

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,  
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:02 P.M.)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, offered data from the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) website on the money made annually from illicit drugs. He spoke to the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMA) as a first good start to address consumption of medical marihuana and spoke in opposition to prohibitive ordinances which would thwart the intent of the act. Mr. Harrington indicated Meridian Township should permit medical marihuana dispensaries to locate in the township by adopting a positive ordinance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported the Urban Service Boundary committee met last week and a number of the participating communities' commissions are adopting the resolution in support of an urban service boundary. She noted the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) organization met last week and Rich Howard was named the interim Chief Executive Officer of LEAP, Inc. Supervisor McGillicuddy indicated the private partners in LEAP agreed to participate in the cost of the shared service study (a regional study for shared fire services) which will allow the study to commence.

Trustee Ochberg reported a presentation on micro loans was given at the Economic Development Corporation's (EDC's) August meeting. She indicated the point of the presentation was that an investment of money would yield ten times that amount available through an organization in Lansing to finance small business loans within Meridian Township. Trustee Ochberg noted the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) granted a variance for the new location of the Haslett Library to allow them a sign over the only door to the building, although it would be a second sign.

Treasurer Brixie reported the East Lansing School District will hold a special meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. in its School Board room to consider various elementary school reconfiguration options. She added it is the Board's intent to make a decision regarding the reconfiguration by late September if the board wishes to pursue a February, 2012 millage extension ballot question. Treasurer Brixie continued to remind residents that summer taxes are due on September 14, 2011 by 5:00 P.M., while noting the white drop box outside of the Municipal Building is available for payments. She reminded residents who wish to mail their tax payment to do so in sufficient time for the Treasurer's office to receive it by the due date, as postmarks are not accepted.

Trustee Dreyfus reported the Cable Communications Commission met last week during which the proposal for HOMTV to provide live cable services for the City of East Lansing was discussed. He noted the letter from Jim Wood to the Board was a result of a conversation he had with Mr. Wood, the property owner next to Legg Park. Trustee Dreyfus reported the Meridian Time Bank met this month with the goal of getting every member (14 members) into the online system. He added the Time Bank continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month for one hour beginning at noon at the Meridian Activity Center (MAC).

Trustee LeGoff noted a conversation she had with a constituent who inquired what was being done regarding the deer overpopulation in Meridian Township.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- **Add Agenda Item #11B. Deer Management Plan**

**Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Mary Trebilcock, 649 Kasey Lane, Haslett; RE: Support for increasing the allowed US flag size in commercial zoning districts
- BI-2 Henretta T. Band, 5854 Smithfield Avenue, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to allow the growing and dispensing of medical marihuana in Meridian Township
- BI-3 Andrew and Chandra Owen, 4090 Hulett Road, Okemos; RE: Concern with construction of a pathway on Hulett Road
- BI-4 Lola M. Buckingham, 1457 E. Pond Drive, #16, Okemos; RE: Concern with the July 5, 2011 Board approval of the liquor license application for Meridian Cinema Grill

(2) Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 John J. Wood, 5639 Bayonne Avenue, Haslett; RE: Resignation from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

**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 Helmbrecht.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the August 2, 2011 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor  
 McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 246,568.22
Public Works	\$ 369,649.16
Total Checks	\$ 616,217.38
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,896.14
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 623,113.52</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 320,713.67</u>

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor  
 McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 NAYS: None  
 Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Assessing Stipulation

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign a stipulation with PT2, LLC in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 396697  
 PT2, LLC  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-17-379-010	2843 Grand River	2010	\$987,900	\$987,900

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-17-379-010	2843 Grand River	2010	\$820,000	\$820,000

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Sale of Police Canine  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the sale of the retired police canine, Asta, to the canine handler, Officer Brian Canen, for one dollar. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Sale of Surplus Vehicles  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township vehicles at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:**

2008	Ford Crown Vic	2FAFP71V28X128929
2008	Ford Crown Vic	2FAFP71V08X128931
2008	Ford Crown Vic	2FAFP71VX8X162987
1999	Ford F-350	1FAWX36F9XEA98327
1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	1GNEK13R8XJ474449

**Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)
- 9. HEARINGS (None)
- 10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS  
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

- A. Zoning Amendment #10080, request to add Section 86-444 Commercial Planned Unit Development to the Code of Ordinances, **Final Adoption**

**Trustee Ochberg 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. 2011-13, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 4 by adding Section 86-444.”**

**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.**

**Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.**

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Looking forward to having the more dilapidated commercial sites in the Township redeveloped
- Flexibility in this ordinance can provide a boost to our local economy through employment for site redevelopment
- Preference for this zoning amendment to apply only to the nonconforming commercial sites in the Township

- Exchange of amenities for the waiver of setbacks, etc. is not a worthwhile exchange
- Continued concern that the Director of Community Planning and Development is allowed 60 days to act on a minor amendment while the Township Board has only 30 days to consider the original C-PUD
- Concern with language which requires a structure to be constructed with a mix of building materials
- Intent of the language to provide a mix of building materials allows for flexibility

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie  
Motion carried 5-2.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

A. Board Priorities

Director Kieselbach summarized board priorities as outlined in staff memorandum dated August 11, 2011.

Board members discussed the following:

- List includes issues which staff determined needed to be brought into consistency with other ordinances, needed updating, etc.
- Request by the Supervisor for Board members to select the top five (5) issues to be addressed next
- Need to update list to include items which have come to the attention of Board members since its last meeting regarding Board priorities on March 1, 2011.
- Potential conflict with changes as a result of passage of public acts (e.g., Public Act 113 of 2011, which prohibits a zoning ordinance from preventing the extraction of valuable natural resources by mining and our land clearing ordinance defines clearing to include excavating valuable materials)
- Chief objective of a master plan is to direct zoning to conform with the future land use map
- Include on the list rezonings to conform with the future land use map
- Strengthen the nuisance ordinance to include visual nuisances
- Include the mobile home ordinance in the list of priorities to address blight
- Allowing mobile food vending carts to sell food in larger parking lots and parks would attract students and university faculty over into the area along Grand River Avenue from Hagadorn to Park Lake Roads
- Delete foreclosed property registration from the list as changes such as the ordinance regarding snow removal makes registration unnecessary
- Foreclosed property registration is not practical
- Tree protection ordinance for developed non-residential properties
- Include foreclosed property registration for mortgage foreclosures only
- Request for staff to update language for decks, patios and accessory structures and bring back to the Board
- Kennels have been an issue in the past as to their location and how a kennel is defined
- Permit bed and breakfast establishments in Meridian Township
- Place restrictions on the brightness of a sign
- Need to relax the ordinance regarding exterior seasonal and holiday lighting in commercial districts
- “Straw votes” on each topic in an effort to reach a consensus on the next five (5) amendments

**The consensus of the Board was to direct staff to prepare ordinance amendments on the following topics: mobile home ordinance, accessory structures, mobile food vendors, bed and breakfast establishments, visual nuisances and the tree ordinance.**

B. Deer Management Plan

Township Manager Richards summarized the issue of overpopulation of deer, gave an update of Township efforts to address this problem and proposed a management plan to achieve a balanced deer population in Meridian Township.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Formation of the newly formed Deer Management Work Group
- Encourage private landowners to open their land to deer hunters during the hunting seasons
- Proactive steps planned by the Township to use its geographic information system (GIS) to identify the owners and sizes of the vacant parcels
- Prospective hunters can be tested for their competency by sportsmen groups if the Township opens its properties to deer hunting either during the hunting seasons or during a special hunt
- Target small Township owned areas this year as a pilot program
- Difficulty and expense of measuring the deer population, e.g., hiring a helicopter during the winter to count the deer
- Concept of measuring deer population called an enclosure, where a fence is placed around a plot of open space and it is monitored v. the area around it
- Use of trail cameras to track deer population
- Desire to remove only deer without antlers during the non-hunting seasons
- Standing offer from Sportsmen for Hunger to process the deer taken and donate it to food kitchens and shelters
- Use of the on-line instrument titled Survey Monkey to garner information from residents regarding the deer management plan
- Assistance from the Police Department in regulating/controlling hunting on Township related land
- Hunting on Township related land can be regulated by lottery to control the number of hunters in an area
- Five acre parcel as a minimum size for the pilot program
- Staff has spoken with the news media to generate publicity regarding this issue
- A deer management plan is necessary if culling deer outside of the normal hunting season
- Interested sportsmen would pay the permit fee to obtain a license to be involved in this program
- Inquiry on how an individual can join the work group
- Members of the work group are supporting staff
- Mechanism to keep track of the deer taken during a season
- Availability of maps showing ten years of data collection regarding car/deer collisions in the Township
- Michigan Audubon Society members in Meridian Township could add deer to their Christmas bird count list
- Include human health component in the deer management pilot plan to address deer parasites
- Deer management plan should include a pilot plan to address private land in residential areas less than five (5) acres
- Management plan will encompass measures other than culling (e.g., plantings to avoid attracting deer, posting of signs to alert traffic)
- Concern with the publicity component while attempting to keep strict control on the hunting
- Preference for residents to have several opportunities to obtain information on the deer management plan
- Suggestion to contact Michigan State University's Wildlife Department for resources on counting deer
- Concern that the severity of the deer overpopulation will not be adequately handled through hunting and should be addressed through active deer culling
- Many car/deer collisions are not reported to the Township
- Concern regarding properties where landowners do not wish to participate in the plan
- Suggestion to include golf courses

**It was the consensus of the Board to allow staff to implement a pilot program of hunting on Township properties for the upcoming deer hunting season.**

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Treasurer Brixie announced the Haslett Library is holding its final fundraising opportunity on Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. where a chain of residents transfer books hand to hand down the street. She added tickets are on sale for \$20 each and can be purchased from the Haslett Library Move website: [www.haslettlibrarymove.com](http://www.haslettlibrarymove.com).

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

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SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary