

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

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of
Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Interim Human Resources Director Amy
Holda

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.

Thomas L. Maleck, 1457 East Pond Drive, Apt. #32, Okemos, introduced himself as a candidate for appointment to the Capital Area Transportation Authority. He outlined his qualifications and responded to Board inquiries.

Judy Linn, 5435 Van Atta Road, Okemos, requested the public be given ample opportunity to provide input on the Urban Service Boundary before it is passed by the Board.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, spoke to comments made by President Felipe Calderon on the terrorism used by the Mexican drug cartel to make enormous economic profits from the transport and sale of illegal drugs. He indicated President Calderon blamed the United States, in part, for its "insatiable consumption of illegal drugs" as well as arms trafficking of assault weapons to Mexican criminals.

Ody Norkin, 3803 Sandalwood, Okemos, spoke in support of Thomas Maleck as a candidate for appointment to the Capital Area Transportation Authority Board.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at Delta Dental's ribbon cutting ceremony last week to celebrate its expansion.

Treasurer Brixie reported Township Assessor David Lee provided the East Lansing School District with up to date current assessed value estimates for 2012 to use in its calculations for the reconfiguration studies. She indicated a special meeting will be held on September 8th at the MacDonald Middle School at 6:00 P.M. regarding the K-8 facilities and to determine if a bond issue will be placed on the ballot, as well as a public hearing on September 19th at 6:00 P.M. at MacDonald Middle School. Treasurer Brixie added the final regular meeting will be held September 26th at 6:00 P.M. at MacDonald Middle

School, during which school board members will make a decision on whether a bond issue will be placed on the ballot. She reminded residents that summer taxes are due on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 5:00 P.M. She suggested that residents not use the US mail for payment at this late date since the Township does not accept postmarks as proof of payment, but recommended they come in person or use the convenient drop box in front of the Municipal Building to pay their tax bill.

Trustee Dreyfus participated in a social media webinar to have townships either look at or implement policies regarding social media. He would like Township Manager Richards to consider the following issues: confidential information regarding employees, privacy, defamation, reputation, apparent authority, discrimination, photo posting, employer rights, etc. Trustee Dreyfus announced the Meridian Time Bank will meet Saturday, September 11th at 12:00 noon at the Meridian Activity Center.

Trustee Veenstra reported that Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) did not meet last month, but TCRPC staff is looking into a new location for TCRPC headquarters. He noted earlier public comment by stating that approximately one-half of the value of illegal drugs imported from Mexico is from marihuana, and acknowledged the extensive damage being done to Mexico by those imports. Trustee Veenstra noted the letter from a Township resident in protest against the appearance of Terry Jones [in Alaiedon Township] to speak on Islam.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Add Agenda Item #10D: 2011 US Constitution Week**
- **Move Agenda Item #7F to Agenda Item #10E: Appointment to CATA Board**
- **Move Agenda Item #10B to Agenda Item #11A: Urban Service Boundary**
- **Move Agenda Item #7E to Agenda Item #10F: Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Labor Agreement**

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

VOICE VOTE: 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, 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 Elaine Davis, 4611 Arrowhead Drive, Okemos; RE: Opposition to changing the Township logo
- BI-2 Janine Sinno, 3881 Pine Knoll, Okemos; RE: September 8,2011 Conference regarding Islam at the Okemos Conference Center
- BI-3 Catherine Mullhaupt, Michigan Townships Association, 512 Westshire Drive, Lansing; RE: Article entitled, "Michigan Court of Appeals outlaws medical marihuana dispensaries, patient-to-patient sales"
- BI-4 Carol DiGregorio-Dalton, 2187 Riverwood Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for a Deer Management Plan

(2) Staff Communication (SC)

- SC-1 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated August 25, 2011
- SC-2 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated September 1, 2011

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, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of August 16, 2011 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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	\$ 283,112.34
Public Works	\$ 84,161.09
Retainage	
MK Painting – Check #1031	\$ 5,103.56
Painting of Water Tower	
Total Checks	\$ 372,376.99
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 14,196.60
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 386,573.59</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 858,877.79</u>

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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 Stipulations

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Harish Tekchandani on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2010	0385715	4183 Naubinway, Okemos, MI 48864
2011		

<u>Assessment</u>	2010	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$137,900/117,247
	2011		\$129,700/119,240
 <u>Proposed Assessment</u>	 2010	 <u>AV/TV</u>	 \$117,600/117,247
	2011		\$110,500/110,500

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Michael and Marilyn Obsitnik in accordance with the revised assessed and taxable values stated in the table as follows:

**MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL APPEAL
 MICHAEL AND MARILYN OBSITNIK
 PROPOSED STIPULATION FIGURES**

Original Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Original Assessed Value	Original Taxable Value
33-02-02-02-376-006	5983 East Lake Drive	2011	\$208,100	\$208,100

Proposed Revised Values

Parcel Number	Address	Year	Revised Assessed Value	Revised Taxable Value
33-02-02-02-376-006	5983 East Lake Drive	2011	\$145,000	\$145,000

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Douglas R. and Karen L. Motley on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2010	0388805	2354 Kings Cross N, East Lansing, MI 48823
2011		

<u>Assessment</u>	2010	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$142,100/142,100
	2011		\$127,800/127,800

<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2010	<u>AV/TV</u>	\$137,500/137,500
	2011		\$127,800/127,800

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

G. Sale of Surplus Ambulance

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the sale of the following surplus Township ambulance at public auction, internet auction, or by sealed bid:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Make & Model</u>	<u>VIN Number</u>
2000	Ford/Road Rescue	1FDWE35F8YHA37557

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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. Meridian Township Fire Fighters Association (MTFFA) Labor Agreement

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Reason for confidentiality of the tentative agreement
- Union has ratified the tentative agreement
- Rationale for the proposed terms of a labor agreement being kept from the public until approved by the Board
- Suggestion for the Board to have a closed session on this issue
- Staff recommendation not to delay the agreement due to proposed legislation
- Proposed legislation points to a timeframe which would require additional language in the contract which has not been negotiated

Trustee Ochberg moved approval of the amendments as specified in the memorandum dated September 2, 2011, and the settlement agreement to the Meridian Township Fire Fighters Association Local 1600 Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2011-2013 and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Continued Board discussion:

- Request for the names of the signors of the tentative agreement be typed underneath the signatures
- Clarification that each employee shall be allowed two (2) personal leave days each year
- Clarification that the salary increase for the next three (3) years is 0%

- Clarification that the educational increments and allowance are \$720 for a two-year Associates Degree in Fire Science and \$1200 for a Bachelors Degree in the Fire Science or related field
- 2012 recommended budget indicates one less paramedic than budgeted for 2011
- Concern that a part-time paramedic will submit applications for full-time employment elsewhere and subsequently create high turnover in the department
- Expense involved in initial employment of a part-time paramedic (i.e., physicals, equipment, etc.)
- With retirements, the 2012 recommended budget actually provides for an increase in the number of employees
- Eligibility requirement(s) criteria to draw an unreduced pension following 25 years of actual service
- Appreciation to the MTTFFA for working cooperatively with the Township to ratify their labor agreement in lieu of arbitration

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Sewer Study Grant Application

Director Severy summarized the sewer study grant application as outlined in staff memorandum dated September 2, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Study of the sewer system which will result from the grant would identify capacity issues, primarily inflow and infiltration (I & I)
- Stormwater is “getting into” the sewer system
- Staff has obtained flow data from all township pump stations
- Study will ascertain the location of the inflow source
- Part of the study will televise many sewers and perform manhole inspections
- Many homes in the Towar area had sump pumps which pumped directly into the sanitary sewer system
- Township has three (3) years to complete the report
- Township must construct the cost effective improvements identified through the study or repay the grant
- Township is currently involved in a \$200,000 project to line sewers which will correct some I & I problems
- Study will prioritize the areas, delineating the most cost effective areas and reduce the flow
- Reducing the flow to East Lansing by ten percent (10%) would save the Township approximately \$100,000 per year
- Agreement with East Lansing for sending sewage to its treatment plant is for 5 million gallons per day
- Sewage per day is currently averaging just under 4 million gallons per day
- Reducing the amount of sewage sent to the East Lansing treatment plant will prolong the need for expansion of the plant
- Cost of expanding East Lansing’s treatment plant will be shared by Meridian Township
- Most of the sewer lines along the Red Cedar River have already been relined
- Focus will now turn to the residential areas
- Township has 150 miles of sanitary sewers
- Inquiry if there is a newer method than using video equipment
- Explanation as to why the cost is so high is due to the manpower required
- Intent is to place a flow monitor in several “key” manholes to identify dry and wet weather flow
- A flow monitor will be placed on each branch of the main sewer to identify which branches need more detailed study
- Township consultant has certified operators to use the new digital technology for sewers

- Township staff has been using a “piecemeal” approach to identifying I & I over the last several years and the grant will allow for a map based model of the entire sewer system within a GIS system
- Grant will provide capacity information for the sewer system in the event there are requests for expansion in the future
- Standard boilerplate language by the consultant for contractual services regarding ownership of work product (i.e., drawings, reports) applies more toward building and road design projects
- Township’s match will be \$110,000

Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Township Manager, a position currently held by Gerald J. Richards, is designated as the Authorized Representative for purposes of the S2 Grant Agreement.**
- 2. The proposed form of the S2 Grant Agreement between the Municipality, the MFA and DEQ (attached hereto as Appendix I) is hereby approved and the Authorized Representative is authorized and directed to execute the S2 Grant Agreement with such revisions as are permitted by law and agreed to by the Authorized Representative.**
- 3. The Municipality shall repay the Grant, within 90 days of being informed to do so, with interest at a rate not to exceed 8 percent per year, to the Authority if any of the following conditions occur:**
 - (a) the Municipality fails to submit an administratively complete loan application for assistance from the SRF, the SWQIF or other source of financing for the project within 3 years of the Grant award;**
 - (b) the project has been identified as being in the fundable range or is approved for funding from another source and the Municipality declines loan assistance for 2 consecutive fiscal years unless the Municipality proceeds with funding from another source; or**
 - (c) the Municipality is unable to, or decides not to, proceed with constructing the project.**
- 4. The Grant, if repayable, shall be a first budget obligation from the general funds of the Municipality, and the Municipality is required, if necessary, to levy ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the Municipality for the payment thereof, subject to applicable constitutional, statutory and Municipality tax rate limitations.**
- 5. The Municipality shall not invest, reinvest or accumulate any moneys deemed to be Grant funds, nor shall it use Grant funds for the general local government administration activities or activities performed by municipal employees.**
- 6. The Authorized Representative is hereby jointly or severally authorized to take any actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the MFA and the DEQ in connection with the issuance of the Grant. The Authorized Representative is hereby jointly or severally authorized to execute and deliver such other contracts, certificates, documents, instruments, applications and other papers as may be required by the MFA or the DEQ or as may be otherwise necessary to effect the approval and delivery of the Grant.**

7. **The Municipality acknowledges that the S2 Grant Agreement is a contract between the Municipality, the MFA and the DEQ.**
8. **All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are rescinded.**

Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Inflow and infiltration has been a serious problem in the Township
- Grant will allow the Township to address I & I issues in an accelerated timeframe
- Sewer Fund has the money necessary to repay the grant amount if necessary
- Importance of no longer sending rainwater to the wastewater treatment plant as it can overflow the plant, resulting in discharge into the rivers during storm conditions
- Water quality study performed by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) was stormwater related
- Global warming means increased rainwater and precipitation in this part of the country
- Necessity of being proactive in management of this precipitation
- Project must be started within five (5) years but grant application does not address an ending date
- Resulting project can be funded through cash, bond or the Township may apply for loan funds
- Applying for loan funds through the State of Michigan adds significant record keeping and subsequently drives up the cost of construction
- Language in the contract states the consultant will prepare and submit a final project plan to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
- Terms of the agreement require the Township to implement the project
- Concern that approval of this grant application approves in advance a multi-million dollar project without knowing the actual cost
- Any project that is recommended must be cost effective or it does not have to be completed
- Major improvements such as lining sewers is expensive
- Current Wood Valley Interceptor project will cost approximately \$250,000
- Types of sewer repairs: grouting of joints, lining of cracked pipes, broken lead coming into or at the sewer connection
- Inquiry if all 150 miles of sanitary sewer will be televised (TV'd)
- MDEQ will not allow the Township to TV the entire sanitary sewer system under this grant
- Township must submit a preliminary project plan showing where it thinks the flow monitoring devices should be placed and which branches should be televised
- Initial scope of the project will change once findings are determined
- New sewers and lined sewers do not need to be televised
- Study areas have already been identified to the MDEQ
- Homeowners with sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer will be identified
- Depending upon the amount of water which comes from those identified sump pumps, a program will be put together to have those sump pumps disconnected at the homeowner's expense
- Township sent out request for proposals (RFPs) for this contract and selected the best qualified firm with experience in sewer system evaluation studies (SSES)
- Consultant is "putting together" the grant application at no cost to the Township
- If the Township is not awarded the grant, it will not cost the Township any money

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

Trustee Ochberg moved to authorize the Township Manager to execute the agreement with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber for completion of the scope of work required under the S2 grant. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

D. 2011 US Constitution Week Resolution

Trustee LeGoff moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby declares the week of September 17-23, 2011 as Constitution Week and urges all citizens to rededicate themselves to our country, to the support and defense of our Constitution and to a greater involvement in responsible citizenship.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

E. Appointment to CATA Board

Board members discussed the following:

- Board members were not given all applications for this appointment
- Board consideration of a resolution of appreciation to Patricia Munshaw for her many years of service as the Township’s representative on the CATA Board
- Concern with the large amount of money the Township sends to CATA without significant oversight as to how it is being used
- Township history with appointment of the Treasurer as the Township’s representative to the CATA Board

Clerk Helmbrecht nominated Treasurer Brixie for appointment to the CATA Board to fill a position for a three (3) year term beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2014. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Continued Board discussion:

- Qualifications of the Treasurer for this appointment
- Need for more oversight at CATA
- Unique situation in that the transportation and library systems do not fall under the jurisdiction of a single municipality or county, but are independent organizations voted in by a variety of municipalities
- Large amount of tax money (\$40 million) sent to CATA by the various municipalities
- More common for a transportation and library system to have budget oversight by another body, not just the system’s board
- Other appointee to the CATA Board brings a unique perspective to the Board regarding bus service to residents with disabilities
- Preference for the CATA budget to be on its website for openness and transparency

Supervisor McGillicuddy moved to approve the appointment of Thomas L. Maleck to the CATA Board to fill a position for a three (3) year term beginning October 1, 2011, and ending September 30, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

Continued Board discussion:

- Belief that Mr. Maleck’s extensive knowledge of transportation would be an asset and invaluable to the community
- Suggestion to postpone this issue until the next Board meeting
- Appreciation for the Treasurer’s willingness to serve on the CATA Board

- Potential competing locations for an intercity bus terminal, one on Michigan Avenue and one in the Trowbridge/Harrison area
- Transportation issues which need to be addressed by strong CATA Board members
- Suggestion to appoint Mr. Maleck to the Board and make the Treasurer the Township's official liaison to CATA
- Need for frequent updates to the Board on CATA's activities
- Concern that CATA does not have a stop at the train station in East Lansing
- Reminder that the CATA appointment is a Board appointment
- Suggestion that openings for appointments to Boards and commissions be announced by the Supervisor at least two weeks before being placed on the agenda for action

Treasurer Brixie moved to table this discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: Trustees Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 Motion carried 4-3.

F. Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Labor Agreement

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Labor agreement in a different format as it was arbitrated

Trustee Ochberg moved approval of the amendments as specified in the memorandum dated September 2, 2011, and the settlement agreement to the Fraternal Order of Police, Capital City Lodge No. 141 Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2009-2011 and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

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

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

A. Urban Service Boundary

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed urban service boundary as outlined in staff memorandum dated September 1, 2011.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Planning Commission reviewed the previous urban service boundary dated 1995
- Georgetown, Ember Oaks, Old English and Strawberry Farms subdivisions all have water and sewer available to serve the residents and are part of the plan
- Planning Commission still working on the text amendment to go along with the boundary line but wanted the Board to look at the line location
- Planning Enabling Act was revised to obtain Board agreement with the recommendation prior to distribution
- 17 communities which constitute the greater tri-county area have over 70 square miles of undeveloped land already served by water and sewer
- Importance of the region establishing a USB to encourage infill development
- Inquiry if a resident would have the ability to connect to the public water system in the event of well water contamination
- Policy statement in the previous agreement allowed residents adjacent to the boundary who experienced a well or septic system failure the ability to connect
- Well and septic system permits are obtained through the Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD)

- ICHD can make a determination whether a resident with a contaminated well can hook up to public water and sewer
- Private wells can be drilled down to the Saginaw Aquifer
- Inquiry if any of the other communities have submitted their plan to Meridian Township
- When Georgetown was approved, the Township required the developer to construct water and sewer that would accommodate an area for future development which was much larger than the Georgetown subdivision
- Boundaries of the payback district for Georgetown includes land east of Powell Road to Meridian Road, north to Piper Road and back
- Inquiry if there are reduced tax implications for the eastern third if the USB precludes the highest and best use
- Owner of property to the east of the proposed USB is responsible for the entire cost to connect to water and sewer
- Request for comparative costs of the various options in the event of a dry or contaminated well
- USB will achieve the goals that Meridian Township has set for the vision for the community
- There have been sufficient opportunities for the public to provide input at both the Planning Commission and Board level
- USB will maintain and possibly increase property values in the rural one-third of the Township
- Extension of water and sewer lines in more rural areas becomes cost prohibitive
- Suggestion for careful study on the location of the urban service boundary, possibly dividing it into sections on a larger map for discussion
- Request for information on other communities in the tri-county area which have existing USBs
- Permissibility of drilling shallow wells in the Township
- Process for amending an urban service boundary once adopted
- Inquiry if there is a “gap” on Van Atta Road between the Foster Drain and where the pavement ends on Van Atta Road north of Newman Road
- Many Board inquires can be addressed by obtaining information from Tri County Regional Planning Commission’s (TCRPC) website
- Maps from TCRPC’s presentation to the Township Board on a regional USB shows significant land within both Delta and Delhi Township’s proposed USB that is not currently serviced
- Concern that Meridian Township’s proposed USB mirrors the existing sewer map
- USB should be used as a planning tool for the Township’s Master Plan
- Concern with Board approval of a payback district which is larger than the proposed USB and possible need to reimburse the developer for costs
- In the future, there will be development pressures and the proposed USB guarantees sprawl
- Suggestion for development criteria which would allow the USB to move
- Concern with tying water and sewer lines together in the proposed USB when there are areas outside of the boundary already serviced by public water
- Concern the proposed USB will deny residents on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Van Atta Road the ability to have fire protection through the use of fire hydrants
- Review of the language by the Township Attorney in order to have a USB which is legally defensible
- Request for a Township Attorney opinion on the Georgetown Payback District
- Suggestion to invite Jim Wilson, ICHD, to instruct the Board on what to consider when delineating the line
- Intent of the line is to encourage development in certain areas and is pro-growth
- Concern with comparing Meridian Township to other communities as each community’s composition is different
- Township can only contain urban sprawl and protect the environment when increased density is traded off with actual land which is protected in perpetuity
- Concern that suggested Board scrutiny and Township Attorney review is a delay tactic
- Number #1 Board priority is natural environment ends and USB is mentioned twice within that priority
- Map contained in the Board packet contains “white” areas which designate potential development areas within the served area
- Eastern third of the Township has a significant amount of wetlands
- USB which has brought prosperity to its region is Portland, Oregon and was used as a guide by the USB Steering Committee

- No decision to date on the creation of a Defense Fund for the regional USB group
- Request to include wetlands, park land, land preservation properties and the current zoning of any property west of the proposed USB in the requested larger map
- Board approval of the USB location is one of the first steps in the process
- Part of Policy Governance is consensus building and time should be taken in making this decision, viewed as the single most impactful policy decision the Board will make
- Need for a thorough discussion to ensure open and transparent government
- Concern with Board micromanagement of the USB
- Belief that Board replication of the Planning Commission’s work on the USB is an insult to them and a delay mechanism
- Location of the USB is a Board decision and this body has not had a previous discussion on its location
- TCRPC has never adopted a regional USB

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for further discussion at the September 20, 2011 Board meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Tim Van Ravenswaay, 5360 Van Atta Road, Haslett, expressed concern with the process used to determine an urban service boundary. He requested the public be more involved in this issue.

Ken Phinney, President, IAFF Local 1600, expressed appreciation to the Board for passing the Fire Fighters contract.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Dreyfus reminded citizens to view the Township’s website and read the *Towne Courier* to obtain information on public hearings regarding relevant issues.

Trustee Ochberg added that the Board can change the USB location by going through a Master Plan amendment process, the same process as is currently being discussed.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary