

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, November 05, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser, Economic Development Director Buck

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. Okemos High School State Golf Champion-Allison Cui
- B. Okemos High School State Tennis Champions- Druv Talluri and Sid Nagisetty
- C. Introduction of New Part-Time Paramedic Kelsi Gemalski

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:06 pm.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:07 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager spoke on medical marihuana process, approval of dispensaries, lottery drawing for overlays 3 and 4, bond rating for Street Improvement bond, bid process and Ingham County, spoke at Nashville conference with Chief Plaga regarding Brianna Randall case, thanked John Scott-Craig, Chair of Planning Commission and Brownfield Development Authority, who is leaving.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended Oct 24 Volunteer Recognition event at the Meridian Sun in Haslett, honorees Ned Jackson (Environmental Comm) and Renee Cory (Downtown Development Authority)
- Attended Oct 25 Firestone Auto Care ribbon cutting
- Attended Oct 28 School of Rock ribbon cutting
- Attended Oct 30 Capital Area Treasurer’s Association
- Attended second medical marihuana drawing

Clerk Dreyfus:

- New Hope Church, Precinct 20 polling location, notified Township that polling location needs to move to new facility located on Saginaw Hwy, Clerk will provide memo for Board action before January deadline
- Next Township election is Tuesday, March 10, 2020 and is the Presidential Primary

Trustee Opsommer:

- Attended grand opening of Okemos Board Walk

Supervisor Styka:

- Volunteer Appreciation Night was a success
- Attended Firestone ribbon cutting, company started in 1901
- Media confused opening of School of Rock in Meridian Township with School of Rock in East Lansing, business name and location confusion between EL and MT a continuing issue for township
- Okemos high school action club planted 20 trees in Central Park South due to \$2,000 Consumers Energy grant
- Addressed communications from residents concerned about climate change, Township Board adopted a resolution to follow the Paris Climate Accord, in 2017 adopted a plan for environmental sustainability to reduce fossil fuel usage,
- October Money magazine issue declared Okemos (#1) and Haslett (#16) among best places to live, Supervisors opinion that Meridian could be ranked in the top 5 places to live in Michigan

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Treasurer Deschaine moved to amend Agenda moving the discussion on the Okemos Road Bridge from 12F to 12A. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

A. Communications

Clerk Dreyfus 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 Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Minutes – October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Bills

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Common Cash		\$	969,028.24
Public Works		\$	575,131.87
Trust & Agency		\$	125,326.57
	Total Checks	\$	1,669,486.68
Credit Card Transactions		\$	15,377.42
Oct 10th - Oct 30th			
	Total Purchases	\$	<u>1,684,864.10</u>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>1,185,576.02</u>

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 - 0

D. Ratification of New Paramedic/Firefighter Appointments

Clerk Dreyfus moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Tyler McNalley to Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 - 0

E. Treasurer’s Report-Phil Deschaine

- 2019 Tax Collections & Distributions
- Delinquent Personal Property Tax Collections & Totals
- Fixed & Non-Fixed INVESTMENTS

F. Downtown Development Authority & Planning Commission Appointments

Clerk Dreyfus moved to rescind the prior appointments made by Supervisor Styka and approve appointment of Amber Clark to the Planning Commission for a term ending 12/31/2020 and Tom Stanko to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 12/31/2020. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

- Correcting errors made at previous Board meeting, terms of appointment were incorrect

G. Newton Road Water Tower Attachment Agreement

Clerk Dreyfus moved to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Nonexclusive Water Tower Attachment Agreement between the Charter Township of Meridian and the Board of Water and Light of the City of Lansing as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 - 0

H. Additions to the Tax Roll

Clerk Dreyfus moved to assess the charges identified in the staff memorandum with parcel identification available in the Treasurer’s Office dated November 5, 2019 for Delinquent Special Assessments, Utility Bills, False Alarms, Nuisance, Lot Mowing/Code Violation, and Misc. Fees 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, 58-33, 78-98, 78-155, 46-5, 82-27, 18-1 and 18-15”. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS (CANARY)

12. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)

A. Okemos Road Bridge Replacement

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the single bridge option be formally communicated to the Ingham County Road Department as the preferred option for the Okemos Road Bridge Replacement project by the Charter Township of Meridian. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Derek Perry noted that the adjacent property owner was contacted regarding potential purchase of property, and that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) expressed concerns for potential impact on a park.

William (Bill) Conklin, Ingham County Road Department Manager: reviewed the preferred alternative: no right-of-way acquisition, no impacts on parks and minimal on adjacent property, singular bridge is in public right-away, green space provided along roadside, northbound sidewalk, driveway into park relocated and improved safety, guardrail concerns, raising roadway to allow non-motorized trail underneath the bridge connecting the two parks, ingress and egress from the parks involving left and right turns, traffic stacking patterns, standardized lane width on bridges is 11 feet, Federal government standards, pedestrian width is 8 feet which is larger than 7 foot Township pathway system.

Board discussion: single bridge vs. 2 bridge option, turn lanes into parks from both directions, pavement striping, lane width and speed/safety concerns; width of north bound pedestrian pathway; safety of 7 ft v. 11 ft shared use path on each side of the road, guard rail for bicyclists & pedestrian activity, funding for aesthetics, arch-type feature at bridge entrances could have plants/greenery, permit requirements for banners, Consumers Energy input on burying power lines.

Request for staff to contact Ingham County and others to provide the Board with additional information regarding issues raised during discussion including design issues.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Trash Receptacle Ordinance – **Introduction**

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve for introduction the resolution amending Chapter 46, Section 46-2 to establish regulations for the placement and storage of trash and recycling receptacles. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: Reduced fines, fines are lenient, modeled on City of St. Joseph ordinance, East Lansing considered more stringent ordinance.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Amendment to Truck Route Ordinance for Hamilton Road – **Introduction**

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the resolution for introduction of the amendment to Chapter 74, Article I, Section 74-3(c)(4) to designate westbound Hamilton Road from Marsh Road to Okemos Road as a truck route and classified for truck traffic. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Board discussion: Transportation Commission recommended approval – limit trucks to only westbound traffic, impact on traffic circle, traffic controls support new downtown development.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

D. Update to Land Division Ordinance – **Introduction**

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the resolution for introduction of the amendment to Chapter 62, Articles IV and V, Sections 62-94 and 62-123 to be consistent with the requirements of the State Land Division Act. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Board discussion: House Bill 4055 addresses issue of unpaid property taxes, amending Township ordinance to be in compliance with state law.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

E. Lake Lansing Advisory Committee Appointment

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Susan Andrews to the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee for a term ending 12/31/2021. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: Memo by Clerk Dreyfus and sent to Supervisor Styka, lists vacant and expired Boards and Commissions, number of applicants for each public body, needed at year end.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

F. Revised Millage Rate

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the amended 2020 Budget Resolution. Supported by Trustee Opsommer.

Board discussion: 1.3% bond rate instead of 1.6%, additional funds available for roads due to lower interest rate, money going for street improvement and not administrative fees, mileage rate the same as on ballot – 1.94 mills. Didn’t get AAA Bond Rating, but got highly favorable rate anyway. Trustee Jackson summarized intent of amendment – adding bond revenue to 2020 Budget because it was not considered in the original budget, Treasurer Deschaine noted revenue coming into Township around Nov. 19 and issuing RFP for financial institution to hold funds while street improvements are implemented. Clerk Dreyfus suggestion to clarify motions so public can better understand Board actions, recommended adding language in the future which enhances transparency and creates a more detailed public record.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)

A. Ordinance Prohibiting Animal Sales at Pet Stores

Board discussion: cats not addressed in state law, issue: breeding of dogs on mass quantity leading to inhumane treatment/puppy mills, Michigan looking at banning dogs sales at pet stores, Michigan Public Act 287 regulates pet stores and licensing of sales on animals, SB 419 introduced to regulate shelters, some large pet retail chain stores have tried to get state legislature to ban municipalities from adopting these ordinances, belief that adopting these ordinances asserts local control and signifies alliance with animal rights organizations such as Capital Area Humane Society, City of Novi adopted ordinance because of

percentage of pets dying when taken home, stores lying about dog’s pedigree, pets getting sick from breeders/transportation/environment/ facility, adopting ordinance reinforces value of humane treatment of dogs, no toll booth to check for dogs illegally traversing state lines, animals without records because pet stores accept walk-in rescues, goal of stopping puppy mills and unnecessary euthanasia, need for animal adoption, pure bred availability in shelters, retail business concerns/freedom of marketplace, philosophical shift to deal with dog overpopulation through adoption, some rescue organizations and private shelters may be used as a front for the puppy mill industry, acquiring animals illegally, concerns about unnecessary ordinance that may have unintended consequences, over-regulating and not solving real issue, need more information about shelters, State of Michigan may regulate private shelters.

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

B. Ingham County / City of East Lansing Cat Ordinance

Board discussion: City of East Lansing (EL) stray cats ordinance, adopted in 2005, word “stray” is not defined, practical enforcement difficulties include definition of “readily accessible place,” EL ordinance appears unenforceable, does not address Township’s concern with feeding of feral cats, passing County Commissioner Grebner’s cat ordinance not recommended/not conducive to humane treatment, possible solutions include cat colonies relocated to barns/trap, neuter, release/taking care of cats during winter; Meridian Township pet ownership ordinance same as EL: no more than a combination of 4 dogs/cats unless special use permit to keep up to 10 if in Rural Residential district, trespass of private property handled by police department, handling of illegal feeding of “wild” animals by Conservation officers, animal control treated as a county issue.

No board consensus and will not be put back on the agenda unless two board members ask for it.

C. Multiple Family Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Director Buck noted similarity of 2018 concept plan similar to Newton Park rental development, single family carriage homes, Township has 4 multifamily designation – only RDD allows for single family units. Staff wants Township Board to initiate zoning ordinance that mirrors single family provision in the RD, RC, RCC zoning districts.

Board discussion: Staff noted concerns over density in Newton Park, growth of community, importance of vision, long-term sustainability planning, effects of zoning in relation to different types of multi-family units/density levels/w/special use permits, intent of amendment is not to change density, the multi-family homes have to be attached units not standalone, various zoning requirements, comparison with RB zoning.

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 9:05 pm.

Holly Thoms, 2100 N. Michigan Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827, Spay & Neuter Clinic Director, Capital Area Humane Society; spoke on Home Depot cats, free program to spay and neuter stray cats.

Brenda Laukert, 2067 La Mer Lane, Haslett MI 48840; spoke on Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) program implementation, need to protect outdoor and feral cats during harsh weather.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 9:11 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK