

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, January 07, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Chief of Police Hamel introduced the newest Police Officer to Meridian Township, Wesley Talbot.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:03 pm.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:03 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Deputy Township Manager Perry spoke on the Public Hearing at the Transportation Commission Meeting on January 23, at 6 p.m. at the Central Fire Station regarding the County Road Department's proposal for the Jolly Road lane reduction project, Farmer's Market site work starting next week, Ingham County Parks Commission submitted two grants regarding Okemos Road expansion of pathway from Boardwalk North to inner urban pathway.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Free ice skating at Suburban Ice for Meridian Township residents on January 18, from 5:00-6:30 pm, \$2 rental skates, walker devices available.
- Introduced the new Deputy Clerk, Bette Bigsby.

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended the Lansing Regional Chamber Meeting on December 18, 2019.
- Attended the Okemos Bridge Public Meeting at the Central Fire Station on December 19, 2019.
- Environmental Commission meeting on January 08, 2020, at 7:00 PM.
- Economic Development Corporation meeting on January 09, 2020, at 7:30 AM.
- Transportation Commission Meeting and Public Hearing on January 23, 2020, at 6:00 PM.

Supervisor Styka

- Harris Nature Center events posted on the Township website as well as in the Meridian Prime Magazine.
- Chinese New Year at the Meridian Mall on Sunday, January 26, 2020, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Styka noted that Discussion Item A, Trash Receptacle Ordinance, is on the table and will be removed from the Agenda unless a motion is made to take it off the table.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

A. Communications

**Treasurer Deschaine 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 Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

B. Minutes

- 1) December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 2) December 12, 2019 Special Meeting

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2019, and the Special Meeting of December 12, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

C. Bills

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

<b>Common Cash</b>		\$	<b>955,929.36</b>
<b>Public Works</b>		\$	<b>541,891.78</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>		\$	<b>2,671,796.81</b>
	<b>Total Checks</b>	\$	<b>4,169,617.95</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>		\$	<b>35,461.82</b>
Nov 14th – Nov 25th			
	<b>Total Purchases</b>	\$	<b><u>4,205,079.77</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>		\$	<b><u>5,254,651.01</u></b>

Board Discussion:

- Clerk Dreyfus raised concerns regarding the \$51,000+ legal fees for one month (Nov 4 – Dec 2)
- Concern about potential excessive use of law firm for routine matters, \$51K monthly bill did not appear to include monthly retainer fee of \$10,000
- Deputy Manager Perry stated this was a two month billing and reported on the numerous matters in litigation, employee bargaining unit contract negotiations, and other matters that have resulted in an increased use of legal services
- Supervisor Styka noted importance of oversight over the legal bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS (CANARY)

12. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)

A. Rezoning #19060 (Okemos Land Investment LLC)-**Final Adoption**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution for final adoption of Rezoning #19060 to rezone approximately 96 acres located on the north side of Bennett Road, east of Hagadorn Road, and west of Hulett Road from RR (Rural Residential), RAA (Single Family-Low Density), and RAAA (Single Family-Low Density) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density) and PO (Professional and Office) with conditions. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board Discussion: pros and cons of rezoning from RR to RAA & PO, single-family residences good fit for school district with school of choice enrollment, neighbor concerns were addressed regarding pathway and vehicular access cutting through the subdivision, concerns with rezoning proposal include right of use under existing zoning, rezoning and PUD could have included 20K office space without the need for spot zoning a 3 acre lot in the parcel to PO zoning, the use of confusing density comparisons, donation of land in agreement versus requirement for 50% open space under all Planned Unit Development agreements, the dangers of spot zoning, the terms of the rezoning resulted from a mediation between surrounding neighborhoods and the developer that was facilitated by the manager.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus

Motion carried: 5 – 1

B. Rezoning #19070 (Fedewa Holdings)

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to refer Rezoning #19070 to the Planning Commission for a new public hearing and recommendation. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board discussion: developer application sent back to Planning Commission for review with changes of three additional conditions and an increase in size of property footprint, single-family housing as a desired goal, missing middle housing to be in mixed-use corridor areas according to the future land use map and master plan, this proposal does not advance single-family homes, board member consensus for better cohesion between the Board and the recommendations/decisions of the Planning Commission according to Township goals.

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed: 1 – 5

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to deny Rezoning #19070. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board discussion: rezoning denied in order to allow the developer to come up with a new proposal that will provide affordable, smaller single-family homes in that property that will better match the character of the existing adjacent neighborhoods.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

C. Property Maintenance Code - **Final Adoption**

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-02, pursuant to an amendment to Chapter 14 Article III of the Code of Ordinances to adopt the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code with Township amendments. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Board discussion: resolution to adopt to the newest building maintenance codes, adjustments relative to Township amendments.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

D. 2020 Township Goals Action Plan

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the attached 2020 Meridian Township Action Plan. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Board discussion: items discussed from previous Township Board Meeting on December 12, 2020 and amended into the language in the packet: e.g., expanding solar energy, goal to install 20KW photovoltaic in the Service Center and Central Fire Station, committee for new engine & fire truck, MSU to Lake Lansing Phase I (Bridge) and Phase II, Goal A local road improvement.

Supervisor Styka:

- Goal E: to include relocation of boundary signs for accuracy.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

E. Park Commission Appointment

**Trustee Jackson moved to support the recommendation from the Park Commission to appoint Mary Nardo-Farris to the Meridian Township Park Commission to fill the seat vacated by Annika Schaetzl on November 23, 2019. The term of the appointment will expire following the November 2020 General Election at which time the seat will be filled by popular vote. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner spoke on the Park Commission’s recommendation of Mary Nardo-Farris.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

F. 2020 Board and Commission Reappointments and Appointments

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve Supervisor Styka’s reappointments to Boards and Commissions as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

Board discussion: Joint meeting of Township Boards and Commissions on January, 28, 2020. The next Township Board meeting on January 21, 2020 will have appointments on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission, current members whose term members are expiring will serve until replaced.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

**Trustee Jackson moved to appoint Deborah Guthrie as an Alternate to the Communications Commission for a 1 Year Term Ending 12/31/2020. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to appoint Rose Vadnais to the Environmental Commission for a 3 Year Term Ending 12/31/2021. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees, Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

**Trustee Opsommer moved to appoint Steve Thomas to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for a 4 Year Term Ending 12/31/2023. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Wisinski, Opsommer, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)

A. Trash Receptacle Ordinance – Removed from Agenda. (Ordinance tabled at 1-7-20 Board Mtg)

B. Rezoning #19090 (Planning Commission) Hagadorn Road

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the request to rezone 2.2 acres of 5 parcels on Hagadorn Road from (RP) Research Park to RAA (Single Family-Low Density). Planning Commission recommended approval.

Board discussion: RAA – one lot is very small, other four houses would not be conforming to RAAA due to not having enough lot area or lot width, zoning stays with the property, applicants can rezone to residential if they want to remodel since they are built in the 1920s and 1940s, not enough lot area to split them, parcel 4036 will stay the same with the rezoning, between 1960-1963 the Township initiated Research Park rezoning.

**Board consensus to place this item on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.**

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:15 pm.

Larry M. Curdy, 2710 Sophiea Parkway, Okemos, MI; spoke in support of Rezoning Request #19060 (Agenda Item 12A).

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:16 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Ribbon Cutting on Friday, January 10, 2020, at 11:30 am scheduled at the Senior Center for new exercise equipment through a grant from the Senior Center Rotary and National Rotary.
- Thanked the four HOMTV Interns: Prateek Kulkarni, Hongyuan Xu, Alex Valentini, and Courtland Jenkins.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 - 0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.**



RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



BRETT DREYFUS,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK