

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Police Chief Plaga, Information Technology Director Gebes, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Principal Planner Menser, Chief Engineer Ishraidi.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 - NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:02 pm.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Dr., Okemos; spoke in opposition to Medical Marihuana Non-Zoning Ordinance – Introduction (Agenda Item 12A)

Bob Lovell, 6185 Craebear Tr., East Lansing; spoke as a resident of Meridian Township on concerns of Redi-Ride Millage (Agenda Item 13C)

John Fraser, 2290 Science Pkwy, Okemos; spoke in support of Agenda Item 12A.

Ody Nortin, 3803 Sandlewood Dr., Okemos; spoke in opposition to Agenda Item 13C.

Gerald Griffin, 9212 Corriander Way, Brighton; spoke in support of Agenda Item 12A.

Fred Wurtzel, 1212 N. Foster, Lansing; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13C.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:21 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported: Congratulated Chief Engineer Ishraidi on 30 years of service, on-going “Listening Sessions” with staff, Shoptown vs. Meridian Township legal case update, Planning Commission / Township Board Joint meeting on March 12, 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Room to discuss medical marijuana, local roads, new fireworks legislation.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasure Deschaine reported:

- Attended 2 Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meetings; discussed Downtown Okemos.
- Attended Transportation Commission Meeting; resolution provided for Agenda item 13C.
- Attended Michigan Township Association Capital Day; briefed on current bills.
- New “Dark Store” Bill co-authored by Rep. Brixie.
- Will resign from seat on Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) due to time constraints.

Trustee Jackson reported:

- Attended MTA Capital Day; State budget preview
- Attended Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Attended Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) meeting; discussed future of Grand River Corridor.
- Also attended DDA meeting; discussed future use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan by businesses.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

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

NAYS:
Motion carried 7-0

B. Minutes – February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

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		\$	77,375.19
Public Works		\$	79,937.74
Trust & Agency		\$	11,137,428.88
	Total Checks	\$	11,294,741.81
Credit Card Transactions		\$	10,974.85
Feb. 14 to 27			
	Total Purchases	\$	<u>11,305,716.66</u>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>457,769.46</u>

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

NAYS:
Motion carried 7-0

D. Sierra Ridge #2 & #3 Streetlighting-SAD 426-Resolution #5

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the Sierra Ridge #2 & #3 Public Streetlighting Improvements Special Assessment District #426 - Resolution #5, which approves the final special assessment roll, adopts the amount of \$3,605.76 (\$103.02/lot) as the first year assessment and the amount of \$1,727.88 (\$49.37 /lot) (subject to adjustment) as the annual assessment thereafter. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:
Motion carried 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Georgetown #4 Public Streetlighting SAD #427-Resolution #5

Chief Engineer Ishraidi introduced and explained the Special Assessment District proposal.

Supervisor Styka opened the hearing at 6:31 pm.

Supervisor Styka closed the hearing at 6:32 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Medical Marihuana Non-Zoning Ordinance - **Introduction**

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the resolution for the introduction of the amendment to the Code of Ordinances to add Chapter 40 Commercial Medical Marihuana Facilities and amend the Township Fee Schedule to include an Initial Application Fee of \$5,000 and Annual/Renewal Application Fee of \$5,000. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Board discussion: Compromises made along the way, opposition to voting on matter due to upcoming joint meeting with Planning Commission, addition of revocation clause, will be an opportunity to adjust ordinance at Final Adoption, Zoning Ordinance as it relates to non-zoning ordinance, Planning Commission concerns.

Trustee Opsommer moved to table the discussion and postpone action. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE

TO POSTPONE ACTION: Motion passed 6-1 (Clerk Dreyfus)

B. Rezoning #18160 (Giguere) - **Introduction**

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution to introduce Rezoning Petition #18160 for publication and subsequent adoption. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS:
Motion carried 7-0

C. Rezoning #18150 (Township Board) – **Introduction**

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution to introduce Rezoning Petition #18150 for publication and subsequent adoption. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: Complexities of the land swap, recognition to staff for efforts.

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

NAYS:
Motion carried 7-0

D. ZBA Appointment

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka of Courtney Wisinski, as the Township Board Representative, to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending 11/20/2020. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion passed 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Elevation at Okemos Pointe Brownfield Plan

Principal Planner Menser provided an overview of the current phase of the project and the required transfer of the current brownfield plan from Ingham County to the Township Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA).

Board discussion: Details of amendment process, impact of amendments on original agreements, ease of brownfield amendments at a Township level vs. the County level, checks and balances of County control of brownfield process, more control and oversight of plan with the Township, administrative fees charged by County, redirection of fees back to Township hands, benefits of Township-managed BRA for this project.

Board consensus to put this item up for action at a future meeting.

B. Biber Street Land Transfer

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the proposed land transfer, location of the parcel, and its relation to the 425 Agreement area held with East Lansing.

Board discussion: Ownership of surrounding parcels, no possibility of road connection due to development of near-by apartments, no meaningful use of land.

Board consensus to put this item up for action at a future meeting.

C. Redi-Ride Millage

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the recommendation from the Meridian Township Transportation Commission (TC) as noted in the staff memo.

Chris Hackbarth, Transportation Commission Chair, explained the discussions at the TC and the details of recommendation.

Board discussion: millage increases and rates, time-frame of Redi-Ride contract expiration, CATA contract negotiations, TC meetings with CATA, TC members who voted against the recommendation, Redi-Ride fares, Redi-Ride costs and expense supplements from CATA, service expansions in hours / locations, need for competitive bid for new Redi-Ride service, citizen concerns with violations of fair bidding process, process of updating contract agreement, TC discussion of alternatives to current CATA-based Redi-Ride system, pros and cons of private-sector Uber type ride-sharing, possibility of a new millage that doesn't specify CATA, need to identify other local transportation providers, questions about potential lapse in service with new millage, potential use of multiple transportation providers, impact of grant expiration during new contract period, benefits and importance of competitive bidding process, promises made for many years to community for bid process and new contract, contract extensions in early 2020 to avoid service lapse, 19 years of sole-source contract with CATA with no changes to agreement, responsiveness of CATA to concerns, belief new Redi-Ride millage could compete with road funding millage, impacts of removing CATA as specified provider, Township Manager proposed possible RFP process, politicization of topic, competitive bidding could provide validation for CATA if they are selected as provider, likelihood of a new millage passing, Treasurer belief CATA was divisive issue in the past and that Redi-Ride run by CATA currently provides great service – Board should avoid contentious meetings by renewing current millage with CATA as sole service provider, allows Board to focus on roads and redevelopment.

Board consensus to put this item up for action at the next meeting.

D. Time Limitations for Vending

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the current time limitations for vendors per Township ordinances and explained a proposed change.

Board discussion: Home visitations after dark concerns some citizens, proposed limitations are reasonable, restricting door to door contact with the public before 6:00 PM could limit freedom of speech, question about non-zoning ordinance.

Board consensus to put this item up for discussion at the next meeting.

E. Georgetown #4 Public Streetlighting SAD #427 – Resolution #5

Chief Engineer Ishraidi provided an explanation of the proposed Special Assessment District #427.

Board consensus to put this item up for action at the next meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:23 pm.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:24 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK