

APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Hackbarth (6:10p.m.), Vice-Chair Potter, Commissioners Deschaine (6:15p.m.), Hudson, Vagnozzi and Lovell.

ABSENT: Commissioner Kolbasa

STAFF: Ken Plaga, Chief of Police and Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Vice-Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2018 as written.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Remarks

Planning Commission Representative Jerry Richards stated due to the new development proposed near the Grand River Avenue and Dobie Road intersection the Planning Commission had asked staff to send a letter to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) requesting a study of left turns at the intersection. Commissioner Richards indicated the Planning Commission was concerned with the delay for vehicles making a left turn at the intersection.

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved the Transportation Commission support the Planning Commission request for the study and sign the letter being sent to MDOT.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. Communication

The Commission accepted the communications that had been received and placed on file.

6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Potter moved to elect Chris Hackbarth as Chair and Steve Vagnozzi as Vice-Chair.

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine.
VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. Commission Discussion

Chair Hackbarth welcomed Bob Lovell to the Commission.

Commissioner Deschaine updated the Commissioners on the Local Road Millage. The Township Board had discussed the Transportation Commission's recommendation at its meeting on January 22, 2019. The Board will continue discussion on the millage at its meeting on February 5, 2019. The 2018 Citizen Survey results will also be presented at that meeting. There was a question in the survey if residents would support an increase in the Local Road Millage.

A. Redi-Ride Millage

Chair Hackbarth gave an update on the changes to Redi-Ride in 2018 which included a revised service agreement with CATA, expanded service areas and two grants that allowed for expanded hours in the morning and evening. The Township Board is looking for a recommendation from the Transportation Commission on the millage.

- The last collection for the millage is winter taxes 2018.
- There is a need for some type of Redi-Ride service.
- The Commission's recommendation could include the type service and the number and type of vehicles.
- Clarify that the language of millage is exclusive for Redi-Ride and not used to support fixed routes.
- Consider a shorter length of time for the millage possibly 5 years instead of the current 10 years.
- Consider increasing millage rate from the current .2 (2/10) mill.
- Include funding in the millage for the extended hours grants which expire in 2 years.
- Use the term "transportation service provider" in the millage.
- Wording in the millage should state same day service (door to door).
- Let the current millage expire and start over.
- A new operating agreement will be needed with the provider.
- Mobile access should be provided for scheduling and tracking rides.

8. Commission Comments

Chris Hackbarth reported that Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition had recently released data that pedestrian deaths have increased despite the adoption of complete streets policies. Michigan ranked 19th in the number of pedestrian deaths. The highest of any other northern state.

Vice-Chair Potter stressed the importance of meeting with MDOT to discuss improvements to Grand River Avenue. He would like to have this issue as a future agenda item.

Vice-Chair Potter asked if the recent traffic accident on Grand River Avenue had been at the Meridian Road intersection. Chief Plaga responded the accident had been east of the intersection in Williamstown Township. Vice-Chair Potter stated one of the reasons to have a meeting with MDOT would be to discuss the need for a signal at either the VanAtta Road or Meridian Road intersection with Grand River Avenue.

Vice-Chair Potter indicated the Township Corridor Improvement Authority was working with Consumers Energy on locations for street lights on Grand River Avenue. He would like the Transportation Commission to write a letter of support for the lighting improvements.

Vice-Chair Potter mentioned that he and Township staff had attended a meeting with the Ingham County Road Department and their consultant regarding the Okemos Road Bridge replacement. There will be a public meeting at the end of February or in March to present the alternative designs.

9. Next Meeting Dates

Transportation Commission's next meeting is February 21, 2019 at the Central Fire Station Community Room.

Township Board's next meeting is February 5, 2019.

10. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Deschaine moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.