

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Joyce Marx, Greg Frenger, Senior Planner Peter Menser, Associate Planner Ben Motil, Human Services Specialist Darla Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Community Resources Commission-Darla Jackson

Human Services Specialist Jackson offered the following:

- Her job is to help individuals navigate the local network of human services when they are faced with eviction or utility shut-offs
- Part of her responsibility is to know how the human services system works and what resources are available through the 25 different organizations she works with
- Community Resources Commission (CRC) Needs Fund assists when resources are not available
- CRC is funded solely by donations
- CRC is hosting a Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on December 1st at Dusty's Cellar to solicit funds
- Approximately 14% of Meridian Township residents have an income below the poverty level
- Most residents in need are elderly, families and/or persons with disabilities
- Introduction of Suzanne Brouse, Chair of the CRC
- CRC oversees the Community Resources program administered by Ms. Jackson
- Chief function of the CRC is to help raise funds for residents who need assistance
- Meridian is the only Township with such a program
- Over her ten (10) years on the CRC, she has been impressed by the coordination of funding and resources with local churches, service organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, etc.
- Invitation to the wine tasting and silent auction fundraising event at Dusty's Cellar
- Tickets are \$60 per person, or \$100 per couple and can be purchased either at the Treasurer's Office or through the Township website
- Help to make this community a better place for the most vulnerable residents in the township
- Individuals or businesses can also make a tax deductible donation
- Board member acknowledgment of Ms. Brouse as the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award

Manager Walsh offered the following:

- Introduction of Peter Menser who received a recent promotion to Senior Planner

Senior Planner Menser offered the following on the eCities Award:

- Meridian Township has been honored by the University of Michigan at Dearborn iLabs Center for Innovation Research, for its eCities work in fostering entrepreneurial activities and economic growth
- Meridian Township has received this honor for the 8th year in a row
- Data assembled from survey questions asked and answered by communities who are then ranked according to their responses
- Meridian Township received recognition as a great place to do business and a five-star community (determined as an economic development force in the state)
- Meridian Township continues to provide leadership in regards to economic best practices
- Meridian Township will continue to be proactive and aggressive in its approach to economic development

Township Manager Walsh introduced the Township's newest employee, Associate Planner/Economic Development Coordinator Ben Motil who comes from the Village of Pontoon Beach, Illinois.

Captain Frenger announced the Police and Fire Departments will host a Charity Basketball Game in the Haslett Middle School at 2:00 P.M. on November 20th, which will include a 50/50 raffle. He indicated tickets are being sold at the Police Department and the three (3) fire stations. Captain Frenger noted the money raised will benefit Gayelord Mankowski's Christmas Party for children in need.

B. Board Recognition

Clerk Dreyfus recognized Trustee John Veenstra for his service on the Township Board and offered the following information about him:

- Encouraged people to run for office, be on boards and commissions and to attend Board meetings
- Served two (2) terms as an Ingham County Commissioner
- Lived in Meridian Township 40 years
- Holds a Master's Degree in Political Science
- Former Ingham County Parks Commissioner
- Participated as a member in many clubs and organizations
- A "man of the people"
- Served as a Meridian Township Trustee from 2004-2016
- Desire for Trustee Veenstra to stay engaged with the Township and serve as an ombudsman
- Spent a lifetime working for the public good
- Has a wealth of knowledge and experience which cannot be replaced
- Trustee Veenstra relayed the late Joe Harris (Director of Planning in the early 1970s) proposed the Old Urban Trail be made into a pathway and after his death, Trustee Veenstra took up the cause and the pathway ultimately came to pass and is well used by residents
- Trustee Veenstra shared he was instrumental in having the Board agenda and packet posted online, a step towards government transparency
- Trustee Veenstra reiterated he was the deciding vote for the Aldi Grocery Store project as well as the student apartments on Hannah Boulevard

Supervisor-Elect Ron Styka recognized Trustee Angela Wilson for her service on the Township Board and offered the following information about her:

- She is a woman who cares about family, friends, neighbors and this community
- She was a leader among parents in the Okemos School District and worked to ensure parents were involved, raised money for the Okemos School

- Lobbied at the state level on behalf of education and educational issues
- She and Supervisor-Elect Styka “sort of” ran together four (4) years ago to become Township Trustees
- She is an important and “quiet” leader on the Township Board
- She sought to make Meridian Township a walkable and bikeable community
- Advocate for smart growth
- Supported amending Meridian Township’s human rights ordinance to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community
- She will continue supporting form based codes and Meridian Township as a family friendly community through “reasonable” growth

Trustee Wilson spoke to her affection for fellow Board members and staff and voiced her appreciation to Trustee Styka who has been a father figure and mentor to her. She stated serving on the Board has been a humbling experience.

Treasurer Brixie recognized Trustee Milton Scales for his service on the Township Board and offered the following information about him:

- First African-American elected to serve as a Board member
- Member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
- A mentor of students at Haslett High School who helped organize and form the first Black Student Union
- He is currently assisting students at Okemos High School with similar efforts
- Awarded the 2013 Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Retiree Volunteer of the Year
- 2013 LCC Distinguished Alumni Award recipient
- Ingham County Democratic Party bestowed upon Trustee Scales the 2014 Zolton Ferency Activist Achievement Award
- In 2015, the Michigan Democratic Party bestowed the Eighth Congressional District Jefferson-Jackson Recognition
- His experience as a former Ingham County Road Commissioner helped the Township with road issues
- Brought 30 years of state government experience to the Township, most recently as the Retired Chief of Criminal Investigations for the DEQ and DNR
- During the 2013 ice storm, he visited residents of the Wardcliff neighborhood to check on those who were without power for ten (10) days
- He supported the use of the Haslett High School as a warming center
- He helped guide the Township through an after-action ice storm analysis and update of our Emergency Management Plan
- Trustee Scales stated it was an honor and privilege to be elected four (4) years ago to serve on the Meridian Township Board
- Trustee Scales stated he followed in the footsteps of Gilbert Sherman, who was the first black person appointed to serve as the Township Treasurer in 1995
- Trustee Scales stated he graduated from Detroit Central High School whose nickname was the Trailblazers and he vowed to live up to that nickname
- Trustee Scales indicated that being a trailblazer was his drive to ensure he attended all Board meetings during his four (4)-year term

Township Manager Walsh recognized Supervisor Elizabeth LeGoff for her service on the Township Board and offered the following information about her:

- Has served on the Cable Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals
- First elected to the Township Board in 2008 as a Township Trustee
- Worked to have a year round farmers market, which came to fruition in January, 2010
- Elected Supervisor in November, 2012
- During the 2013 ice storm and resulting power outage, she delivered Subway coupons to residents who were without power
- Generosity in donating rooms in her husband’s honor at the Haslett and Okemos Libraries

Supervisor LeGoff voiced appreciation for her ability to be involved in the community.

Township Manager Walsh expressed appreciation to the four (4) outgoing Board members for their service.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Brent Forsberg, 4725 Mohican Lane, Okemos, thanked board members for their service to the community over the last four (4) years.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of Michael Unsworth's letter outlining concerns regarding pathway development with respect to the Costco development. He thanked the Board as a whole for their last four years of service to the community.

LeRoy McNight, 3553 Meridian Road, Okemos, thanked board members for serving the Meridian community with distinction. He spoke to a complete Democratic majority of the Board, and expected the Board will reach out across the entire spectrum of the community to aptly represent the citizens of Meridian Township.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Making progress with contract negotiations
- All bargaining unit representatives are conducting themselves in a professional manner
- The site plan and brownfield for the Costco project will be before the East Lansing City Council on December 6th
- Making progress on improvements to the Haslett Library community room
- Compliments to the Park Commission and the Parks Department on the Hillbrook Park renovations

Board discussion:

- Board member concern with the \$1.8 million brownfield credit request since there is no contamination to clean up on the former golf course
- Meridian Township placed a \$1 million limit on the brownfield credit in its resolution to approve
- The East Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority unanimously voted to approve the \$1.8 million brownfield which will be voted on by the East Lansing City Council
- Position of the Township Board remains that the amendment to the PA 108 Urban Cooperation Act agreement only allows up to \$1 million inclusive
- The East Lansing City Council will consider this issue on December 6th, and if it approves an amount greater than \$1 million, the agreement will have to come back to the Township Board for possible amendment
- \$1 million brownfield amount came from Costco when it made its presentation
- Costco has increased the brownfield credit amount to \$1.8 million and using some of the funds for widening the road
- Board member belief there is a clause in Meridian Township's resolution which states funds would not be used to widen Park Lake Road

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

A. Election Results-Clerk Dreyfus presented the November 8, 2016 General Election results. He noted approximately 22,700 voters out of 31,000 voted in this election, a voter turnout of 73%. When compared to the percentage of voters in the 2012 General Election, it is exactly the same at 73%. During the August Primary Election, there was a 26.5% voter turnout compared to 29% in 2012. He relayed unofficial results for Meridian Township as follows:

President of the United States

Hillary Clinton (D) – 14,417 votes (63%)
 Donald Trump (R) – 6,971 votes (31%)
 Libertarian Party – 751 votes (3%)
 US Taxpayers Party – 51 votes (.2%)
 Green Party – 256 votes (1%)
 National Labor Party – 6 votes (.03%)
 Write-Ins – 232 votes

Township Supervisor

Tom Klunzinger (R) – 7,315 votes (34%)
 Ron Styka (D) – 14,036 votes (65%)

Township Clerk

Brett Dreyfus (D) – 16,501 votes

Township Treasurer

Treasurer Brixie (D) – 12,130 votes (63%)
 Erik Lindquist (NPA) – 7,160 votes (37%)

Township Trustee

Brian Czubak (R) – 8,141 votes (11%)
 Debra Lee Piper (R) – 8,038 votes (11%)
 Jared Wilson (R) – 7,078 votes (10%)
 Phil Deschaine (D) – 12,814 votes (17.5%)
 Patricia Herring Jackson (D) – 12,432 votes (17%)
 Dan Opsommer (D) – 12,470 votes (17%)
 Kathy Ann Sundland (D) – 12,237 votes (17%)

Park Commission

Richard Baker (D) – 13,793 votes
 Amanda Lick (D) – 14,036 votes
 Mike McDonald (D) – 13,544 votes
 Annika Brixie Schaetzl (D) – 13,516 votes
 Mark Stephens (D) – 13,865 votes

Haslett School Board (three 6 year terms)

Greg Bird – 3,026 votes
 Tim Griffin – 2,826 votes
 Tammy Lemmer – 3,207 votes
 Molly Polverento – 2,996 votes
 Write-ins – 32 votes

Okemos School Board (four 4 year terms)

Melanie Lynn – 6,846 votes
 Tonya Rodriguez – 6,612 votes
 Sarah Wohlford – 6,642 votes
 Erica Wolf – 6,748 votes
 Write-ins – 74 votes

Williamstown Township Board (6 year term)

Sarah Belanger – 148 votes

Christopher Lewis – 139 votes

Ingham County Potter Park Proposal

Yes – 16,915

No – 4,264

Clerk Dreyfus reported the three (3) new Absentee Voter (AV) Counting Boards worked from 8:00 AM until midnight to tabulate and balance 7,094 absentee ballots. He stated there was a need in Meridian Township for additional counting boards, but there was an insufficient amount of tabulating equipment available to accomplish that goal. Clerk Dreyfus explained that since new voting equipment will be forthcoming next year, he anticipated having a sufficient amount of tabulators on hand for additional counting boards in the 2018 gubernatorial race.

Treasurer Brixie inquired as to the timeline for completion of the work by the AV Counting Board.

Clerk Dreyfus explained the AV Counting Board had to “balance the numbers” after completing final tabulation and the last ballots were delivered to the Clerk’s Office at 2:00 A.M.

Trustee Veenstra expressed concern about the total number of voters on the Meridian Township rolls. He stated there are not 31,000 adult citizens living in Meridian Township and cannot have that number of “real” registered voters, concluding there are several thousand voters who have moved away. Trustee Veenstra believed having individuals on the roll that are not residents in Meridian Township is the first “step” toward voter fraud and need to be removed from the roll.

Clerk Dreyfus responded that although Trustee Veenstra’s suggestion is a good one, state law prohibits local clerks from removing voters from the roll unless they have died or the local clerk has received official notice requesting removal. He explained the process called “cancellation countdown.”

Trustee Veenstra commented on the letter in the packet from the Tri-County Bicycle Association which states Costco does not feel it needs to follow the law regarding providing bicycle racks and pathways. He believed the requirement of bicycle racks at the entrance of the Costco store should be enforced, as well as the pathway in front of Costco on Saginaw Highway.

Trustee Veenstra alleged the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is an “inefficient run organization”, citing the large overtime costs for bus drivers and the poor dispatch service for Redi-Ride and SpecTran. He thought if CATA was more efficient, taxpayers would not need to pay a total of 3.8 mills for substandard service. Trustee Veenstra objected to the \$6 million payment to CATA when it is estimated the service received is worth no more than \$1.5 million. He urged real improvements be made to the Redi-Ride system which services Meridian Township.

Trustee Styka reported his attendance at the last Communications Commission meeting where the distributed antenna system (DAS) was discussed as requested by the Board. He indicated a decision was made to recommend a task force be created to create a licensing agreement and ultimately a Township ordinance. Trustee Styka also reported his attendance at yesterday’s Haslett School Board’s meeting where the Ralya Elementary School was honored as a recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Award for Education Excellence from the US Department of Education. He acknowledged while only 13 such awards were given in Michigan, Okemos Public Schools’ Central Montessori School received one as well. Trustee Styka stated he was a panelist earlier today for a discussion on regionalism held by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce for 40 participants who the

chamber considers the next generation of community leaders.

Clerk Dreyfus reported his attendance at the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting where the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) and nominees to serve on the CIA was discussed. He noted the Meridian Company and Ellison Brewery initiatives in the industrial zoning district within the Township were also discussed, including changes needed to allow those companies to conduct trainings. Clerk Dreyfus stated a placemaking summit attended by Chair Buck was also discussed, as well as a Shaping the Avenue meeting involving the Grand River Corridor and the Greater Lansing Regional Prosperity Initiative meetings chair has also attended. He indicated the 2017 Goals and Objectives for the community were reviewed and the status of current development projects.

Clerk Dreyfus also reported his attendance at the Hillbrook Park Renovation Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Monday, November 7th, highlighting the new features of this community asset. He thanked Meridian Township citizens for voting for him to continue another four-year term as Township Clerk. Clerk Dreyfus was appreciative that he received more votes than any other candidate on the November ballot, including all Meridian Township, state and federal races. He stated this meant he received more crossover votes from other political parties and independent voters, and emphasized the importance of voting for a person rather than a political party. Clerk Dreyfus noted he will be conducting more outreach during the upcoming term, specifically by adding thousands of senior citizens to the Township's permanent absentee voter list and advocacy on a state-wide level for no-reason absentee voting.

Treasurer Brixie also reported her attendance at the most recent EDC meeting and the Land Preservation Advisory Board site visit to the trails at Lake Lansing where members examined the progress of the deer exclosures. She indicated the forest regeneration in the fenced in exclosure areas have not come to fruition and will not be placed in other preserves. Treasurer Brixie noted that at the last CATA meeting, it voted to contract for snow and ice removal services and CATA now has a new snow removal policy.

Trustee Scales stated he has received comments from citizens concerning the inability of persons with disabilities to cross Grand River Avenue at the northwest corner of Park Lake Road. He requested staff investigate this situation.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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 Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 1, 2016 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
 Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 197,856.90
Public Works	\$ 364,421.80
Trust & Agency	\$ 149,550.77
 Total Checks	 \$ 711,829.47
 Credit Card Transactions	 \$ 9,154.41
 Total Purchases	 <u>\$ 720,983.88</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 404,068.28</u>

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
 Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Ratification of Part-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

Treasurer Brixie moved to ratify the appointments of Robert Schmedinghoff and Joseph Wohlscheid to the positions of part-time paramedic/firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,
 Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS

A. Wetland Use Permit #16-05 (Mayberry Homes) Silverstone Estates subdivision, a request to enclose approximately 192 feet of the Unruh Drain
 Supervisor LeGoff opened the public hearing at 7:26 P.M.

Director Kieselbach summarized the wetland use permit request as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 8, 2016.

- Applicant

Scott Fairmont, 4429 Apache Drive, Okemos, pointed out that the bottom of the 6-10 foot ditch is four (4) feet wide, and that four (4) foot width is what is considered wetland and marginal given that it is a drain. He indicated that as it is enclosed for public safety and use of the road, a wetland will be created that is nine (9) times larger than the one being “disturbed.” Mr. Fairmont reminded the Board the Township does not regulate wetlands less than one-quarter of an acre, but because it is contiguous to another wetland, it was included in the wetland use permit requirement.

Mr. Fairmont added the wetland is located south of where the large trees will be saved and the project runoff will be channeled into a bio-retention ditch contiguous to this created wetland. He stated the water will be cleaned in the bio-retention ditch which will then flow into this wetland. Mr. Fairmont believed this area will be much improved.

- Board discussion:

Trustee Scales inquired as to what the applicant expects to clean out of the runoff water.

Mr. Fairmont replied it is an Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) program similar to what was executed at Champion Woods and the Okemos Preserve, where the oils and contaminants from the street and roofs will be collected in the bio-retention ditch and cleaned before it travels into the wetland and then the county drains.

Trustee Scales asked if the contaminants then stay on the ground.

Mr. Fairmont replied he was unsure but the process used is the ICDC standard.

Trustee Veenstra asked for the depth of the water in the unenclosed portion of the drain.

Mr. Fairmont replied the water at the bottom of the ditch will be between 6-12 inches and would be a minimal hazard to children. He added that one concern expressed during the preliminary plat approval process was the paving of the road from Grand River Avenue to this property and advising the neighbors. Mr. Fairmont reported over 50% of the signatures for the road paving district have been collected. He relayed Mr. Stockwell, the owner of the entire west side of Grand River to near the south border of the subject property, did not originally agree to be a signee until Mr. Fairmont reached 50%, which has been accomplished.

Supervisor LeGoff closed the public hearing at 7:43 P.M.

12. ACTION ITEMS (None)

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Ahsan Sumbal, 900 Gulick Road, Okemos, showed an illustration of the current zoning on the subject property. He agreed to the Board’s preference to keep the residential component on Newton Road and asked that the PO, RD and RA parcels be rezoned to C-2 (commercial), which would allow some of the lots to no longer be landlocked and create nine (9) acres of commercial property. He requested the Board take action on this rezoning at tonight’s meeting.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

- A. Rezoning #16040 (Sumbal) 2267 Saginaw, 6217 and 6219 Newton Road from PO (Professional and Office), RD (Multiple Family) and RA (Single Family – Medium Density) to C-2 (Commercial)

Director Kieselbach summarized the proposed rezoning as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 10, 2016.

Board discussion:

- As a condition of approval, the applicant has offered to install a double row of evergreen trees and landscape berm between the residential and commercial components
- Board member belief the Land Preservation property which is zoned C-2 should be rezoned to reflect its function as a natural area
- RA zoning allows for a minimum lot area of 10,000 square feet with a minimum lot width of 80 feet and could create up to five (5) lots
- Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designation for the proposed Master Plan
- FLUM designation for the current Master Plan is 1.25-3.5 dwelling units per acre
- Board member belief the Township needs more single family housing, not more commercial, and recommends a single family housing development
- Board member recommendation to suspend the rules and take action tonight

Trustee Scales move to suspend rules to have discussion and take action on this issue at tonight’s meeting. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- Two incoming Board members who previously served on the Planning Commission voted for this rezoning request
- Board member preference to follow procedure
- Board member concern with appearances, specifically since the applicant has given campaign donations to some Board members
- Board member concern with an issue of “fairness” since it is her belief the Board has not suspended its rules on previous occasions as requested
- Applicant has been before the Township Board on several occasions concerning this request and has followed its direction
- Unique circumstance with this request having been before the current Board and if not acted upon tonight, would be before a different Board at the next meeting

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
 Motion carried 5-2.

Continued Board discussion:

- Director Kieselbach outlined the changes needed to the Planning Commission resolution for introduction to be applicable for the Board

Trustee Veenstra 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 #16040 (Sumbal) from PO (Professional and Office) and RD (Multiple Family) to C-2 (Commercial) and RD (Multiple Family) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density).”

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 Scales.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Brixie

Motion carried 5-2.

B. Wetland Use Permit #16-05 (Mayberry Homes) Silverstone Estates subdivision, a request to enclose approximately 192 feet of the Unruh Drain

Board discussion:

- Environmental Commission expressed concern with the slope down to the drain and the developer agreed to install signage on the back lots
- The proposal will improve the low quality wetland

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Scales thanked the community for allowing him to serve on the Meridian Township Board and his service has helped his personal growth.

Trustee Veenstra thanked the public for electing him for three terms on the Township Board. He spoke in opposition to DAS as it involves antennas 2-1/2 feet in diameter next to roadways, which he viewed as a traffic hazard. Trustee Veenstra addressed the compromise worked out for the Okemos Pointe Brownfield request which was structured to save \$700,000 of tax payer dollars. He spoke to Trustee Wilson’s leadership with Meridian Township’s anti-discrimination ordinance for the LGBTQ community. Trustee Veenstra added Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) has adopted Meridian Township’s language in its effort to update their own anti-discrimination ordinance. He voiced his opposition to no-reason absentee voting as he believed it would compromise the secret ballot process.

Trustee Styka expressed appreciation for the presentations given this evening to the outgoing Board members, Trustee Veenstra’s attention to detail and his advocacy for the environment, Trustee Scales ability to achieve compromise and Supervisor LeGoff’s diligent work and fine leadership.

Trustee Wilson congratulated the winners in the November 8th General Election and thanked her fellow Board members for their service on the Board. She also expressed appreciation to those residents who made the decision to run in order to serve the Meridian Township community.

Supervisor LeGoff thanked voters for their trust in her.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:23P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary