

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, December 4, 2007, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such (6:10 P.M.), Veenstra
ABSENT: Trustee Woiwode
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Attorney Andria Ditschman

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Pat Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, spoke in support of the Land Preservation Conduct Ordinance and the Brownfield Redevelopment project. He also gave an update on the concluding phase of the Towar Raingarden Project.

Gil White, 6005 E. Lake Drive, Haslett, stated the County Board of Commissioners has taken the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan off its agenda for this evening and expressed concern with the potential impact on the timeline for financing negotiations and construction of his project.

John Quiring, 1212 White Oaks Drive, Okemos, expressed concern with the written permission for team activity language contained in the Land Preservation Conduct Ordinance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy noted the passing of Ted Black last Friday. She stated his death was a great loss to Meridian Township, as he served the Township on various boards and commissions for several decades.

Supervisor McGillicuddy noted she attended several meetings over the last two weeks; meeting with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials regarding adding a center turn lane in 2009 along Grand River Avenue between Van Atta and Meridian Roads. She continued to request MDOT's assistance with the addition of a pedestrian bicycle pathway as well as the Township's pathway system.

Supervisor McGillicuddy also attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's CARTS meeting and attempted to establish timing of effective Township input on the Township's pathway system. She added the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) met Monday and primarily discussed holiday decorations for the area.

Trustee Such announced Haslett was designated by *Business Week* magazine as the 42nd best place in the country to raise children. He added most of the communities were in the Midwest; some in New York (although nowhere near New York City) and none in California. Trustee Such believed the designation was a testimony to the Haslett Public School system and the commitment made by the superintendent and school board.

Township Manager Richards added to Mr. White's comments by stating that any modifications to the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan constitute a lack of support by Meridian Township. He indicated the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, however, will be interested in the Township's thoughts on an agreeable amount of recapture.

Treasurer Hunting announced tax notices were mailed out last week and the last day to make payment without interest is February 14, 2008. He pointed to deceptive information from Comcast regarding availability of PEG channels to analog customers after January 15, 2008. Treasurer Hunting stated he was informed there would be an additional charge for the digital tier which was not included in any communications he received. Comcast reiterated there would be a free converter for one (1) year. Treasurer Hunting believed this to be another not customer friendly decision on the part of Comcast. He expressed disappointment in Comcast's actions which are clearly not in the best interest of Meridian Township residents.

Township Manager Richards added the cable staff is pursuing a legal challenge to Comcast's action based on the Township's franchise agreement with Comcast.

Trustee Such urged the Township Manager to pursue the legal challenge with all vigor. He believed Comcast's actions are reprehensible, but recent changes in state and federal law allow it.

Clerk Helmbrecht announced the presidential primary election will be held on January 15, 2008. She stated the Clerk's office plans on having the applications for absentee ballots by Friday, December 7th with actual ballots available on December 17th. She noted the difference in this application is that a resident must designate whether they wish to receive a Republican or Democrat ballot. Since the timeframe is so short, anyone who does not identify which ballot they wish to receive may not be sent a ballot. Clerk Helmbrecht added that while the post office will forward the application to a different address, the ballots are not forwardable. She indicated residents should put on the application the address to which they wish a ballot be sent. During Christmas week, the Clerk's office will be open until noon on December 24th, December 27th and 28th to issue ballots.

Trustee Brixie announced she attended a Williamstown Township Planning Commission workshop last week regarding a pathway system along Grand River. She added it is Williamstown Township's desire to connect with downtown Williamston and Meridian Township. Trustee Brixie added that Ted Black's absence will be felt throughout the community and she had the privilege of serving with him on the Van Atta Pathway Task Force and found him to be a wealth of scientific and historical information.

Trustee Veenstra added his condolences on the passage of Ted Black, who was a distinguished past member of the Board. He expressed interest in the Board passing a resolution regarding Comcast's intent to charge for cable access to PEG channels. Trustee Veenstra spoke to contacting the Michigan Legislature to apprise them of the aftermath of legislation passed at the state level which allowed Comcast to, in effect, close both studios in Lansing and charge extra for residents to receive PEG channels.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

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

DTN Management's continued request to postpone action: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. Granted, I have already mentioned that DTN has requested their agenda item be pulled off, but to wait for seven (7) members, they may be waiting an awful long time. It is difficult to keep putting them back on the agenda and we do get phone calls. Is there any legal implication if we were to not follow their request to continue to pull it off until we have seven (7) members?
- A. You are not required to follow the applicant's request to have a full Board. However, since you have postponed it already several times and different members were present, I would say that it would be to your benefit, at this point, to wait until you have a full Board. If you do not like the idea of continuing to postpone it, you can table it and then take it off the table when a full Board is present. The idea that you have already moved it several times because other members weren't here could look suspect if you vote on it when you still don't have a full Board. We all know it

depends on who's here, potentially, as to how the vote comes out. That is why they are asking for a full Board.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Lori Bauer, 4374 Heartwood Road, Okemos, RE: Payment of utility bill through the Township's website
- BI-2 Randy Schaetzl, 2294 Hamilton Road, Okemos; RE: Addition of HOM-TV on Dish Network
- BI-3 Ron Rivard, 3655 Ponderosa, Okemos; RE: Addition of HOM-TV on Dish Network
- BI-4 Vincent Lyon-Callo, 4112 Hulett Road, Okemos; RE: Board role in bringing "progress" to Meridian Township
- BI-5 John P. Gardener, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Michigan Region, 1070 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing; RE: Public access channel change

(2). Commission Linkage (CL)

- CL-1 Roger Eberhardt, 812 Piper Road, Haslett; RE: Decision not to seek reappointment to the Environmental Commission

(3) Regional Linkage (RL)

- RL-1 Susan M.C. Pigg, Economic Development Educator, Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, 121 E. Maple Street, Mason; RE: Public hearing notice for Shaw's on Newton LLC and Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority Amendment to the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

(4). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

- SC-1 E-mail from Deborah Guthrie, Cable T.V. Coordinator; RE: *Detroit News* article on Clinton Township's reaction to Comcast's public access channel change
- SC-2 E-mail response from Deborah Guthrie, Cable T.V. Coordinator; RE: Randy Schaetzl's interest in the addition of HOM-TV on Dish Network
- SC-3 E-mail response from Deborah Guthrie, Cable T.V. Coordinator; RE: Ron Rivard's interest in the addition of HOM-TV on Dish Network
- SC-4 E-mail response from Diana Hasse, Finance Director; RE: Inquiry from Lori Bauer relative to payment of utility bill through the Township's website
- SC-5 Letter from Supervisor McGillicuddy to John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Michigan Region; RE: Township position on public access channel changes
- SC-6 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, November 16, 2007 Edition
- SC-7 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, November 21, 2007 Edition

(5). On File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Materials received at the November 20, 2007 Board Meeting

Charles Louis Willems, PO Box 184, Haslett; RE: Protest of Assessment of Tax Parcel #33-02-02-11-176-002 on behalf of Mary R. Willems

Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer, PO Box 215, Mason; RE: Mortgage foreclosure information entitled *Hold on to your home*, sponsored by the City of Lansing and the Ingham County Treasurer’s Office

Gerald J. Richards, Chairperson, Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC); RE: EDC Annual Year-End Report

Tom Woiwode, Chairman, Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB); RE: LPAB Annual Year-End Report

Trustee 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 Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 20, 2007 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 293,539.19
Public Works	\$ 83,223.99
Total Checks	\$ 376,763.18
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 12,618.93
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 389,382.11</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 558,527.19</u>

Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Purchase Unbudgeted Capital Item, HOM-TV

Trustee Brixie moved to authorize the Township Station Manager to purchase a field camera for \$25,000.00 and an editing system for \$5,800.00, to come from the Cable TV fund balance. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- E. Resolution of Support for M-42/M-143 Corridor Study
Trustee Brixie moved to approve the resolution of support for the M-43/M-143 Corridor Study. Seconded by Trustee Such.

Board members discussed the following:

- Complaints from Township residents that CATA has changed the early morning Grand River #1 bus schedule from its normal run of every 10 minutes
- Possibility of rapid transportation from Meridian Township down to the Capital with limited number of stops along the way

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (See Agenda Item # 6, #10A, #11B)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the Land Preservation Conduct Ordinance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. Land Preservation Conduct Ordinance, **Final Adoption**

Clerk Helmbrecht 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. 2007-15 amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 22, Article III, Land Preservation Program by the addition of Public Conduct on Land Preservation Property language.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.

Land Preservation Advisory Board level of interpretation relative to enforcement: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

Q. I listened with interest to some people’s concerns about the enforcement of this. I wanted to ask either Clerk Helmbrecht or the attorney whether or not the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) can adopt rules or some level of interpretation to make it clear to people. For instance, if a school group, like a cross country track team, wants to use the property, would they get an annual permit or would they have to come back each time they wanted to run?

A. I don’t have an answer to that without the ordinance in front of me today. I think they do, but I don’t have the purpose and the powers of that Board in front of me as they’re written in the ordinance right now. If not, that can come back to the Board or the Board can designate that to the Land Preservation Board to put into effect. From my recollection, I believe they do, but I don’t have the ordinance here.

Board members discussed the following:

- LPAB establishment of detailed guidelines for activities on LPAB properties
- Appreciation for the difficulty in writing a comprehensive ordinance

Timing of consideration of amendments included in Board packet: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. Andria, when would be the appropriate time to make a motion to move the amendment in the packet entitled Board Member Submissions for Consideration for Change? Would it be now, before we vote on the actual ordinance?
- A. Yes, it would be now.
- Q. Would the appropriate action, then, be to read the full page, and then go back, since some of them are interdependent?
- A. No, because the motion wasn't to read the entire ordinance; the motion was to approve it. Now, if I understand correctly, you are making a motion to add the information listed under Board Member Submissions for Consideration for Change. You are motioning that as a friendly amendment.

Treasurer Hunting offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend the Land Preservation Conduct Ordinance by adopting the "Board Member Submissions for Consideration for Change" as follows:**

(1) Definitions:

~~Motor vehicle means any vehicle which is self propelled by any means whatever, including all devices in, upon, or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn, excluding wheelchairs or other ambulatory assistance devices or devices moved exclusively by human power.~~

Replace with:

VEHICLE MEANS ANY DEVICE, MOTORIZED OR OTHERWISE PROPELLED, WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR OR USED TO CARRY A PERSON(S) OR THING(S) ALONG THE GROUND OR IN THE AIR FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

(2) Sec. 22- . Land Preservation wildlife.

No person shall hunt, trap, catch, wound, kill or attempt to hunt, trap, catch, wound, or kill any ~~animal~~ MAMMAL, bird or REPTILE ON LAND PRESERVATION PROPERTY. NO PERSON SHALL ~~or~~ destroy, disturb, OR molest ~~or rob~~ any nest, ~~of any bird~~, egg, ~~or any~~ lair, den, or burrow of any animal on Land Preservation property at any time except as authorized, from time to time, by the Land Preservation Advisory Board through its Land Management personnel upon such terms as recommended for the purpose of: (i) controlling or eliminating non-native species; (ii) controlling the overpopulation of species; (iii) preserving public health; or (iv) promoting or preserving the integrity, quality, and function of the ecological resources of Land Preservation property. Fishing shall be allowed on Land Preservation property, by floating or wading, ~~by way of~~ WITH ACCESS FROM non Land Preservation property, subject to all state and local laws. Any violation of this section is subject to the Recreational Trespass Act, (MCLA 324.73101-73111) and any amendments or revisions which are adopted by reference as part of this ordinance.

Sec. 22- . Bicycles

Unless posted otherwise, bicycles are prohibited on Land Preservation property.

Sec. 22- Vehicle traffic and parking.

(a) No person shall operate or park any ~~motor~~ vehicle **MOTORIZED OR OTHERWISE**, ~~of any kind, including snowmobiles and motorcycles~~ ON Land Preservation property excluding wheelchairs or other **ADA** ambulatory assistance devices **AND VEHICLES NECESSARY FOR MAINTENANCE OR EMERGENCIES**. ~~This provision shall not apply to Township maintenance vehicles and fire or police vehicles.~~

(b) No person shall leave, or cause to be left, any ~~motor~~ vehicle upon Land Preservation property. Members of the Township Department of Public Safety are authorized to remove or have removed any such ~~motor~~ vehicle at the owner's expense.
(Code 1974, § 34-12)

The maker and seconder accepted the amendment.

Continued Board discussion:

- Suggested changes made by several Board members and put into writing
- Some changes made in response to concerns expressed at the previous meeting
- Further adjustments can be made as necessary at a later time
- Difficult to write legislation
- One Board member objection to adoption as a friendly amendment; preference to vote on each point as a separate amendment

Preference regarding procedure for adoption of amendments: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. I would defer to the attorney on that point (preference to vote on each point as a separate amendment after amendment has been accepted by the maker and seconder).
- A. I think it has already been made as a friendly amendment and, as I understand, it has been seconded. Trustee Veenstra can vote no if he chooses to on the main motion.

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member concern that definition for vehicles includes transportation by air
- Transportation by air would include paraplanes
- Definition of vehicle taken from *Black's Law Dictionary*
- Purpose of entire ordinance is to preserve the natural features of the property
- Team and group activities language allows LPAB the control to preserve those natural features
- Concern with earlier public comment that violators of the conduct ordinance would be arrested

Enforcement procedures: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. Would code enforcement be doing the actual enforcement?
- A. That is my understanding. Any ordinance in the Township can be enforced with a municipal civil infraction unless otherwise noted in the ordinance. I would assume there would be some kind of warning issued first, most likely, then a ticket if someone did not follow that warning.

Procedure for adoption of amendments: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. Is it necessary to read these new sections into the record, even though it was a friendly amendment?
- A. The ordinance itself has never been read into the record. So, my recommendation would be no, as long as it is clear to everybody on the Board. The public received this ahead of time as to what amendment would be recommended here tonight.

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 5-1.

- B. Rezoning #07060 (DTN Investment Co.), request to rezone approximately 3.13 acres located at the southeast corner of Mt. Hope and Hagadorn Roads from PO (Professional and Office) and RC (Multiple Family-Medium Density) to C-1 (Commercial), **Introduction**
Not discussed.

- C. Rezoning #07130 (White Family Properties, LLC), request to rezone approximately 20 acres located southeast of BR-69 (Saginaw Highway) between Lake Lansing Road and Newton Road from RR (Rural Residential) to C-2 (Commercial), **Introduction**

Clerk Helmbrecht 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 #07130” RR (Rural Residential) to C-2 (Commercial).

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 Such.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Change in the area over time
- Applicant and the Planning Commission worked to amend the original request based on public input and discussion at the Planning Commission meeting(s)
- Property surrounded on the south side of BR-69 by the Sumbal property to the northeast and the Fedewa property to the southeast (court agreed settlement left it zoned RR but dictated that it could be developed with what amounts to PO zoning with a mixed use overlay)
- Reluctant to give a blanket C-2 rezoning
- Concern with protection of the extensive wetlands on the property
- Support of this rezoning does not indicate lack of support for wetland protection
- Preference for wetlands to remain with a RR zoning
- No mention of a pathway connection to Newton
- Concern with C-2 zoning adjacent to residential without a plan
- Preference for C-1 zoning which would provide for smaller uses

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Such, Veenstra, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: Trustee Brixie, Supervisor McGillicuddy
Motion carried 4-2.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, alleged the Board has abdicated its responsibility by turning “everything” over to the staff. He believed citizens should be able to vote for staff.

Gil White, 6005 E. Lake Drive, Haslett, believed there have been misguided practices which have occurred in the Township, specifically as it relates to land use. He believed politics, over the years, has tended to underutilize the expertise of its staff.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

- A. Zoning Amendment #07140 (Township Board), request to amend the zoning ordinance to create a zoning overlay district
Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed zoning amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 30, 2007.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Insertion of the Fire Marshall’s recommendation that side yard fencing be limited to two (2) feet in height
- Concern a bowed window is not addressed under special structural elements in the Code of Ordinances
- Public safety should be paramount for any access issues

- Consideration of the building envelope in addition to a specific minimum distance to the lot line could maintain the level of safety necessary between buildings
- Two (2) foot fence limit could apply only to the proximity of the building
- Obtain draft copy of the data from the Groundwater Management Board's groundwater recharge model scenario of the Lake Lansing overlay district
- Possible amendment to (9)(a) which would allow for 60% if the driveway has a permeable surface
- Reminder that the draft is a carefully balanced approach by all interested parties and should not be changed based on a single letter

The consensus of the Board was to place this item on for action at the December 18, 2007 Board meeting.

B. Board Policy Discussion

1. Role of Board/Manager/Staff

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Board struggle in remaining consistent with its decision to follow policy governance
- Board gives staff discretion to fulfill Board goals (e.g., energy efficiencies, recycling, etc.)
- Appropriate for the Township Manager to make recommendations on how the Board should proceed regarding the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement
- US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement more specific than standard Board goals contained in the Board policy book
- Long range implementation plan to accommodate many of the Board objectives
- Preliminary work by the Environmental Commission regarding US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement
- Board vote on any instruction directly to staff
- Use of advisory committees' expertise
- Necessity for each Board member to operate under the same rules of policy governance
- Better utilization of time and greater success by operating as a committee of the whole v. creation of subcommittees

2. Role of Planning Commission

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Planning Commission responsibilities outlined in the Municipal Planning Act and Michigan Zoning Enabling Act
- Primary responsibility is preparation of the Master Plan, the foundation for land use decisions within the Township
- Change in the state act in 2005 allowed the Township Board to have final approval of the Master Plan
- Planning Commission ability to initiate text amendments and rezonings of properties
- Methods of effective communication between the Township Board and Planning Commission

Relationship between the Board and Planning Commission: (See Agenda Item #8 (Questions for the Attorney))

- Q. I was always under the impression there was an "arms length" relationship between the Township Board and the Planning Commission so that each group was looking at issues without the "interference" of the other. Is there a definition or something written somewhere that says Board members don't go to the Planning Commission and ask them to do things and the Planning Commission members don't come to the Board to do things, member to member? If they come and ask the whole Board that is fine, but do individuals get to go back and forth? Or, is there supposed to be an arms length relationship between those two?

- A. I am not aware, off the top of my head, if there is a case out there from the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court dealing with this issue. You are right to some extent, that there shouldn't be ongoing discussion between members of the Board and members of the Planning Commission on specific cases, obviously, talking about what they would do. On a more relaxed issue, you obviously have a right to talk about future goals for the Township in general. What you shouldn't be doing is conveying direction from one person on the Planning Commission to the Board, or from the Board to the Planning Commission. But you are open to talk to each other. Does that answer your question?

Continued Board member and staff discussion:

- Conveyance to the Planning Commission through staff recommendations for initiatives
- Concept by John Carver¹ of "instructive authority" must come from the Board as a whole
- Board liaisons to various boards and commissions as a source of information
- Further discussion at the policy governance meeting on January 5th
- Possible use of calendar for awareness of special public meetings of interest (i.e., joint meetings with other governmental entities)

3. Awards Ceremony

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- December 18th designated in January of this year as awards nights
- Some commissions have already given out awards
- Recommendation to honor residents who have been of service to the Township staff
- Establishment of criteria for candidates to receive an award
- Coordinated effort between boards/commissions and the Township Board to offer suggestions on how to handle awards
- Concern with Board acknowledging citizens when individual boards and commissions have already made a presentation
- Possible resolution of appreciation listing all honorees

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, spoke to the lack of public participation in Meridian Township government as a result of the Township's use of policy governance.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, addressed the workload of the Township Manager.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Treasurer Hunting moved that the Township Board go into closed session to discuss the personnel evaluation of the Township Manager and discuss strategy related to ongoing litigation. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor McGillicuddy recessed the meeting at 8:41 P.M.

The Board adjourned to the Administrative Conference Room for a closed session.

Trustee Such moved to return to open session. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting .

¹ Author of *Policy Governance*

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reconvened the meeting at 9:54 P.M.

Trustee Such moved to request the attorney go forward as discussed in closed session. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

Trustee Such moved to request the Manager's new contract be presented to the Board as discussed in closed session. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

14 ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:55 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary