

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:08 P.M.)
ABSENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve Trustee LeGoff to serve as Supervisor Pro Tem. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 3-2 (Dreyfus, Ochberg)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Tom Boyd, Chief Judge, 55th District Court, 700 Buhl Avenue, Mason, handed out material on the possible consolidation of the district courts in Ingham County, with the potential to save \$1.6 million annually over the course of time through attrition. He stated he did not believe Meridian Township would realize any financial benefit, while acknowledging that township residents would realize a more logistically convenient judicial system.

[Handout of material in Official Minute Book]

Bill McConnell, 4376 Manitou Drive, Okemos, spoke in support for the township's continuing efforts for complete streets and the Pathway Master Plan, including completion of the pathway on the south side of Mt. Hope Road from Maumee to Okemos Road. He spoke to pathways as an important step toward reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Mike Unsworth, 5948 Village Drive, Okemos, noted the Mt. Hope pathway is part of the system to get residents out of walking in the streets and safely walking to school. He added the pathway system has been approved by voters several times over a 15-year period. Mr. Unsworth commended the Township's willingness to accommodate homeowners when the pathway was installed along the west side of Okemos Road.

Mike Bess, Director of Baseball, Court One Athletic Clubs, 2291 Research Circle, Okemos, spoke in support of Zoning Amendment #11090 which amends Section 86-687 to provide standards for signs (banners) for outdoor sports fields in C-3 and RP zoning districts. He indicated the baseball program has been so successful that Court One is looking for additional sites to accommodate increasing interest by the youth in Meridian Township. Mr. Bess pointed out baseball programs in the Township economically benefit businesses through event attendance.

Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos, spoke in support of completing the pathway along Mt. Hope Road from Okemos Road to Maumee Drive.

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Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, thanked the Board for deleting funding for membership dues to LEAP, Inc. when it approved the Township's 2012 Budget. He added Bob Trezise has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer of LEAP.

Kim Matusz, 1302 Spicewood, Okemos, spoke in support of Zoning Amendment #11090.

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's (TCRPC) regular meeting on October 26, 2011. He indicated TCRPC has applied for a \$3 million federal grant for sustainable communities and a grant for environmental assessments on brownfield properties. Trustee Veenstra also reported that the Ingham County Road Commission will repave Haslett Road from the Canadian National Railroad Tracks in Haslett west to Park Lake Road in 2012.

Trustee Veenstra believed the Township should make arrangements with Alaiedon Township to provide fire and EMS services for properties in the Jolly Road/Okemos Road area.

Clerk Helmbrecht reminded residents of the upcoming Okemos and East Lansing School Elections to be held on November 8, 2011. She noted the polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. and reminded Wardcliff voters they will temporarily be voting at the Township Hall. While noting her preference for residents to return absentee voter ballots by Monday, November 7th, Clerk Helmbrecht indicated they will be accepted at the Clerk's office until 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 8th. She stated the Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 6th from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. for residents who wish to request an absentee ballot.

Trustee Ochberg reported she judged the 40th Annual Hope Borbas Okemos Library Art Show this afternoon and announced a reception will be held at the library on Saturday, November 5th at 7:30 P.M. to announce the winners.

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff reported her conversation with resident Chris Stephon who would like to ascertain the cost of a sewer hookup for Greenwood Subdivision.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

SC -1 Communications Department: Press release titled "The November 8th Election Draws Near"

SC-2 Communications Department: Press release titled "Meridian Township's Deer Harvest Begins"

(2). On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Received at the October 18, 2011 Board Meeting

Amy Axline, 1864 Cimarron Drive, Okemos; RE: Opposition to closing the Central Fire Station

Clerk Helmbrecht 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 Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 18, 2011 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 412,863.81
Public Works	\$ 90,800.72
Retainage	
Check #1035 - Old Republic Surety Co.	\$ 2,018.00
Manhole Rehab Contract	
Total Checks	\$ 505,682.53
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 11,067.01
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 516,749.54</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 569,345.30</u>

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Assessing Stipulations

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Ivan and Josephine Bartha in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 393659
IVAN AND JOSEPHINE BARTHA
PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-10-279-007	5896 Shaw	2010	\$194,200	\$170,124
33-02-02-10-279-007	5896 Shaw	2011	\$175,900	\$173,016

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-10-279-007	5896 Shaw	2010	\$175,000	\$170,124
33-02-02-10-279-007	5896 Shaw	2011	\$166,200	\$166,200

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Michelle Culliver on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2010	0394720	2465 Small Acres, Okemos, MI 48864
2011		
<u>Assessment</u>		
	2010	<u>AV/TV</u> \$225,000/225,000
	2011	\$217,800/217,800
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>		
	2010	<u>AV/TV</u> \$175,000/175,000
	2011	\$175,000/175,000

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

E. Audit Service Agreement - One Year Extension

Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the engagement agreement with Plante and Moran PLLC be extended one additional year to conduct the 2011 Township Audit at the same cost as the 2010 Audit (\$45,000) and that the Township Manager, Clerk and Supervisor be authorized to executive the agreement extension. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

F. Additions to the Tax Roll

Clerk Helmbrecht moved to assess the charges identified in the staff memorandum with parcel identification available in the Treasurer's Office dated October 28, 2011 for delinquent special assessments, utility bills, nuisance, lot mowing/code violation and false alarms as a tax lien against the subject properties as authorized by Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 41.727, 41.728 and Meridian Township Ordinance Code Sections 58-32, 78-98, 78-155, 46-5, 82-27, 18-1 and 18.15. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

Trustee LeGoff asked the Township Manager to obtain an opinion from the Township Attorney related to the proposed Urban Service Boundary/Urban Service District.

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, encouraged the Board to swiftly pass Zoning Amendment #11050.

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Preliminary Plat #00012 (Ember Oaks), request for an extension of the Preliminary Plat

Trustee Ochberg moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby grants the extension of Preliminary Plat #00012, Ember Oaks, for a period of two years, from November 19, 2011 to November 19, 2013, with the following condition:

- 1. All previous conditions placed on the approvals of the preliminary plat and preliminary plat extension approvals shall remain in effect.**

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- The preliminary plat is being extended for 110 undeveloped lots
- Need for the serious drainage problem from the Ember Oaks subdivision across Township property to the Red Cedar River to be resolved
- Additional development will increase runoff
- Township continues to work on the drainage issue with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner to resolve the drainage problem
- Conditions #10, #11 and #12 in the approval of the original plat state the Planning Commission will grant variances for minimum and maximum block lengths for some streets
- Belief the Zoning Board of Appeals is the appropriate body to grant variances
- Explanation by staff that the subdivision ordinance is a stand-alone ordinance, not part of the zoning ordinance
- Seven foot wide concrete pathway east of the Ember Oaks entrance along the north side of Jolly Road has not yet been completed since it is not owned by the Ember Oaks developer
- Pathway required to be constructed by the developer has been completed for the already developed area
- Proposed Wolverine Pipeline stated in the conditions of the original preliminary plat is moot
- Concern the setback requirement for homes of 50 feet from the pipeline, as stated in original condition #22, is not enough separation distance from the pipeline for safety
- Suggestion to increase the setback requirement for homes to 100 feet from the pipeline
- Necessity of the pipeline to have a 50 foot clear view to perform "aerial reconnaissance"

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- Previous Wolverine Pipeline presentation indicated 50 foot aerial view precludes planting of vegetation, trees, etc.
- Standards for drainage have become more stringent since the original preliminary plat approval in 2000
- Uncomfortable with supporting the many changed circumstances since originally approved in 2000
- Pipeline can be placed anywhere within the 66 foot easement
- In certain layouts, the homes would be at least 100 feet apart which would address the visibility concern expressed earlier by another Board member
- Slow development of Ember Oaks due to poor economic conditions
- Some circumstances would allow for a home to be less than 50 feet from the edge of the easement

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Increase the minimum setback from the pipeline from 50 feet to 100 feet.**

Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

Continued Board member and staff discussion:

- Setback from the pipeline as a safety issue
- Belief the Board owes a minimum safety distance from the pipeline to future residents purchasing new homes in the Township
- Concern with the noise created by the product moving through the pipeline for those residents who have the pipeline on their property
- Noise created by the product moving through the pipeline could be described as a public nuisance
- Noise created by the product moving through the pipeline has a chronic impact on the lifestyle of residents who have the pipeline on their property
- Setbacks as written in the original plat approval follow federal, state and township rules
- If the Board desires to change the language contained in condition #22 of the original plat approval, it needs to change its own rules
- Changing the setback requirements will drastically effect the approved layout
- Suggestion to allow the developer an opportunity to attend a Board meeting and explain the layout of the plat

Trustee Dreyfus moved to postpone this item until the next Board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Zoning Amendment #11050 (Township Board), request to amend Section 86-402(3) pertaining to the size and display of flags in commercial rezoning districts, **Introduction**
Trustee Ochberg 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, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 3, Section 86-402 by amending Section 86-402(3).”

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 Veenstra.

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Board members discussed the following:

- Township flag will now be able to be legitimately flown
- Preference for increasing the flag size and pole height more than proposed in the resolution
- Explanation for requiring flags flown on a pole to be at least 15 feet from the ground while flags on a building façade only need to be 10 feet from the ground
- Ten foot clearance for flags flown from a staff projecting from a building wall is in the current language and there was no discussion to change it
- Flags flown from a pole in a parking lot needs to have adequate clearance so it does not touch cars or pedestrians
- Several vehicles in the Township are higher than ten feet
- Request to have the verbiage in the legal ad explain to the public what changes have been made with this zoning amendment

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor Pro Tem
LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of the Mt. Hope Road segment of the pathway development, especially since Mt. Hope is a primary road. He added the Township's residents have repeatedly supported the pathway millage. Mr. Provencher believed the pathway system develops a sense of community.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, spoke in opposition to any of the proposed restrictions on murals. He requested murals be allowed and any signage within a mural be subject to the sign ordinance.

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Mt. Hope Road Sidewalk

Director Severy summarized the proposed design of the Mt. Hope Road Pathway as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 28, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Six (6) of the 21 properties along Mt. Hope Road from Okemos to Maumee were represented at the public meeting held on September 7th at Central Elementary School
- Accident record obtained from the Police Department for this section of Mt. Hope Road revealed no pedestrian accidents in 2010
- Three or four people present at the meeting were opposed to the pathway due to "safety" concerns
- Building of pathways will increase maintenance needs
- Only way for the 21 properties on the south side of Mt. Hope Road to gain access to a pathway is to cross Mt. Hope Road mid-block
- If the pathway is built directly behind the curb, some easements will need to be obtained at the east end
- If easements can be obtained, the pathway could be built back from the roadway and impact fewer trees, although it would be closer to some of the homes
- Staff's recommendation is this section of Mt. Hope Road is a key section to completing the pathway system and needs to be constructed for pedestrian safety
- North side of Mount Hope in front of the Dart property needs to be constructed
- Other gaps in the Township's pathway system include:
 - West side of Okemos Road, directly south of Lake Lansing Road
 - Marsh Road just south of Lake Drive
 - Okemos Road near the Consumers Energy substation
 - Okemos Road south of Raby Road
 - North side of Grand River Avenue to the east and west of the golf driving range

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- Add the south side of Kinawa Drive, east of Okemos Road, to the Pathway Master Plan
- Safety concern on Jolly Road where there is an asphalt path with a retaining wall as it is narrow and right behind the curb
- Some easements may require condemnation
- Process for formal condemnation proceedings
- Need for an easement to accommodate Mr. Stephon's request for sewer extension to the Greenwood subdivision
- Filling the gap on the south side of Mt. Hope Road from Okemos Road to Maumee Drive would provide a continuous pathway from Okemos Road to Hagadorn Road
- Preference for the pathway on the south side of Mt. Hope Road from Okemos Road to Maumee to be constructed further from the curb for safety purposes
- Snow from Mt. Hope Road would be plowed onto the pathway during the winter if it was next to the curb
- Suggestion for the Township to offer screening if property owners on Mt. Hope Road are willing to provide an easement
- Suggestion by a resident to make the pathway from the Mt. Hope Road bus stop to Okemos Road the highest priority
- Only one property owner involved to construct the pathway on the north side of Okemos Road
- Board member support for condemnation proceedings for the segments on Jolly Road, Marsh Road and two segments on Okemos Road
- Support for the Kinawa Drive addition to the Master Plan as there has been a change in the grades for Kinawa School with younger children attending
- Change in the age of school children attending Kinawa School is relevant to the schools regarding placement of the crossing guard
- Vehicular/pedestrian traffic accidents in front of Kinawa School
- Funding for Kinawa would require working with the Okemos Public Schools to obtain Safe Routes to School funding
- Marsh Road south of Lake Drive has high pedestrian traffic and should be considered the highest priority
- Concern with moving forward on the Mt. Hope Road pathway if it precludes constructing some of the smaller gaps
- Some fund balance is available in the pathway system for the smaller gaps
- Pursue the grant application again for the bridge across the Red Cedar River as there is significant cost attached to the bridge
- Concern with statements made by residents at the September 7th meeting that the Board should not concern itself with the Mt. Hope Road gaps as there are not many children now living along Mt. Hope Road
- Central School has changed its "identity" many times and may do so again in the future
- Request to commence the process to add the gap on Kinawa Drive to the Pathway Master Plan
- Request for the Township to use eminent domain and condemnation to obtain an easement for the one property along Jolly Road
- Possible use of eminent domain to obtain the necessary easement to extend sewer to the Greenwood subdivision
- Support for the pathway over the Red Cedar River bridge along Okemos Road as the highest priority as that area is the heart of the high density populations and has an important destination, Hope Borbas Okemos Library
- Inquiry to staff if letters of support from the Board would be helpful for the Red Cedar Bridge pathway grant application
- Staff can resubmit previous letter of support for the Red Cedar Bridge grant application
- Chief Transportation Planner at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is negotiating with the Michigan Department of Transportation to obtain funding for a full time safety engineer for TCRPC's staff
- TCRPC full time safety engineer would assist all regional school districts in working on safe routes to schools

The consensus of the Board was for staff to move forward with this project.

- B. Zoning Amendment #11070 (Township Board, amend Section 86-687 of the Code of Ordinances to establish regulations for murals in commercial zoning districts
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 27, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Opposition to proposed regulations as they are unnecessary and counterproductive
- Suggestion for the ordinance to state: “Meridian Township welcomes and encourages murals in the community”
- Allowing murals on only one wall of a building is arbitrary and capricious
- Murals to be regulated as signage and treated as any other sign
- Current ordinance states only one wall sign on the front façade of a building
- Proposed definition of a mural does not allow a commercial message to be contained within a mural
- Public safety hazard could be created through offensive material contained within a mural
- Proposed language is a compromise which allows murals in the Township
- Preference not to create an arts commissions to regulate murals as some other governmental units have done
- Ordinance can be revisited at a future date after some experience with murals
- Restriction to having a mural on only one wall has no rationale
- Mural at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport is on more than one wall and is a public safety enhancer
- No rationale for allowing murals only in commercially zoned districts
- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has the ability to interpret decisions of the Director of Community Planning and Development and the Board could make an official request to the ZBA for a different interpretation of the current ordinance
- When a variance is requested for a mural, the ZBA (a body of non-artists) would make a decision on the proposed mural
- Decision on a variance request for a proposed mural by the ZBA would defeat the purpose of avoiding an “arts commission”
- Unregulated public art can create a sense of place and “make” a destination
- Public art should be spontaneous
- Planning Commission recommendation was to allow murals only in commercial districts
- Proposed language is a good starting point

The consensus of the Board was to place this item on for action at the next Board meeting.

- C. Zoning Amendment #11080 (Township Board), amend Section 86-686 to increase the maximum free-standing sign size from 25 square feet to 28 square feet to include the site address and to permit free-standing directional signs in the PO (Professional and Office) zoning district

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 27, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- As recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, this amendment allows directional signs and allows for addresses to be placed on free standing signs
- Zoning amendment as an example of where the Township’s ordinances can evolve
- Zoning amendment is a business friendly change for customers
- Rationale for the reduction of the allowed height for a free standing sign from 20 feet to 16 feet
- Planning Commission felt that signs in the PO zoning district should not be any taller than those signs allowed in the commercial district

The consensus of the Board was to place this item on for action at the next Board meeting.

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- D. Zoning Amendment #11090 (Township Board), amend Section 86-687 to provide standards for signs (banners) for outdoor sports fields in C-3 (Commercial) and RP (Research Park) zoning districts

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandums dated October 28, 2011 and October 14, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- Zoning amendment was not written for any particular site
- Planning Commission placed restrictions on the size and location of where these signs could be placed
- Planning Commission limited the dates these signs could be displayed from April 1st to September 30th
- Staff recommendation that the signs not be visible from a public street similar to current ordinances which restrict off-premise advertising in other zoning districts
- Time restriction of September 30th does not allow for completion of the soccer season
- Preference to change the ending date from September 30th to November 30th
- Not practical to place a prohibition on seeing signs from a public street
- Original intent in bringing this issue to the Board's intention was to create an enterprise account for the Parks and Recreation Department for public ball fields
- Many communities within Michigan and around the country solicit and receive money from potential neighborhood advertisers for public ball fields
- Board member intent to initiate a zoning amendment at a future meeting which would address the potential for the Township's Parks and Recreation Department to create an enterprise account through purchase of these types of banners by local merchants
- Properties within the mentioned zoning categories are far enough away from residential uses that these signs would not impose on residents' quality of life
- Philosophical impression of advertising as a forced intrusion in one's visual and mental space
- One component of a sign ordinance is to have a specific community "look"
- Concern this concept could creep into other areas of our visual space (e.g., HOMTV programming sponsorship)
- Concern with advertising images being viewed by individuals other than those attending the sporting events
- Other views exist than those from a public street (e.g., parking lots of nearby businesses)
- School ball fields are not subject to Township ordinances for this circumstance
- Comparison with school athletic fields should not make the schools planning become the impetus for adoption of our Township ordinances
- Size restriction for signs within the proposed language limits the potential of images being viewed by individuals other than those attending the sporting events
- This type of sign in a private ball field is part of the "American way" and should be part of the "Meridian Township way"
- Meridian Township has one of the best and most utilized recreation programs in the State of Michigan
- Preference to keep public parks free from advertising
- Preference to allow the proposed advertising within this limited context

The consensus of the Board was to place this item on for action at the next Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Will White, 2142-1/2 Hamilton Road, Okemos, believes Zoning Amendment #11070 is a solution in search of a problem. He indicated painting of murals is a first amendment right of free speech.

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Clerk Helmbrecht reminded Board members they received in their packet a copy of all the 2011 Open and Expiring Appointments to Boards and Commissions. She added that all applications received in 2010 and 2011 for these positions have also been attached.

Treasurer Brixie noted tonight's meeting had been approved on the 2011 Township Board Meeting Schedule as a Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments.

The consensus of the Board was that the Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments be scheduled as soon as possible.

Trustee Ochberg requested the vacant appointment to the Planning Commission be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting, as that appointment is at the prerogative of the Supervisor, not the Board. She added that continued postponement of this appointment keeps the Planning Commission in a position of being unable to act if there is an issue on which there is an even number of votes for or against a specific topic. Trustee Ochberg believed the current scenario renders the Planning Commission inactive.

Clerk Helmbrecht clarified that the Supervisor sets the agenda.

Trustee Veenstra once again requested that Jim Wilson, Director of Environmental Health, Ingham County Health Department be invited to give a presentation to the Township Board regarding well and septic field regulations.

Treasurer Brixie explained that while the Supervisor has the authority to make nominations for Planning Commission appointments, the appointment cannot happen without an affirmative vote from the Township Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Pro Tem LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR PRO TEM

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary