

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,  
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief  
Dave Hall

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.

Kathy Donahue, 2221 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, spoke in support of the two students who wish to be appointed as youth members to the Environmental Commission.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, thanked Board members for their four (4) years of service to Meridian Township. He congratulated those members who won reelection.

Dan Hamilton, staff representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and union representative for three Meridian Township bargaining units, 1034 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, congratulated those Board members who were successful in their election efforts, expressing appreciation to all members for their service to the township. He requested the Board direct the Human Resources representatives to renegotiate the definition of a plan year with the healthcare providers and then opt out of Public Act 152 for the next applicable year. Mr. Hamilton indicated there has always been a good working relationship with the Township and believes there is a solution which addresses the limited problem created with the change to a high deductible health insurance.

Kristen Cole, Chairperson, AFSCME Clerical Union, Local #1390, 6027 Rolfe Road, Lansing, spoke in support of the Township Board opting out of Public Act 152.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, congratulated those Board members who won their election. He expressed appreciation to current Board members for their attentiveness to public comments.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. Election Report – Clerk Mary Helmbrecht

Clerk Helmbrecht indicated this election had the highest percentage of voter turnout (72%). She acknowledged those Board members who are retiring and congratulated sitting Board members who won their election bids. Clerk Helmbrecht announced the three new Board members who will be taking office as well as the makeup of the new Park Commission. She reported the Fire Station millage passed by nearly a 60% vote. Clerk Helmbrecht expressed appreciation to her staff and election workers for running an outstanding election.

Trustee Brixie inquired as to the results of the Okemos School Board write-in.

Clerk Helmbrecht clarified the Okemos School Board write-in votes were tallied the night of the election and go to the county for determination of the winners.

Supervisor McGillicuddy announced the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board met the first Monday in November.

Trustee Dreyfus attended the 2012 eCities Top Performing Entrepreneurial Community Awards at the University of Michigan Dearborn College of Business along with Township Manager Richards and Associate Planner Rick Brown. He thanked Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht and Trustee Ochberg for their commitment and years of service to Meridian Township.

Julie Brixie reported her attendance at the dedication of the restrooms at North Meridian Park, which will be open year round. She announced Brian Dumont, Senior T.V. Production Manager with HOMTV, has left employment with Meridian Township to take a new position.

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri County Regional Planning Commission on October 24<sup>th</sup> where a presentation was given on areas in the health improvement plan. He offered tribute to Supervisor McGillicuddy for her years of leadership, specifically in the area of environmental protection, and tribute to Clerk Helmbrecht, Trustee Ochberg and Park Commissioner Dersch for their many contributions to the Township.

Trustee Ochberg expressed appreciation to the citizens of the Township who elected her to serve as a Board member for the last several years. She addressed a case at the last meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals which tested the Township's Wetland Protection Ordinance and urged the new Board to consider her application for public service for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals when an opening exists.

Trustee LeGoff expressed appreciation to Meridian residents for their vote to elect her as Meridian Township Supervisor.

#### 6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

**Trustee Ochberg moved to add Agenda Item #10C: Discussion and Action on Opt Out of Public Act 152 and Human Resources representatives renegotiation with the healthcare provider to determine a definition of the plan year. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Appropriateness of placing this item on as a discussion
- Need for supporting documentation prior to action

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 3-4 (Brixie, Dreyfus, Helmbrecht, McGillicuddy)

**Trustee Dreyfus moved to add Agenda Item #11A: Discussion on Opt Out of Public Act 152 and Human Resources representatives renegotiation with the healthcare provider to determine a definition of the plan year. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

Board members discussed the following:

- More appropriate as a discussion item for the new Board starting on November 20<sup>th</sup>

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 4-3 (Brixie, Helmbrecht, McGillicuddy)

**Supervisor McGillicuddy moved the following:**

- **Add the name of Edwin Stanley to the motion for Agenda Item #7H: Appointment of Student Members to the Environmental Commission**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VOICE VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the communications be received and placed on file, and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 16, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 528,823.22
Public Works	\$ 57,458.23
Total Checks	\$ 586,281.45
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 11,423.10
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 597,704.55</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 528,643.59</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Assessing Stipulation

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Fifth Third Bank in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated as follows:**

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL DOCKET NUMBER 440255  
 FIFTH THIRD BANK  
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

**Original Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-480-003	2112 Jolly Road	2012	\$318,600	\$318,600

**Proposed Revised Values**

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-33-480-003	2112 Jolly Road	2012	\$289,200	\$289,200

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

E. Additions to the Tax Roll

**Treasurer Brixie moved to assess the charges identified in the staff memorandum with parcel identification available in the Treasurer’s Office dated November 2, 2012 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 Trustee Ochberg.**

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

F. Realign Communications Department Staffing

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the 2013 budget and staffing plan be amended to remove one full-time position and add two part-time positions in the Communications Department. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Amendments to POAM Labor Agreement

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the amendments to the Police Officers Association of Michigan Collective Bargaining Agreement as tentatively agreed to by the POAM members, as described in the November 2, 2012 staff memorandum, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

H. Appointment of Student Member to the Environmental Commission

**Treasurer Brixie moved that Brian Martell and Edwin Stanley be appointed to fill student vacancies on the Environmental Commission for terms ending December 31, 2013. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

I. Robins Way Public Streetlighting Improvement, Special Assessment District #323

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Robins Way Public Streetlighting Improvements Special Assessment District #323 – Resolution #5, which approves the final special assessment roll, adopts the amount of \$2,371.49 as the first year assessment and the amount of \$288.00 (subject to adjustment) as the annual assessment thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

J. Consolidation of Streetlighting Districts

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the resolution confirming and adopting the 2012 Consolidation of Streetlighting Districts Special Assessment Roll and ordering the assessments to be collected annually. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

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

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

David Pierson, 1305 S. Washington Avenue Lansing, congratulated those Board members who were reelected and those Board members who are retiring. On behalf of Keith Schroeder and Ember Oaks, Mr. Pierson offered history on the request for the preliminary plat extension for Ember Oaks and spoke in support for granting the preliminary plat extension.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

A. Preliminary Plat Extension for Ember Oaks

**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, except Condition 22 shall be revised to read as follows: "The habitable portion of all homes, including basements and crawl spaces shall be setback from pipeline(s) a minimum of 60 feet or in accordance with any Federal, State or Township regulation, whichever is greater."**

**Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.**

Board members and the applicant's representative discussed the following:

- Increase in the minimum setback to 60 feet from the pipeline and the work done to address the drainage issues for the Red Cedar Land Preserve are significant improvements to the original set of conditions
- Appreciation for the owner's willingness to work with the Township and the Drain Commissioner for resolution to the erosion problem
- Type of petroleum products Wolverine runs through the pipeline
- Request for staff to contact Wolverine to ascertain the type of products it runs through the pipeline which crosses the plat diagonally
- Flammability of products running through the pipeline has an impact on the amount of setback needed for homeowner safety
- Wording in the resolution provides for a variable setback dependent upon federal, state or township regulation
- Number of phases remaining in the plat
- Phasing has changed due to market conditions

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
 Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Helmbrecht  
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
 Motion carried 6-1.

B. Williamstown Township Police Services Contract Renewal

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agreement to continue providing law enforcement services to Williamstown Township beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014 for the amount of \$197,220 per calendar year, plus \$51.75 per hour for emergency and non-emergency responses outside the 80 hours of weekly patrol, and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the Agreement. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Excellent example of shared services between neighboring communities
- Concern that Meridian Township patrol cars were spotted by residents near Grand River and M-52
- Meech Road is the eastern boundary for Williamstown Township
- Rationale for patrol cars near M-52 include assisting the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, vehicle pursuit of a traffic violation, etc.
- Agreement includes covering each road in Williamstown Township several times per week
- Williamstown Township is happy with the police services provided by Meridian Township
- Concern that Meridian Township's costs (direct and indirect) are fully covered
- Staff analysis was performed by Meridian Township to ensure the contracted amount more than covers the direct and indirect costs

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

#### 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

##### A. Opt out of Public Act 152

Board members discussed the following:

- Preference for more information on all options available to the Board
- Possibility of renegotiating the definition of the plan year to give the next Board a window of opportunity to consider opting out
- Belief that the Township paid for the first deductible of this calendar year under the previous health plan
- State Department of Treasury interpretation of coverage year relative to the impact of Public Act 152 of 2011
- Administrative staff's understanding that the Healthcare Coalition reviewed the option of moving the plan year to coincide with the calendar year and the Coalition determined this option to be more expensive for the majority of covered employees
- Township Manager's willingness to meet with Mr. Hamilton to discuss available options
- Administrative staff's concern with the timing of opting out of Public Act 152
- Administrative staff is not aware of any option that works and keeps the Township under the required cap for healthcare
- Administrative staff "lumped" all of the coverages together in a total cap v. looking at individual bargaining groups
- Inquiry as to why administrative staff did not tell Board members there would be two deductibles within a twelve month period
- Board member inquiry as to when unions were told there would be two deductibles within a twelve month period
- Healthcare Coalition reviewed proposals as they were submitted due to the short window period
- Renewal received from the then current provider of the Township's health coverage plan in late July or early August indicated the Township would be over the cap if it continued with that provider
- After the renewal was received, a third party firm worked with the Coalition to obtain options for review, including the Health Savings Account (HSA) plan
- Intent was to obtain as many options as quickly as possible for the Healthcare Coalition to review
- Some bargaining units which were not subject to the cap voluntarily accepted the program
- Relative to the HSA, the Township placed the funds for the four (4) remaining months of this calendar year up front for all employees subject to the plan
- On January 1<sup>st</sup>, another amount will be placed into employees' HSA account
- At the time the healthcare choice was presented to the Board, the cap had not been reached
- Board member suggestion at the time the healthcare choice was presented to the Board was to go with the plan that had the best chance of not reaching the cap; however, if information had been known that the cap would have been exceeded with the options from various healthcare providers, she would have possibly changed her recommendation
- Request that, in the future, information regarding significant cost increases for healthcare be given to Board members in a timely fashion
- Staff understanding the two deductible requirement was talked about during the discussion regarding when the coverage year commenced
- Staff understanding it was the recommendation and request of Coalition members that they take all information back to their individual bargaining units for explanation of the program
- Disappointment that the Board was not provided with options
- Two bargaining units who filed grievances were offered the opportunity to revote and they both declined

- Changing to a healthcare plan similar to the then current plan would have cost more individuals more money than the HSA plan
- Two \$2500 deductibles within one plan year is a significant sum and should have been covered in writing
- No written information was provided to employees regarding a “double deductible”
- Board member belief employees are not being treated fairly regarding payment of a double deductible when they were not properly informed that would be the case
- Disappointment that staff did not put forth a proposal to correct the “injustice” of a double deductible for employees
- Employees relied on the written materials provided by Willis during meetings
- Township will pay up to \$2,000 in deductibles at the beginning of next year
- Challenge for the Board is that the amount the Township is contributing to the program is the maximum allowed by law
- Motion brought forward at the last Board meeting for the Township to pay one of the double deductibles for employees would have put the Township in noncompliance with state law
- Table provided in Board communications indicate the amount the Township will pay to fund the deductible is \$1,519.33 for a family
- Penalty for the Township going over the cap is a loss of 10% of the Township’s revenue sharing from the state
- Board member preference for the Township Manager to provide a proposal which makes the employees “whole” and not pay a double deductible

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, thanked Clerk Helmbrecht, Trustee Ochberg and Supervisor McGillicuddy for their many years of service to Meridian Township.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Township Manager Richards announced that candidates who ran for office have five (5) days after the election to remove political signs placed throughout the Township. He expressed appreciation for the leadership and tutelage of those Board members who are leaving office.

Trustee Ochberg requested her name be removed from the Township’s e-mail distribution lists.

Township Richards responded to Board member inquiry regarding the process for swearing in of newly elected officials.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

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JULIE BRIXIE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEM

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BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary