such revocation, the permit shall become null and void.

Sec. 38-179. Appeals.

Any person aggrieved by an order, requirement, decision or determination of the Director of Community Planning and Development as it relates to this article, may appeal to the Township Board in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. A written statement containing the specific reason for the appeal must be filed with the Township Clerk within 15 calendar days of the date of the decision sought to be appealed.
- b. The Township Board shall hold a hearing on the appeal, which shall be open to public comment and shall include an opportunity for the appealing party to present their appeal.
- c. Notice of the time and place for consideration of an appeal shall be sent by mail or personal delivery not less than 10 calendar days prior to the date of the hearing to the parties making the appeal. All notices shall be sent to addresses listed on the most recent assessment roll.
- d. The Township Board shall issue its decision on the appeal within a reasonable time. In its determination of the appeal, the Township Board may take, but is not limited to, any of the following actions:
 1. Affirm the decision of the Director of Community Planning and Development with or without modification and with or without such conditions as the Board deems necessary or appropriate to further the intent and purposes of this article.
 2. Reverse the decision of the Director of Community Planning and Development and state its reasons for reversal.
 3. Make any other decision, determination, order, or requirement that the Director of Community Planning and Development could have made with respect to the subject matter of the appeal.
- e. The Township Clerk shall notify the parties making the request in writing of the Township Board's decision.

Sec. 38-180. Penalties.

A person who violates any provision of this article is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subject to payment of a civil fine of \$75, plus costs including all direct and indirect expenses incurred by the Township in connection with the municipal civil infraction as provided in Section 1-8 of the Township Code of Ordinances. Repeat offenses under this section shall be subject to increased fines as provided by Section 1-8 of this Code. As to violations of this article that are continuous with respect to time, each day that the violation continues is a separate offense. Abatements shall not be considered as payment or part of a violation's penalty. In addition to all other remedies, including the penalties provided in this article, the Township may commence and prosecute appropriate actions in the county circuit court or any other court having jurisdiction to restrain or prevent any noncompliance with or violation of any of the provisions of this article or to correct, remedy, or abate such noncompliance or violation.

Sec. 38-181 through Sec. 38-185 (Reserved)

Section 2. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective seven (7) days after its publication or upon such later date as may be required under Section 402 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3402) after filing of a notice of intent to file a petition for a referendum.

Elizabeth LeGoff, Township Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus, Township Clerk

Steven Schultz, Township Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Mark Kieselbach
Director of Community Planning and Development

DATE: December 29 2015

RE: ZA #15070 (Planning Commission) Wireless Communication – *Final Adoption*

Attached for the Board's approval is a resolution for final adoption of Zoning Amendment #15070. As directed by the Board, the Clerk has had the proposed amendment published in the form in which it was introduced.

Attachment

1. Resolution

ORDINANCE 2016-03
Zoning Amendment #15070
(Planning Commission)
FINAL ADOPTION

RESOLUTION

At the regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 5th day of January 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, a zoning amendment (ZA #15070) was initiated to amend Section 86-2 Definitions and Section 86-438 Wireless Communications Facility Overlay District to comply with a recent amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, P.A. 110 of 2006 regulating activities associated with the installation of wireless communications facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed zoning amendment on October 12, 2015, and reviewed staff material forwarded under cover memoranda dated October 8, 2015 and October 22, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act is the legal basis for the Charter Township of Meridian's Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, consistency with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act is imperative to insure the accuracy of Township decisions related to zoning; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board introduced Zoning Amendment #15070 for publication and subsequent adoption on December 8, 2015.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby **FINALLY ADOPTS** Ordinance No.2016-03, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, DIVISION 4, by amending Section 86-2 Definitions and Section 86-438 through Section 86-438(f) Wireless Communications Facilities Overlay District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
ZA #15070 (Planning Commission)
Page 2**

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 5th day of January 2016.

Brett Dreyfus CMMC
Township Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-03

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN,
CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE I BY AMENDING SECTION 86-2
AND
CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 4, OTHER DISTRICTS BY AMENDING SECTION 86-
438 THROUGH SECTION 86-438(f)

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN ORDAINS:

Section 1.

- A. Amendment to Section 86-2 Definitions of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, hereby amends Section 86-2 to read as follows:

Sec. 86-2 Definitions.

Collocate or collocation means to place or install wireless communications equipment on an existing wireless communications support structure or in an existing equipment compound.

Equipment compound means an area surrounding or adjacent to the base of a wireless communications support structure and within which wireless communication equipment is located.

Stealth wireless facility design means a wireless communication facility which is not recognizable as a conventional facility (e.g., a metal lattice or monopole), but instead disguised, or concealed, or architecturally integrated into a building's design in such a fashion as to conform to its surroundings.

Wireless communications equipment means the set of equipment and network components used in the provision of wireless communications services, including, but not limited to, antennas, transmitters, receivers, base stations, equipment shelters, cabinets, emergency generators, power supply cables, and coaxial and fiber optic cables, but excluding wireless communications support structures.

Wireless communications facility means a site where a wireless communications support structure, wireless communication equipment, or a wireless communications equipment compound is located.

Wireless communications support structure means a structure that is designed to support, or is capable of supporting wireless communications equipment, including monopole, self-supporting lattice tower, guyed tower, water tower, utility pole, or building.

- B. Amendment to Article IV, District Regulations, Division 4 Other Division, Section 86-438 through Section 86-438 (f) entitled Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 86-438. Wireless communications facilities overlay district.

(a) *Purpose:*

- (1) The purpose of the wireless communications facilities overlay district is to:

- a. Provide standards and regulations pertaining to the location, construction, design, and maintenance of wireless communication facilities within the township;
- b. Minimize adverse effects of wireless communications facilities through careful design, siting, and screening;
- c. Protect residential areas, agricultural or natural areas, and protect future land uses from potential adverse impacts of towers and antennas;
- d. Avoid potential damage to adjacent properties from structural failure of a wireless communications support structure through proper engineering and careful siting of structures; and
- e. Minimize the total number of towers throughout the Township by encouraging the joint use of any new or existing wireless communication facility or other suitable structure.

(b) Applicability.

- (1) The regulations and standards of this overlay district shall apply to any wireless communication facility permitted by right or by special use permit in the Township and which is utilized to send or receive communications, including, but not limited to, cellular towers, paging towers, radio and television broadcasting transmission towers, microwave towers, and antenna, satellite antenna towers, digital communication towers, whip antenna, panel antenna, dish antenna, mounted antenna, personal communication services (PCS), or other similar wireless communications towers, antennas, and facilities.
 - a. Police, fire, and emergency communications, citizen band radio, shortwave, ham and amateur radio, or personal receive only antennas are exempt from this section.
 - b. In no case shall any portion of a wireless communications facility be permitted within the required natural vegetation strip per Section 86-471, a floodway, a heritage neighborhood, a property or structure listed on the national register of historic places or eligible property or structure, Native American burial sites, or within 300 feet of a designated natural beauty road.

(c) Uses permitted by right.

- (1) Wireless communications support structures which incorporate stealth design.
- (2) Wireless communications equipment if all of the following requirements are met:
 - a. The wireless communications equipment will be collocated on an existing wireless communications support structure or in an existing equipment compound.

- b. The existing wireless communications support structure or the existing equipment compound is in compliance with the Township zoning ordinance or has been previously approved by the Township.
- c. The proposed collocation will not result in any of the following:
 - 1. An increase in the overall height of the wireless communications support structure by more than 20 feet or 10 percent of its original height, whichever is greater.
 - 2. An increase in the width of the wireless communications support structure by more than the minimum required to permit collocation.
 - 3. An increase in the area of the existing equipment compound to greater than 2,500 square feet.
- d. The proposed collocation complies with the terms and conditions of any previous final approval of the wireless communications support structure or equipment compound by the Township.

(3) Roof-mounted antenna

- a. Not exceeding 20 feet in height above the average height of the roof line, located on nonresidential buildings at least two stories in height.
- b. Not exceeding ten feet in height above the average height of the roof line, located on nonresidential buildings at least four stories in height.

(4) Mounted antenna not located on a roof which have a total height of three feet or less. With the exception of one whip antenna, mounted antenna shall not be permitted on business signs without a special use permit.

(5) Collocation of a wireless communication antenna on a public water tower, athletic field light standard, electrical utility transmission tower or distribution pole, or on an existing tower or pole within the right-of-way or easement of an electrical utility corridor.

Where freestanding wireless communication facilities are permitted to locate by an electric utility within an electrical utility easement, the wireless communication tower shall meet the minimum setback requirements in this section.

(d) *Uses permitted by special use permit.* Any proposed wireless communications facility not described under uses permitted by right.

(e) Special use permit review process.

- (1) A completed special use permit application shall be submitted to the director community planning and development pursuant to the requirements of section 86-124.
- (2) After the special use permit application is filed, the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission's authorized designee shall determine whether the application is administratively complete. The application shall be considered to be administratively complete when the planning commission or the planning commission's authorized designee makes that determination or 14 business days after the planning commission or the planning commission's authorized designee receives the application, whichever is first.
- (3) Before the expiration of the 14 business days, the planning commission or the planning commission's authorized designee shall notify the applicant that the application is not administratively complete, specifying the information necessary to make the application administratively complete, or notify the applicant that a fee required to accompany the application has not been paid, specifying the amount due. The running of the 14 business days is tolled until the applicant submits to the planning commission or the planning commission's authorized designee the specified information or fee amount due. The notice shall be given in writing or by electronic notification.
- (4) After the application is determined to be administratively complete, the planning commission shall hold a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing shall comply with the provisions of subsection 86-65(b) of the code of ordinances.
- (5) The planning commission shall approve or deny a special use permit not more than 60 days after the application is considered to be administratively complete, except a special use permit for a new wireless communications facility shall be approved or denied not more than 90 days after the application is considered to be administratively complete. If the planning commission fails to approve or deny the special use permit within the time period, the special use permit shall be considered approved and the planning commission shall be considered to have made any determination required for approval.
- (6) Conditions placed on a special use permit approval shall be limited to meeting the requirements of this section, other Township ordinances, and state and federal laws.

(f) *Standards applying to wireless communications facilities.*

- (1) General requirements:

- a. The applicant shall demonstrate to the township by means of an architect's or engineer's report the proposed wireless communications facility is no more than the minimum height necessary. This report shall be certified and sealed and shall at a minimum include details on the support structure's design and safety; location and topography constraints, expected usage or cell range, potential interference sources, collocation needs, safety, and siting need and requirements.
- b. Applicants for a wireless communications facility shall disclose any potential impact on the environment in an environmental assessment for the following categories:
 - Wetlands.
 - Floodplains, including floodway and floodway fringe.
 - Wildlife preserves and corridors.
 - Endangered species.
 - Historical sites.
 - Native American religious sites.
 - Groundwater recharge areas.
 - Woodlands.
- c. At wireless communications facilities with a freestanding wireless communications support structure, a minimum of two off-street parking spaces shall be provided on the site. An additional off-street parking space for each two employees required as on-site personnel shall be provided at the facilities.
- d. All wireless communications facilities with a freestanding wireless communications support structure located in a residential zoning district shall be located on a separate parcel of land which meets the lot area and width requirements of the residential zoning district where it is located or the minimum setbacks in this section, whichever is greater.
- e. All wiring connecting a freestanding wireless communications support structure with buildings and equipment within the equipment compound shall be placed underground or fully enclosed.
- f. All applicants proposing a wireless communications facility are recommended to schedule a pre-site selection conference with the department of community planning and development.
- g. The applicant shall provide the Department of Community Planning and Development with copies of all Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other regulatory approvals.

- h. Accessory mechanical buildings associated with a wireless communications facility shall be designed in a manner which is architecturally compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

(2) Collocation.

- a. In order to maximize the efficiency of wireless communication services, while also minimizing the impact of such facilities on the township, all applicants for wireless communication facilities shall be required to provide information regarding the feasibility of collocation at all proposed or existing sites in the Township. Furthermore, all applicants shall be required to provide a notarized letter of intent to commit itself to:
 - 1. Respond to any requests for information from another potential shared use applicant;
 - 2. Negotiate in good faith and allow for leased shared use if an applicant or the Township as a user, demonstrates that it is technically feasible; and
 - 3. Make no more than a reasonable charge for a shared use lease.
- b. Should collocation be proposed at a wireless communication facility, accessory mechanical buildings shall either be situated directly adjacent to or abutting each other and separated by a firewall, shall be placed underground, or shall be designed in a manner which limits the number and size of the buildings on the site. On-site constraints, such as existing topographical and other natural features, may be considered when reviewing a proposed collocation design. Accessory mechanical buildings shall be designed to be consistent in design, style, and exterior appearance. Review and approval of accessory mechanical buildings at a collocation site shall be made by the director of community planning and development.

(3) *Site development requirements.*

- a. All wireless communications facilities shall be subject to site plan review.
- b. *Height.* Unless otherwise provided for in this section, the antenna and towers associated with wireless communication facilities shall be exempt from the maximum height requirements of the zoning district where they are located.
- c. *Setbacks.* Freestanding wireless communication facilities shall be subject to the following minimum setback requirements:
 - 1. Freestanding wireless communications support structures employing guy anchors shall be sited so that the guy anchors for the structure meet the minimum setback requirements of the zoning district where they are located and do not cross into another zoning district.

2. When a monopole, self-supporting lattice tower, or guyed towers is used as the wireless communications support structure, it shall be setback from all property lines a distance equal to the height of the monopole, self-supporting lattice tower, or guyed tower or the minimum setback required by the zoning district, whichever is greater.
 3. Mounted wireless communication equipment shall meet the required setbacks for the structure upon which they are located and shall be situated to provide for maximum safety on the site.
- d. *Safety and security requirements.*
1. The applicant shall, in conjunction with the application, submit a statement that is certified and sealed by a licensed architect or engineer indicating that the proposed wireless communications facility is in compliance with all Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations and all building and code requirements.
 2. All wireless communication facilities shall be fitted with anticlimbing devices.
 3. Proof of adequate insurance coverage, sufficient to cover any potential damages done by or to the facility shall be provided.
 4. Security fencing, compatible with the township's fence regulations of Section 86-506 shall be installed completely around freestanding wireless communications facilities, including guy anchors. Access shall be provided only by a locked gate. Security fencing shall not be required for mounted facilities.
 5. When a monopole, self-supporting lattice tower, or guyed tower is used as the wireless communications support structure, a statement verifying that the tower, including any and all attachments, shall comply with all building code and Electronics Industry Association (ETA) (222-E) requirements and shall be certified and sealed by a licensed architect or engineer and furnished with the application.
 6. The wireless communications facility shall not block areas which will hamper firefighting or emergency equipment or maintenance of other utilities.
 7. All wireless communication facilities shall receive regular and routine care and maintenance.
- e. *Landscaping and visual impact requirements.*
1. Landscaping consisting of native species approved by the township shall be provided in sufficient quantity around the perimeter of the required security fencing, as well as adjacent to any buildings and anchors. Site access entrances shall also be landscaped with native materials. This

information shall be presented on a landscape plan and subject to the approval of the Director of Community Planning and Development.

2. When located on an otherwise undeveloped site, the existing natural vegetation of the property shall be maintained to the greatest extent possible. The applicants shall provide information on a landscape plan regarding existing vegetation which is proposed to be removed and methods for replacement. In no case shall an entire site be graded and/or cleared for installation of a wireless communication facility.
3. Where a wireless communications facility is proposed, the applicants shall demonstrate how the accessory building's design will limit adverse visual impacts to neighboring property owners. Appropriate landscaping shall also be provided.
4. Lighting at the wireless communications facility shall be designed so not adversely affect adjacent property owners and shall be in compliance with FAA standards and Chapter 38, Article VII as applicable.
5. When a monopole, self-supporting lattice tower, or guyed tower of 200 feet or less in height is used as the wireless communications support structure a design utilizing light sky-blue, sky-mist gray, or a similar unobtrusive color shall be required, unless otherwise directed by the FAA.

(g) Abandonment.

- (1) Wireless communications facilities which have been abandoned or are unused or disconnected from the network for a period of six months shall be immediately removed from the site at the cost of the facility applicant or their successor.
- (2) Upon removal of the wireless communications facility from the site all foundations shall also be removed to a depth of at least six feet in residentially zoned districts. In all other zoning districts, the foundation shall be removed to a depth of at least three feet. Additionally, the fencing and accessory structures shall be demolished and removed from the site at the cost of the applicant, or their successor.
- (3) The siting of any antenna or tower shall require the applicant to deposit with the Township Clerk security of a performance guarantee (in a time duration and with financial institution deemed acceptable to the Township) in the form of cash, a certified check, or irrevocable bank letter of credit, which will ensure full compliance with this Ordinance and any conditions of approval. The security shall cover removal of the facility when it has been abandoned, or unused or disconnected from the network as provided herein. The amount of security shall be sufficient to remove the entire facility, equipment, equipment compound and related improvements and satisfactory to the Township.

The security shall be kept in full force and effect and irrevocable and non-cancelable (except by the written consent of both the Township and the then-owner of the antenna, tower or related facility) during the entire time while the antenna or tower exists or is in place. The applicant and owner shall further agree as a condition of the security that the applicant and owner are responsible for the payment of any costs and attorney fees incurred by the Township in securing removal.

Section 2. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective seven (7) days after its publication or upon such later date as may be required under Section 402 Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3402) after filing of a notice of intent to file a petition for a referendum.

Elizabeth LeGoff, Township Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC, Township Clerk

Andria Ditschman, Township Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
 Mark Kieselbach
 Director of Community Planning and Development


 Peter Menser
 Associate Planner

DATE: December 22, 2015

RE: Flags Over Meridian

The Kiwanis Club of Haslett has invited the Township Board to participate in its Flags over Meridian program. The proposal is as follows:

- A total of 20 flags would be installed along the Marsh Road frontage at the Meridian Municipal Building
- Flags are installed six times per year on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, September 11, and Veteran's Day
- Each flag is 3' by 5' and made in the United States

Each flag is \$36, making the total cost of the proposal \$720. Haslett Kiwanis installs the flags a day or two before each holiday and removes them afterward. A motion to approve the Flags Over Meridian proposal is provided for the Board's consideration.

- **MOTION TO SPEND AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$720 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2016 FLAGS OVER MERIDIAN PROGRAM.**

Attachments

1. Flags Over Meridian brochure
2. Proposal from Kiwanis Club of Haslett



100% of the proceeds are dedicated to our work in Meridian Township to support youth and families.

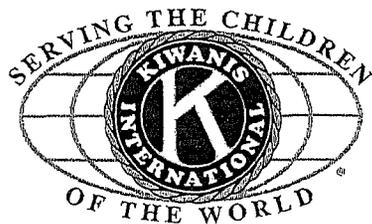
The Kiwanis Club Flag Project is sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Haslett

We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.
Blondie's Barn in Haslett

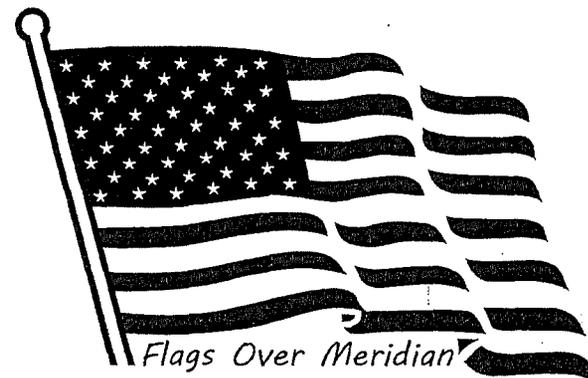
We want your help in supporting
our community children to
Build Character • Improve Grades
Develop Leadership Skills

Call 517-202-1786



Kiwanis Club of Haslett
1491 Franklin St.
Haslett, MI 48840

Kiwanis Club of Haslett



We will put a Flag in front of your home, business, or other choice of location, on each of these important dates:

Memorial Day

Flag Day

Fourth of July

Labor Day

9/11

Veterans Day

The cost for this flag service is \$36.00 a year, 100% of which goes to help us support the children and families in our community.

To subscribe, just fill out the form on the back of this page.





The Kiwanis Club of Haslett invites you and your neighbors to display America's colors six times a year.

Memorial Day • Flag day • Independence Day
Labor Day • 9/11 • Veteran's Day

We do all the work for you!

When you sign up for our Flag Program, we insert a PVC sleeve and cap in the ground at a respectable place of viewing in your yard, or place of your choosing. No brackets or fixtures are attached to your home.

We will set a 3'x5' flag on a 10' pole in the sleeve a couple of days before each of the above listed holidays, take it down afterward (weather may dictate when this occurs), and store it for you the rest of the year. It's that easy!

If you'd like to know more about the Kiwanis organization, or the Kiwanis' Flag Project, please contact:

Tom Haas
517-388-1826
trhaas2204@yahoo.com

David Swanson
517-331-2738
swansond07@comcast.net

Gary Scott
517-282-1640
mrgrs2@aol.com

Kiwanis Club of Haslett
We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.
Blondie's Barn in Haslett

We want your help in supporting our community children to
**Build Character • Improve Grades
Develop Leadership Skills**

- We provided **\$20,000** to help create the new **Haslett Library**.
- We sponsor the Haslett Middle School **Robotics Team**.
- We sponsor the **High School Key Club** to encourage youth community service.
- We provide funds for **YMCA Tot Swim**.
- We distribute Dictionaries to every Haslett Third Grader.
- We recognize High School Scholars with a **Student of the Month** award.
- We help maintain & improve **Haslett Neighborhood Parks**.
- We distribute **Weekend Food Backpacks** to qualified Haslett kids.
- We assist the **Haslett Food Pantry** with funds, purchased food and workers.
- We **Distribute Hot Meals for Seniors**.
- We provide **Scholarships to the Youth Law Enforcement Academy**.
- We support **Meridian Sun PGA Junior League Golf**.



Please send your check (\$36 per Flag Subscription), payable to:

Kiwanis Club of Haslett
1491 Franklin St.
Haslett, MI 48840

I agree to advise Kiwanis Club of Haslett on the placement of the PVC sleeve to avoid sprinklers, electrical, telephone or fiber-optic cables, if necessary. I also assume all responsibility if the PVC sleeve is emerging above the surface of the ground, damaging lawn mowing equipment.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Flag Display Address (if different than above) _____

PROPOSAL

Kiwanis Club of Haslett



Date: November 2, 2015

Haslett Kiwanis Club
1491 Franklin Street
Haslett, MI 48840
517-202-1786

TO Frank Walsh, Township
Manager
Meridian Township Hall
4141 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48840

2016 Flags Over
Meridian
Subscriptions

FlagsOverMeridian@gmail.com

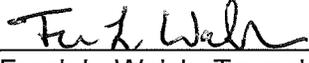
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
20	Flags will be installed at the Meridian Township Hall on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, 9/11, and Veterans' Day 2016.	\$36	\$720.00
			SUBTOTAL \$720.00
			SALES TAX 0.
			TOTAL \$720.00

JAN Board

Make all checks payable to Kiwanis Club of Haslett
Thank you for your support of our community.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager

DATE: December 29, 2015

RE: **2016 Goals Document**

Please see the attached final draft of the 2016 Strategic Action Plan. You will note the addition of Goal #10 to the list to help us articulate our efforts to promote team chemistry, teambuilding, and an overall positive work environment. Our best effort was used to include all the suggestions/comments from the November 16 Goal Setting meeting. We do have an ambitious itinerary for 2016 and beyond.

We hope that you will review the document one final time prior to the January 5 Board meeting. We certainly desire to bring closure to the planning portion of this annual process on January 26. Through the collective minds of many, we believe the final draft is comprehensive blueprint for Meridian Township going forward.

Attachments:

1. 2016 Action Plan
2. 2016 Strategic Plan

Meridian Charter Township

2016 Action Plan

1. Review, create, and implement a long-term plan to stabilize the Township's critically underfunded pension funds.
2. Assist the Planning Commission and the Township Board with the creation and follow through on updating the 2005 Master Plan.
3. Develop a short-term plan to foster development in the Carriage Hills, Haslett, and Downtown Okemos business districts.
4. Through mutual respect, negotiate new employment contracts with all seven (7) bargaining groups.
5. Continue to seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs similar to the 2015 Engineering/Public Works reorganization.
6. Implement a Meridian Township branding campaign and a more welcoming website.
7. Update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and begin construction of Towner Road Park.
8. Provide for a comprehensive review of the Township's Redi-Ride public transportation system.
9. Create a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy supported by leadership and employee involvement to maintain a well-rounded workforce.
10. Review the Township's Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance.



Meridian Charter Township 2016 Strategic Plan

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

Goal #1 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance the environment

a. Update the street tree ordinance and adopt a tree protection ordinance
b. Prepare, update, and enforce ordinances that protect natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain areas
c. Utilize the Township's Greenspace Plan as part of the review for land development projects
d. Apply the best planning practices to encourage the preservation of green and open spaces
e. Continue the Deer Management Program to reduce the deer population in our community
f. Manage invasive species in the parks and land preserves (removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hedge parsley, and phragmites)
g. Administer and enforce the Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control Program
h. Maintain the sewer system to minimize sewage backups
i. Develop an Urban Management Service area
j. Maintain robust recycling initiatives including the Meridian Recycling Center, community events, and educational programs, and work to enhance recycling opportunities in apartment complexes
k. Continue energy, water, and waste reduction efforts in Township buildings and other facilities
l. Adopt an ordinance prohibiting or regulating, as the law allows, fracking within the Township
m. Mitigate climate change - including investigating becoming a solar ready community
n. Review the cost/benefit analysis of implementing a Railroad Quiet Zone
o. Draft legislation regarding the placement of cell towers
p. Investigate the cost/benefit of solar panels on Township facilities

**Goal #2 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
public health, safety, and welfare**

a. Increase information shared with the public through social media regarding public safety tips, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), emergency communications, and police and fire services
b. Provide Beyond the Badge police and fire programs and stories
c. Strengthen communication and educate developers/builders, business owners, and neighborhood associations regarding the planning process in an effort to minimize violations and negative impacts
d. Continue implementation of the Grand River Corridor Access Management Ordinance
e. Renew our police services contract with Williamstown Township
f. Administer the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Traffic Grant
g. Purchase new mobile phone forensics software
h. Upgrade the booking area camera
i. Evaluate conversion to the State Records Management System (RMS) in the Police Department, and implement if determined to be feasible
j. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
k. Continue fire service to Alaiedon Township
l. Continue the yearly Police Citizens' and Youth Academies
m. Participate in the Lansing Regional Shared Fire Services
n. Process monthly police and fire citizen surveys
o. Monitor legislative actions relative to medical marihuana and prepare to act accordingly with local ordinances
p. Explore revision and/or modification of Township ordinances for the purpose of reducing penalties for possession or use of small amounts of marihuana
q. Review the opportunity to provide medical first response to Alaiedon Township

Goal #3 - Meridian Township shall provide an unparalleled parks system

a. Develop and construct Phase I of Towner Road Park (7)
b. Complete Legg Park projects - parking area, dog park, and stewardship
c. Construct roof structures over the dugouts at Hartrick Park
d. Rebuild the drainage system for the Harris Nature Center parking island
e. Construct the Wonch Park Pavilion with grant support
f. Install new play equipment at Orlando Park and Hillbrook Park
g. Replace the footbridge at Legg Park
h. Provide support for Eagle Scout Projects
i. Build an 18 hole disc golf course
j. Improve directional signage on trails
k. Construct a youth environmental exploration area at Harris Nature Center
l. Establish a plan for development of a smart-phone application (App) that provides Township Parks and Trails information
m. Develop the Water Trail Access Program
n. Update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (7)
o. Seek renewal of the 2004 Pathway Millage set to expire in 2016

**Goal #4 - Meridian Township shall provide exemplary
public services and facilities**

a. Conduct an annual assessment/reinspection program of taxable properties within Meridian Township
b. Improve communication and educate the public on the Rental Housing Program and continue to improve the process for rental housing inspections
c. Revise the sign and parking regulations
d. Continue support of and membership in regional organizations (i.e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)
e. Strengthen cooperative planning efforts with the Ingham County Road Department, Ingham County Drain Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and surrounding jurisdictions
f. Promote good design standards through the site plan review process
g. Utilize a health impact assessment guide, created in conjunction with the Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, in the review of development projects
h. Streamline field survey procedures so that information will flow directly into the Geographic Information System
i. Participate with Tri-County regional partners to contract for flight services to provide orthographic photography for the entire Township and surrounding areas
j. Update the patrol car graphic design
k. Upgrade or replace lift station SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system communications and software
l. Complete the first year of 3-year SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant project to develop sanitary sewer system asset management plan
m. Replace the control panel at Woodhill lift station
n. Construct a pathway on the south side of Mt. Hope Road (Okemos Road to Maumee)
o. Pursue Ingham County Trail Millage funding to implement the Lake Lansing to River Trail connector pathway
p. Investigate options for establishing Meridian Township as a smart community and explore viable plans for expanding municipal fiber, broadband, and public Wi-Fi in Meridian Township
q. Investigate providing a leaf pickup program in Meridian Township
r. Fill in pathway gaps
s. Provide for a comprehensive review of the Township's Redi-Ride public transportation system (8)
t. Review our Rental Inspection Program fee structure and timeframes to conduct inspections
u. Work with the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University on major upgrades to the city's wastewater treatment plant

Goal #5 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance our economic prosperity for all residents

a. Defend assessment appeals made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal
b. Enhance and encourage the retention of existing businesses and establishment of new businesses
c. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries
d. Encourage infill and/or redevelopment of existing commercial sites
e. Promote mixed-use development in commercial areas
f. Facilitate the objectives of the Downtown Development Authority by eliminating the causes of property value deterioration and promoting economic growth
g. Continue streetscape improvements to define downtown areas and promote a sense of place
h. Assist with the redevelopment of the former Central Fire Station/MARC property
i. Develop a short-term plan to foster development in the Carriage Hills, Haslett, and Downtown Okemos business districts (3)
j. Continue focus on the Douglas J project
k. Continue to conduct monthly business visits with a focus on customer service
l. Assist the Planning Commission and the Township Board with the creation and follow through on updating the 2005 Master Plan (2)
m. Sustain and enhance our positive working relationship with Michigan State University
n. Complete the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) receiving an unmodified audit opinion and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
o. Complete the annual budget process focusing on how the budget mirrors our annual goal setting process
p. Maintain, per the Board's direction, a minimum fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,250,000
q. Increase enrollment of online bill pay and explore options for new platforms to accept these payments (including BS&A's AccessMyGov-Internet Services)
r. Support all types of transportation modes in the Township including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
s. Encourage the use of complete streets practices as a routine part of operations
t. Review, create, and implement a long-term plan to stabilize the Township's critically underfunded pension plans (1)
u. Investigate reaching out and expanding the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event to include other areas of the Township, including Haslett and East Lansing
v. Encourage more low/mid income housing opportunities
w. Continue to seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs similar to the 2015 Engineering/Public Works reorganization (5)

**Goal #6 - Meridian Township shall promote and enhance
diversity across the Township**

a. Promote cultural diversity with our community programs and celebrations
b. Investigate and possibly launch a Chinese version of HOM-TV news programs
c. Continue to encourage the use of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and Commercial Planned Unit Development Ordinances
d. Encourage developers to provide affordable housing
e. Encourage a wide range of housing types
f. Strengthen community pride through such activities as downtown events and expanded outdoor sculpture displays
g. Host Chinese New Year and Heritage Festival events
h. Promote Nokomis Learning Center activities
i. Consider implementing the Language First Program (in an effort to aid our Township staff with communicating with visitors from all over the world)
j. Review the Township's Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance (10)

**Goal #7 - Meridian Township shall provide outstanding
recreational and cultural programs**

a. Provide sports and fitness programs for youths and adults
b. Administer environmental programs and events for all ages at Harris Nature Center
c. Offer educational, fitness, and social opportunities for senior citizens at the Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Mall
d. Coordinate the Farmers' Market outdoors (May-October) and indoors (December-April)
e. Investigate Farmers' Market Relocation (location, size, and funding)
f. Support activities of the Friends of Historic Meridian
g. Support activities of the Meridian Garden Club
h. Conduct special events: Chinese New Year, Celebrate Downtown Okemos, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Meridian Heritage Festival, Halloween Adventures, Drive-thru Santa, Christmas in the Village, Free Family Winter Sports Weekends, Polar Bear 5K Race, Music in the Park Program
i. Continue the Arts and Crafts Marketplace each month during the summer
j. Continue Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Williamston

**Goal #8 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
constituent communications**

a. Continue to respond to <u>all</u> citizen inquiries in a timely, professional, and efficient manner
b. Provide assessment information to property owners and their representatives (e.g., real estate agents, title company employees, private real estate appraisers, etc.)
c. Increase public engagement and participation through multimedia and other ways to connect to the Township
d. Create a monthly Township Manager blog and increase its outreach
e. Conduct a communications needs assessment
f. Audit social media outlets and develop a social media strategy campaign
g. Publish the Meridian Monitor twice-yearly to all residents
h. Reach out to residential and business groups regarding potential development impacts
i. Increase staff engagement and participation with neighborhood groups using social media, fire safety programs, HOM-TV interviews, and Beyond the Badge
j. Add a new disk appliance to the network to increase storage space and reliability
k. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
l. Print and distribute one issue of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide (distribution in January)
m. Increase communication with constituents through email and multi-media sources
n. Rename select Land Preserves
o. Implement a Meridian Township branding campaign and a more welcoming website (6)

**Goal #9 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
neighborhoods and eliminate blight**

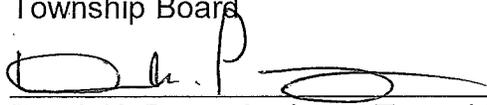
a. Create DAS (Distributed Antenna System) ordinance with the Public Works & Engineering and Planning Departments
b. Promote Neighborhood Watch
c. Develop a method to increase compliance of communications companies using the rights of way in the Township
d. Continue to work with homeowners associations to strengthen code enforcement in residential neighborhoods
e. Promote and encourage the preservation of older neighborhoods
f. Enforce the Property Maintenance Code
g. Continue the Code Enforcement Committee with neighborhood associations
h. Continue pavement preservation program on local roads
i. Continue sidewalk repair program (order to maintain)
j. Maintain and improve the water and sewer systems
k. Support the community gardens in the Township
l. Inspect Township owned buildings annually to ensure appropriate maintenance
m. Provide focused oversight of all vacant homes

Goal #10 – Meridian Township shall support employee relations through diversity, inclusion, equal opportunity, and employee health and welfare programs

a. Create a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy supported by leadership and employee involvement to maintain a well-rounded workforce (9)
b. Seek diversity in hiring and promoting; utilize additional recruiting outlets and resources such as online job boards, advertisements, and professional organizations to attract qualified minorities to apply for job openings
c. Provide Township-wide professional training programs and staff development that support the objectives in the Personnel Policy Manual
d. Maintain visibility at multiple annual career fairs to enhance recruitment efforts in addition to on-going approaches that highlight job openings
e. Define an approach to succession planning in preparation for turnover in key positions
f. Promote health, safety, and welfare of employees through implementation of a Township-wide Safety Committee to provide a safer work environment through awareness and productive training initiatives
g. Continue to review comparable health and dental coverage options while maintaining compliance with Public Act 152
h. Continue employee appreciation events such as the annual picnic and holiday celebration
i. Annually update the Personnel Policy Manual
j. Through mutual respect, negotiate new employment contracts with all seven bargaining groups (4)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Derek N. Perry, Assistant Township Manager
Director of Public Works & Engineering

DATE: January 5, 2016

RE: **2015 Township Citizen Survey Results**

The 2015 Citizen Survey is now complete. Attached for your review are four documents that provide the results in differing formats. They are the Community Livability Report, Dashboard Summary of Findings, Trends over Time and the Technical Appendices.

According to the Community Livability Report we had a representative sample of 331 Township residents. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for the entire sample.

Most residents rated the quality of life in Meridian Township as excellent or good and identified Safety and the Economy as priorities for the community in the coming two years. The Township also received high marks for welcoming citizen involvement and customer service.

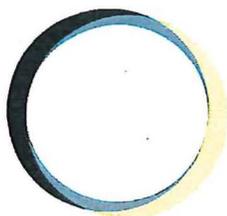


THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Township, MI

Community Livability Report

2015



NRC
National Research Center Inc

2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, Colorado 80301
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863

ICMA

Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
icma.org • 800-745-8780

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- Quality of Life in Meridian Township..... 2
- Community Characteristics 3
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- Participation 7
- Special Topics..... 9
- Conclusions 12

The National Citizen Survey™
© 2001-2015 National Research Center, Inc.

The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

NRC is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

About

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) report is about the “livability” of Meridian Township. The phrase “livable community” is used here to evoke a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live.

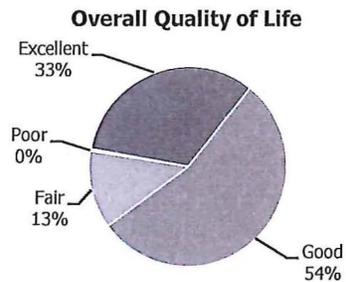
Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement).

The Community Livability Report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 331 residents of Meridian Township. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for the entire sample. The full description of methods used to garner these opinions can be found in the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover.



Quality of Life in Meridian Township

Most residents rated the quality of life in Meridian Township as excellent or good. The rating for the overall quality of life in Meridian Township was similar to the national benchmark (see Appendix B of the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover).



Shown below are the eight facets of community. The color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated it across the three sections of the survey that represent the pillars of a community – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings across the three pillars were higher than the benchmark, the color for that facet is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

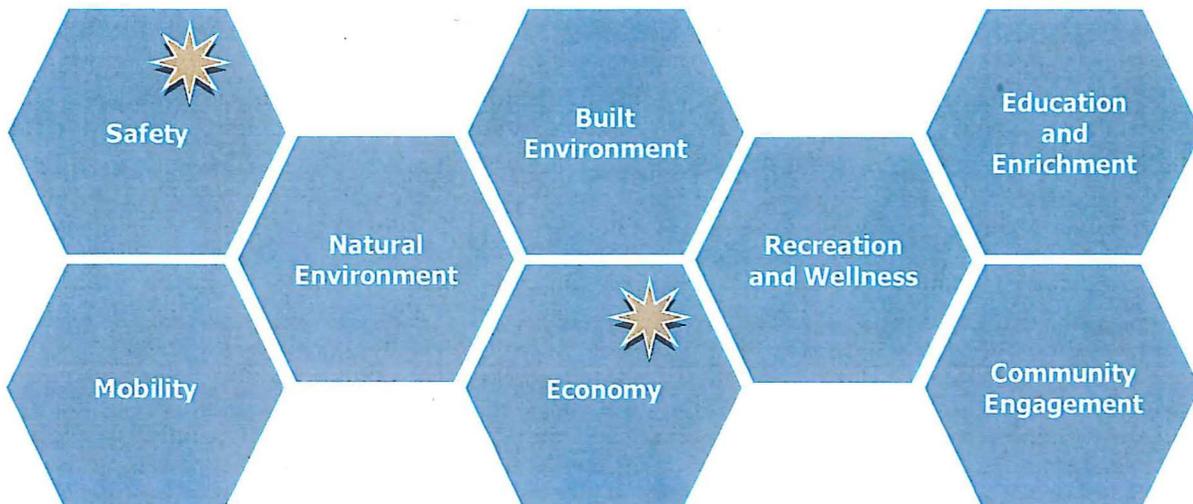
In addition to a summary of ratings, the image below includes one or more stars to indicate which community facets were the most important focus areas for the community. Residents identified Safety and Economy as priorities for the Meridian Township community in the coming two years. It is noteworthy that Meridian Township residents gave favorable ratings to both of these facets of community as well as to the remaining facets that are similar to the benchmark. This overview of the key aspects of community quality provides a quick summary of where residents see exceptionally strong performance and where performance offers the greatest opportunity for improvement. Linking quality to importance offers community members and leaders a view into the characteristics of the community that matter most and that seem to be working best.

Details that support these findings are contained in the remainder of this Livability Report, starting with the ratings for Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation and ending with results for Meridian Township's unique questions.

Legend

- Higher than national benchmark
- Similar to national benchmark
- Lower than national benchmark

Most important



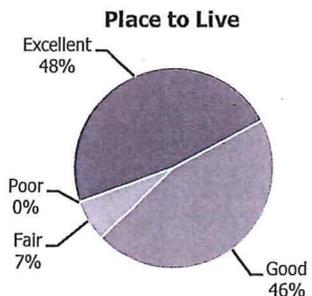
Community Characteristics

What makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be?

Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. How residents rate their overall quality of life is an indicator of the overall health of a community. In the case of Meridian Township, 93% rated the Township as an excellent or good place to live. Respondents' ratings of Meridian Township as a place to live were similar to ratings in other communities across the nation.

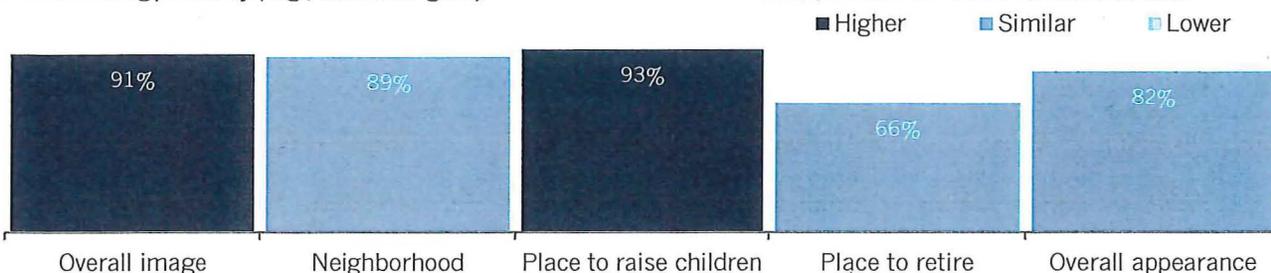
In addition to rating the Township as a place to live, respondents rated several aspects of community quality including Meridian Township as a place to raise children and to retire, their neighborhood as a place to live, the overall image or reputation of Meridian Township and its overall appearance. About 9 in 10 residents gave positive ratings to their neighborhood as a place to live and Meridian Township as a place to raise children as well as the overall image of the Township. About 8 in 10 gave positive ratings to its overall appearance and two-thirds gave positive ratings to Meridian Township as a place to retire. The ratings for overall image and the Township as a place to raise children were higher than the national benchmark.

Delving deeper into Community Characteristics, survey respondents rated over 40 features of the community within the eight facets of Community Livability. When benchmark comparisons were available, Meridian Township's ratings tended to be similar to or higher than other communities across the U.S. Nearly all residents felt safe in their neighborhoods and about 9 in 10 felt safe in downtown/commercial areas and gave positive ratings to their overall feeling or safety. At least 87% of residents gave positive marks to each of the three Community Characteristics related to Natural Environment and each were rated higher than the national comparison. Mobility ratings were varied with about half of residents giving positive ratings to ease of travel by bicycle and ease of travel by public transportation while 8 in 10 gave positive ratings to ease of travel by car and nearly 9 in 10 gave positive ratings to public parking and overall ease of travel. Of these eight aspects of Mobility, four were similar to the national comparison and four were higher. Ratings of Economy were also varied; only one in three gave a positive rating to vibrant downtown/commercial area (lower than the national comparison) while 8 in 10 gave a positive rating to shopping opportunities (higher than the national comparison). Seven in 10 or fewer residents gave positive ratings to each of the five aspects of Community Engagement, all of which were rated similar to the benchmark.



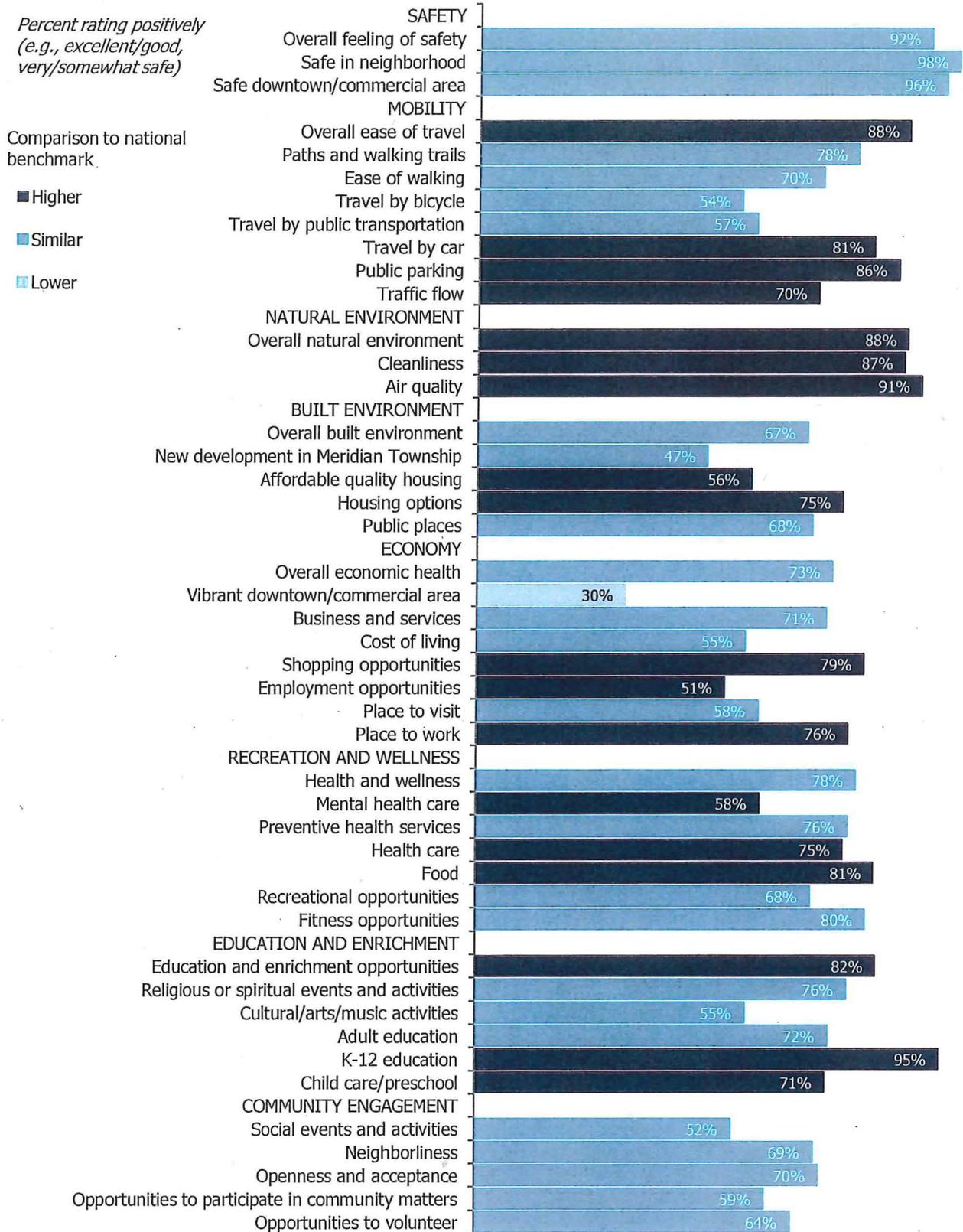
Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark



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Figure 1: Aspects of Community Characteristics



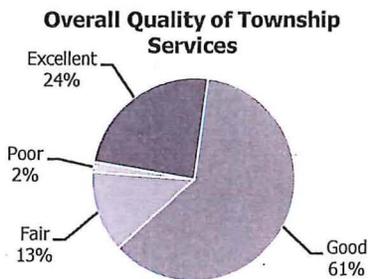
Governance

How well does the government of Meridian Township meet the needs and expectations of its residents?

The overall quality of the services provided by Meridian Township as well as the manner in which these services are provided are a key component of how residents rate their quality of life. The overall quality of services provided by Meridian Township was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 85% of residents, while services provided by the Federal Government were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 42% of residents. Ratings for the services provided by Meridian Township and the Federal Government were similar to the national benchmark.

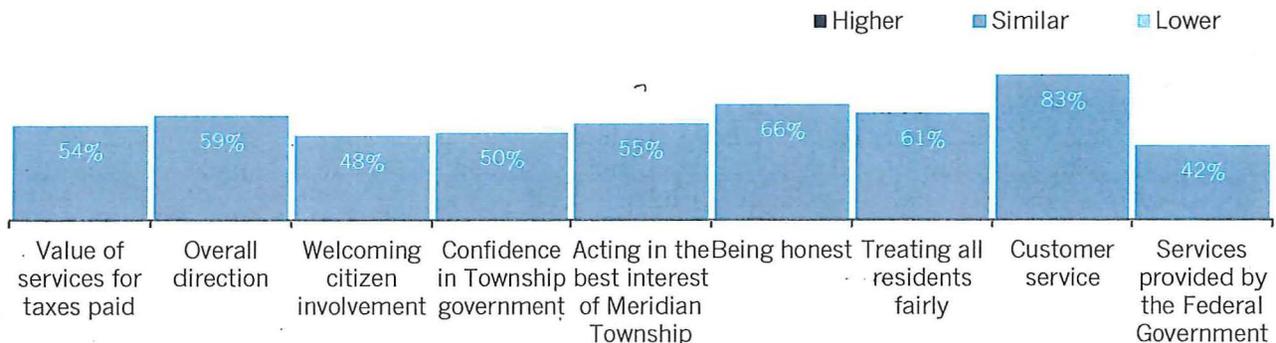
Survey respondents also rated various aspects of Meridian Township’s leadership and governance. Each aspect was similar to the national benchmark however positive ratings varied from 48% excellent or good for Meridian Township welcoming citizen involvement to 83% excellent or good for Township customer service.

Respondents evaluated over 30 individual services and amenities available in Meridian Township. The vast majority of Meridian Township’s ratings were similar to ratings given in other communities across the U.S. Within Safety, nearly all residents gave positive ratings to fire and ambulance/EMS service while 9 in 10 gave positive ratings to police services. About 6 in 10 gave positive ratings to animal control and emergency preparedness. Mobility ratings were mixed with three-quarters giving positive ratings to traffic enforcement while one in three gave positive ratings to street repair, a rating that was lower than the national comparison. Aspects of Natural Environment also saw varied ratings with about half of respondents giving positive ratings to yard waste pick-up and about 9 in 10 residents giving positive ratings to garbage collection and the quality of drinking water. The rating for drinking water was higher than the national comparison while the ratings for recycling and yard waste pick-up were lower. Recreation and Wellness saw generally positive ratings with at least 7 in 10 residents giving a positive rating to each of the four aspects (parks, recreation programs, recreation centers and health services).



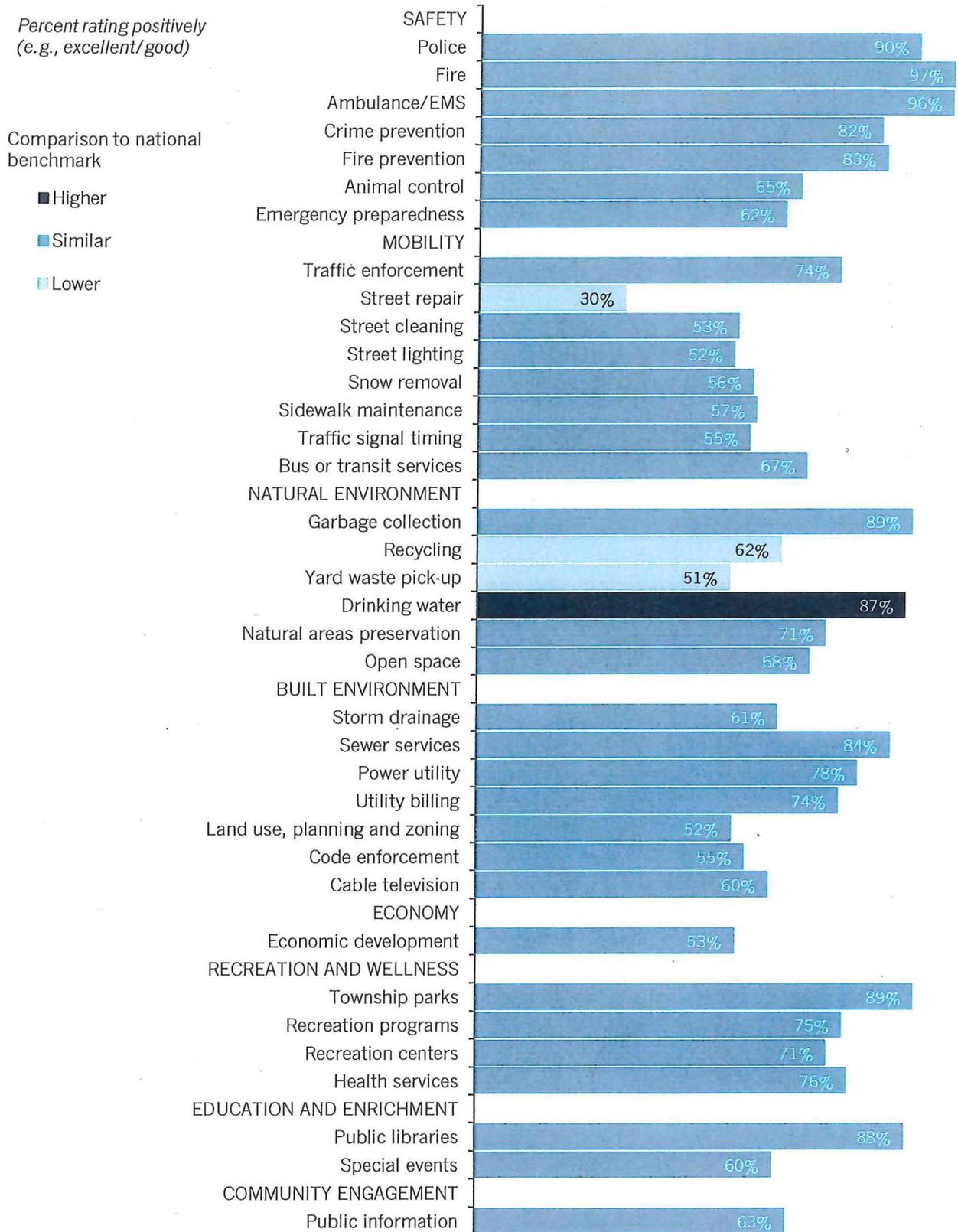
Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark



The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 2: Aspects of Governance



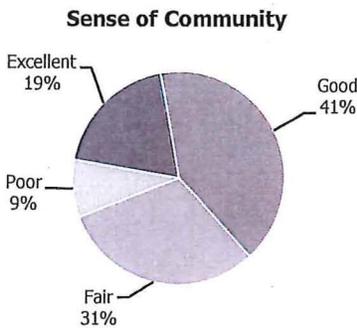
Participation

Are the residents of Meridian Township connected to the community and each other?

An engaged community harnesses its most valuable resource, its residents. The connections and trust among residents, government, businesses and other organizations help to create a sense of community; a shared sense of membership, belonging and history. A majority of respondents rated the sense of community in Meridian Township as excellent or good, and nearly all residents would recommend living in Meridian Township (93% somewhat or very likely). Eight in 10 residents reported they were somewhat or very likely to remain in the township. These ratings were similar to other communities across the nation. About 4 in 10 residents reported contacting a Meridian Township employee within the last 12 months, which was a similar contact rate as seen in other communities.

The survey included over 30 activities and behaviors for which respondents indicated how often they participated in or performed each, if at all. Overall, the extent to which respondents participated in these activities varied, but tended to be similar to or lower than the participation levels of residents in other communities across the nation.

Compared to residents in other communities across the country, more Meridian Township residents reported that they were not under housing cost stress, did not observe a code violation and did not report a crime while fewer stocked supplies for an emergency, worked in the community, participated in religious or spiritual activities and volunteered. Participation in economy-related activities was mixed; nearly all respondents had purchased goods or services in Meridian Township while about one-quarter worked in Meridian Township and believed the economy would have a positive impact on their income. Participation in Community Engagement activities was also mixed. For example, most respondents had read or watched local news, voted in local elections, talked or visited with neighbors and done a favor for a neighbor but fewer than 2 in 10 had campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate, contacted elected officials or attended a public meeting. Within Recreation and Wellness, about half of residents had used Meridian Township recreation centers while 8 in 10 residents had visited a Township park.



Percent rating positively
(e.g., very/somewhat likely,
yes)

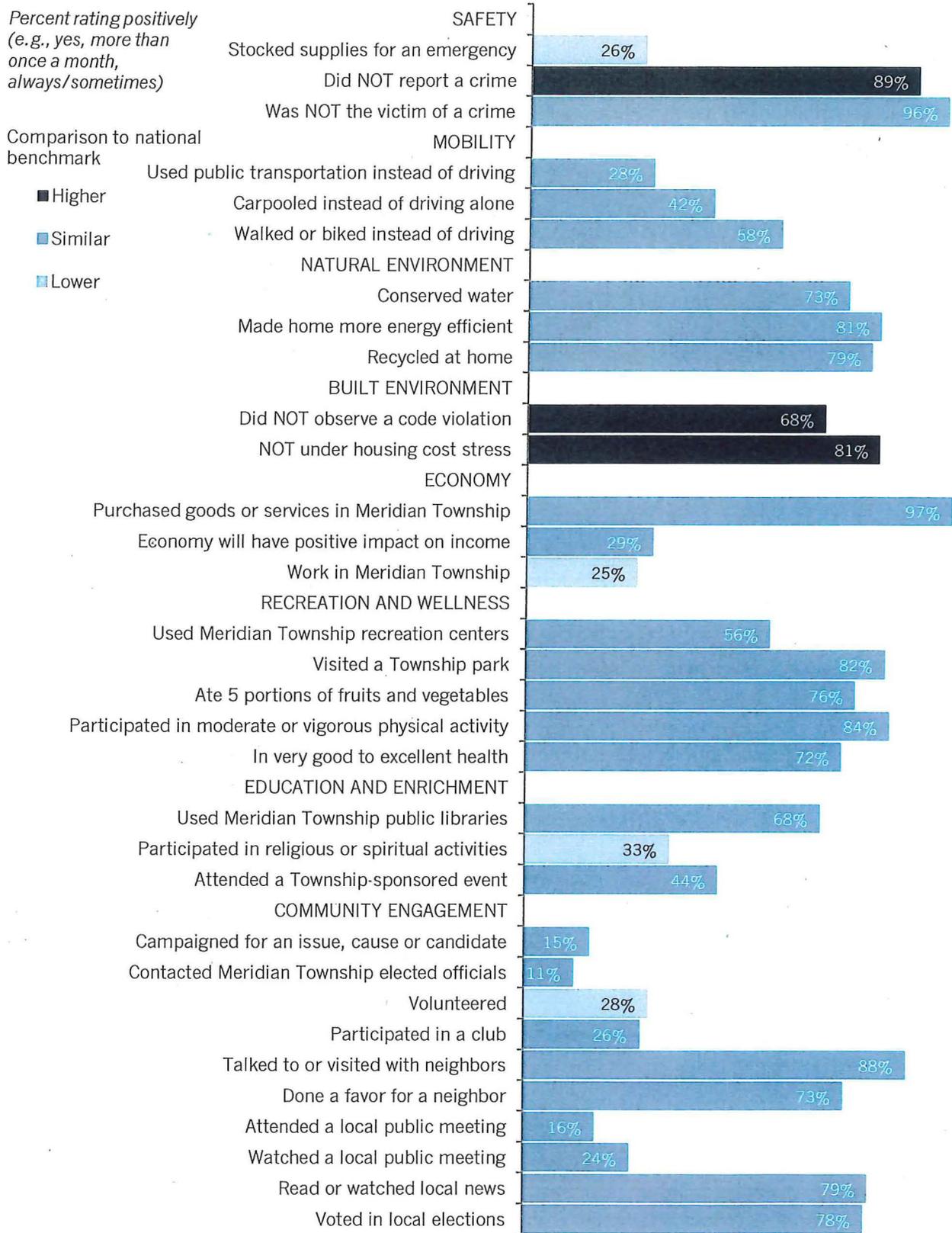
Comparison to national
benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar ■ Lower



The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 3: Aspects of Participation



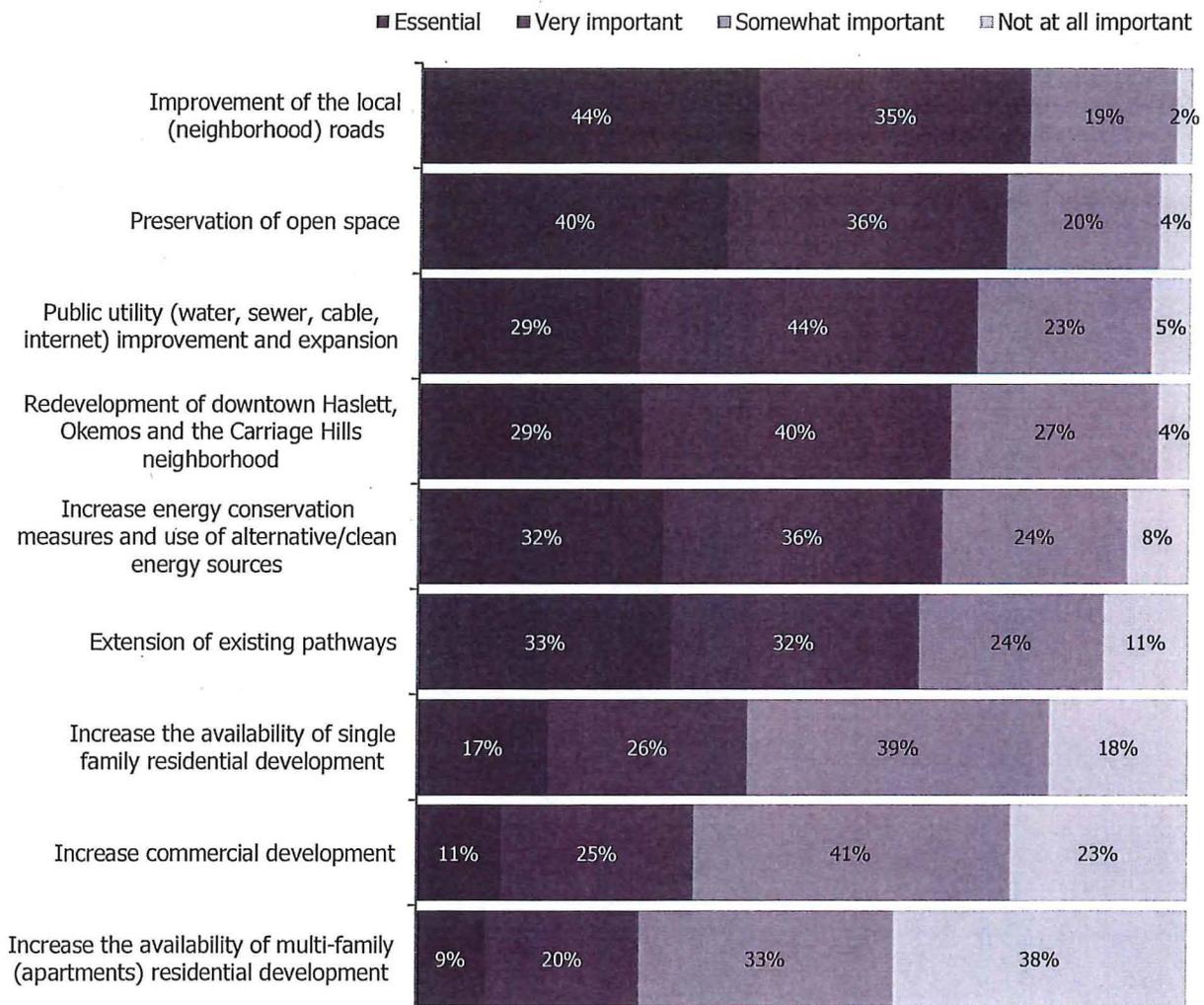
Special Topics

Meridian Township included four questions of special interest on The NCS.

Residents were first asked to indicate how important, if at all, they felt a variety of projects and issues would be for the Township to address over the next five years. At the top of the list with about three-quarters of residents giving essential or very important ratings were improvements of the local roads, preservation of open space and public utility. Fewer than half of residents gave essential or very important ratings to increasing development (single family, multi-family and commercial).

Figure 4: Important Issues to Address

Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:

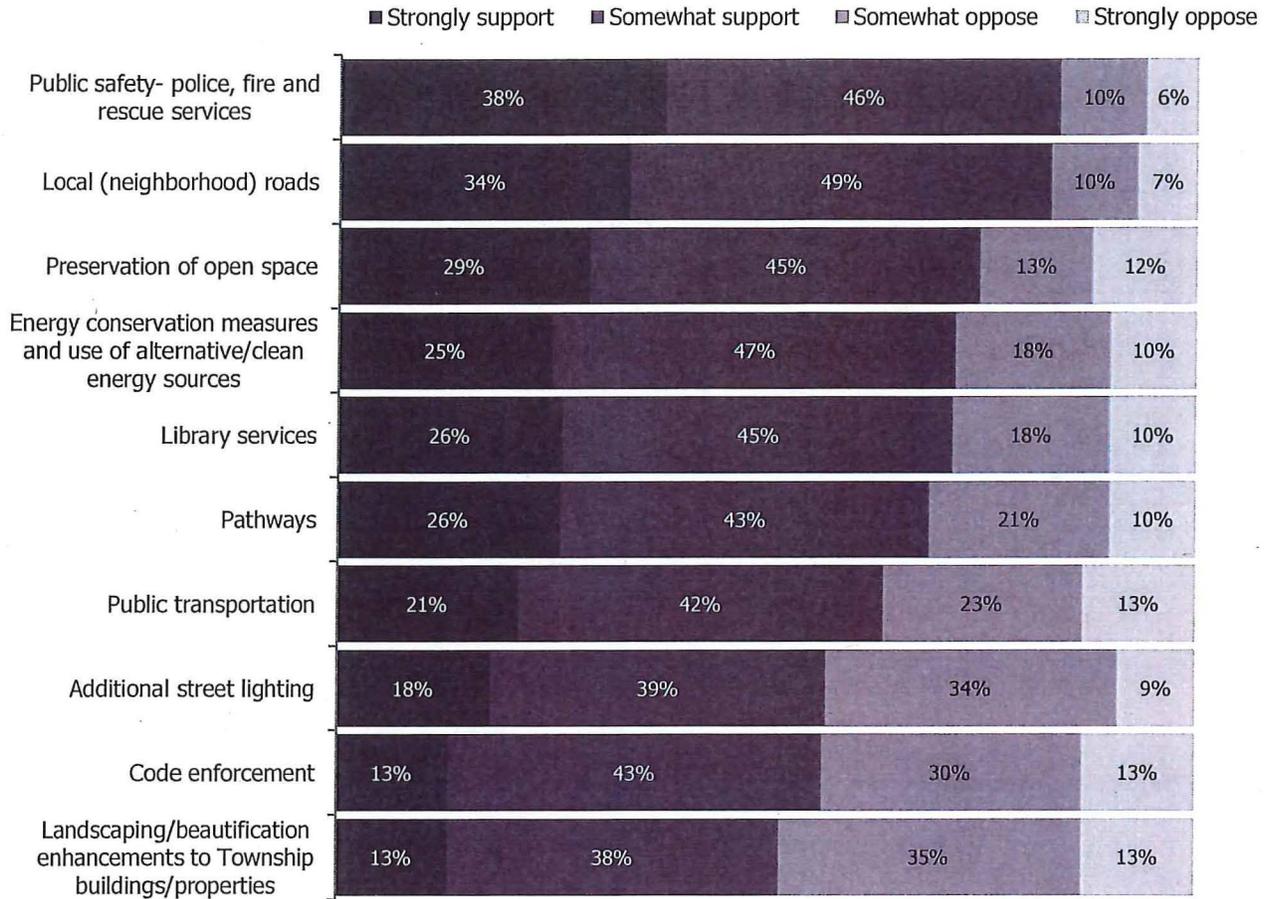


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When asked if they would support or oppose a property tax increase to fund new facilities, maintenance or services for a variety of projects, ratings varied. Most residents would support a property tax increase for public safety services and local roads while about half would support a property tax increase for additional street lighting and code enforcement and fewer than half would support an increase for landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties.

Figure 5: Level of Support for Property Tax Increase

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:

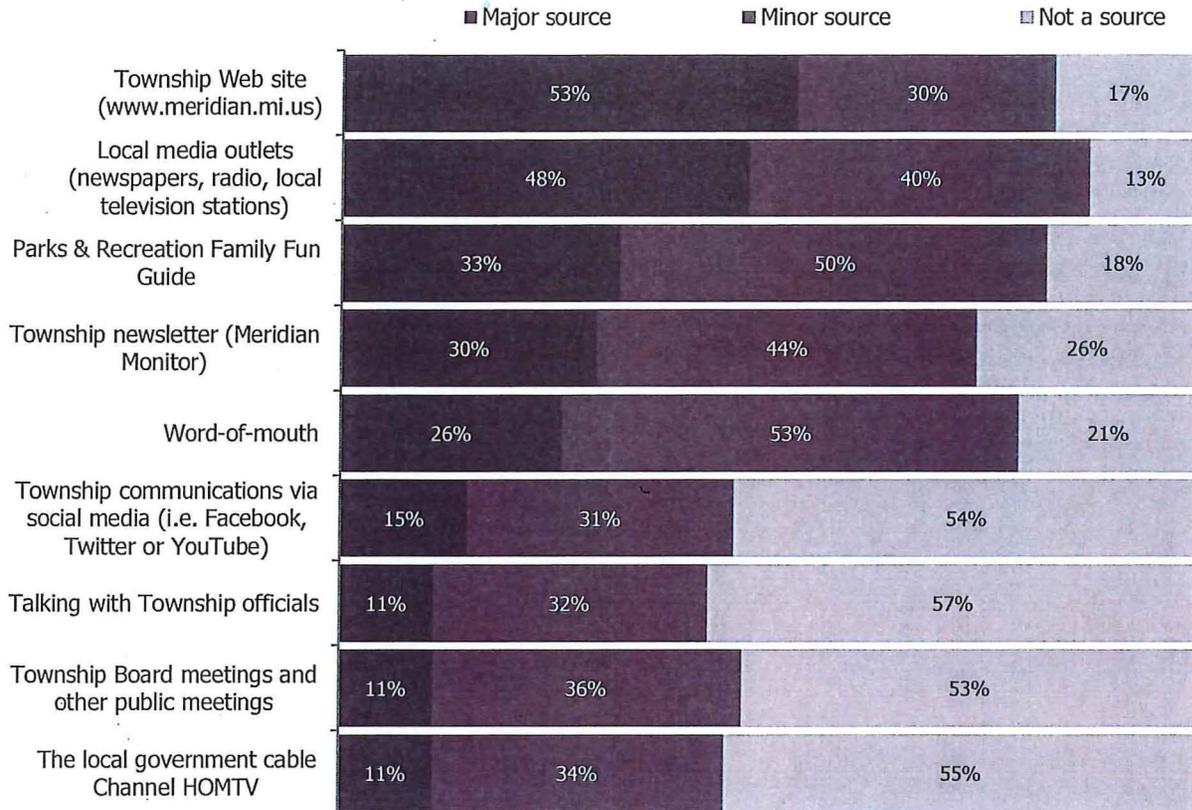


The National Citizen Survey™

About half of residents indicated that the Township Web site and local media outlets were a major source of information about the Township government and its activities, events and services and fewer than 2 in 10 felt they were not sources. About 1 in 10 felt talking with Township officials, Township board meetings or other public meetings and Channel HOMTV were major sources of information and one-third felt they were minor sources of information.

Figure 6: Information Sources

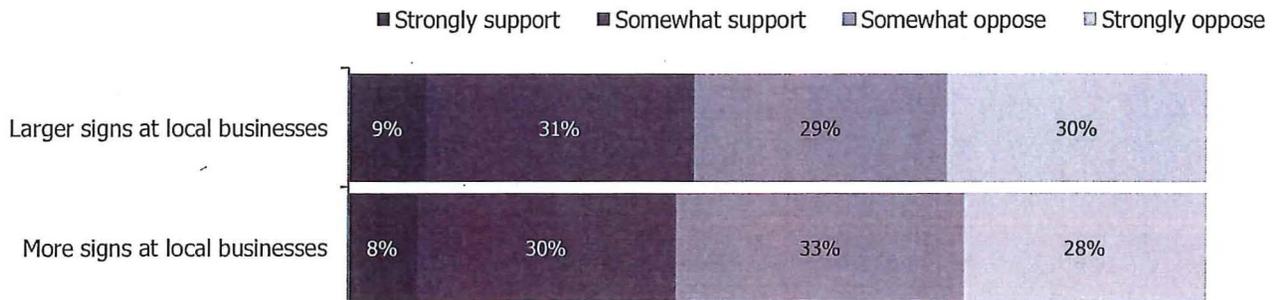
Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:



Less than 1 in 10 indicated strong support for larger and more signs at local businesses. About 3 in 10 indicated strong opposition to each potential sign ordinance change and about 6 in 10 somewhat supported or somewhat opposed each.

Figure 7: Level of Support for Property Tax Increase

Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:



Conclusions

Meridian Township residents enjoy a high quality of life.

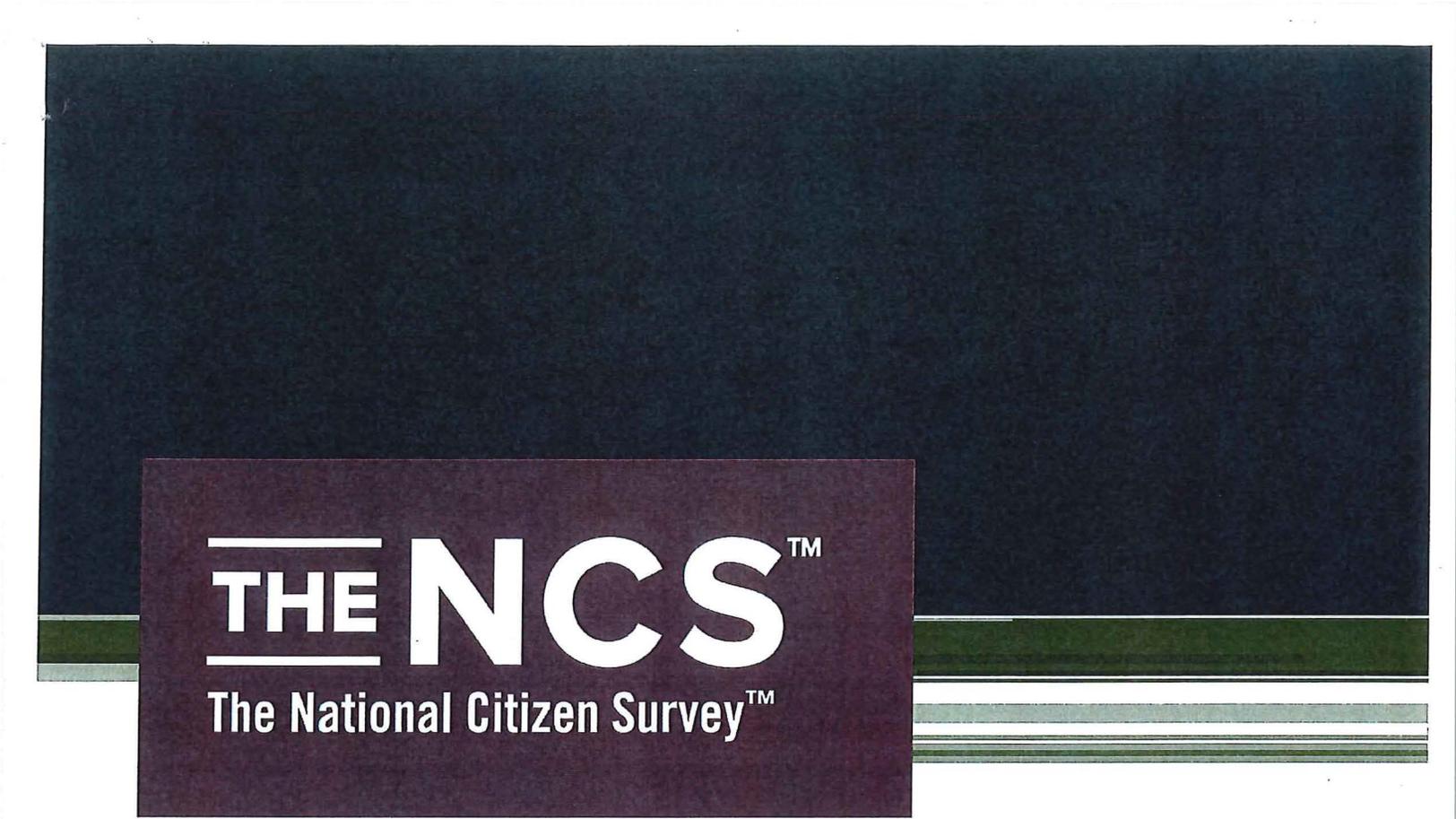
Most residents rate their overall quality of life as excellent or good, nearly all residents would be very or somewhat likely to recommend Meridian Township as a place to live to someone who asks and 8 in 10 plan to remain in the community for the next five years. Meridian Township's overall appearance and overall image along with the township as a place to live, to raise children and their neighborhood as a place to live received favorable ratings by at least 8 in 10 residents. Many of the aspects that aid in community livability were rated positively and were similar to or higher than the national benchmark comparison. The ratings for overall image and the Township as a place to raise children were higher than the national benchmark.

The health of the economy is important to maintaining residents overall quality of life.

Economy was identified as a priority for the community in the coming two years and Meridian Township's overall economic health was rated positively by 7 in 10 residents. Nearly all respondents had purchased goods or services in Meridian Township and about 29% of respondents believed the economy would have a positive impact on their income. Within Community Characteristics, shopping opportunities, employment opportunities and Meridian Township as a place to work were all rated higher than the national comparison.

Residents feel positive about the overall ease of travel and aspects of Mobility in Meridian Township.

The overall ease of travel in Meridian Township was rated positively by 88% of residents and was higher than the national comparison. Generally, aspects related to Mobility were rated positively by a majority of residents and were similar to or higher than the national comparisons. Within Community Characteristics, each of the eight ratings related to Mobility were rated positively by a majority of residents, six of which were rated positively by 7 in 10 or more residents. Within Governance, seven of the eight aspects related to Mobility were similar to the benchmark; however the rating for street repair was lower than the benchmark. Compared to 2012, more residents gave positive ratings to traffic flow and paths and walking trails in 2015 (see *Trends over Time* under separate cover).

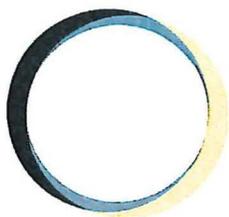


THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Township, MI

Dashboard Summary of Findings

2015



NRC
National Research Center Inc

2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, Colorado 80301
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863



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777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
icma.org • 800-745-8780

Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report summarizes Meridian Township's performance in the eight facets of community livability with the "General" rating as a summary of results from the overarching questions not shown within any of the eight facets. The "Overall" represents the community pillar in its entirety (the eight facets and general).

By summarizing resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community, a picture of Meridian Township's community livability emerges. Below, the color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated each of the pillars that support it – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings were higher than the benchmark, the color is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

In general, across each pillar and within each facet, Meridian Township's ratings tended to be similar when compared to other communities across the nation. However, within Community Characteristics, ratings for aspects of Mobility, Natural Environment and Education and Enrichment tended to be rated higher than the national benchmark. Within Participation, ratings relate to Built Environment tended to be higher. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas that merit more attention.

Figure 1: Dashboard Summary

	Community Characteristics			Governance			Participation		
	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower
Overall	20	31	1	1	42	3	3	29	4
General	2	5	0	0	3	0	0	4	0
Safety	0	3	0	0	7	0	1	1	1
Mobility	4	4	0	0	7	1	0	3	0
Natural Environment	3	0	0	1	3	2	0	3	0
Built Environment	2	3	0	0	7	0	2	0	0
Economy	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	2	1
Recreation and Wellness	3	4	0	0	4	0	0	5	0
Education and Enrichment	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
Community Engagement	0	5	0	0	8	0	0	9	1

Legend	
	Higher
	Similar
	Lower

The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 2: Detailed Dashboard

	Community Characteristics	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive
General	Overall appearance	↔	↔	82%	Customer service	↔	↔	83%	Recommend Meridian Township	↔	↔	93%
	Overall quality of life	↔	↔	87%	Services provided by Meridian Township	↑	↔	85%	Remain in Meridian Township	↔	↔	81%
	Place to retire	↔	↔	66%	Services provided by the Federal Government	↔	↔	42%	Contacted Meridian Township employees	↔	↔	40%
	Place to raise children	↔	↑	93%					Sense of community	↔	↔	60%
	Place to live	↔	↔	93%								
	Neighborhood	↔	↔	89%								
Safety	Overall image	↑	↑	91%								
	Overall feeling of safety	*	↔	92%	Police	↔	↔	90%	Was NOT the victim of a crime	↔	↔	96%
	Safe in neighborhood	↔	↔	98%	Crime prevention	↔	↔	82%	Did NOT report a crime	*	↑	89%
	Safe downtown/commercial area	↔	↔	96%	Fire	↔	↔	97%	Stocked supplies for an emergency	*	↓	26%
					Fire prevention	↔	↔	83%				
					Ambulance/EMS	↔	↔	96%				
Mobility					Emergency preparedness	↔	↔	62%				
					Animal control	*	↔	65%				
	Traffic flow	↑	↑	70%	Traffic enforcement	↔	↔	74%	Carpooled instead of driving alone	*	↔	42%
	Travel by car	↔	↑	81%	Street repair	↔	↓	30%	Walked or biked instead of driving	*	↔	58%
	Travel by bicycle	↔	↔	54%	Street cleaning	↔	↔	53%	Used public transportation instead of driving	*	↔	28%
	Ease of walking	↔	↔	70%	Street lighting	↔	↔	52%				
	Travel by public transportation	*	↔	57%	Snow removal	↔	↔	56%				
	Overall ease travel	*	↑	88%	Sidewalk maintenance	↔	↔	57%				
Natural Environment	Public parking	*	↑↑	86%	Traffic signal timing	↔	↔	55%				
	Paths and walking trails	↑	↔	78%	Bus or transit services	↔	↔	67%				
	Overall natural environment	↑	↑	88%	Garbage collection	*	↔	89%	Recycled at home	↔	↔	79%
	Air quality	*	↑	91%	Recycling	↔	↓	62%	Conserved water	*	↔	73%
	Cleanliness	↔	↑	87%	Yard waste pick-up	*	↓	51%	Made home more energy efficient	*	↔	81%
					Drinking water	↔	↑	87%				
Built Environment					Open space	*	↔	68%				
					Natural areas preservation	↔	↔	71%				
	New development in Meridian Township	↓	↔	47%	Sewer services	↔	↔	84%	NOT experiencing housing cost stress	↔	↑	81%
	Affordable quality housing	↔	↑	56%	Storm drainage	↓	↔	61%	Did NOT observe a code violation	*	↑	68%
	Housing options	↔	↑	75%	Power utility	*	↔	78%				
	Overall built environment	*	↔	67%	Utility billing	*	↔	74%				
	Public places	*	↔	68%	Land use, planning and zoning	↔	↔	52%				
					Code enforcement	↔	↔	55%				
					Cable television	↔	↔	60%				

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available

The National Citizen Survey™

	Community Characteristics	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive
Economy	Overall economic health	*	↔	73%	Economic development	↑	↔	53%	Economy will have positive impact on income	↑	↔	29%
	Shopping opportunities	↑	↑	79%					Purchased goods or services in Meridian Township	*	↔	97%
	Employment opportunities	↑	↑	51%					Work in Meridian Township	*	↓	25%
	Place to visit	*	↔	58%								
	Cost of living	*	↔	55%								
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	*	↓	30%								
	Place to work	↑	↑	76%								
	Business and services	↔	↔	71%								
Recreation and Wellness	Fitness opportunities	*	↔	80%	Township parks	↔	↔	89%	In very good to excellent health	*	↔	72%
	Recreational opportunities	↔	↔	68%	Recreation centers	↔	↔	71%	Used Meridian Township recreation centers	↔	↔	56%
	Health care	*	↑	75%	Recreation programs	↔	↔	75%	Visited a Township park	↔	↔	82%
	Food	*	↑	81%	Health services	*	↔	76%	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	*	↔	76%
	Mental health care	*	↑	58%					Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	*	↔	84%
	Health and wellness	*	↔	78%								
	Preventive health services	*	↔	76%								
	Education and Enrichment	K-12 education	*	↑↑	95%	Public libraries	↔	↔	88%	Used Meridian Township public libraries	↔	↔
Cultural/arts/music activities		↔	↔	55%	Special events	*	↔	60%	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	*	↓	33%
Child care/preschool		*	↑	71%					Attended a Township-sponsored event	*	↔	44%
Religious or spiritual events and activities		↔	↔	76%								
Adult education		*	↔	72%								
Overall education and enrichment		*	↑	82%								
Community Engagement	Opportunities to participate in community matters	↔	↔	59%	Public information	↔	↔	63%	Voted in local elections	↔	↔	78%
	Opportunities to volunteer	↓	↔	64%	Overall direction	↔	↔	59%	Talked to or visited with neighbors	*	↔	88%
	Openness and acceptance	↔	↔	70%	Value of services for taxes paid	↔	↔	54%	Attended a local public meeting	↔	↔	16%
	Social events and activities	↓	↔	52%	Welcoming citizen involvement	↔	↔	48%	Watched a local public meeting	↓	↔	24%
	Neighborhoodliness	*	↔	69%	Confidence in Township government	*	↔	50%	Volunteered	↔	↓	28%
					Acting in the best interest of Meridian Township	*	↔	55%	Participated in a club	*	↔	26%
					Being honest	*	↔	66%	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	*	↔	15%
					Treating all residents fairly	*	↔	61%	Contacted Meridian Township elected officials	*	↔	11%
									Read or watched local news	*	↔	79%
								Done a favor for a neighbor	*	↔	73%	

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available

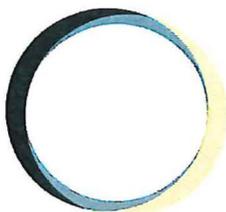


THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Township, MI

Trends over Time

2015



NRC

National Research Center Inc

2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, Colorado 80301
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863

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Trend data for Meridian Township represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially, represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Meaningful differences between survey years have been noted within the following tables as being "higher" or "lower" if the differences are greater than eight percentage points between the 2012 and 2015 surveys, otherwise the comparison between 2012 and 2015 are noted as being "similar." Additionally, benchmark comparisons for all survey years are presented for reference. Changes in the benchmark comparison over time can be impacted by various trends, including varying survey cycles for the individual communities that comprise the benchmarks, regional and national economic or other events, as well as emerging survey methodologies.

Overall, ratings in Meridian Township for 2015 generally remained stable. Of the 79 items for which comparisons were available, 64 items were rated similarly in 2012 and 2015; five items showed a decrease in ratings and 10 showed an increase in ratings. Notable trends over time included the following:

- Seven Community Characteristics received a higher rating in 2015 compared to 2012 while three received a lower rating. Increases were seen for traffic flow; paths and walking trails; overall natural environment; shopping opportunities; employment opportunities; overall image and the township as a place to work. Decreased ratings were seen for new development in the township, opportunities to volunteer and social events and activities.

- More residents in 2015 felt the economy will have a positive impact on their income compared to 2012 and more gave positive ratings to economic development.

- Residents gave more positive ratings to services provided by Meridian Township overall in 2015 compared to 2012, but the rating for storm drainage decreased while most individual service ratings remained stable overtime.

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 1: Community Quality General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark				
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Overall quality of life	89%	90%	88%	87%	87%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
Overall image	NA	NA	76%	79%	91%	Higher	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher	Higher
Place to live	91%	92%	90%	93%	93%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Similar
Neighborhood	88%	87%	88%	84%	89%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Place to raise children	89%	94%	90%	91%	93%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
Place to retire	56%	58%	58%	65%	66%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Overall appearance	80%	75%	72%	76%	82%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar

Table 2: Community Characteristics by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark				
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	NA	NA	NA	NA	92%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Safe in neighborhood	97%	97%	99%	95%	98%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Safe downtown/commercial area	94%	93%	96%	94%	96%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Overall ease of travel	NA	NA	NA	NA	88%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	Paths and walking trails	NA	NA	63%	69%	78%	Higher	NA	NA	Higher	Higher	Similar
	Ease of walking	NA	63%	65%	68%	70%	Similar	NA	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Travel by bicycle	54%	53%	53%	59%	54%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Higher	Higher	Similar
	Travel by public transportation	NA	NA	NA	NA	57%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Mobility	Travel by car	64%	65%	64%	74%	81%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher
	Public parking	NA	NA	NA	NA	86%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Much higher
	Traffic flow	50%	54%	55%	61%	70%	Higher	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
	Overall natural environment	NA	NA	72%	77%	88%	Higher	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Higher
Natural Environment	Cleanliness	NA	NA	78%	80%	87%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher	Higher
	Air quality	NA	NA	NA	NA	91%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	Overall built environment	NA	NA	NA	NA	67%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Built Environment	New development in Meridian Township	NA	NA	53%	56%	47%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Affordable quality housing	40%	42%	50%	61%	56%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
	Housing options	NA	NA	63%	70%	75%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Much higher	Higher

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	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	
	Public places	NA	NA	NA	NA	68%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Overall economic health	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	NA	NA	NA	NA	30%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower
	Business and services	NA	NA	69%	69%	71%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Cost of living	NA	NA	NA	NA	55%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Shopping opportunities	83%	81%	71%	69%	79%	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
	Employment opportunities	NA	NA	22%	40%	51%	Higher	NA	NA	Lower	Higher	Higher
	Place to visit	NA	NA	NA	NA	58%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Economy	Place to work	NA	70%	66%	67%	76%	Higher	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
	Health and wellness	NA	NA	NA	NA	78%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Mental health care	NA	NA	NA	NA	58%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	Preventive health services	NA	NA	NA	NA	76%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Health care	NA	NA	NA	NA	75%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	Food	NA	NA	NA	NA	81%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
Recreation and Wellness	Recreational opportunities	64%	66%	65%	70%	68%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar	Higher	Similar
	Fitness opportunities	NA	NA	NA	NA	80%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Religious or spiritual events and activities	NA	NA	NA	76%	76%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Cultural/arts/music activities	NA	54%	50%	56%	55%	Similar	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Adult education	NA	NA	NA	NA	72%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Education and Enrichment	K-12 education	NA	NA	NA	NA	95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Much higher
	Child care/preschool	NA	NA	NA	NA	71%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	Social events and activities	NA	NA	61%	61%	52%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Neighborliness	NA	NA	NA	NA	69%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Openness and acceptance	69%	68%	73%	76%	70%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar
Community Engagement	Opportunities to participate in community matters	NA	NA	59%	66%	59%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Opportunities to volunteer	NA	NA	63%	73%	64%	Lower	NA	NA	Lower	Similar	Similar

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Table 3: Governance General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark				
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Services provided by Meridian Township	81%	77%	73%	74%	85%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Customer service	83%	84%	82%	80%	83%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar
Value of services for taxes paid	NA	57%	47%	57%	54%	Similar	NA	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
Overall direction	47%	48%	48%	57%	59%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
Welcoming citizen involvement	57%	56%	47%	49%	48%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Much lower	Similar	Similar
Confidence in Township government	NA	NA	NA	NA	50%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Acting in the best interest of Meridian Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	55%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Being honest	NA	NA	NA	NA	66%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	NA	NA	NA	NA	61%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government	49%	30%	39%	45%	42%	Similar	Similar	Lower	Similar	Higher	Similar

Table 4: Governance by Facet

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	
Safety	Police	89%	87%	91%	84%	90%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Fire	96%	96%	96%	90%	97%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Ambulance/EMS	96%	94%	97%	94%	96%	Similar	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Crime prevention	83%	85%	82%	81%	82%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar
	Fire prevention	86%	82%	87%	82%	83%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Animal control	NA	NA	NA	NA	65%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Emergency preparedness	NA	NA	64%	59%	62%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Traffic enforcement	75%	66%	77%	72%	74%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Street repair	32%	32%	9%	26%	30%	Similar	Much lower	Lower	Much lower	Much lower	Lower
	Street cleaning	49%	47%	32%	49%	53%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Much lower	Much lower	Similar
Mobility	Street lighting	NA	51%	52%	55%	52%	Similar	NA	Similar	Lower	Lower	Similar
	Snow removal	58%	56%	49%	49%	56%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Much lower	Much lower	Similar

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	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	
	Sidewalk maintenance	59%	56%	54%	55%	57%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Traffic signal timing	57%	58%	NA	54%	55%	Similar	Similar	Higher	NA	Similar	Similar
	Bus or transit services	NA	64%	69%	61%	67%	Similar	NA	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Garbage collection	NA	NA	NA	NA	89%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Recycling	53%	NA	67%	67%	62%	Similar	Much lower	NA	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Yard waste pick-up	NA	NA	NA	NA	51%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower
	Drinking water	81%	74%	85%	86%	87%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
	Natural areas preservation	NA	NA	67%	71%	71%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Similar
	Open space	NA	NA	NA	NA	68%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Storm drainage	71%	63%	59%	71%	61%	Lower	Higher	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar
	Sewer services	87%	79%	85%	85%	84%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar
	Power utility	NA	NA	NA	NA	78%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Utility billing	NA	NA	NA	NA	74%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Land use, planning and zoning	35%	42%	47%	51%	52%	Similar	Much lower	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Code enforcement	64%	63%	59%	51%	55%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Cable television	52%	44%	58%	58%	60%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Economic development	52%	43%	34%	41%	53%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Township parks	87%	88%	89%	90%	89%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Recreation programs	79%	85%	83%	79%	75%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Recreation centers	NA	NA	NA	74%	71%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Health services	NA	NA	NA	NA	76%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Special events	NA	NA	NA	NA	60%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Public libraries	77%	81%	84%	86%	88%	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Public information	NA	NA	NA	68%	63%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar

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Table 5: Participation General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark				
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Sense of community	58%	59%	62%	66%	60%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Recommend Meridian Township	NA	NA	92%	94%	93%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher	Similar
Remain in Meridian Township	NA	NA	77%	85%	81%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Similar	Similar
Contacted Meridian Township employees	54%	52%	51%	46%	40%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar

Table 6: Participation by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark				
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Safety	Stocked supplies for an emergency	NA	NA	NA	NA	26%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower
	Did NOT report a crime	NA	NA	NA	NA	89%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	Was NOT the victim of a crime	88%	92%	92%	93%	96%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher	Similar
Mobility	Used public transportation instead of driving	NA	NA	NA	NA	28%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Carpooled instead of driving alone	NA	NA	NA	NA	42%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Walked or biked instead of driving	NA	NA	NA	NA	58%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Natural Environment	Conserved water	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Made home more energy efficient	NA	NA	NA	NA	81%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Recycled at home	73%	64%	79%	77%	79%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Lower	Similar
Built Environment	Did NOT observe a code violation	NA	NA	NA	NA	68%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher
	NOT under housing cost stress	NA	NA	72%	73%	81%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Higher
	Purchased goods or services in Meridian Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	97%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Economy	Economy will have positive impact on income	20%	19%	11%	20%	29%	Higher	NA	NA	Much lower	Similar	Similar
	Work in Meridian Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	25%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower
Recreation and Wellness	Used Meridian Township recreation centers	56%	54%	NA	NA	56%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Visited a Township park	90%	85%	89%	87%	82%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Similar	Similar

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	Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)					2015 rating compared to 2012	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	
	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	NA	NA	NA	NA	76%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	NA	NA	NA	NA	84%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	In very good to excellent health	NA	NA	NA	NA	72%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Used Meridian Township public libraries	62%	71%	68%	69%	68%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Lower	Similar
	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	NA	NA	NA	NA	33%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower
	Attended a Township-sponsored event	NA	NA	NA	NA	44%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	NA	NA	NA	NA	15%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Contacted Meridian Township elected officials	NA	NA	NA	NA	11%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Volunteered	35%	34%	32%	32%	28%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Much lower	Lower
	Participated in a club	NA	NA	NA	NA	26%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Talked to or visited with neighbors	NA	NA	NA	NA	88%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Done a favor for a neighbor	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
	Attended a local public meeting	24%	22%	20%	20%	16%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar
	Watched a local public meeting	51%	50%	46%	34%	24%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Lower	Similar
	Read or watched local news	NA	NA	NA	NA	79%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Community Engagement	Voted in local elections	78%	66%	88%	74%	78%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Similar	Similar

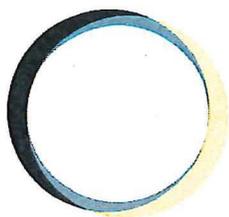


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Technical Appendices

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National Research Center Inc

2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, Colorado 80301
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863

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777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
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Appendix A: Complete Survey Responses

Responses excluding "don't know"

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, excluding the "don't know" responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents (denoted with "N=").

Table 1: Question 1

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Meridian Township as a place to live	48%	N=157	46%	N=151	7%	N=22	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Your neighborhood as a place to live	43%	N=142	46%	N=153	9%	N=31	1%	N=4	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to raise children	50%	N=147	43%	N=125	6%	N=16	1%	N=4	100%	N=292
Meridian Township as a place to work	35%	N=75	41%	N=90	18%	N=39	6%	N=13	100%	N=217
Meridian Township as a place to visit	20%	N=61	38%	N=119	29%	N=92	13%	N=41	100%	N=314
Meridian Township as a place to retire	28%	N=73	38%	N=101	26%	N=69	8%	N=22	100%	N=266
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	54%	N=178	13%	N=42	0%	N=1	100%	N=329

Table 2: Question 2

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	39%	N=127	54%	N=177	8%	N=25	0%	N=0	100%	N=329
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	40%	N=131	48%	N=160	11%	N=36	1%	N=3	100%	N=330
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=142	45%	N=147	11%	N=35	1%	N=5	100%	N=328
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	18%	N=57	50%	N=163	28%	N=90	5%	N=16	100%	N=326
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	23%	N=69	55%	N=166	21%	N=63	2%	N=5	100%	N=302
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	39%	N=116	43%	N=128	16%	N=48	2%	N=6	100%	N=298
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	27%	N=82	45%	N=135	24%	N=73	3%	N=9	100%	N=298
Sense of community	19%	N=63	41%	N=132	31%	N=100	9%	N=28	100%	N=323
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	30%	N=95	60%	N=190	8%	N=25	1%	N=5	100%	N=314

Table 3: Question 3

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Total	
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks	61%	N=201	32%	N=104	5%	N=16	2%	N=5	100%	N=326
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years	54%	N=170	27%	N=86	7%	N=23	12%	N=38	100%	N=316

Table 4: Question 4

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	79%	N=257	20%	N=64	1%	N=4	1%	N=2	0%	N=0	100%	N=326
In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day	68%	N=212	28%	N=88	3%	N=9	2%	N=5	0%	N=0	100%	N=314

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Table 5: Question 5

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Traffic flow on major streets	17%	N=54	53%	N=174	24%	N=78	7%	N=22	100%	N=329
Ease of public parking	31%	N=99	55%	N=179	12%	N=40	2%	N=5	100%	N=323
Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	48%	N=157	16%	N=51	3%	N=11	100%	N=327
Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township	17%	N=35	40%	N=84	28%	N=59	15%	N=32	100%	N=209
Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	23%	N=58	31%	N=79	31%	N=78	15%	N=39	100%	N=255
Ease of walking in Meridian Township	26%	N=81	44%	N=137	22%	N=70	7%	N=22	100%	N=311
Availability of paths and walking trails	29%	N=87	49%	N=146	17%	N=51	5%	N=16	100%	N=300
Air quality	39%	N=127	52%	N=168	9%	N=29	0%	N=1	100%	N=324
Cleanliness of Meridian Township	35%	N=115	52%	N=173	12%	N=38	1%	N=4	100%	N=330
Overall appearance of Meridian Township	29%	N=96	53%	N=172	16%	N=51	2%	N=8	100%	N=327
Public places where people want to spend time	20%	N=60	49%	N=150	24%	N=73	8%	N=24	100%	N=308
Variety of housing options	25%	N=75	50%	N=150	23%	N=69	2%	N=7	100%	N=301
Availability of affordable quality housing	16%	N=46	40%	N=119	38%	N=111	6%	N=18	100%	N=294
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	26%	N=81	54%	N=170	17%	N=54	3%	N=9	100%	N=314
Recreational opportunities	22%	N=70	46%	N=144	24%	N=75	8%	N=24	100%	N=312
Availability of affordable quality food	30%	N=98	52%	N=169	16%	N=52	3%	N=9	100%	N=328
Availability of affordable quality health care	27%	N=79	48%	N=139	21%	N=62	4%	N=11	100%	N=290
Availability of preventive health services	26%	N=64	50%	N=123	21%	N=51	3%	N=8	100%	N=246
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	28%	N=44	30%	N=46	26%	N=41	16%	N=24	100%	N=156

Table 6: Question 6

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	31%	N=47	40%	N=60	22%	N=33	7%	N=10	100%	N=149
K-12 education	61%	N=143	34%	N=79	5%	N=12	0%	N=0	100%	N=235
Adult educational opportunities	23%	N=49	49%	N=108	25%	N=54	3%	N=7	100%	N=219
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	20%	N=58	35%	N=100	31%	N=88	14%	N=41	100%	N=287
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	31%	N=66	45%	N=98	20%	N=43	4%	N=9	100%	N=216
Employment opportunities	13%	N=24	38%	N=70	34%	N=63	15%	N=28	100%	N=186
Shopping opportunities	28%	N=91	51%	N=165	18%	N=58	3%	N=9	100%	N=324
Cost of living in Meridian Township	10%	N=32	45%	N=142	40%	N=125	5%	N=17	100%	N=315
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township	18%	N=58	53%	N=168	26%	N=83	2%	N=7	100%	N=316
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	7%	N=22	23%	N=70	42%	N=126	28%	N=83	100%	N=301
Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	13%	N=33	34%	N=90	39%	N=102	14%	N=36	100%	N=261
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	13%	N=34	40%	N=107	35%	N=95	12%	N=33	100%	N=269
Opportunities to volunteer	19%	N=41	45%	N=97	27%	N=57	9%	N=19	100%	N=213
Opportunities to participate in community matters	18%	N=42	41%	N=93	30%	N=69	11%	N=24	100%	N=228
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	23%	N=61	48%	N=129	24%	N=65	6%	N=16	100%	N=271
Neighborliness of residents in Meridian Township	23%	N=71	46%	N=140	25%	N=77	6%	N=18	100%	N=305

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Table 7: Question 7

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	No		Yes		Total	
Made efforts to conserve water	27%	N=87	73%	N=241	100%	N=328
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	19%	N=62	81%	N=263	100%	N=325
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township	68%	N=223	32%	N=103	100%	N=326
Household member was a victim of a crime in Meridian Township	96%	N=314	4%	N=14	100%	N=328
Reported a crime to the police in Meridian Township	89%	N=292	11%	N=35	100%	N=327
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	74%	N=243	26%	N=85	100%	N=328
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	85%	N=280	15%	N=49	100%	N=329
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	60%	N=197	40%	N=130	100%	N=327
Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	89%	N=291	11%	N=36	100%	N=327

Table 8: Question 8

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Meridian Township?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	7%	N=23	15%	N=48	34%	N=109	44%	N=142	100%	N=321
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	12%	N=39	27%	N=86	44%	N=143	18%	N=57	100%	N=326
Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services	15%	N=49	21%	N=69	31%	N=102	32%	N=106	100%	N=326
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	7%	N=22	14%	N=47	12%	N=39	67%	N=220	100%	N=328
Attended a Township-sponsored event	1%	N=4	3%	N=9	40%	N=132	56%	N=183	100%	N=327
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	9%	N=31	5%	N=18	13%	N=43	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	12%	N=39	12%	N=39	18%	N=59	58%	N=189	100%	N=326
Walked or biked instead of driving	13%	N=41	20%	N=64	26%	N=84	42%	N=139	100%	N=329
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township	3%	N=8	8%	N=27	17%	N=56	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Participated in a club	4%	N=14	7%	N=22	15%	N=50	74%	N=240	100%	N=326
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	36%	N=119	28%	N=91	23%	N=76	12%	N=40	100%	N=327
Done a favor for a neighbor	16%	N=52	19%	N=62	38%	N=124	27%	N=87	100%	N=325

Table 9: Question 9

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Attended a local public meeting	0%	N=1	2%	N=5	14%	N=45	84%	N=273	100%	N=325
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	0%	N=1	6%	N=20	18%	N=58	76%	N=247	100%	N=326

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Table 10: Question 10

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Police/Sheriff services	45%	N=123	45%	N=124	6%	N=17	4%	N=12	100%	N=275
Fire services	54%	N=127	42%	N=99	3%	N=8	0%	N=0	100%	N=234
Ambulance or emergency medical services	58%	N=116	39%	N=78	3%	N=5	1%	N=2	100%	N=201
Crime prevention	34%	N=77	48%	N=109	12%	N=26	6%	N=14	100%	N=226
Fire prevention and education	38%	N=66	45%	N=79	12%	N=20	5%	N=9	100%	N=174
Traffic enforcement	23%	N=61	51%	N=136	20%	N=53	7%	N=18	100%	N=267
Street repair	7%	N=23	22%	N=68	34%	N=105	36%	N=109	100%	N=305
Street cleaning	12%	N=36	40%	N=118	35%	N=102	12%	N=35	100%	N=291
Street lighting	12%	N=38	40%	N=121	35%	N=107	13%	N=40	100%	N=307
Snow removal	10%	N=30	46%	N=137	32%	N=95	12%	N=36	100%	N=298
Sidewalk maintenance	11%	N=30	46%	N=127	29%	N=81	14%	N=39	100%	N=278
Traffic signal timing	8%	N=24	48%	N=149	31%	N=98	13%	N=42	100%	N=313
Bus or transit services	21%	N=39	46%	N=85	19%	N=35	14%	N=25	100%	N=184
Garbage collection	38%	N=102	50%	N=133	9%	N=23	3%	N=7	100%	N=264
Recycling	30%	N=79	32%	N=83	18%	N=47	20%	N=52	100%	N=261
Yard waste pick-up	21%	N=33	30%	N=49	22%	N=35	27%	N=42	100%	N=160
Storm drainage	18%	N=41	43%	N=99	26%	N=59	13%	N=29	100%	N=227
Drinking water	47%	N=144	40%	N=124	10%	N=29	3%	N=9	100%	N=307
Sewer services	32%	N=78	52%	N=128	13%	N=32	3%	N=6	100%	N=245
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	29%	N=89	49%	N=149	20%	N=60	3%	N=9	100%	N=306
Utility billing	24%	N=70	50%	N=149	23%	N=70	3%	N=9	100%	N=297
Township parks	36%	N=104	53%	N=154	7%	N=21	3%	N=10	100%	N=288
Recreation programs or classes	25%	N=49	50%	N=99	20%	N=40	5%	N=10	100%	N=199
Recreation centers or facilities	24%	N=48	48%	N=96	23%	N=47	5%	N=10	100%	N=201
Land use, planning and zoning	13%	N=26	39%	N=81	31%	N=65	17%	N=35	100%	N=208
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	15%	N=30	39%	N=78	34%	N=68	11%	N=22	100%	N=199
Animal control	21%	N=39	45%	N=84	22%	N=41	13%	N=24	100%	N=188
Economic development	15%	N=34	38%	N=88	34%	N=79	13%	N=30	100%	N=231
Health services	20%	N=44	56%	N=125	22%	N=49	2%	N=5	100%	N=223
Public library services	45%	N=120	43%	N=115	12%	N=31	1%	N=2	100%	N=268
Public information services	20%	N=43	43%	N=91	30%	N=64	7%	N=14	100%	N=213
Cable television	14%	N=33	45%	N=105	28%	N=64	13%	N=29	100%	N=232
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	15%	N=22	47%	N=70	28%	N=41	10%	N=14	100%	N=147
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	21%	N=57	50%	N=137	22%	N=59	7%	N=20	100%	N=273
Meridian Township open space	22%	N=60	46%	N=128	26%	N=71	7%	N=18	100%	N=277
Township-sponsored special events	18%	N=36	43%	N=86	34%	N=68	6%	N=12	100%	N=203
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	30%	N=73	53%	N=128	15%	N=36	3%	N=6	100%	N=243

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Table 11: Question 11

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
The Meridian Township	24%	N=70	61%	N=177	13%	N=37	2%	N=5	100%	N=290
The Federal Government	8%	N=22	34%	N=96	40%	N=111	18%	N=50	100%	N=279

Table 12: Question 12

Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	11%	N=29	43%	N=114	39%	N=103	7%	N=20	100%	N=266
The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	11%	N=29	48%	N=123	34%	N=88	6%	N=16	100%	N=255
The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	13%	N=26	35%	N=73	37%	N=76	15%	N=32	100%	N=207
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government	10%	N=27	40%	N=108	43%	N=116	8%	N=21	100%	N=272
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	11%	N=31	43%	N=118	38%	N=104	7%	N=19	100%	N=272
Being honest	14%	N=31	51%	N=111	26%	N=56	9%	N=18	100%	N=216
Treating all residents fairly	16%	N=35	45%	N=97	30%	N=64	9%	N=21	100%	N=217

Table 13: Question 13

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Meridian Township community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	56%	N=178	33%	N=104	10%	N=32	1%	N=2	100%	N=316
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	33%	N=105	43%	N=137	23%	N=72	1%	N=5	100%	N=319
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=136	40%	N=126	15%	N=49	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	30%	N=95	44%	N=138	24%	N=76	2%	N=5	100%	N=314
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	25%	N=79	39%	N=123	34%	N=108	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	31%	N=99	41%	N=131	27%	N=85	1%	N=4	100%	N=318
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	37%	N=118	50%	N=159	13%	N=41	0%	N=1	100%	N=318
Sense of community	27%	N=86	45%	N=145	26%	N=84	1%	N=4	100%	N=319

Table 14: Question 14

Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Increase the availability of single family residential development	17%	N=45	26%	N=70	39%	N=104	18%	N=49	100%	N=267
Increase the availability of multi-family (apartments) residential development	9%	N=25	20%	N=54	33%	N=92	38%	N=105	100%	N=277
Increase commercial development	11%	N=32	25%	N=75	41%	N=120	23%	N=69	100%	N=296
Redevelopment of downtown Haslett, Okemos and the Carriage Hills neighborhood	29%	N=86	40%	N=118	27%	N=79	4%	N=13	100%	N=295
Preservation of open space	40%	N=125	36%	N=113	20%	N=62	4%	N=11	100%	N=311
Extension of existing pathways	33%	N=99	32%	N=96	24%	N=73	11%	N=32	100%	N=300
Improvement of the local (neighborhood) roads	44%	N=137	35%	N=108	19%	N=58	2%	N=6	100%	N=309
Increase energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	32%	N=98	36%	N=110	24%	N=73	8%	N=24	100%	N=305
Public utility (water, sewer, cable, internet) improvement and expansion	29%	N=87	44%	N=133	23%	N=69	5%	N=16	100%	N=305

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Table 15: Question 15

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Local (neighborhood) roads	34%	N=110	49%	N=156	10%	N=33	7%	N=22	100%	N=321
Preservation of open space	29%	N=93	45%	N=143	13%	N=43	12%	N=39	100%	N=318
Public safety- police, fire and rescue services	38%	N=123	46%	N=147	10%	N=32	6%	N=18	100%	N=320
Energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	25%	N=80	47%	N=150	18%	N=57	10%	N=32	100%	N=319
Pathways	26%	N=84	43%	N=136	21%	N=68	10%	N=32	100%	N=321
Library services	26%	N=83	45%	N=145	18%	N=58	10%	N=32	100%	N=318
Public transportation	21%	N=69	42%	N=135	23%	N=74	13%	N=43	100%	N=321
Code enforcement	13%	N=42	43%	N=138	30%	N=97	13%	N=43	100%	N=319
Additional street lighting	18%	N=56	39%	N=124	34%	N=110	9%	N=30	100%	N=320
Landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties	13%	N=43	38%	N=123	35%	N=114	13%	N=41	100%	N=321

Table 16: Question 16

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:	Major source		Minor source		Not a source		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Township Web site (www.meridian.mi.us)	53%	N=165	30%	N=94	17%	N=54	100%	N=314
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	48%	N=150	40%	N=125	13%	N=41	100%	N=316
The local government cable Channel HOMTV	11%	N=34	34%	N=107	55%	N=172	100%	N=312
Township newsletter (Meridian Monitor)	30%	N=94	44%	N=138	26%	N=80	100%	N=311
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide	33%	N=104	50%	N=156	18%	N=55	100%	N=315
Township Board meetings and other public meetings	11%	N=36	36%	N=114	53%	N=166	100%	N=315
Talking with Township officials	11%	N=33	32%	N=101	57%	N=181	100%	N=315
Township communications via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	15%	N=48	31%	N=97	54%	N=169	100%	N=313
Word-of-mouth	26%	N=83	53%	N=169	21%	N=67	100%	N=318

Table 17: Question 17

Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Larger signs at local businesses	9%	N=29	31%	N=100	29%	N=95	30%	N=97	100%	N=321
More signs at local businesses	8%	N=27	30%	N=96	33%	N=107	28%	N=91	100%	N=320

Table 18: Question D1

How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Recycle at home	7%	N=23	14%	N=44	17%	N=56	18%	N=57	44%	N=139	100%	N=318
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township	0%	N=1	2%	N=7	17%	N=55	59%	N=187	21%	N=68	100%	N=319
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	3%	N=11	21%	N=67	30%	N=97	30%	N=96	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1%	N=4	15%	N=49	34%	N=108	32%	N=102	18%	N=57	100%	N=321
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	3%	N=10	18%	N=58	23%	N=74	26%	N=83	30%	N=98	100%	N=323
Vote in local elections	16%	N=51	6%	N=19	11%	N=37	23%	N=73	44%	N=141	100%	N=321

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Table 19: Question D2

Would you say that in general your health is:	Percent	Number
Excellent	20%	N=62
Very good	53%	N=167
Good	19%	N=59
Fair	8%	N=25
Poor	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=316

Table 20: Question D3

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent	Number
Very positive	4%	N=13
Somewhat positive	25%	N=78
Neutral	57%	N=180
Somewhat negative	14%	N=43
Very negative	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=317

Table 21: Question D4

What is your employment status?	Percent	Number
Working full time for pay	56%	N=179
Working part time for pay	14%	N=45
Unemployed, looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Fully retired	19%	N=60
Total	100%	N=318

Table 22: Question D5

Do you work inside the boundaries of Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Yes, outside the home	21%	N=66
Yes, from home	4%	N=13
No	75%	N=236
Total	100%	N=315

Table 23: Question D6

How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	19%	N=61
2 to 5 years	17%	N=55
6 to 10 years	14%	N=45
11 to 20 years	19%	N=62
More than 20 years	31%	N=100
Total	100%	N=323

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Table 24: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	60%	N=192
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)	40%	N=130
Mobile home	0%	N=0
Other	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=322

Table 25: Question D8

Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	38%	N=123
Owned	62%	N=200
Total	100%	N=323

Table 26: Question D9

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$300 per month	3%	N=10
\$300 to \$599 per month	13%	N=39
\$600 to \$999 per month	43%	N=131
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	17%	N=53
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	17%	N=51
\$2,500 or more per month	7%	N=23
Total	100%	N=306

Table 27: Question D10

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	67%	N=212
Yes	33%	N=107
Total	100%	N=319

Table 28: Question D11

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	79%	N=253
Yes	21%	N=66
Total	100%	N=320

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Table 29: Question D12

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	15%	N=47
\$25,000 to \$49,999	20%	N=60
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29%	N=89
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17%	N=52
\$150,000 or more	19%	N=58
Total	100%	N=306

Table 30: Question D13

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	98%	N=309
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	2%	N=8
Total	100%	N=317

Table 31: Question D14

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	N=1
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	10%	N=32
Black or African American	3%	N=11
White	83%	N=258
Other	5%	N=15

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 32: Question D15

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18 to 24 years	10%	N=30
25 to 34 years	20%	N=62
35 to 44 years	16%	N=49
45 to 54 years	22%	N=71
55 to 64 years	14%	N=45
65 to 74 years	11%	N=34
75 years or older	8%	N=24
Total	100%	N=316

Table 33: Question D16

What is your sex?	Percent	Number
Female	48%	N=154
Male	52%	N=164
Total	100%	N=318

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Table 34: Question D17

Do you consider a cell phone or landline your primary telephone number?	Percent	Number
Cell	68%	N=219
Land line	16%	N=53
Both	16%	N=51
Total	100%	N=323

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Responses including "don't know"

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, including the "don't know" responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents (denoted with "N=").

Table 35: Question 1

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Meridian Township as a place to live	48%	N=157	46%	N=151	7%	N=22	0%	N=0	0%	N=1	100%	N=331
Your neighborhood as a place to live	43%	N=142	46%	N=153	9%	N=31	1%	N=4	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to raise children	44%	N=147	38%	N=125	5%	N=16	1%	N=4	12%	N=39	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to work	23%	N=75	27%	N=90	12%	N=39	4%	N=13	34%	N=113	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to visit	19%	N=61	36%	N=119	28%	N=92	13%	N=41	4%	N=15	100%	N=329
Meridian Township as a place to retire	22%	N=73	31%	N=101	21%	N=69	7%	N=22	19%	N=63	100%	N=329
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	54%	N=178	13%	N=42	0%	N=1	0%	N=0	100%	N=329

Table 36: Question 2

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	39%	N=127	54%	N=177	8%	N=25	0%	N=0	0%	N=0	100%	N=329
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	40%	N=131	48%	N=160	11%	N=36	1%	N=3	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=142	45%	N=147	11%	N=35	1%	N=5	0%	N=0	100%	N=328
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	17%	N=57	50%	N=163	27%	N=90	5%	N=16	0%	N=1	100%	N=327
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	21%	N=69	51%	N=166	19%	N=63	1%	N=5	7%	N=24	100%	N=327
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	36%	N=116	39%	N=128	15%	N=48	2%	N=6	8%	N=28	100%	N=326
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	25%	N=82	41%	N=135	22%	N=73	3%	N=9	9%	N=30	100%	N=328
Sense of community	19%	N=63	40%	N=132	30%	N=100	9%	N=28	2%	N=6	100%	N=329
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	29%	N=95	58%	N=190	8%	N=25	1%	N=5	5%	N=15	100%	N=329

Table 37: Question 3

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Don't know		Total	
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks	61%	N=201	32%	N=104	5%	N=16	2%	N=5	1%	N=3	100%	N=329
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years	52%	N=170	26%	N=86	7%	N=23	11%	N=38	4%	N=12	100%	N=328

Table 38: Question 4

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	79%	N=257	20%	N=64	1%	N=4	1%	N=2	0%	N=0	0%	N=0	100%	N=326
In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day	65%	N=212	27%	N=88	3%	N=9	1%	N=5	0%	N=0	4%	N=13	100%	N=326

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Table 39: Question 5

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Traffic flow on major streets	17%	N=54	53%	N=174	24%	N=78	7%	N=22	0%	N=0	100%	N=329
Ease of public parking	30%	N=99	54%	N=179	12%	N=40	2%	N=5	2%	N=7	100%	N=329
Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	48%	N=157	16%	N=51	3%	N=11	1%	N=2	100%	N=329
Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township	11%	N=35	26%	N=84	18%	N=59	10%	N=32	36%	N=118	100%	N=327
Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	18%	N=58	24%	N=79	24%	N=78	12%	N=39	22%	N=73	100%	N=327
Ease of walking in Meridian Township	25%	N=81	42%	N=137	21%	N=70	7%	N=22	5%	N=18	100%	N=328
Availability of paths and walking trails	27%	N=87	44%	N=146	16%	N=51	5%	N=16	8%	N=28	100%	N=327
Air quality	38%	N=127	51%	N=168	9%	N=29	0%	N=1	2%	N=6	100%	N=330
Cleanliness of Meridian Township	35%	N=115	52%	N=173	12%	N=38	1%	N=4	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Overall appearance of Meridian Township	29%	N=96	53%	N=172	16%	N=51	2%	N=8	0%	N=0	100%	N=327
Public places where people want to spend time	18%	N=60	46%	N=150	22%	N=73	7%	N=24	6%	N=21	100%	N=328
Variety of housing options	23%	N=75	46%	N=150	21%	N=69	2%	N=7	8%	N=25	100%	N=326
Availability of affordable quality housing	14%	N=46	36%	N=119	34%	N=111	6%	N=18	10%	N=34	100%	N=328
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	25%	N=81	52%	N=170	17%	N=54	3%	N=9	4%	N=13	100%	N=328
Recreational opportunities	21%	N=70	44%	N=144	23%	N=75	7%	N=24	4%	N=13	100%	N=326
Availability of affordable quality food	30%	N=98	51%	N=169	16%	N=52	3%	N=9	0%	N=1	100%	N=329
Availability of affordable quality health care	24%	N=79	42%	N=139	19%	N=62	3%	N=11	12%	N=39	100%	N=329
Availability of preventive health services	20%	N=64	38%	N=123	16%	N=51	2%	N=8	25%	N=80	100%	N=326
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	13%	N=44	14%	N=46	13%	N=41	7%	N=24	53%	N=172	100%	N=327

Table 40: Question 6

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	15%	N=47	18%	N=60	10%	N=33	3%	N=10	54%	N=174	100%	N=323
K-12 education	44%	N=143	24%	N=79	4%	N=12	0%	N=0	27%	N=88	100%	N=323
Adult educational opportunities	15%	N=49	33%	N=108	17%	N=54	2%	N=7	32%	N=104	100%	N=322
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	18%	N=58	31%	N=100	28%	N=88	13%	N=41	10%	N=32	100%	N=318
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	21%	N=66	30%	N=98	13%	N=43	3%	N=9	32%	N=104	100%	N=320
Employment opportunities	8%	N=24	22%	N=70	20%	N=63	9%	N=28	42%	N=135	100%	N=321
Shopping opportunities	28%	N=91	51%	N=165	18%	N=58	3%	N=9	0%	N=1	100%	N=325
Cost of living in Meridian Township	10%	N=32	44%	N=142	39%	N=125	5%	N=17	2%	N=7	100%	N=322
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township	18%	N=58	52%	N=168	25%	N=83	2%	N=7	3%	N=9	100%	N=324
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	7%	N=22	22%	N=70	39%	N=126	26%	N=83	6%	N=19	100%	N=320
Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	10%	N=33	28%	N=90	32%	N=102	11%	N=36	18%	N=58	100%	N=319
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	11%	N=34	33%	N=107	30%	N=95	10%	N=33	16%	N=53	100%	N=322
Opportunities to volunteer	13%	N=41	30%	N=97	18%	N=57	6%	N=19	34%	N=108	100%	N=322
Opportunities to participate in community matters	13%	N=42	29%	N=93	22%	N=69	8%	N=24	29%	N=92	100%	N=320
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	19%	N=61	40%	N=129	20%	N=65	5%	N=16	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Neighborliness of residents in Meridian Township	22%	N=71	43%	N=140	24%	N=77	5%	N=18	6%	N=20	100%	N=325

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Table 41: Question 7

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	No		Yes		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Made efforts to conserve water	27%	N=87	73%	N=241	100%	N=328
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	19%	N=62	81%	N=263	100%	N=325
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township	68%	N=223	32%	N=103	100%	N=326
Household member was a victim of a crime in Meridian Township	96%	N=314	4%	N=14	100%	N=328
Reported a crime to the police in Meridian Township	89%	N=292	11%	N=35	100%	N=327
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	74%	N=243	26%	N=85	100%	N=328
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	85%	N=280	15%	N=49	100%	N=329
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	60%	N=197	40%	N=130	100%	N=327
Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	89%	N=291	11%	N=36	100%	N=327

Table 42: Question 8

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Meridian Township?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	7%	N=23	15%	N=48	34%	N=109	44%	N=142	100%	N=321
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	12%	N=39	27%	N=86	44%	N=143	18%	N=57	100%	N=326
Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services	15%	N=49	21%	N=69	31%	N=102	32%	N=106	100%	N=326
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	7%	N=22	14%	N=47	12%	N=39	67%	N=220	100%	N=328
Attended a Township-sponsored event	1%	N=4	3%	N=9	40%	N=132	56%	N=183	100%	N=327
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	9%	N=31	5%	N=18	13%	N=43	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	12%	N=39	12%	N=39	18%	N=59	58%	N=189	100%	N=326
Walked or biked instead of driving	13%	N=41	20%	N=64	26%	N=84	42%	N=139	100%	N=329
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township	3%	N=8	8%	N=27	17%	N=56	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Participated in a club	4%	N=14	7%	N=22	15%	N=50	74%	N=240	100%	N=326
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	36%	N=119	28%	N=91	23%	N=76	12%	N=40	100%	N=327
Done a favor for a neighbor	16%	N=52	19%	N=62	38%	N=124	27%	N=87	100%	N=325

Table 43: Question 9

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Attended a local public meeting	0%	N=1	2%	N=5	14%	N=45	84%	N=273	100%	N=325
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	0%	N=1	6%	N=20	18%	N=58	76%	N=247	100%	N=326

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Table 44: Question 10

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Police/Sheriff services	38%	N=123	38%	N=124	5%	N=17	4%	N=12	15%	N=49	100%	N=324
Fire services	39%	N=127	31%	N=99	2%	N=8	0%	N=0	28%	N=91	100%	N=325
Ambulance or emergency medical services	36%	N=116	24%	N=78	2%	N=5	1%	N=2	38%	N=123	100%	N=324
Crime prevention	24%	N=77	34%	N=109	8%	N=26	4%	N=14	29%	N=92	100%	N=318
Fire prevention and education	21%	N=66	25%	N=79	6%	N=20	3%	N=9	46%	N=146	100%	N=320
Traffic enforcement	19%	N=61	42%	N=136	16%	N=53	5%	N=18	17%	N=55	100%	N=322
Street repair	7%	N=23	21%	N=68	33%	N=105	34%	N=109	5%	N=18	100%	N=323
Street cleaning	11%	N=36	37%	N=118	32%	N=102	11%	N=35	9%	N=28	100%	N=318
Street lighting	12%	N=38	38%	N=121	34%	N=107	12%	N=40	4%	N=12	100%	N=319
Snow removal	9%	N=30	43%	N=137	30%	N=95	11%	N=36	7%	N=22	100%	N=320
Sidewalk maintenance	9%	N=30	40%	N=127	25%	N=81	12%	N=39	13%	N=42	100%	N=320
Traffic signal timing	7%	N=24	46%	N=149	30%	N=98	13%	N=42	3%	N=10	100%	N=323
Bus or transit services	12%	N=39	26%	N=85	11%	N=35	8%	N=25	43%	N=138	100%	N=322
Garbage collection	32%	N=102	42%	N=133	7%	N=23	2%	N=7	16%	N=51	100%	N=315
Recycling	25%	N=79	26%	N=83	15%	N=47	16%	N=52	19%	N=61	100%	N=321
Yard waste pick-up	10%	N=33	15%	N=49	11%	N=35	13%	N=42	50%	N=159	100%	N=318
Storm drainage	13%	N=41	31%	N=99	19%	N=59	9%	N=29	28%	N=87	100%	N=315
Drinking water	45%	N=144	39%	N=124	9%	N=29	3%	N=9	5%	N=15	100%	N=322
Sewer services	25%	N=78	40%	N=128	10%	N=32	2%	N=6	23%	N=75	100%	N=319
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	28%	N=89	47%	N=149	19%	N=60	3%	N=9	4%	N=14	100%	N=320
Utility billing	22%	N=70	47%	N=149	22%	N=70	3%	N=9	7%	N=23	100%	N=320
Township parks	32%	N=104	48%	N=154	7%	N=21	3%	N=10	10%	N=31	100%	N=319
Recreation programs or classes	15%	N=49	31%	N=99	13%	N=40	3%	N=10	38%	N=121	100%	N=319
Recreation centers or facilities	15%	N=48	30%	N=96	15%	N=47	3%	N=10	37%	N=115	100%	N=316
Land use, planning and zoning	9%	N=26	26%	N=81	21%	N=65	11%	N=35	33%	N=100	100%	N=308
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	10%	N=30	24%	N=78	21%	N=68	7%	N=22	38%	N=119	100%	N=318
Animal control	12%	N=39	26%	N=84	13%	N=41	7%	N=24	42%	N=133	100%	N=321
Economic development	11%	N=34	27%	N=88	25%	N=79	9%	N=30	28%	N=88	100%	N=319
Health services	14%	N=44	39%	N=125	15%	N=49	2%	N=5	31%	N=99	100%	N=322
Public library services	37%	N=120	35%	N=115	10%	N=31	1%	N=2	17%	N=56	100%	N=325
Public information services	14%	N=43	29%	N=91	20%	N=64	5%	N=14	33%	N=107	100%	N=320
Cable television	10%	N=33	33%	N=105	20%	N=64	9%	N=29	28%	N=88	100%	N=320
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	7%	N=22	22%	N=70	13%	N=41	4%	N=14	54%	N=174	100%	N=321
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	18%	N=57	44%	N=137	19%	N=59	6%	N=20	13%	N=41	100%	N=313
Meridian Township open space	19%	N=60	40%	N=128	22%	N=71	6%	N=18	13%	N=41	100%	N=317
Township-sponsored special events	11%	N=36	27%	N=86	21%	N=68	4%	N=12	36%	N=116	100%	N=319
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	23%	N=73	41%	N=128	11%	N=36	2%	N=6	23%	N=72	100%	N=315

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Table 45: Question 11

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The Meridian Township	22%	N=70	56%	N=177	12%	N=37	1%	N=5	9%	N=28	100%	N=318
The Federal Government	7%	N=22	30%	N=96	35%	N=111	16%	N=50	12%	N=36	100%	N=316

Table 46: Question 12

Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	9%	N=29	36%	N=114	32%	N=103	6%	N=20	17%	N=55	100%	N=321
The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	9%	N=29	38%	N=123	27%	N=88	5%	N=16	20%	N=65	100%	N=319
The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	8%	N=26	23%	N=73	24%	N=76	10%	N=32	35%	N=112	100%	N=319
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government	8%	N=27	34%	N=108	36%	N=116	6%	N=21	15%	N=46	100%	N=318
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	10%	N=31	37%	N=118	32%	N=104	6%	N=19	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Being honest	10%	N=31	35%	N=111	17%	N=56	6%	N=18	32%	N=104	100%	N=320
Treating all residents fairly	11%	N=35	30%	N=97	20%	N=64	6%	N=21	32%	N=103	100%	N=319

Table 47: Question 13

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Meridian Township community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	56%	N=178	33%	N=104	10%	N=32	1%	N=2	100%	N=316
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	33%	N=105	43%	N=137	23%	N=72	1%	N=5	100%	N=319
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=136	40%	N=126	15%	N=49	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	30%	N=95	44%	N=138	24%	N=76	2%	N=5	100%	N=314
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	25%	N=79	39%	N=123	34%	N=108	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	31%	N=99	41%	N=131	27%	N=85	1%	N=4	100%	N=318
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	37%	N=118	50%	N=159	13%	N=41	0%	N=1	100%	N=318
Sense of community	27%	N=86	45%	N=145	26%	N=84	1%	N=4	100%	N=319

Table 48: Question 14

Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
Increase the availability of single family residential development	14%	N=45	22%	N=70	33%	N=104	15%	N=49	16%	N=49	100%	N=317
Increase the availability of multi-family (apartments) residential development	8%	N=25	17%	N=54	29%	N=92	33%	N=105	13%	N=42	100%	N=318
Increase commercial development	10%	N=32	24%	N=75	38%	N=120	22%	N=69	6%	N=19	100%	N=315
Redevelopment of downtown Haslett, Okemos and the Carriage Hills neighborhood	27%	N=86	37%	N=118	25%	N=79	4%	N=13	7%	N=22	100%	N=317
Preservation of open space	39%	N=125	35%	N=113	19%	N=62	4%	N=11	3%	N=9	100%	N=320
Extension of existing pathways	31%	N=99	30%	N=96	23%	N=73	10%	N=32	5%	N=16	100%	N=316
Improvement of the local (neighborhood) roads	43%	N=137	34%	N=108	18%	N=58	2%	N=6	3%	N=8	100%	N=317
Increase energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	31%	N=98	35%	N=110	23%	N=73	8%	N=24	4%	N=13	100%	N=318
Public utility (water, sewer, cable, internet) improvement and expansion	27%	N=87	42%	N=133	22%	N=69	5%	N=16	5%	N=15	100%	N=319

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Table 49: Question 15

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Local (neighborhood) roads	34%	N=110	49%	N=156	10%	N=33	7%	N=22	100%	N=321
Preservation of open space	29%	N=93	45%	N=143	13%	N=43	12%	N=39	100%	N=318
Public safety- police, fire and rescue services	38%	N=123	46%	N=147	10%	N=32	6%	N=18	100%	N=320
Energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	25%	N=80	47%	N=150	18%	N=57	10%	N=32	100%	N=319
Pathways	26%	N=84	43%	N=136	21%	N=68	10%	N=32	100%	N=321
Library services	26%	N=83	45%	N=145	18%	N=58	10%	N=32	100%	N=318
Public transportation	21%	N=69	42%	N=135	23%	N=74	13%	N=43	100%	N=321
Code enforcement	13%	N=42	43%	N=138	30%	N=97	13%	N=43	100%	N=319
Additional street lighting	18%	N=56	39%	N=124	34%	N=110	9%	N=30	100%	N=320
Landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties	13%	N=43	38%	N=123	35%	N=114	13%	N=41	100%	N=321

Table 50: Question 16

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:	Major source		Minor source		Not a source		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Township Web site (www.meridian.mi.us)	53%	N=165	30%	N=94	17%	N=54	100%	N=314
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	48%	N=150	40%	N=125	13%	N=41	100%	N=316
The local government cable Channel HOMTV	11%	N=34	34%	N=107	55%	N=172	100%	N=312
Township newsletter (Meridian Monitor)	30%	N=94	44%	N=138	26%	N=80	100%	N=311
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide	33%	N=104	50%	N=156	18%	N=55	100%	N=315
Township Board meetings and other public meetings	11%	N=36	36%	N=114	53%	N=166	100%	N=315
Talking with Township officials	11%	N=33	32%	N=101	57%	N=181	100%	N=315
Township communications via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	15%	N=48	31%	N=97	54%	N=169	100%	N=313
Word-of-mouth	26%	N=83	53%	N=169	21%	N=67	100%	N=318

Table 51: Question 17

Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Larger signs at local businesses	9%	N=29	31%	N=100	29%	N=95	30%	N=97	100%	N=321
More signs at local businesses	8%	N=27	30%	N=96	33%	N=107	28%	N=91	100%	N=320

Table 52: Question D1

How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Recycle at home	7%	N=23	14%	N=44	17%	N=56	18%	N=57	44%	N=139	100%	N=318
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township	0%	N=1	2%	N=7	17%	N=55	59%	N=187	21%	N=68	100%	N=319
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	3%	N=11	21%	N=67	30%	N=97	30%	N=96	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1%	N=4	15%	N=49	34%	N=108	32%	N=102	18%	N=57	100%	N=321
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	3%	N=10	18%	N=58	23%	N=74	26%	N=83	30%	N=98	100%	N=323
Vote in local elections	16%	N=51	6%	N=19	11%	N=37	23%	N=73	44%	N=141	100%	N=321

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Table 53: Question D2

Would you say that in general your health is:	Percent	Number
Excellent	20%	N=62
Very good	53%	N=167
Good	19%	N=59
Fair	8%	N=25
Poor	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=316

Table 54: Question D3

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent	Number
Very positive	4%	N=13
Somewhat positive	25%	N=78
Neutral	57%	N=180
Somewhat negative	14%	N=43
Very negative	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=317

Table 55: Question D4

What is your employment status?	Percent	Number
Working full time for pay	56%	N=179
Working part time for pay	14%	N=45
Unemployed, looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Fully retired	19%	N=60
Total	100%	N=318

Table 56: Question D5

Do you work inside the boundaries of Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Yes, outside the home	21%	N=66
Yes, from home	4%	N=13
No	75%	N=236
Total	100%	N=315

Table 57: Question D6

How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	19%	N=61
2 to 5 years	17%	N=55
6 to 10 years	14%	N=45
11 to 20 years	19%	N=62
More than 20 years	31%	N=100
Total	100%	N=323

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Table 58: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	60%	N=192
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)	40%	N=130
Mobile home	0%	N=0
Other	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=322

Table 59: Question D8

Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	38%	N=123
Owned	62%	N=200
Total	100%	N=323

Table 60: Question D9

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$300 per month	3%	N=10
\$300 to \$599 per month	13%	N=39
\$600 to \$999 per month	43%	N=131
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	17%	N=53
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	17%	N=51
\$2,500 or more per month	7%	N=23
Total	100%	N=306

Table 61: Question D10

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	67%	N=212
Yes	33%	N=107
Total	100%	N=319

Table 62: Question D11

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	79%	N=253
Yes	21%	N=66
Total	100%	N=320

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Table 63: Question D12

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	15%	N=47
\$25,000 to \$49,999	20%	N=60
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29%	N=89
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17%	N=52
\$150,000 or more	19%	N=58
Total	100%	N=306

Table 64: Question D13

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	98%	N=309
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	2%	N=8
Total	100%	N=317

Table 65: Question D14

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	N=1
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	10%	N=32
Black or African American	3%	N=11
White	83%	N=258
Other	5%	N=15

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 66: Question D15

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18 to 24 years	10%	N=30
25 to 34 years	20%	N=62
35 to 44 years	16%	N=49
45 to 54 years	22%	N=71
55 to 64 years	14%	N=45
65 to 74 years	11%	N=34
75 years or older	8%	N=24
Total	100%	N=316

Table 67: Question D16

What is your sex?	Percent	Number
Female	48%	N=154
Male	52%	N=164
Total	100%	N=318

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Table 68: Question D17

Do you consider a cell phone or landline your primary telephone number?	Percent	Number
Cell	68%	N=219
Land line	16%	N=53
Both	16%	N=51
Total	100%	N=323

Appendix B: Benchmark Comparisons

Comparison Data

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 500 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Citizen Survey™. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community; most communities conduct surveys every year or in alternating years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. Meridian Township chose to have comparisons made to the entire database.

Interpreting the Results

Ratings are compared when there are at least five communities in which a similar question was asked. Where comparisons are available, four columns are provided in the table. The first column is Meridian Township's "percent positive." The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., "excellent" and "good," "very safe" and "somewhat safe," "essential" and "very important," etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating "yes" or participating in an activity at least once a month. The second column is the rank assigned to Meridian Township's rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The third column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The final column shows the comparison of Meridian Township's rating to the benchmark.

In that final column, Meridian Township's results are noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark or "similar" to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Meridian Township residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. More extreme differences are noted as "much higher" or "much lower."

Benchmark Database Characteristics	
Region	Percent
New England	3%
Middle Atlantic	5%
East North Central	15%
West North Central	13%
South Atlantic	22%
East South Central	3%
West South Central	7%
Mountain	16%
Pacific	16%
Population	Percent
Less than 10,000	10%
10,000 to 24,999	22%
25,000 to 49,999	23%
50,000 to 99,999	22%
100,000 or more	23%

National Benchmark Comparisons

Table 69: Community Characteristics General

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township	87%	156	397	Similar
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	91%	70	296	Higher
Meridian Township as a place to live	93%	107	340	Similar
Your neighborhood as a place to live	89%	85	262	Similar
Meridian Township as a place to raise children	93%	80	331	Higher
Meridian Township as a place to retire	66%	133	314	Similar
Overall appearance of Meridian Township	82%	91	309	Similar

Table 70: Community Characteristics by Facet

		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Safety	Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	92%	74	225	Similar
	In your neighborhood during the day	98%	60	302	Similar
	In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day	96%	83	256	Similar
Mobility	Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	88%	14	141	Higher
	Availability of paths and walking trails	78%	66	265	Similar
	Ease of walking in Meridian Township	70%	91	246	Similar
	Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	54%	102	250	Similar
	Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township	57%	32	124	Similar
	Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township	81%	21	253	Higher
	Ease of public parking	86%	3	117	Much higher
	Traffic flow on major streets	70%	37	298	Higher
Natural Environment	Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	88%	43	234	Higher
	Cleanliness of Meridian Township	87%	59	227	Higher
	Air quality	91%	30	210	Higher
Built Environment	Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	67%	49	135	Similar
	Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	47%	167	242	Similar
	Availability of affordable quality housing	56%	50	254	Higher
	Variety of housing options	75%	24	233	Higher
	Public places where people want to spend time	68%	58	128	Similar
	Overall economic health of Meridian Township	73%	44	140	Similar
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	30%	92	125	Lower
	Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township	71%	65	227	Similar
Economy	Cost of living in Meridian Township	55%	31	134	Similar
	Shopping opportunities	79%	37	252	Higher
	Employment opportunities	51%	45	266	Higher
	Meridian Township as a place to visit	58%	94	148	Similar
	Meridian Township as a place to work	76%	64	305	Higher
	Recreation and Wellness	Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	78%	55	137

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		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Availability of affordable quality mental health care	58%	19	117	Higher
	Availability of preventive health services	76%	33	191	Similar
	Availability of affordable quality health care	75%	30	215	Higher
	Availability of affordable quality food	81%	18	191	Higher
	Recreational opportunities	68%	124	258	Similar
	Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	80%	44	132	Similar
	Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	82%	32	135	Higher
	Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	76%	86	171	Similar
	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	55%	122	251	Similar
	Adult educational opportunities	72%	28	122	Similar
	K-12 education	95%	7	224	Much higher
Education and Enrichment	Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	71%	10	213	Higher
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	52%	148	214	Similar
	Neighborliness of Meridian Township	69%	32	130	Similar
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	70%	51	244	Similar
Community Engagement	Opportunities to participate in community matters	59%	124	227	Similar
	Opportunities to volunteer	64%	151	221	Similar

Table 71: Governance General

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Services provided by Meridian Township	85%	98	385	Similar
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	83%	97	320	Similar
Value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	54%	160	346	Similar
Overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	59%	132	277	Similar
Job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	48%	153	264	Similar
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government	50%	64	135	Similar
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	55%	61	135	Similar
Being honest	66%	47	131	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	61%	44	134	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government	42%	48	205	Similar

Table 72: Governance by Facet

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark	
	Police/Sheriff services	90%	70	382	Similar
	Fire services	97%	58	309	Similar
	Ambulance or emergency medical services	96%	30	298	Similar
	Crime prevention	82%	66	306	Similar
	Fire prevention and education	83%	78	243	Similar
	Animal control	65%	136	294	Similar
Safety	Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	62%	131	240	Similar
	Traffic enforcement	74%	78	326	Similar
	Street repair	30%	307	371	Lower
Mobility	Street cleaning	53%	194	275	Similar
	Street lighting	52%	190	270	Similar

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		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Snow removal	56%	181	258	Similar
	Sidewalk maintenance	57%	143	275	Similar
	Traffic signal timing	55%	93	214	Similar
	Bus or transit services	67%	47	182	Similar
	Garbage collection	89%	106	307	Similar
	Recycling	62%	271	313	Lower
	Yard waste pick-up	51%	220	227	Lower
	Drinking water	87%	23	291	Higher
Natural Environment	Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	71%	57	218	Similar
	Meridian Township open space	68%	47	128	Similar
	Storm drainage	61%	194	314	Similar
	Sewer services	84%	61	275	Similar
	Power (electric and/or gas) utility	78%	58	139	Similar
	Utility billing	74%	37	120	Similar
	Land use, planning and zoning	52%	114	254	Similar
Built Environment	Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	55%	115	314	Similar
	Cable television	60%	58	163	Similar
Economy	Economic development	53%	106	242	Similar
	Township parks	89%	99	284	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	Recreation programs or classes	75%	145	297	Similar
	Recreation centers or facilities	71%	124	241	Similar
	Health services	76%	50	167	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Township-sponsored special events	60%	85	144	Similar
	Public library services	88%	92	299	Similar
Community Engagement	Public information services	63%	136	246	Similar

Table 73: Participation General

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Sense of community	60%	151	261	Similar
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks	93%	66	235	Similar
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years	81%	158	230	Similar
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	40%	195	267	Similar

Table 74: Participation by Facet

		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	26%	100	121	Lower
	Did NOT report a crime to the police	89%	8	131	Higher
Safety	Household member was NOT a victim of a crime	96%	3	227	Similar
	Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	28%	45	108	Similar
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	42%	68	127	Similar
Mobility	Walked or biked instead of driving	58%	58	131	Similar
	Made efforts to conserve water	73%	111	122	Similar
Natural Environment	Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	81%	25	122	Similar

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		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Recycle at home	79%	156	214	Similar
Built Environment	Did NOT observe a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township	68%	15	123	Higher
	NOT experiencing housing costs stress	81%	16	210	Higher
	Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township	97%	56	127	Similar
Economy	Economy will have positive impact on income	29%	74	212	Similar
	Work inside boundaries of Meridian Township	25%	111	127	Lower
	Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	56%	108	199	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	82%	137	230	Similar
	Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	76%	120	124	Similar
	Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	84%	80	125	Similar
	In very good to excellent health	72%	55	126	Similar
	Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services	68%	93	200	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	33%	144	169	Lower
	Attended Township-sponsored event	44%	93	128	Similar
	Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	15%	107	119	Similar
	Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	11%	113	126	Similar
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township	28%	182	219	Lower
	Participated in a club	26%	104	197	Similar
	Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	88%	99	127	Similar
	Done a favor for a neighbor	73%	114	123	Similar
	Attended a local public meeting	16%	166	219	Similar
	Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	24%	114	184	Similar
Community Engagement	Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	79%	117	126	Similar
	Vote in local elections	78%	129	212	Similar

Communities included in national comparisons

The communities included in Meridian Township's comparisons are listed on the below along with their population according to the 2010 Census.

Adams County, CO.....	441,603	Apache Junction city, AZ.....	35,840
Airway Heights city, WA	6,114	Apple Valley town, CA	69,135
Albany city, OR	50,158	Arapahoe County, CO	572,003
Albemarle County, VA.....	98,970	Arkansas City city, AR.....	366
Albert Lea city, MN.....	18,016	Arlington city, TX	365,438
Algonquin village, IL.....	30,046	Arlington County, VA	207,627
Aliso Viejo city, CA	47,823	Arvada city, CO.....	106,433
Altoona city, IA	14,541	Asheville city, NC	83,393
American Canyon city, CA.....	19,454	Ashland city, OR	20,078
Ames city, IA	58,965	Ashland town, VA.....	7,225
Andover CDP, MA.....	8,762	Aspen city, CO.....	6,658
Ankeny city, IA	45,582	Auburn city, AL	53,380
Ann Arbor city, MI.....	113,934	Auburn city, WA.....	70,180
Annapolis city, MD	38,394	Augusta CCD, GA	134,777

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Aurora city, CO	325,078	Cleveland Heights city, OH.....	46,121
Austin city, TX	790,390	Clive city, IA	15,447
Bainbridge Island city, WA.....	23,025	Clovis city, CA	95,631
Baltimore city, MD.....	620,961	College Park city, MD	30,413
Bartonville town, TX.....	1,469	College Station city, TX.....	93,857
Battle Creek city, MI.....	52,347	Colleyville city, TX.....	22,807
Bay City city, MI.....	34,932	Collinsville city, IL	25,579
Baytown city, TX.....	71,802	Columbia city, MO.....	108,500
Bedford city, TX.....	46,979	Columbia city, SC.....	129,272
Bedford town, MA	13,320	Columbia Falls city, MT.....	4,688
Bellevue city, WA	122,363	Columbus city, WI.....	4,991
Bellingham city, WA	80,885	Commerce City city, CO.....	45,913
Beltrami County, MN	44,442	Concord city, CA	122,067
Benbrook city, TX.....	21,234	Concord town, MA.....	17,668
Bend city, OR.....	76,639	Cookeville city, TN	30,435
Benicia city, CA	26,997	Coon Rapids city, MN	61,476
Bettendorf city, IA.....	33,217	Copperas Cove city, TX.....	32,033
Billings city, MT.....	104,170	Coronado city, CA	18,912
Blaine city, MN	57,186	Corvallis city, OR.....	54,462
Bloomfield Hills city, MI	3,869	Creve Coeur city, MO	17,833
Bloomington city, MN	82,893	Cross Roads town, TX	1,563
Blue Springs city, MO	52,575	Crystal Lake city, IL.....	40,743
Boise City city, ID.....	205,671	Dacono city, CO.....	4,152
Boone County, KY	118,811	Dade City city, FL.....	6,437
Boulder city, CO.....	97,385	Dakota County, MN	398,552
Bowling Green city, KY	58,067	Dallas city, OR	14,583
Brentwood city, MO.....	8,055	Dallas city, TX.....	1,197,816
Brentwood city, TN	37,060	Danville city, KY.....	16,218
Brighton city, CO.....	33,352	Dardenne Prairie city, MO.....	11,494
Bristol city, TN	26,702	Davenport city, IA.....	99,685
Broken Arrow city, OK.....	98,850	Davidson town, NC.....	10,944
Brookfield city, WI.....	37,920	Dayton city, OH	141,527
Brookline CDP, MA	58,732	Decatur city, GA.....	19,335
Broomfield city, CO	55,889	Del Mar city, CA	4,161
Brownsburg town, IN	21,285	Delray Beach city, FL.....	60,522
Bryan city, TX.....	76,201	Denison city, TX.....	22,682
Burien city, WA	33,313	Denton city, TX.....	113,383
Burleson city, TX.....	36,690	Denver city, CO.....	600,158
Cabarrus County, NC.....	178,011	Derby city, KS.....	22,158
Cambridge city, MA	105,162	Des Peres city, MO.....	8,373
Canton city, SD.....	3,057	Destin city, FL.....	12,305
Cape Coral city, FL.....	154,305	Dorchester County, MD	32,618
Cape Girardeau city, MO.....	37,941	Dothan city, AL	65,496
Carlisle borough, PA	18,682	Douglas County, CO	285,465
Carlsbad city, CA.....	105,328	Dover city, NH	29,987
Carroll city, IA.....	10,103	Dublin city, CA	46,036
Cartersville city, GA	19,731	Duluth city, MN	86,265
Cary town, NC	135,234	Duncanville city, TX.....	38,524
Casa Grande city, AZ.....	48,571	Durham city, NC	228,330
Casper city, WY	55,316	Eagle town, CO.....	6,508
Castine town, ME	1,366	East Baton Rouge Parish, LA.....	440,171
Castle Pines North city, CO	10,360	East Grand Forks city, MN.....	8,601
Castle Rock town, CO.....	48,231	East Lansing city, MI	48,579
Centennial city, CO.....	100,377	Eau Claire city, WI	65,883
Centralia city, IL.....	13,032	Eden Prairie city, MN	60,797
Chambersburg borough, PA	20,268	Edgerton city, KS	1,671
Chandler city, AZ	236,123	Edgewater city, CO	5,170
Chanhassen city, MN	22,952	Edina city, MN.....	47,941
Chapel Hill town, NC	57,233	Edmond city, OK.....	81,405
Charlotte city, NC.....	731,424	Edmonds city, WA.....	39,709
Charlotte County, FL	159,978	El Cerrito city, CA	23,549
Charlottesville city, VA	43,475	El Dorado County, CA.....	181,058
Chattanooga city, TN.....	167,674	El Paso city, TX.....	649,121
Chesterfield County, VA.....	316,236	Elk Grove city, CA	153,015
Chippewa Falls city, WI	13,661	Elk River city, MN	22,974
Citrus Heights city, CA	83,301	Elko New Market city, MN	4,110
Clackamas County, OR	375,992	Elmhurst city, IL.....	44,121
Clarendon Hills village, IL	8,427	Encinitas city, CA	59,518
Clayton city, MO.....	15,939	Englewood city, CO	30,255
Clearwater city, FL	107,685	Erie town, CO	18,135

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Escambia County, FL.....	297,619	Hutto city, TX.....	14,698
Estes Park town, CO.....	5,858	Hyattsville city, MD.....	17,557
Fairview town, TX.....	7,248	Independence city, MO.....	116,830
Farmington Hills city, MI.....	79,740	Indian Trail town, NC.....	33,518
Fayetteville city, NC.....	200,564	Indianola city, IA.....	14,782
Fishers town, IN.....	76,794	Iowa City city, IA.....	67,862
Flower Mound town, TX.....	64,669	Issaquah city, WA.....	30,434
Forest Grove city, OR.....	21,083	Jackson County, MI.....	160,248
Fort Collins city, CO.....	143,986	James City County, VA.....	67,009
Fort Smith city, AR.....	86,209	Jefferson City city, MO.....	43,079
Fort Worth city, TX.....	741,206	Jefferson County, CO.....	534,543
Fountain Hills town, AZ.....	22,489	Jefferson County, NY.....	116,229
Franklin city, TN.....	62,487	Jerome city, ID.....	10,890
Fredericksburg city, VA.....	24,286	Johnson City city, TN.....	63,152
Fremont city, CA.....	214,089	Johnston city, IA.....	17,278
Friendswood city, TX.....	35,805	Jupiter town, FL.....	55,156
Fruita city, CO.....	12,646	Kalamazoo city, MI.....	74,262
Gahanna city, OH.....	33,248	Kansas City city, KS.....	145,786
Gaithersburg city, MD.....	59,933	Kansas City city, MO.....	459,787
Galveston city, TX.....	47,743	Keizer city, OR.....	36,478
Gardner city, KS.....	19,123	Kenmore city, WA.....	20,460
Geneva city, NY.....	13,261	Kennedale city, TX.....	6,763
Georgetown city, TX.....	47,400	Kennett Square borough, PA.....	6,072
Gilbert town, AZ.....	208,453	Kettering city, OH.....	56,163
Gillette city, WY.....	29,087	Key West city, FL.....	24,649
Glendora city, CA.....	50,073	King County, WA.....	1,931,249
Glenview village, IL.....	44,692	Kirkland city, WA.....	48,787
Globe city, AZ.....	7,532	Kirkwood city, MO.....	27,540
Golden Valley city, MN.....	20,371	Knoxville city, IA.....	7,313
Goodyear city, AZ.....	65,275	La Mesa city, CA.....	57,065
Grafton village, WI.....	11,459	La Plata town, MD.....	8,753
Grand Blanc city, MI.....	8,276	La Porte city, TX.....	33,800
Grand Island city, NE.....	48,520	La Vista city, NE.....	15,758
Grass Valley city, CA.....	12,860	Lafayette city, CO.....	24,453
Greeley city, CO.....	92,889	Laguna Beach city, CA.....	22,723
Green Valley CDP, AZ.....	21,391	Laguna Hills city, CA.....	30,344
Greenville city, NC.....	84,554	Laguna Niguel city, CA.....	62,979
Greenwich town, CT.....	61,171	Lake Oswego city, OR.....	36,619
Greenwood Village city, CO.....	13,925	Lake Stevens city, WA.....	28,069
Greer city, SC.....	25,515	Lake Worth city, FL.....	34,910
Guilford County, NC.....	488,406	Lake Zurich village, IL.....	19,631
Gunnison County, CO.....	15,324	Lakeville city, MN.....	55,954
Gurnee village, IL.....	31,295	Lakewood city, CO.....	142,980
Hailey city, ID.....	7,960	Lane County, OR.....	351,715
Haines Borough, AK.....	2,508	Larimer County, CO.....	299,630
Hallandale Beach city, FL.....	37,113	Las Cruces city, NM.....	97,618
Hamilton city, OH.....	62,477	Las Vegas city, NV.....	583,756
Hanover County, VA.....	99,863	Lawrence city, KS.....	87,643
Harrisonburg city, VA.....	48,914	League City city, TX.....	83,560
Harrisonville city, MO.....	10,019	Lee's Summit city, MO.....	91,364
Hayward city, CA.....	144,186	Lehi city, UT.....	47,407
Henderson city, NV.....	257,729	Lenexa city, KS.....	48,190
Herndon town, VA.....	23,292	Lewis County, NY.....	27,087
High Point city, NC.....	104,371	Lewisville city, TX.....	95,290
Highland Park city, IL.....	29,763	Libertyville village, IL.....	20,315
Highlands Ranch CDP, CO.....	96,713	Lincoln city, NE.....	258,379
Hillsborough town, NC.....	6,087	Lindsborg city, KS.....	3,458
Holland city, MI.....	33,051	Littleton city, CO.....	41,737
Honolulu County, HI.....	953,207	Livermore city, CA.....	80,968
Hooksett town, NH.....	13,451	Lombard village, IL.....	43,165
Hopkins city, MN.....	17,591	Lone Tree city, CO.....	10,218
Hopkinton town, MA.....	14,925	Long Grove village, IL.....	8,043
Hoquiam city, WA.....	8,726	Longmont city, CO.....	86,270
Horry County, SC.....	269,291	Longview city, TX.....	80,455
Hudson city, OH.....	22,262	Los Alamos County, NM.....	17,950
Hudson town, CO.....	2,356	Louisville city, CO.....	18,376
Hudsonville city, MI.....	7,116	Lynchburg city, VA.....	75,568
Huntersville town, NC.....	46,773	Lynnwood city, WA.....	35,836
Hurst city, TX.....	37,337	Macomb County, MI.....	840,978
Hutchinson city, MN.....	14,178	Madison city, WI.....	233,209

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Manhattan Beach city, CA.....	35,135	Oshkosh city, WI.....	66,083
Mankato city, MN.....	39,309	Oshkosh charter township, WI.....	21,705
Maple Grove city, MN.....	61,567	Otsego County, MI.....	24,164
Maple Valley city, WA.....	22,684	Overland Park city, KS.....	173,372
Maricopa County, AZ.....	3,817,117	Oviedo city, FL.....	33,342
Martinez city, CA.....	35,824	Paducah city, KY.....	25,024
Maryland Heights city, MO.....	27,472	Palm Coast city, FL.....	75,180
Matthews town, NC.....	27,198	Palo Alto city, CA.....	64,403
McAllen city, TX.....	129,877	Papillion city, NE.....	18,894
McDonough city, GA.....	22,084	Park City city, UT.....	7,558
McKinney city, TX.....	131,117	Parker town, CO.....	45,297
McMinnville city, OR.....	32,187	Parkland city, FL.....	23,962
Medford city, OR.....	74,907	Pasadena city, CA.....	137,122
Menlo Park city, CA.....	32,026	Pasco city, WA.....	59,781
Mercer Island city, WA.....	22,699	Pasco County, FL.....	464,697
Meridian charter township, MI.....	39,688	Pearland city, TX.....	91,252
Meridian city, ID.....	75,092	Peoria city, AZ.....	154,065
Merriam city, KS.....	11,003	Peoria city, IL.....	115,007
Mesa County, CO.....	146,723	Peoria County, IL.....	186,494
Miami Beach city, FL.....	87,779	Petoskey city, MI.....	5,670
Miami city, FL.....	399,457	Pflugerville city, TX.....	46,936
Middleton city, WI.....	17,442	Phoenix city, AZ.....	1,445,632
Midland city, MI.....	41,863	Pinal County, AZ.....	375,770
Milford city, DE.....	9,559	Pinehurst village, NC.....	13,124
Milton city, GA.....	32,661	Piqua city, OH.....	20,522
Minneapolis city, MN.....	382,578	Pitkin County, CO.....	17,148
Mission Viejo city, CA.....	93,305	Plano city, TX.....	259,841
Modesto city, CA.....	201,165	Platte City city, MO.....	4,691
Monterey city, CA.....	27,810	Plymouth city, MN.....	70,576
Montgomery County, VA.....	94,392	Pocatello city, ID.....	54,255
Monticello city, UT.....	1,972	Polk County, IA.....	430,640
Monument town, CO.....	5,530	Pompano Beach city, FL.....	99,845
Moorestown town, NC.....	32,711	Port Huron city, MI.....	30,184
Morristown city, TN.....	29,137	Port Orange city, FL.....	56,048
Morrisville town, NC.....	18,576	Portland city, OR.....	583,776
Moscow city, ID.....	23,800	Post Falls city, ID.....	27,574
Mountain Village town, CO.....	1,320	Prince William County, VA.....	402,002
Mountlake Terrace city, WA.....	19,909	Prior Lake city, MN.....	22,796
Muscatine city, IA.....	22,886	Prior Provo city, UT.....	112,488
Naperville city, IL.....	141,853	Pueblo city, CO.....	106,595
Needham CDP, MA.....	28,886	Purcellville town, VA.....	7,727
New Braunfels city, TX.....	57,740	Queen Creek town, AZ.....	26,361
New Brighton city, MN.....	21,456	Radnor township, PA.....	31,531
New Hanover County, NC.....	202,667	Ramsey city, MN.....	23,668
New Orleans city, LA.....	343,829	Rapid City city, SD.....	67,956
New Smyrna Beach city, FL.....	22,464	Raymore city, MO.....	19,206
Newberg city, OR.....	22,068	Redmond city, WA.....	54,144
Newport Beach city, CA.....	85,186	Rehoboth Beach city, DE.....	1,327
Newport News city, VA.....	180,719	Reno city, NV.....	225,221
Newton city, IA.....	15,254	Reston CDP, VA.....	58,404
Noblesville city, IN.....	51,969	Richmond city, CA.....	103,701
Nogales city, AZ.....	20,837	Richmond Heights city, MO.....	8,603
Norfolk city, VA.....	242,803	Rifle city, CO.....	9,172
North Richland Hills city, TX.....	63,343	River Falls city, WI.....	15,000
Northglenn city, CO.....	35,789	Riverdale city, UT.....	8,426
Novato city, CA.....	51,904	Riverside city, CA.....	303,871
Novi city, MI.....	55,224	Riverside city, MO.....	2,937
O'Fallon city, IL.....	28,281	Rochester Hills city, MI.....	70,995
O'Fallon city, MO.....	79,329	Rock Hill city, SC.....	66,154
Oak Park village, IL.....	51,878	Rockford city, IL.....	152,871
Oakland city, CA.....	390,724	Rockville city, MD.....	61,209
Oakland Park city, FL.....	41,363	Rogers city, MN.....	8,597
Oakley city, CA.....	35,432	Rolla city, MO.....	19,559
Ogdensburg city, NY.....	11,128	Roselle village, IL.....	22,763
Oklahoma City city, OK.....	579,999	Rosemount city, MN.....	21,874
Olathe city, KS.....	125,872	Roseville city, MN.....	33,660
Old Town city, ME.....	7,840	Roswell city, GA.....	88,346
Olmsted County, MN.....	144,248	Round Rock city, TX.....	99,887
Olympia city, WA.....	46,478	Royal Oak city, MI.....	57,236
Orland Park village, IL.....	56,767	Saco city, ME.....	18,482

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Sahuarita town, AZ	25,259	Surprise city, AZ	117,517
Sammamish city, WA	45,780	Suwanee city, GA	15,355
San Anselmo town, CA	12,336	Tacoma city, WA	198,397
San Antonio city, TX	1,327,407	Takoma Park city, MD	16,715
San Carlos city, CA	28,406	Tamarac city, FL	60,427
San Diego city, CA	1,307,402	Temecula city, CA	100,097
San Francisco city, CA	805,235	Tempe city, AZ	161,719
San Jose city, CA	945,942	Temple city, TX	66,102
San Juan County, NM	130,044	The Woodlands CDP, TX	93,847
San Marcos city, CA	83,781	Thornton city, CO	118,772
San Marcos city, TX	44,894	Thousand Oaks city, CA	126,683
San Rafael city, CA	57,713	Tigard city, OR	48,035
Sandy Springs city, GA	93,853	Tracy city, CA	82,922
Sanford city, FL	53,570	Tualatin city, OR	26,054
Sangamon County, IL	197,465	Tulsa city, OK	391,906
Santa Clarita city, CA	176,320	Twin Falls city, ID	44,125
Santa Fe County, NM	144,170	Tyler city, TX	96,900
Santa Monica city, CA	89,736	Umatilla city, OR	6,906
Sarasota County, FL	379,448	Upper Arlington city, OH	33,771
Savage city, MN	26,911	Urbandale city, IA	39,463
Scarborough CDP, ME	4,403	Vail town, CO	5,305
Schaumburg village, IL	74,227	Vancouver city, WA	161,791
Scott County, MN	129,928	Vestavia Hills city, AL	34,033
Scottsdale city, AZ	217,385	Victoria city, MN	7,345
Seaside city, CA	33,025	Virginia Beach city, VA	437,994
SeaTac city, WA	26,909	Wake Forest town, NC	30,117
Sevierville city, TN	14,807	Walnut Creek city, CA	64,173
Shawnee city, KS	62,209	Washington County, MN	238,136
Sheboygan city, WI	49,288	Washington town, NH	1,123
Shoreview city, MN	25,043	Washoe County, NV	421,407
Shorewood city, MN	7,307	Watauga city, TX	23,497
Shorewood village, IL	15,615	Wauwatosa city, WI	46,396
Shorewood village, WI	13,162	Waverly city, IA	9,874
Sioux Center city, IA	7,048	Weddington town, NC	9,459
Sioux Falls city, SD	153,888	Wentzville city, MO	29,070
Skokie village, IL	64,784	West Carrollton city, OH	13,143
Snellville city, GA	18,242	West Chester borough, PA	18,461
Snowmass Village town, CO	2,826	West Des Moines city, IA	56,609
South Kingstown town, RI	30,639	West Richland city, WA	11,811
South Lake Tahoe city, CA	21,403	Western Springs village, IL	12,975
South Portland city, ME	25,002	Westerville city, OH	36,120
Southborough town, MA	9,767	Westlake town, TX	992
Southlake city, TX	26,575	Westminster city, CO	106,114
Sparks city, NV	90,264	Weston town, MA	11,261
Spokane Valley city, WA	89,755	Wheat Ridge city, CO	30,166
Spring Hill city, KS	5,437	White House city, TN	10,255
Springboro city, OH	17,409	Wichita city, KS	382,368
Springfield city, MO	159,498	Williamsburg city, VA	14,068
Springfield city, OR	59,403	Wilmington city, NC	106,476
Springville city, UT	29,466	Wilsonville city, OR	19,509
St. Charles city, IL	32,974	Winchester city, VA	26,203
St. Cloud city, FL	35,183	Windsor town, CO	18,644
St. Cloud city, MN	65,842	Windsor town, CT	29,044
St. Joseph city, MO	76,780	Winnetka village, IL	12,187
St. Louis County, MN	200,226	Winston-Salem city, NC	229,617
St. Louis Park city, MN	45,250	Winter Garden city, FL	34,568
Stallings town, NC	13,831	Woodbury city, MN	61,961
State College borough, PA	42,034	Woodland city, CA	55,468
Steamboat Springs city, CO	12,088	Woodland city, WA	5,509
Sterling Heights city, MI	129,699	Wrentham town, MA	10,955
Sugar Grove village, IL	8,997	Yakima city, WA	91,067
Sugar Land city, TX	78,817	York County, VA	65,464
Summit city, NJ	21,457	Yorktown town, IN	9,405
Summit County, UT	36,324		
Sunnyvale city, CA	140,081		

Appendix C: Detailed Survey Methods

The National Citizen Survey (The NCS™), conducted by National Research Center, Inc., was developed to provide communities an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret resident opinion about important local topics. Standardization of common questions and survey methods provide the rigor to assure valid results, and each community has enough flexibility to construct a customized version of The NCS.

Results offer insight into residents' perspectives about the community as a whole, including local amenities, services, public trust, resident participation and other aspects of the community in order to support budgeting, land use and strategic planning and communication with residents. Resident demographic characteristics permit comparison to the Census as well as comparison of results for different subgroups of residents. Meridian Township funded this research. Please contact the Meridian Township office at (517) 853-4258 if you have any questions about the survey.

Survey Validity

The question of survey validity has two parts: 1) how can a community be confident that the results from those who completed the questionnaire are representative of the results that would have been obtained had the survey been administered to the entire population? and 2) how closely do the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do?

To answer the first question, the best survey research practices were used for the resources spent to ensure that the results from the survey respondents reflect the opinions of residents in the entire community. These practices include:

- Using a mail-out/mail-back methodology, which typically gets a higher response rate than phone for the same dollars spent. A higher response rate lessens the worry that those who did not respond are different than those who did respond.
- Selecting households at random within the community to receive the survey to ensure that the households selected to receive the survey are representative of the larger community.
- Over-sampling multi-family housing units to improve response from hard-to-reach, lower income or younger apartment dwellers.
- Selecting the respondent within the household using an unbiased sampling procedure; in this case, the "birthday method." The cover letter included an instruction requesting that the respondent in the household be the adult (18 years old or older) who most recently had a birthday, irrespective of year of birth.
- Contacting potential respondents three times to encourage response from people who may have different opinions or habits than those who would respond with only a single prompt.
- Inviting response in a compelling manner (using appropriate letterhead/logos and a signature of a visible leader) to appeal to recipients' sense of civic responsibility.
- Providing a pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelope.
- Offering the survey in Spanish or other language when requested by a given community.
- Weighting the results to reflect the demographics of the population.

The answer to the second question about how closely the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do is more complex. Resident responses to surveys are influenced by a variety of factors. For questions about service quality, residents' expectations for service quality play a role as well as the "objective" quality of the service provided, the way the resident perceives the entire community (that is, the context in which the service is provided), the scale on which the resident is asked to record his or her opinion and, of course, the opinion, itself, that a resident holds about the service. Similarly a resident's report of certain behaviors is colored by what he or she believes is the socially desirable response (e.g., reporting tolerant behaviors toward "oppressed groups," likelihood of voting for a tax increase for services to poor people, use of alternative modes of travel to work besides the single occupancy vehicle), his or her memory of the actual behavior (if it is not a question speculating about future actions, like a vote), his or her confidence that he or she can be honest without suffering any negative consequences (thus the need for anonymity) as well as the actual behavior itself.

How closely survey results come to recording the way a person really feels or behaves often is measured by the coincidence of reported behavior with observed current behavior (e.g., driving habits), reported intentions to behave with observed future behavior (e.g., voting choices) or reported opinions about current community quality

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with objective characteristics of the community (e.g., feelings of safety correlated with rates of crime). There is a body of scientific literature that has investigated the relationship between reported behaviors and actual behaviors. Well-conducted surveys, by and large, do capture true respondent behaviors or intentions to act with great accuracy. Predictions of voting outcomes tend to be quite accurate using survey research, as do reported behaviors that are not about highly sensitive issues (e.g., family abuse or other illegal or morally sanctioned activities). For self-reports about highly sensitive issues, statistical adjustments can be made to correct for the respondents' tendency to report what they think the "correct" response should be.

Research on the correlation of resident opinion about service quality and "objective" ratings of service quality vary, with some showing stronger relationships than others. NRC's own research has demonstrated that residents who report the lowest ratings of street repair live in communities with objectively worse street conditions than those who report high ratings of street repair (based on road quality, delay in street repair, number of road repair employees). Similarly, the lowest rated fire services appear to be "objectively" worse than the highest rated fire services (expenditures per capita, response time, "professional" status of firefighters, breadth of services and training provided). Resident opinion commonly reflects objective performance data but is an important measure on its own. NRC principals have written, "If you collect trash three times a day but residents think that your trash haul is lousy, you still have a problem."

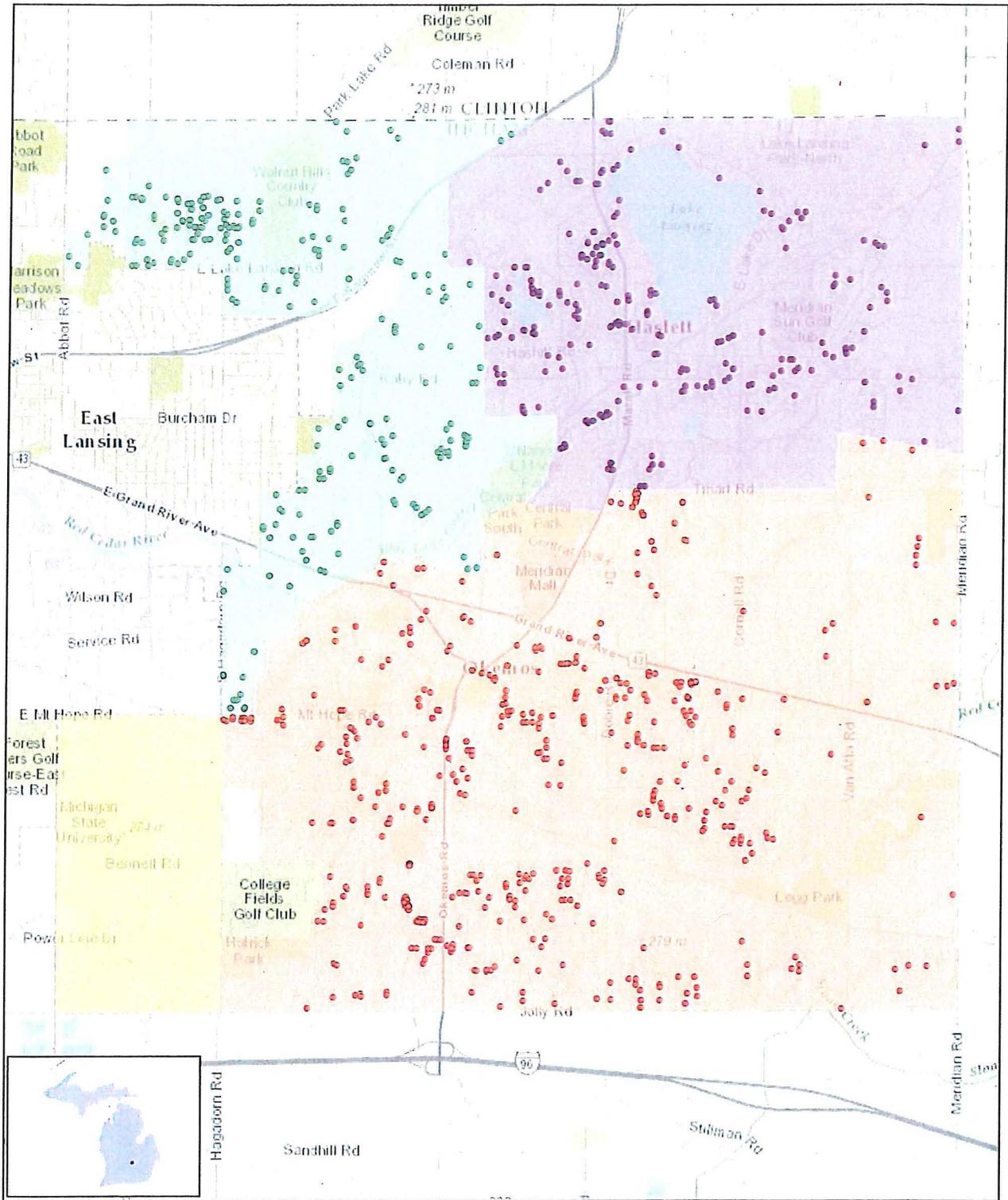
Survey Sampling

"Sampling" refers to the method by which households were chosen to receive the survey. All households within Meridian Township were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Meridian Township was purchased based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve Meridian Township households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file (updated on a quarterly basis) and addresses located outside of Meridian Township boundaries were removed from consideration. Each address identified as being within township boundaries was further identified as being within one of the three listed zip codes.

To choose the 1,400 survey recipients, a systematic sampling method was applied to the list of households previously screened for geographic location. Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible households is culled, selecting every *N*th one, giving each eligible household a known probability of selection, until the appropriate number of households is selected. Multi-family housing units were over sampled as residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in single-family housing units. Figure 1 displays a map of the households selected to receive the survey. In general, because of the random sampling techniques used, the displayed sampling density will closely mirror the overall housing unit density (which may be different from the population density). While the theory of probability assumes no bias in selection, there may be some minor variations in practice (meaning, an area with only 15% of the housing units might be sampled at an actual rate that is slightly above or below that).

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the "person whose birthday has most recently passed" to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaire.

Table 75: Location of Survey Recipients



Survey Recipients in Meridian Charter Township, MI

- In Zip 48823 ● In Zip 48864 ● Zip 48823 ● Zip 48864
- In Zip 48840 ● Zip 48840 ● Zip 48910



Survey Administration and Response

Selected households received three mailings, one week apart, beginning on October 7, 2015. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The next mailing contained a letter from the Township Manager inviting the household to participate, a questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey and a postage-paid return envelope. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from turning in another survey. Respondents could opt to take the survey online. Completed surveys were collected over the following six weeks.

About 4% of the 1,400 surveys mailed were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 1,339 households that received the survey, 331 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 25%. Of the 331 completed surveys, 32 were completed online. Additionally, responses were tracked by zip code; response rates by zip code ranged from 20% to 27%.

Table 76: Survey Response Rates by Area

Area name	Number mailed	Undeliverable	Eligible	Returned	Response rate
Zip Code 48823	380	12	368	74	20%
Zip Code 48840	332	17	315	81	26%
Zip Code 48864	688	32	656	176	27%
Overall	1,400	61	1,339	331	25%

Confidence Intervals

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions.¹

The margin of error for the Meridian Township survey is no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (331 completed surveys).

For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the sample size for the subgroup is smaller. For subgroups of approximately 100 respondents, the margin of error is plus or minus 10 percentage points.

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Upon receipt, completed surveys were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; in this case, NRC would use protocols to randomly choose two of the three selected items for inclusion in the dataset.

All surveys then were entered twice into an electronic dataset; any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

Survey Data Weighting

The demographic characteristics of the survey sample were compared to those found in the 2010 Census and American Community Survey estimates for adults in Meridian Township. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were housing unit type, housing tenure, race, ethnicity, gender and age. The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the following table.

¹ A 95% confidence interval indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, 95 of the confidence intervals created will include the “true” population response. This theory is applied in practice to mean that the “true” perspective of the target population lies within the confidence interval created for a single survey. For example, if 75% of residents rate a service as “excellent” or “good,” then the 4% margin of error (for the 95% confidence interval) indicates that the range of likely responses for the entire community is between 71% and 79%. This source of uncertainty is called sampling error. In addition to sampling error, other sources of error may affect any survey, including the non-response of residents with opinions different from survey responders. Though standardized on The NCS, on other surveys, differences in question wording, order, translation and data entry, as examples, can lead to somewhat varying results.

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Table 77: Meridian Township, MI 2015 Weighting Table

Characteristic	Population Norm	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	39%	20%	38%
Own home	61%	80%	62%
Detached unit	58%	74%	60%
Attached unit	42%	26%	40%
Race and Ethnicity			
White	82%	86%	81%
Not white	18%	14%	19%
Not Hispanic	97%	98%	98%
Hispanic	3%	2%	2%
Sex and Age			
Female	53%	53%	48%
Male	47%	47%	52%
18-34 years of age	33%	15%	29%
35-54 years of age	32%	26%	38%
55+ years of age	35%	59%	33%
Females 18-34	17%	10%	16%
Females 35-54	17%	15%	16%
Females 55+	19%	28%	17%
Males 18-34	16%	4%	14%
Males 35-54	25%	11%	23%
Males 55+	16%	32%	15%
Zip Code			
48823	26%	22%	22%
48840	26%	24%	25%
48864	48%	53%	53%

Survey Data Analysis and Reporting

The survey dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, the percentages presented in the reports represent the “percent positive.” The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “excellent” and “good,” “very safe” and “somewhat safe,” “essential” and “very important,” etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating “yes” or participating in an activity at least once a month.

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the reports. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Appendix D: Survey Materials

The Meridian Township 2015 Citizen Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Please select the response (by circling the number or checking the box) that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Meridian Township as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Your neighborhood as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Meridian Township as a place to raise children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Meridian Township as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Meridian Township as a place to visit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Meridian Township as a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems).....	1	2	3	4	5
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall economic health of Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:

	<i>Very likely</i>	<i>Somewhat likely</i>	<i>Somewhat unlikely</i>	<i>Very unlikely</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	<i>Very safe</i>	<i>Somewhat safe</i>	<i>Neither safe nor unsafe</i>	<i>Somewhat unsafe</i>	<i>Very unsafe</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
In your neighborhood during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Traffic flow on major streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of public parking.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public places where people want to spend time.....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care.....	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool.....	1	2	3	4	5
K-12 education	1	2	3	4	5
Adult educational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of living in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Vibrant downtown/commercial area.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of residents in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5

7. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Made efforts to conserve water	1	2
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	1	2
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.).....	1	2
Household member was a victim of a crime in Meridian Township.....	1	2
Reported a crime to the police in Meridian Township	1	2
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency.....	1	2
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate.....	1	2
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information.....	1	2
Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	1	2

8. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Meridian Township?

	<i>2 times a week or more</i>	<i>2-4 times a month</i>	<i>Once a month or less</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	1	2	3	4
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	1	2	3	4
Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services.....	1	2	3	4
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Attended a Township-sponsored event	1	2	3	4
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving.....	1	2	3	4
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	1	2	3	4
Walked or biked instead of driving	1	2	3	4
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4
Participated in a club.....	1	2	3	4
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	1	2	3	4
Done a favor for a neighbor.....	1	2	3	4

9. Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?

	<i>2 times a week or more</i>	<i>2-4 times a month</i>	<i>Once a month or less</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
<u>Attended</u> a local public meeting	1	2	3	4
<u>Watched</u> (online or on television) a local public meeting.....	1	2	3	4

The Meridian Township 2015 Citizen Survey

10. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Police/Sheriff services	1	2	3	4	5
Fire services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance or emergency medical services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Crime prevention	1	2	3	4	5
Fire prevention and education	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic enforcement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street repair	1	2	3	4	5
Street cleaning	1	2	3	4	5
Street lighting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow removal	1	2	3	4	5
Sidewalk maintenance.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic signal timing	1	2	3	4	5
Bus or transit services	1	2	3	4	5
Garbage collection	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste pick-up.....	1	2	3	4	5
Storm drainage	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking water	1	2	3	4	5
Sewer services	1	2	3	4	5
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	1	2	3	4	5
Utility billing	1	2	3	4	5
Township parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation programs or classes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation centers or facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Land use, planning and zoning	1	2	3	4	5
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Animal control.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic development.....	1	2	3	4	5
Health services	1	2	3	4	5
Public library services	1	2	3	4	5
Public information services	1	2	3	4	5
Cable television	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	1	2	3	4	5
Meridian Township open space.....	1	2	3	4	5
Township-sponsored special events.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5

11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government.....	1	2	3	4	5

12. Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	1	2	3	4	5
The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	1	2	3	4	5
Being honest	1	2	3	4	5
Treating all residents fairly	1	2	3	4	5

13. Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Meridian Township community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Somewhat important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	1	2	3	4
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	1	2	3	4
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	1	2	3	4
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Sense of community	1	2	3	4

14. Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Somewhat important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Increase the availability of single family residential development	1	2	3	4	5
Increase the availability of multi-family (apartments) residential development	1	2	3	4	5
Increase commercial development	1	2	3	4	5
Redevelopment of downtown Haslett, Okemos and the Carriage Hills neighborhood	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of open space	1	2	3	4	5
Extension of existing pathways	1	2	3	4	5
Improvement of the local (neighborhood) roads	1	2	3	4	5
Increase energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	1	2	3	4	5
Public utility (water, sewer, cable, internet) improvement and expansion	1	2	3	4	5

15. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>
Local (neighborhood) roads	1	2	3	4
Preservation of open space	1	2	3	4
Public safety- police, fire and rescue services	1	2	3	4
Energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	1	2	3	4
Pathways	1	2	3	4
Library services	1	2	3	4
Public transportation	1	2	3	4
Code enforcement	1	2	3	4
Additional street lighting	1	2	3	4
Landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties	1	2	3	4

16. Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:

	<i>Major source</i>	<i>Minor source</i>	<i>Not a source</i>
Township Web site (www.meridian.mi.us)	1	2	3
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	1	2	3
The local government cable Channel HOMTV	1	2	3
Township newsletter (Meridian Monitor)	1	2	3
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide	1	2	3
Township Board meetings and other public meetings	1	2	3
Talking with Township officials	1	2	3
Township communications via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	1	2	3
Word-of-mouth	1	2	3

17. Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>
Larger signs at local businesses	1	2	3	4
More signs at local businesses	1	2	3	4

The Meridian Township 2015 Citizen Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Always</i>
Recycle at home	1	2	3	4	5
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township..	1	2	3	4	5
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day.....	1	2	3	4	5
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity.....	1	2	3	4	5
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Vote in local elections	1	2	3	4	5

D2. Would you say that in general your health is:

- Excellent Very good Good Fair Poor

D3. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

- Very positive Somewhat positive Neutral Somewhat negative Very negative

D4. What is your employment status?

- Working full time for pay
 Working part time for pay
 Unemployed, looking for paid work
 Unemployed, not looking for paid work
 Fully retired

D5. Do you work inside the boundaries of Meridian Township?

- Yes, outside the home
 Yes, from home
 No

D6. How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?

- Less than 2 years 11-20 years
 2-5 years More than 20 years
 6-10 years

D7. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
 Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)
 Mobile home
 Other

D8. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented
 Owned

D9. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$300 per month
 \$300 to \$599 per month
 \$600 to \$999 per month
 \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month
 \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month
 \$2,500 or more per month

D10. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- No Yes

D11. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- No Yes

D12. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$25,000
 \$25,000 to \$49,999
 \$50,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 to \$149,999
 \$150,000 or more

Please respond to both questions D13 and D14:

D13. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
 Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D14. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
 Black or African American
 White
 Other

D15. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years 55-64 years
 25-34 years 65-74 years
 35-44 years 75 years or older
 45-54 years

D16. What is your sex?

- Female Male

D17. Do you consider a cell phone or land line your primary telephone number?

- Cell Land line Both

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to: National Research Center, Inc., PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Julie Brixie, Township Treasurer

DATE: December 29, 2015

RE: **Welcoming Resolution and Respect Michigan Pledge**

Last September, we joined Welcoming America and Welcoming Michigan. Both the Township Board and EDC passed welcoming resolutions. The resolution stated in part that Meridian Township is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people, including immigrants, are welcome, accepted, and integrated.

Recently, there have been many disturbing comments made at the national level regarding Arabs, refugees, and people of Muslim faith. Welcoming Michigan is asking that elected officials serving in Michigan live up to a standard of respect for Michigan's diverse communities and take a pledge.

Attached please find the request from Welcoming Michigan along with a proposed resolution for approval.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution for Approval
2. Information from Welcoming Michigan

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WELCOMING AND
ELECTED OFFICIAL PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR MICHIGAN'S DIVERSITY**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township, on the 5th day of January 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, Meridian Township is a welcoming place where people, families, and institutions thrive and the contributions of all persons are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, or place of origin, enhances Meridian Township's cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness, and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township joined Welcoming Michigan in September 2015; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people, including immigrants, are welcome, accepted, and integrated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that each Board member commits to the Welcoming Michigan pledge as follows:

"I am proud of Michigan's diversity. I recognize that at every level of American society, refugees, immigrants, and people of all backgrounds contribute to our democracy, culture, and economy. We must advance the basic principles upon which the United States was founded, establishing the equality and dignity of all people, including immigrants and refugees.

I believe that Michigan should be a welcoming state. In many ways, refugee families are an embodiment of American values – courageously seeking a better life. These families come here to escape persecution, protect their loved ones, and live without fear.

I condemn any attacks on or threats toward individuals or places of worship that are based on religion, race, ethnicity, or other social identities. Michigan must be a place that respects all of our diverse communities, regardless of refugee status, religion, ethnicity, or race."

**Welcoming Resolution
Township Board
Page 2**

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____
NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 5th day of January 2016.

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC
Township Clerk

Julie Brixie

From: Christine Sauve <csauve@michiganimmigrant.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 6:45 PM
To: Christine Sauve
Cc: Stephanie Chang; Rashida Tlaib
Subject: THANK YOU for Signing the Stand Strong, Respect Michigan Pledge
Attachments: Respect Michigan cover letter.pdf; Respect Michigan pledge.pdf

Thank you for signing the **Stand Strong, Respect Michigan** pledge. We appreciate your leadership and support as anti-Muslim and anti-refugee rhetoric continues to dominate the public consciousness. If you signed up for a visit to a local refugee resettlement agency, we are finalizing schedule details and will be in touch again soon with the exact time, address, and further information for the visit on Monday January 11, 2016.

We are asking all Michigan elected officials (state & local) to sign the pledge. We currently have 72 signatures and hope to reach 100. If your elected friends and colleagues are not listed below, please share the pledge with your contacts and encourage them to sign. We hope to have a strong showing of state and local officials expressing support for welcoming refugees and respecting people of all faiths. We will be collecting signatures through January 8th. You may copy or forward the messages below and attached.

Thank you for helping make Michigan more welcoming!

* Pledge: <http://tinyurl.com/RespectMichigan>

* Email: Message you can forward below, with attached documents.

* Facebook: Share our post (or make your own) and tag elected officials in the comments: <https://www.facebook.com/welcomingmichigan/posts/977770995614207>

* Tweet: "Ask your MI elected officials to sign Stand Strong, Respect Michigan pledge tinyurl.com/RespectMichigan @Welcoming_MI @takeonhate"

We thank the following elected officials for their support:

Mariam Bazzi, Trustee, Board of Education, Dearborn Public Schools
Steve Bieda, State Senate, 9th District
Michael Bridges, Council Member, City of Farmington Hills
Sabra Briere, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor
Julie Brixie, Treasurer, Meridian Township
Raquel Castañeda-López, Council Member, City of Detroit
Stephanie Chang, State Representative, 6th District
Ed Clements, City Commissioner, Bay City
Angela Croft, Council Chair Pro-Tem, City of Taylor
George T. Darany, State Representative
Vincent Delgado, Council Member, City of Lansing
Sharlan Douglas, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Kyle DuBuc, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Amanda Maria Edmonds, Mayor, City of Ypsilanti
Jim Ellison, Mayor, City of Royal Oak
Kaytee Faris, City Commissioner, City of Battle Creek
Pam Faris, State Representative, 48th District
Kate Flores, City Commissioner, City of Battle Creek - Ward 3
Mike Fournier, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Alex Garza, Council Member, City of Taylor
Erika Geiss, State Representative, 12th District

Marcia Gershenson, County Commissioner, Oakland County
Nathan Grajek, School Board Trustee, Battle Creek Public Schools
Julie Grand, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor - 3rd Ward
Christine Greig, State Representative, 37th District
Vanessa Guerra, State Representative, 95th District
George Heartwell, Mayor, City of Grand Rapids
Andy Helmboldt, City Commissioner, City of Battle Creek
Hoon-Yung Hopgood, State Senator, 6th District
Kara Hope County Commissioner Ingham County
Marcia Hovey-Wright, State Representative, 92nd District
Adam Hussain, Council Member, City of Lansing - 3rd Ward
Richard Hyska, Housing Commissioner, Hamtramck
James Irving, City Commissioner, Bay City - 5th ward
Jeff Irwin, State Representative, 53rd District
Dan Kildee, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Michigan - 5th District
Carol N. Koenig, County Commissioner, Ingham County
David Knezek, State Senator, 5th District
David LaGrand, School Board Member, Grand Rapids Public Schools
Mary Lane, Vice President/Secretary of Dearborn Board of Education, Trustee of Henry Ford Community College
Jeremy Mahrle, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Karen Majewski, Mayor, City of Hamtramck
Evan Major, Vice President, Board of Education, Hamtramck Public Schools
Roxanne McDonald, Board of Education, Dearborn Public Schools
Brian McGrain, County Commissioner, Ingham County
John Meade, Trustee/Board Member, Board of Education, Dearborn Public Schools
Fred Miller, County Commissioner, Macomb County
Jeremy Moss, State Representative, 35th District
Andrew Niedzinski, City Commission President, Bay City
Kristy Pagan, State Representative, 21st District
Julie Plawecki, State Representative, 11th District
Yousef Rabhi, County Commissioner, Washtenaw County
Sarah Roberts, State Representative, District 18
Sam Singh, State Representative, 69th District
Doug Skrzyniarz, Council Member, City of Sterling Heights
Chip Smith, City Council Member, City of Ann Arbor - Ward 5
Conan Smith, County Commissioner, Washtenaw County
Andre L. Spivey, Council Member, City of Detroit
Christopher Taylor, Mayor, Ann Arbor
Jim Townsend, State Representative, 26th District
Chuck Warpehoski, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor
Rebekah Warren, State Senator, 18th District
Jody Washington, Council Member, City of Lansing - 1st Ward
Elizabeth Welch, School Board Trustee, City of East Grand Rapids
Robert Wittenberg, State Representative, 27th District
Carol Wood, Council Member, City of Lansing - At Large
Dave Woodward, County Commissioner, Oakland County
Kevin Wordelman, County Commissioner, Kalamazoo County - District 2
Jessica Yorke, Council Member, City of Lansing - 4th Ward
Helaine Zack, County Commissioner, Oakland County

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Christine Sauvé
Welcoming Michigan
Southeast Communities Coordinator
csauve@michiganimmigrant.org
tel: [734-845-8695](tel:734-845-8695)
4605 Cass Ave. Detroit MI 48201
WelcomingMichigan.org
[facebook.com/welcomingmichigan](https://www.facebook.com/welcomingmichigan)
[@Welcoming_MI](https://www.instagram.com/Welcoming_MI)

When Michigan welcomes immigrants, Michigan thrives.

Dear Michigan Elected Officials,

Please help us ensure the welcoming and compassion expressed by many state and local officials is heard loud and clear. We are asking all Michigan elected officials to sign our "Stand Strong, Respect Michigan" pledge launched in partnership with Take On Hate and State Representative Stephanie Chang. Let's show how truly welcoming Michigan can be.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SIGN HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/RespectMichigan>

See letters attached and copied below for more information:

December 1, 2015

In light of disturbing comments made at the national level regarding Arabs, refugees and those of Muslim faith, and the growing number of hate incidents targeting Muslim individuals and mosques, Welcoming Michigan and Take on Hate are asking Michigan's elected officials to sign the "Stand Strong, Respect Michigan" pledge attached. **You can sign the pledge by going to tinyurl.com/RespectMichigan.**

Elected officials must live up to a standard of respect for Michigan's diverse communities. In May 2015 the Michigan House of Representatives adopted a resolution supporting the resettlement of displaced Iraqi refugees [HB 9]. We encourage Michigan's elected officials to recommit their support for refugees and demonstrate respect for people of all faiths.

In addition, on January 11, 2016, we invite you to visit a refugee settlement agency in your area to learn more about their work, the population they serve, and the refugee settlement process. There are a number of agencies in Michigan that are eager to answer your questions and provide an opportunity for you to talk with some members of Michigan's refugee communities. If you are interested in participating in a visit, please indicate so by going to tinyurl.com/RespectMichigan and more details will be provided soon.

Welcoming Michigan works to support Michigan's "receiving community" members — U.S.-born Americans who live in communities where immigrants and refugees settle — in creating welcoming communities where immigrants and refugees can fully integrate into their adopted hometowns. Take on Hate, which officially launched in 2014, is a multi-year, grassroots campaign that challenges the growing discrimination and persistent misconception of Arab and Muslim Americans, including refugees of Arab and Muslim descent, in the U.S.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christine Sauvé at csauve@michiganimmigrant.org or State Representative Stephanie Chang's office at (517) 373-0823 or stephaniechang@house.mi.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine Sauvé Rashida Tlaib
Welcoming Michigan Take on Hate



Welcoming Michigan
Building Immigrant Friendly Communities



Stand Strong, Respect Michigan Pledge

Overview:

In December 2015, Welcoming Michigan and Take on Hate launch the “Stand Strong, Respect Michigan” pledge. In light of disturbing comments made at the national level regarding Arabs, refugees and those of Muslim faith, and the growing number of hate incidents targeting Muslim individuals and mosques, these organizations are asking Michigan’s elected officials to take the pledge below.

Elected officials serving in Michigan must live up to a standard of respect for Michigan’s diverse communities. In May 2015 the Michigan House of Representatives adopted a resolution supporting the resettlement of displaced Iraqi refugees [[HB 9](#)]. We encourage Michigan’s elected officials to recommit their support for refugees and demonstrate respect for people of all faiths.

The pledge:

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I believe that Michigan should be a welcoming state. In many ways, refugee families are an embodiment of American values – courageously seeking a better life. These families come here to escape persecution, protect their loved ones and live without fear.

I condemn any attacks on or threats toward individuals or places of worship that are based on religion, race, ethnicity, or other social identities. Michigan must be a place that respects all of our diverse communities, regardless of refugee status, religion, ethnicity, or race.”

Organizational background:

Welcoming Michigan works to support Michigan’s “receiving community” members — U.S.-born Americans who live in communities where immigrants and refugees settle — in creating welcoming communities where immigrants and refugees can fully integrate into their adopted hometowns. Take on Hate, which officially launched in 2014, is a multi-year, grassroots campaign that challenges the growing discrimination and persistent misconception of Arab and Muslim Americans, including refugees of Arab and Muslim descent, in the U.S.

Sign the pledge: tinyurl.com/RespectMichigan



Welcoming Michigan
Building Immigrant Friendly Communities



December 1, 2015

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Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christine Sauvé at csauve@michiganimmigrant.org or State Representative Stephanie Chang's office at (517) 373-0823 or stephaniechang@house.mi.gov.

Sincerely,

Rashida Tlaib
Take on Hate

Christine Sauvé
Welcoming Michigan