

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015 **2:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus (2:00 P.M.), Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy (6:00 P.M.), Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Human Resources Director Joyce Marx, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Principal Planner Gail Oranchak (6:00 P.M.), Township Attorney John Dewane

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor LeGoff called the meeting to order at 1:59 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. INTERVIEWS FOR TOWNSHIP LEGAL SERVICES

Trustee Styka summarized the process to be used for interviewing the four (4) law firms who were selected as finalists from a field of nine (9) applicants. Each candidate was asked the following 15 questions:

1. Please tell us briefly about your firm and introduce your team. Who will be considered to be our township attorney and their back-up? Describe their expertise/experience.
2. Who are your top 3 municipal clients and how long have you served them as city/township attorney?
3. How would you describe Meridian Township to someone who has never visited here?
4. Are there any current or potential conflicts of interest that would preclude your firm or the attorneys to be assigned from serving as township attorney?
5. To your knowledge, has your firm ever participated in legal action against Meridian Township? If yes, please provide more details.
6. Has your firm, or any attorney within your firm, advocated for or against any specific township ordinances or statewide policies or laws that affect townships? If so, how would your firm handle discussions and actions taken by the township board that may be contrary to the positions or viewpoints advocated by your firm?
7. Please tell us about the last time you had a conflict or disagreement with a client and how it was resolved.
8. Our former township counsel held office hours in our building on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If requested, are you able to do that? Do you believe it is beneficial to hold regular office hours on site at the township? Why or why not?
9. Do you recommend having the township legal counsel attend township board meetings? Please explain.
10. Does your firm have expertise in handling tax appeals, property/code violations, and major zoning disputes? Please elaborate.

11. Describe your experience with clients' employee handbooks and the training of clients' employees in litigation avoidance - including sexual harassment, retaliation, and whistleblowing.
12. Are there areas of law for which the township would have to hire special counsel because your firm does not have the necessary expertise? How would you determine that such is the case?
13. Please tell us about a legal matter that you handled for a community that did not turn out as expected.
14. Please summarize your retainer and what is and is not covered under the retainer?
15. In summary, please tell us why your firm is the right choice for Meridian Township.

A. Clark Hill

1. Kenneth Lane and Charles Lawler presented on behalf of Clark Hill Law Firm and offered the following responses:
 - Clark Hill is a full service law firm
 - 300 attorneys in 12 offices throughout the country
 - Four (4) offices in Michigan: Lansing, Grand Rapids, Birmingham and Detroit
 - Specialize in every aspect of law
 - Firm has an education and municipal law group which specializes in public sector clients
 - Attorneys who would represent Meridian Township:
 - Ken Lane would be designated our Township Attorney as he has exclusively practiced municipal law at the firm for the last 7-½ years
 - Charlie Lawler's areas of expertise are municipal litigation and finance
 - Steve Girard's areas of expertise are municipal labor and employment
 - Mark McInerney would be Mr. Lane's backup
 - Jim Crowley & Doug Kelly's areas of expertise are park and municipal financing
 - Charles Lawler, Jenice Mitchell Ford and Brian Lick would provide assistance with municipal litigation
 - Mike Pattwell and Ron King's area of expertise is environmental law (water and sewer issues)
2. Top three municipal clients:
 - City of Otsego
 - City of Greenville
 - Village of Sparta
3. Ken & Charles are both Meridian Township residents who believe Meridian Township has a sense of place. They described the Township as having great school systems, with city amenities in a rural setting
4. Does not believe so, but firm does represent the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC). Mr. Lane indicated the ICDC would be willing to sign a waiver in the event there was an adversarial legal position between the two entities.
5. No.
6. The law firm conducts a conflict check twice a day; does not believe any colleague has taken a position adverse to Meridian Township or to the township form of government.
7. Litigation did not go the way it was anticipated; if a mistake was made any missteps can be rectified without billing the client.
8. The attorney will hold regular office hours as it is beneficial and part of practicing municipal law well is learning the personalities of the community you represent.
9. Legal counsel should attend board meetings as the firm can't represent the client well without seeing the personalities of Board members and its residents as well as the issues facing the Township.

10. Yes, Ingrid Jensen represents a number of municipalities at the Tax Tribunal and the Court of Appeals on tax appeals. Mr. Lane would handle zoning issues. Mr. Lane would handle code compliance; he was staff attorney to the City of Lansing's code compliance office.
11. Steve Girard has drafted several employee handbooks and performed onsite training with employees on protocol contained in the handbook. There are several other members of the firm who are qualified to draft handbooks.
12. Clark Hill members can handle all aspects of the law. In the rare event they did not have expertise in a highly specialized area, the firm would make a recommendation to another firm.
13. A community represented by the firm agreed to place infrastructure for a multi phased mixed use planned unit development project; the market crashed and the developer subsequently filed for bankruptcy. Several of the property owners in that development were receiving special assessments and those special assessments were challenged. In researching the history of the project, it was discovered the local unit of government had not followed proper procedure and the special assessments were invalidated.
14. The retainer of \$7,000 per month would include general municipal work as well as "in house" days and attendance at all Board meetings. The retainer would not include municipal financing, civil litigation and bankruptcy collection (tax collection assistance).
15. Clark Hill is uniquely qualified in that the team put together has handled every aspect of municipal law. The firm has represented clients of similar size and makeup, which would save the Township money through not having to "reinvent the wheel" regarding research on common issues. Clark Hill is the oldest law firm in the state who gives back to the community through involvement in community service projects. Many of the attorneys in the firm are residents of Meridian Township.

Board and attorney discussion:

- All attorneys in the firm have been placed on notice the firm is cultivating a relationship with the Township relative to representation which may be adversarial to Meridian
- Mr. Lane is special counsel to the City of Lansing for two pension systems and reviewed a development agreement for the City of East Lansing as a third party
- City of East Lansing – one development agreement

B. Plunkett Cooney

1. David Otis, Philip Erickson, Rhonda Stowers and Audrey Forbush presented on behalf of Plunkett Cooney and offered the following responses:
 - Firm is based in Bloomfield Hills, with 140 lawyers in offices throughout Michigan, Columbus, OH and Indianapolis, IN
 - Mr. Otis and Mr. Erickson practice out of their East Lansing office
 - All four presenters have considerable experience in municipal law
 - All offices have lawyers with expertise in municipal law
 - Firm has experience in all forms of litigation, criminal and civil prosecution
 - Mr. Erickson, a resident of Meridian Township, will serve as Township attorney in the day to day operation and hold offices hours at the Township
2. Top three municipal clients:
 - City of Lansing federal litigation (20 years)
 - City of Eaton Rapids (12-14 years)
 - Village of Clinton (7-8 years)
 - Mr. Otis represented Meridian Township through the Michigan Municipal League insurance pool for 20 years and understands how the Township works

3. Mr. Otis described Meridian Township as a vibrant, conscientious, thoughtful community concerned with its well being in terms of educational systems, infrastructure, neighborhoods, growth patterns and quality of its governance.
 4. No perceived conflict at this time.
 5. No. The firm has a policy against commencing legal action against a municipality.
 6. No, cannot think of an issue as the firm does not engage in lobbying.
 7. When there is a dispute, it must be articulated in writing by both parties and the conclusion to the dispute must be in the form of a written understanding. Township, as the client, is the final decision maker.
 8. The firm committed to hold office hours in the Municipal Building as it is beneficial. The firm expressed a desire for structure as to whom the attorney is available and expected tasks accomplished. Staffing of hours would be dependent, in part, on the types of services the Township wants during those hours. Accessibility is a key issue for the Township and the East Lansing office is four (4) miles away. Technology of the firm allows for instant access to all of the firm's documents regardless of the attorney's location. Attorneys are available on the weekend in the event it is needed.
 9. Over the years, fewer municipalities decide to pay for having counsel at every meetings. The firm will have an attorney attend Board meetings if needed. If it is found over a period of time, the need has lessened, attendance can be scaled back accordingly.
 10. Mr. Otis referred to the major zoning disputes he has handled for Meridian Township in the past. Both Mr. Otis and Mr. Erickson handle tax appeals for Michigan municipalities. Mr. Erickson is regularly involved in code enforcement issues for other municipalities.
 11. Ms. Forbush stated she has helped write handbooks, updated handbooks and provided handbooks for clients, adding that the Bloomfield Hills' office houses a large employment practice staff. Ms. Forbush provides training throughout the state.
 12. In the area of bonding indebtedness or taxation, the firm would advise the Township to seek bond counsel (Tax Tribunal cases are excluded).
 13. The firm handled a major piece of zoning litigation for the City of Frankenmuth (interest in land along a narrow commercial corridor by a big box development). Prior to any land purchase, the city enacted a square foot limitation on building size in the specific zoning district. A lawsuit was filed by the owner of the property, alleging the city interfered in the potential transaction with the big box development, where the case was lost in a jury trial, set aside by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and lost at the second trial.
 14. The submitted proposal laid out a rate structure of \$175/hour for general matters; \$150/hour for criminal and ordinance prosecution and \$225/hour for complex matters. Upon request, an addendum was submitted indicating \$4,500/month for stated retainer duties.
 15. The law firm has a history with Meridian Township over the last 20 years; developing an understanding of the issues experienced by the Township and means to effectuate the Township's goals. He noted the easy digital interaction between the law firm and the Township which is a pragmatic approach to being fiscally responsible.
- C. Thrun Law Firm
1. Gordon Van Wieren, President, Jessica Walker, Michael Gresens and David Revore presented on behalf of Thrun Law Firm and offered the following responses:
 - Thrun is a public sector law firm (municipalities and school districts) founded in 1946

- Firm employs 29 attorneys with the main office in East Lansing and 3 other offices throughout the state
 - Firm represents approximately 500 school districts and municipalities in Michigan
 - Firm has represented Meridian Township in the past
 - Ms. Walker specializes in ordinance enforcement
 - Mr. Gresens is a finance attorney with expertise in bond law and elections law
 - Mr. Revore has extensive experience with the Michigan Tax Tribunal and also has expertise in ordinance enforcement
 - Thrun acted as bond counsel for Meridian Township in the 1990s
 - Mr. Van Wieren will act as the lead attorney for Meridian Township, but will use a team approach dependent on the area
2. Top three (3) municipal clients:
 - Lansing Township (clients since the 1950s)
 - Delta Township (clients since the late 1960s)
 - Delhi & DeWitt Township (represented both Townships for several years)
 3. Mr. Van Wieren has been a Meridian Township resident for 32 years because it is a thriving community with impressive school systems and a wonderful park system. He noted staff of the Township is professional and easy to work with.
 4. No known conflicts as the law firm does not represent property owners or private sector clients. The law firm has worked on many collaborative and cooperative agreements with school districts and their local units of government and is unaware of any situation where two clients have been involved in the same law suit.
 5. Members of the firm are unaware of any participation in action against Meridian Township
 6. Members of the firm are unaware of advocating for or against ordinances which affect townships. If there was a conflict, the firm's policy is to approach clients first to work toward resolution.
 7. Members of the firm would meet with the client if the client is not listening to legal advice; policy matters would be advanced if a good faith argument can be made.
 8. Members of the firm would be available for office hours as a way to vet issues and provide proactive advice. Office hours provide a face-to-face venue to deal with issues first hand
 9. Experience has shown it is not in the client's financial interest to have legal representation at all Board meetings. Members of the firm would be available to attend for specific issues, even on short notice. The firm would be willing to have office hours and attend Board meetings on a trial basis to see if it is necessary, dependent upon projects/issues taking place. One option would be to invite the attorney to staff meetings to address issues in lieu of attending Board meeting.
 10. The firm has extensive experience with the Michigan Tax Tribunal, mostly commercial property; firms with conflicts seek Thrun out to handle tax appeal at the Tribunal on their behalf. One member of the firm has extensive experience with zoning ordinance violations (e.g., blight). The firm handled a significant zoning dispute within the last year on behalf of Bath Township.
 11. A member of the law firm does labor work, the firm is active in assisting municipalities with formulating policies and procedures in handbooks and Board policies. comport with cba. The firm is available to assist in ensuring the handbook complies with Board policy, policies and procedures and collective bargaining agreements. The firm has experience in developing performance improvement plans and separation agreements.

12. Thrun law firm does not handle worker's compensation claims, pension profit sharing or any employee benefits.
13. As special counsel on a tax matter for specialized commercial property, one client was not happy with the settlement, despite the validity of the appraised value of the land. It is important to lay out early in the process what may happen during litigation.
14. Thrun law firm is not in favor of paying a retainer as experience shows that billing on an hourly basis is the best for both the client and the law firm. A list of current clients who favor hourly billing was offered to be provided. Any amount in excess of \$200 billed for the computerized legal research will be discussed before the research commences. In addition, there are computerized accounting mechanisms on the photocopying machines which indicate the number of pages to be charged at .20 per copy, excluding those in the area of finance. The submitted proposal laid out a rate structure of \$190 per hour for a shareholder attorney and \$150 per hour for an associate attorney.
15. Thrun law firm is unique in that election and finance work are done in house, and the firm has either drafted or assisted the legislature in revising many statutes regarding Michigan election and finance law. The law firm's representation of school districts benefits the Township in its ability to facilitate cooperative agreements between the two. The firm noted in the last 30 years, there has not been a conflict between a school district and municipality which resulted in litigation.

D. Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

1. Steve Schultz, Bill Fahey, Helen "Lizzy" Mills, presented on behalf of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes and offered the following responses:
 - Steve Schultz will be the lead attorney and specializes in labor employment matters
 - Bill Fahey will be Mr. Schultz' "backup"
 - Lizzy Mills specializes in labor and employment matters and has already provided her expertise to Meridian Township
 - Mark Burzych specializes in liquor licensing and controlled beverage matters, and is a commercial litigator
 - Steve Koski specializes in ordinance prosecution, code enforcement issues and FOIA matters
 - Ross Bower specializes in Tax Tribunal matters and has done so for many municipalities throughout Michigan
 - Chris Patterson specializes in bankruptcy issues
2. Top three (3) municipal clients:
 - Howell Township (25 years)
 - Flint Charter Township (15 years)
 - City of Fenton (15 years)
3. Meridian Township is a great community which has everything an individual would want (parks, lakes, rivers, natural areas, shopping, fine dining, fine school systems, proximity to a major university, world headquarters for major corporations). The assets offered by Meridian Township was the reason it was selected as home for this law firm.
4. No conflicts of interest with the Township as the firm specializes in municipal law. As a principle of the firm, it would not take on matters which would be adverse to the interest of the Township.
5. Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes represented a client at Meridian Township's Board of Review, considered to be an administrative proceeding. The law firm has not been involved in any litigation against Meridian Township.

6. Yes, the firm has advocated for a position which the Board chose not to follow. The firm's focus would be to give advice on the best course of action, but the Board ultimately determines policy. It is the firm's job to find a way, if possible, to help the Township set that policy.
7. While the firm may disagree with a particular position taken, but as the client the Township decides what is the best policy. In the event the firm was requested to do something illegal, the law firm would withdraw from the case.
8. The law firm acknowledges office hours are probably beneficial, but not when balanced against the cost. The firm is located within a 4-1/2 minute drive of the Municipal Building. It is believed setting a time for staff to call with questions makes more sense, as it is not cost effective to pay legal fees for an attorney to sit in a Township office if not needed. Set times can be created for meeting with departments heads at the Municipal Building to discuss pertinent issues.
9. No. It is believed the best approach is to attend if there is an issue on the agenda, recommending placement of that item at the beginning of the agenda where it can be handled and then the attorney can leave.
10. The firm is active in tax appeals since the firm was established in 2008. Mr. Bower represents municipalities across the state in this area. Mr. Fahey has been involved in zoning issues for several years, representing townships across the state. He taught zoning at Cooley Law School for nearly a decade. A number of townships have hired the law firm exclusively for zoning counsel. The firm specializes in code enforcement ordinance prosecution and has developed procedures and processes for staff of its clients to enable them to handle matters at the municipal civil infraction level.
11. Ms. Mills and Ms. Schultz do extensive work in revising, reviewing, and providing handbooks. They believe this is a starting place for managing personnel matters. The firm follows up with training to ensure employment matters are properly handled for optimal productivity and to avoid litigation. Mr. Schultz has taught the Township Governance Academy course on Personnel Policies and Personnel Matters for the Michigan Townships Association for more than a decade.
12. Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes does not serve as bond counsel to any municipality as there is a need for township counsel and bond counsel to be separate. The law firm handles all other aspects of municipal law.
13. Mr. Schultz argued a case for Unadilla Township many years ago relative to a fenced in softball field which was torn down by an 85-year old resident. The firm did not win in jury trial at district court, learning there is more than just facts in a case, as other factors of the community need to be taken into consideration.
14. A retainer was not included in the original proposal, but a figure of \$5,000/month was provided through an addendum when requested. Mr. Schultz suggested monitoring the retainer cost for a year and adjust accordingly. Civil litigation would be outside of the retainer. When the firm was established, overhead fees were included in designated costs.
15. Meridian Township is the community in which all the lawyer's live and are invested. The attorneys believe their law firm is the best choice as they teach other attorneys how to be municipal lawyers and teach municipal officials how to do their job.

Board and attorney discussion:

- Mr. Fahey worked at Foster Swift for ten (10) years performing work with and for Meridian Township
- Foster Swift was Meridian Township's legal counsel for decades

Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 4:55 P.M.

Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of Promoted Fire Department Team Members – Fire Captain Matthew Walters, Fire Lieutenant Jeffrey Rommeck, and Full-Time Firefighter Rebeckajo Lewis

Fire Chief Cowper summarized the background of each candidate and introduced newly promoted Fire Captain Matthew Walters, Fire Lieutenant Jeffrey Rommeck, and Full-Time Firefighter Rebeckajo Lewis

B. Introduction of New Police Officer – Officer Brian Dow

Police Chief Hall summarized Mr. Dow’s background and then introduced new police officer Brian Dow.

C. Mayor Nathan Triplett, City of East Lansing – Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA)
Mayor Triplett stated that to date, both Michigan State University and Delta Township have formally communicated to the GLTA a desire to be incorporated into the Authority’s jurisdiction, and Delhi Township will formally join effective May 19, 2015. He noted an amendment to the funding component of the Municipal Partnership Agreement has been proposed to indicate any deficit would be divided solely between the City of Lansing and the City of East Lansing. Mayor Triplett suggested Meridian Township pass a resolution to join the Authority contingent upon the adoption of the amendment to the Municipal Partnership Agreement. He reiterated the primary benefit of membership now is a “seat at the table” when decisions are being made relative to detailed regulations for the licensing and regulation of taxi cabs within the region. He availed himself for any Board questions.

Board discussion:

- Inquiry as to how the GLTA will regulate companies like Uber
- GLTA will mandate 13 minimum requirements in its articles of incorporation for all ride sharing companies
- One factor to establish the GLTA is to make taxis more accessible
- The minimum age requirement of 21 for a taxi driver will raise the level of fleet professionalism and promote public safety
- Most of the regulations will be determined by the GLTA Board of Directors
- One objective is to make taxis available as often as possible through the requirement that companies’ have at least one (1) operable vehicles 24 hours per day, 7 days a week
- Two agencies with non-voting ex-officio seat on the GLTA Board will be the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Capital Region Airport Authority
- Direction will move away from the Airport Authority independently licensing cabs and the GLTA will assume that responsibility
- Likelihood of a supplemental fee to operate on the airport’s premises
- Main objective to have one uniform standard
- Concern with each company being required to have three (3) cabs
- History in East Lansing shows the individual/single car entities currently present the most challenges
- Three (3) cab minimum was derived through discussions among the cities, cab companies and law enforcement regarding safety measures
- Cab companies in East Lansing have already begun the reorganization process where one person/one vehicle companies are combining/merging with their colleagues to form companies which meet the 24 hours per day, 7 days a week requirement for operation
- Process for the GLTA to handle civil litigation and civil liability
- Civil litigation costs would be borne by the City of Lansing and City of East Lansing
- Board member request for data relative to arrests for unlicensed cab drivers

- Board member request for data comparing arrests for unlicensed v. licensed cab drivers
- Information would need to be requested from each jurisdiction for a complete picture
- Necessity of having regular safety inspections of cabs

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Patrick Cannon, 1769 Pine Creek Circle, Haslett, Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board appointee, spoke in support of the resolution urging the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to appropriate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds (\$2 million) for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Mark Clouse, George Eyde Family, LLC, 4660 S. Hagadorn Road, Suite 660, East Lansing, spoke in support of Rezoning #15020. He addressed Board concerns voiced at the last Board meeting regarding the proposed rezoning to commercial, despite its inconsistency with the Master Plan. Mr. Clouse stated the Planning Commission voted 7-1 to approve the rezoning request.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, announced a public forum will be hosted by the Planning Commission on May 21st at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Room regarding the Master Plan. He noted it is the desire of the Commission to receive as much public input as possible. Mr. Bowlby reported the Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) has rescheduled its regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month to Wednesday, May 20th. He expressed concern with some language contained in the amendment to the Vegetation Ordinance and posed several questions regarding the vendor ordinance.

Mayor Nathan Triplett noted the approach by East Lansing relative to CMAQ funding for the BRT is similar to the language contained in the resolution provided in staff memorandum labeled 13E. He voiced support for the resolution.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

A. Clerk Dreyfus – Election Results

Clerk Dreyfus presented unofficial voting results from the May 5th Special Election as follows:

- Of Meridian Township's 29,070 voters, 5,606 voted at the polls, while 3,185 voted absentee for a total of 8,791 votes cast (30.24% voter turnout)
- Proposal 1 received 5,291 no votes and 3,500 yes votes in Meridian Township
- Williamston School District's Community School Proposal passed in Precinct 7 with 71 yes votes and 51 no votes

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the April 29th Regular Meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission where the expectation was announced that Sun Country airline will discontinue air service at the Lansing Capital Region International Airport in November of 2014, determined to be one-half of the passenger volume out of the airport. He indicated the presenter stated the airport will likely face a loss of most or all of its scheduled passenger air service.

Trustees Scales reported that he, Trustee Veenstra and Trustee Wilson attended a forum on May 6th on "What's Next after the Failure of Proposition 1." He attended a forum with Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie and Trustees Veenstra and Wilson at Michigan State University where a presentation was given by engineering students for an eco-sensitive redesign of the Haslett Village Square. Trustee Scales noted the presentation was made in an effort to give local businesses and local community leaders ideas on redeveloping the Haslett area.

Trustee Styka announced that May is Older Americans month and urged qualified residents to take advantage of the programs offered by the Meridian Senior Center. He reported that all school districts within the Township are currently working on their budgets to meet the July 1, 2015 deadline, including collaborations (food service, fiscal management, etc.) to save money. Trustee

Styka announced the results of the AT&T audit (as reported at yesterday's Cable Commission meeting) was that AT&T owed \$12,000 to Meridian Township. He added the Communications staff is currently in the process of compiling a request for proposal (RFP) for the Township's website. Trustee Styka reported on the success of the Township's April 25th Recycling Event, with 485 cars recycling 6,880 pounds of metal, 25,947 pounds of electronic equipment and appliances, 1,620 pounds of glass, etc.

Clerk Dreyfus indicated based upon input from a Board member, the Application for Public Service was changed to signify there is no residency requirement for Economic Development Corporation (EDC) members. He reported his attendance at this morning's EDC meeting this morning where discussion took place on the Planning Commission's public input session for the Master Plan on May 21st and the future of the MARC. Clerk Dreyfus announced the EDC voted to compensate Marsha Madle for consulting services to the MARC. He stated the LEAP grant, the business incubation program, the \$1,500 contribution to Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event and the Entrepreneurial Institute of Michigan (EIM) were all discussed.

Clerk Dreyfus remarked on a comment made by Treasurer Brixie at the April 21st Board meeting regarding her offer to meet during business hours with individual Board members to discuss Township interest rates (that it receives on deposits) and general Township investment strategies. The Clerk expressed concerns with transparency and open government because, to his recollection, the Board and general public have never received a report or presentation from the Treasurer regarding specific Township investment strategies. The Clerk recommended Meridian Township's investment strategy be public knowledge and shared freely with the Board and taxpayers in an open session of the Board during the Treasurer's next quarterly report.

Treasurer Brixie responded that her offer was an attempt to avoid a protracted discussion during board comment. She added she would be happy to explain her investment strategy during the next quarterly treasurer's report. Treasurer Brixie expressed her appreciation for the presentations at the MSU Design Day, acknowledging Township resident Dr. Susan Masten's use of Meridian Township as the example for her students. She congratulated Trustee Scales as a congressional district honoree at the Jefferson Jackson dinner to be held May 9th at Cobo Hall. Treasurer Brixie announced Meridian Township will have the ability to collaborate with Ingham County and its Treasurer in removing some blight at the corner of Lake Drive and Marsh Road.

Trustee Scales addressed comments made at the last Board meeting by a citizen who mischaracterized the Board's goals and objectives. He noted the citizen wrote a letter of apology to the Board and read an excerpt of that apology.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Styka moved to approve the agenda revised as follows:

- **Addition of Agenda Item #13E: Bus Rapid Transit Funding**

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1 (Trustee Veenstra).

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

A. Communications

Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Montgomery Nye, 13762 Lawson Road, Grand Ledge; RE: Kirk Schalau's final tones

BI-2 Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Follow-up on his comments made during the April 21, 2015 Board Meeting

BI-3 Klayton F. Fennell, Senior Vice-President, Government Affairs, Comcast, One Comcast Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; RE: Termination of the Comcast/Time Warner Merger

Staff Communications (SC)

SC-1 Martha Wyatt, Associate Planner; RE: Site Plan Review Approvals as of April 30, 2015

On File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Material handed out at the April 21, 2015 Board Meeting

Cliff Van Deusen II, Captain, Grand Ledge Fire Department, 500 N. Clinton Street, Grand Ledge; RE: Final tones for Captain Kirk Schalaus

Randolph L. Bodwin, Bodwin & Associates, P.C., 2970 East Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing; RE: Prosecution Services Contract Proposal

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 Styka.

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

B. Minutes

(1) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the April 7, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

(2) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the April 21, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees 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	\$ 305,675.22
Public Works	\$ 964,358.55
Total Checks	\$ 1,270,033.77
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 17,254.18
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 1,287,287.95</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 398,691.95</u>

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

- D. 2015 Order to Maintain Sidewalks, Special Assessment District No. 16 – **Resolution #3**
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve 2015 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #16, Resolution #3, which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Everett Farms, Everett Farms #2, #3, #4, & #5; Everett Hills; Everett Woods; and Wood Creek Sub, which are located in Section 9, and to defray the cost by special assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$12,525.85; determines the special assessment district; directs the making of an assessment roll; and directs notices be sent to the property owners indicating they have 20 days to replace or make safe the defective sidewalk. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

- E. Outdoor Gathering Permit – Schmidt Amusements
Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Outdoor Assembly License for Schmidt Amusements for a family carnival event from May 28 to June 7, 2015, pending final approval of the site layout from the Community Planning and Development, Engineering, Fire and Police Departments and the Ingham County Health Department. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (See Agenda Item #12A)

- Q. I submitted a question on the vendor ordinance, specifically paragraph 38-124. Does this mean it would be illegal under our ordinance to park a food truck once a week at a site intermittently in excess of 14 days? If I am understanding it correctly, do you recommend, therefore, that we omit the word intermittently?
- A. The permit is good for 120 days as I understand it, which means you can use any 14 days during that period. You could go 14 days consecutively, you could go once a week for 14 weeks or you could go two days on a weekend for seven (7) weekends. You can't go in excess of 14 days whether they are consecutive or whether they're spaced.
- Q. The language of the ordinance says "in excess of 14 days intermittently", and I am really bothered by that word, "intermittently."
- A. That just clarifies that it doesn't have to be 14 days consecutively, it can be 14 days here and there within the license period.

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Carla Clos, Ingham County Drain Commissioner's (ICDC) Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, voiced appreciation for the Board's consideration tonight of the Smith Drain Study. The ICDC is continuing to meet with other municipal stakeholders on the drain. She noted Treasurer Brixie was given an award by the Environmental Commission for her efforts to promote active transportation and tree protection.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered several hypothetical situations which called the eight inch (8”) limitation contained in the proposed vegetation ordinance into question. He suggested some discretion be provided in extenuating circumstances and urged a five (5) business day limitation.

LeRoy McKnight, 6019 Marsh Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the height restriction being reduced to eight inches (8”) in the vegetation ordinance, but requested the three (3) day limitation be increased to five (5) days.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Smith Drain Study

Trustee Veenstra moved to authorize the Township Manager to sign the Agreement for Advance of Money for Drain Work Pursuant to Section 434 of Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as Amended, agreeing to advance up to \$17,500 to the Ingham County Drain Commissioner for a study of the Smith Drain and tributaries. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board and staff discussion:

- Study needed as there has been a great deal of development in the Jolly Road/Okemos Road area and more is proposed
- Concern use of the word “advance” does not provide for return of the up to \$17,500 to the Township
- Preference to use language “to advance up to \$17,500 until receipt of the SAW grant.”

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY COMMENT: Trustee Scales, in condition 2, it provides that if the project posed by the study was to proceed, the Township would get credit. If it doesn’t proceed, it would be reimbursed the \$17,500 from the monies available.

Continued Board discussion:

- Appreciation for articulation of the condition regarding the “advance” as the public does not see condition 2

Individual(s) authorized to sign the agreement: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

Q. The motion authorizes the Township Manager to sign. Do we need to change page 3 of the agreement and put his name on there so he can sign the agreement? On the last page the signatures are for the Supervisor and the Clerk. Should that be changed to the Manager?

A. If you authorize the Manager to do it, then the Manager’s name should be on there.

Board discussion:

- Supervisor is empowered by state law to sign contracts on behalf of the Township
- Inconsistency between the motion and the agreement
- \$17,500 is half of the cost of the study
- Cost of the study is \$35,000
- ICDC is in line for the Stormwater Asset Management (SAW) grant scheduled to be funded in October, 2016

Designation of Signatories: (Questions for the Attorney (See Agenda Item #10))

Q. Are we going to change the actual document itself so the signatory is the Manager, or are we leaving it as is?

A. It should be consistent, whatever you decide to do.

Trustee Scales offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Insert “to be repaid before the end of 2016” at the end of condition #1**

The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the main motion.

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Rezoning #15020 (George F. Eyde Family, LLC) – Rezoning Request for 1614 & 1622 Grand River Avenue and an Undeveloped Parcel on Central Park Drive

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 #15020” PO (Professional and Office) and RA (Single Family, Medium Density) to C-2 (Commercial).

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 Styka.

Board discussion:

- Property is adjacent to a commercial area and it is acceptable to extend the commercial area further east
- Grand River Avenue is a major arterial
- The area is commercial and will remain commercial
- Township is in the process of amending the Master Plan and the Future Land Use Map (FLUM)
- Parcel just north of the smaller parcel north of Panera is zoned RA
- RA zoned parcel is currently undeveloped
- Board member concern with “zone creep”
- Standard PO on the south side of the Township has a higher vacancy rate and Grand River has a higher desirability rate
- Concern the Board is being led by the applicant to rezone all three (3) parcels simultaneously where no urgency exists
- Parcel to the north of Panera may not necessarily tie into the other two parcels contained in this request
- Board member preference to exclude the northern parcel
- Board member belief there will be no zone creep as the properties to the north contain many commercial buildings

Clerk Dreyfus moved to separate the two parcels on Grand River from the parcel to the north to vote separately on the rezoning question. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
Motion failed 3-4.

Continued Board discussion:

- Appropriate for the parcel on Central Park Drive to be zoned C-2
- Residences are much further to the north
- Appropriate for lines to be drawn which separate zoning designations
- Planning Commission recommended the change, noting the Master Plan referred to this area as the commercial core of the Township
- Board member preference for the Planning Commission to update the FLUM prior to the rezoning
- Planning Commission made clear its intention that this area is part of the commercial core of the Township
- Board member preference not to “punish” an applicant for the Township’s lack in having an updated Master Plan

- Board member preference to wait until there is more input from other stakeholders into the Master Plan and the FLUM
- Need for a clear vision of the area prior to rezoning

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 Motion carried 4-3.

C. Vegetation Ordinance Amendment

Trustee Wilson 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 Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 82, Article II, by amending Section 82-6 and Section 82-27.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Issue was brought forth by concerned residents
- Shortening the time frame for correction will aid in mitigating complaints
- Ordinance will address blight in the Township due, in part, to many mortgage foreclosed homes
- Changes were recommended by staff to address shortcomings in our ordinance
- Compromise by the Board of eight (8) inch grass is appropriate
- Ordinance is written for chronic violators
- Staff will administer exceptions to the ordinance based on circumstances
- Code enforcement will be managed by staff with common sense
- Board member preference to allow seven (7) days for compliance as a number of variables are being changed simultaneously within the ordinance
- Possible compromise of five (5) days as it is one work week

Trustee Styka offered the following amendment:

- **Amend Section 82-27 by inserting “Township business” after “three” (3) and before “days”**

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Continued Board discussion:

- Three business days will be more like seven (7) or eight (8) as the process unfolds
- The current seven (7) days has translated into 13 or 14 days before the grass was cut

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

Continued Board discussion:

- Board member belief the real problem is four (4) foot high weeds

ROLL CALLVOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer
 ON THE MAIN Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

MOTION: NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 6-1.

D. Kinawa Drive Safety Improvements

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve recommended safety improvements to Kinawa Drive adjacent to Chippewa Middle School to include:

Replacement of 500 feet of sidewalk with the estimated cost of \$25,000 to be equally shared with Okemos Public Schools

Reduce two crosswalks to one

Install a street light at the crosswalk, cost to be paid for by the Township

Install a Crosswalk Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon with caution signage at the estimated cost of \$24,000 to be equally shared with Okemos Public Schools

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Board discussion:

- Improvements are important as there have been injuries along Kinawa Drive
- Compromise will build safety along Kinawa Drive

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Vendor Ordinance Amendment

Police Chief Hall summarized the proposed changes as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 30, 2015.

Treasurer Brixie 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 Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 38, Article IV, Division 1, by amending Sections 38-121, 38-122, 38-123, 38-124, 38-125 and 38-126; and Chapter 38, Article IV, Division 2, Sections 38-151, 38-155 38-156 and 38-158.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Previous version did not indicate a time limit
- Wording was changed to allow one freestanding sign to address the ice cream truck
- Setback requirement was clarified
- Wording changed on the \$500 cash bond
- Clarification on the licensing fee
- Township attorney was involved in the drafting of the proposed amendment
- Scope of people covered to require registration was greatly increased by deleting “merchandise” and inserting “goods and/or services”

Trustee Veenstra offered the following amendment:

- **Amend Section 38-124 by deleting “the conduct of”**
Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie
 Motion failed 2-5.

Trustee Scales called the question. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus
 Motion failed 4-3. (super majority required)

Continued Board member discussion:

- Limitation of one free standing sign would preclude a vendor located on the corner from having a sign on each street
- Board member belief that the 20 foot setback requirement for the sign is “unworkable”
- Board member belief the only exception provided in Section 38-151 for selling goods on one’s own property is home grown produce and would make garage sale “illegal”
- Reminder that the exception language has been in existence for many years and there has not been a problem with garage sales

ROLL CALLVOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 ON THE MAIN MOTION: NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 6-1.

F. 2015 Local Roads Committee Recommendations

Trustee Veenstra moved to approve the proposed list of roads to be resurfaced in 2015 as follows:

Section	Street	From	To	Length (ft)
8	Highgate Ave	Colony	Lake Lansing Road	2,500
8	Patriots Way	Still Valley	Lake Lansing Road	2,420
10	Bois Isle Drive	Haslett Road	Lake Lansing Road	3,650
17	Wardcliff Drive	S end	Heather	1,810
20	Comanche Drive	Mt. Hope Road	Sequoia Trail	600
21	Ottawa Drive	Chippewa	Nakoma	1,330
21	Woodcraft Drive	Arrowhead	Ottawa	1,330
22, 27	Manitou Drive	Birchwood	Hamilton	4,315
25	Victorian Hills Drive	Chimney Oaks Dr	Meridian Road	1,620
25	Chimney Oaks Drive	W of Turnberry Lane	Meridian Road	2,350
28	Maumee Dr	Apache Drive	E end	200

29	Comanche Dr	Copperhill	Mt. Hope Road	1,340
35	Scenic Lake Ct	Ponderosa	S end	295
35	Trails End Ct	Bonanza	S end	1,008
			Totals	24,768
			Total Miles	4.69

Seconded by Trustee Scales.

Board and staff discussion:

- Appreciation to Trustee Scales and staff for their work on this issue

ROLL CALLVOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Brent Forsberg, 2422 Jolly Road, Okemos, highlighted changes to Rezoning #15010 as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 30, 2015. He noted the approximate six acre RR zoned portion fronting Kansas Street has been removed from the project.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, reminded Board members they are discussing the rezoning of a parcel of property contained in Rezoning #15010, not the type of development proposed for the site.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

Supervisor LeGoff recessed the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Supervisor LeGoff reconvened the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

- A. Rezoning #15010 (Forsberg Family, LLC) – Rezoning Request for Approximately 39.46 Acres
Principal Planner Oranchak summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 30, 2015.

Board discussion:

- RD zoning designation has a maximum of eight (8) dwelling units per acre
- Other multi-family zoning designations are RC (14 du/acre) and RDD (5 du/acre)
- One dwelling unit can have up to four (4) bedrooms
- Board member belief it is inappropriate to have multi-family near industrial zoning
- Nearest industrially zoned parcel in the vicinity is the lawn mower repair facility on Jolly Road located to the south and west of the subject site
- Inquiry if the use of a lawn mower repair facility is allowed in a commercial zoning designation
- Board member request for staff to provide a list of the types of industrial activities which transpire at the lawn mower repair facility to ascertain compatibility with residential living in the MUPUD
- Proposed rezoning is not consistent with the Township’s Future Land Use Map (FLUM)
- Applicant has proposed a conditional rezoning and should be viewed differently
- Applicant is requesting a regular density in a MUPUD for a redevelopment site
- Applicant is requesting the maximum density on the site
- Appreciation to the applicant for removing the six acre portion that was highly controversial to nearby residents
- Appreciation to the developer for bringing forth a concept plan in the initial stages

- Significant traffic concerns with the Jolly Road/Okemos Road intersection
- Concern with residents of the complex making left turns onto either Jolly or Okemos Roads
- Connectivity with the existing trail system as a true amenity
- Appropriateness of including already established commercial activity as part of the MUPUD
- Board member desire for greenspace protection in exchange for the density of 18 units per acre
- Developer presented a concept plan to both the Planning Commission and the Township Board, going the “extra mile” to listen to all the comments of various stakeholders prior to development of the MUPUD

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its May 19, 2015 Board meeting.

B. Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA)

Board discussion:

- In favor of Meridian joining the authority as the Township is not exposed to any financial obligation
- Board member request for the Township Attorney to review the Municipal Partnership Agreement prior to Board adoption
- Joining the GLTA will promote regionalism
- Importance of having reliable taxi cab service throughout the region
- Concern with the 21 year old age limit for taxi drivers
- Ordinance language is based on many years of experience by the City of East Lansing

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the May 19, 2015 Board meeting.

C. General Legal Services

Board discussion:

- Desire of Board members to have an opportunity to review the applications based on notes taken during the interviews

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the May 19, 2015 Board meeting.

D. Sale of Former Central Fire Station/MARC Property

Manager Walsh summarized the proposed process to move forward with the sale of the former Central Fire Station/MARC Property as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 30, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Township has received four (4) proposals
- Board member belief appraisals are someone’s opinion, and not necessarily “accurate”
- Board member preference for the sale to be closed prior to December
- Stipulations may accompany offers, which will be vetted by the committee

Trustee Scales moved to accept the process and timeline for moving forward as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 30, 2015.

Seconded by Trustee Styka.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

E. Bus Rapid Transit Funding

Treasurer Brixie summarized the resolution in support of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Awarding Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as outlined in staff memorandum dated May 7, 2015.

Board discussion:

- Objective behind CATA’s financial plan for the BRT was the local units of government would not pay for the BRT’s construction
- Less expensive to improve transportation systems than to build road networks
- Board member preference some of the \$2 million in CMAQ funds be used for pathways in the Township
- \$2 million in funding to cover construction would be obtained over a three (3) year period, which is not all of the available CMAQ funds
- A new funding source for trails is available for the region to supplement trail building within the Township
- It is necessary for the Board to pass this resolution prioritizing the BRT for use of CMAQ funds in order for Meridian Township to avoid paying the construction costs of the BRT

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the May 19, 2015 Board meeting.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

LeRoy McKnight, 6019 Marsh Road, Okemos, believed the City of East Lansing has offered a reasonable standard of public safety in the GLTA. He urged the Board to approve the resolution to allow Meridian Township to be included in GLTA’s membership.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, clarified the basis of his comments made at the last Board meeting relative to the Township’s Goals and Objectives. He classified the Goals and Objectives into the following three (3) categories: Maintaining the Status Quo - 46 items; Capital Improvements - 24 item, and New Challenges/Initiatives - 55 items.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Wilson spoke to her positive experience as an election inspector during the May 5, 2015 Election. She congratulated HOMTV interns who are graduating and moving on in their careers. Trustee Wilson announced this week is Teacher Appreciation Week. She reported the student art program will expand commencing October, 2015 to include most of the elementary schools in Haslett and Okemos.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 9:36 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary