

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, October 1, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

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

ABSENT: Trustee Wisinski

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, IT Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser, Economic Development Director Buck, Communications Director Guthrie, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner

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

Township Clerk Dreyfus called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Chief Plaga and Sgt. Besonen were given a Certificate of Appreciation (through Governor's Office) by Rep. Brixie for rescuing motorist who drove into a pond.

B. Introduce new Assistant IT Director Troy Kaminga

C. Planner Menser announced the results of the Medical Marihuana Lottery. Overlay Area 5 had multiple applicants requiring a lottery. The applicant selected was DNVK 2, LLC and the address for the provisioning center is 1614 W. Grand River Ave. Lottery for Overlay Areas 3 & 4 have been postponed.

D. 3rd Quarter Management Report provided by Township Manager

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:30 pm.

James Giguere, 6253 Fenwick Court, E. Lansing; (Developer) Spoke in support of Tentative Preliminary Plat #19012 (Giguere Homes) (Agenda Item 13A).

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:32 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager provided 3rd Quarter report during Board presentations.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland:

- Participated in MML Conference in Detroit, impressed with Downtown water walk, great networking event.

Trustee Jackson:

- Attended MML Conference, workshops on importance of 2020 Census, electrifying transportation, affordable housing, importance and impact of local government.

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Participated in MTA workshop to inform Clerks and officials on proposed changes to County Sewer Code, from Point-of-Sale Inspections to potential 10-year inspection requirement.

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended opening of High Caliber Karting at Meridian Mall,
- Participated in Meridian Senior Recognition event, Terry Carroll received 2019 Senior Award for contributions including bagpipe playing at the Twp Memorial Day Service.
- Attended Chamber of Commerce “10 Over 10 Years” – 3 Township residents recognized.
- Participated in conference call with Twp staff re. Standard & Poor Bond Rating, goal is AAA rating vs. current AA rating.

Supervisor Styka:

- Attended 10 Over 10 event as well as monthly Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- Attended Corridor Improvement Authority meeting, looked at Form Based Code.
- Today is International Day of Older Persons (UN proclamation).
- Spoke at 2019 Senior Recognition Event on September 24.
- Meridian Historical Center Blue & Grey Civil War event October 5.
- Harris Nature Center: Howl at the Moon Oct 11, Autumn Color Walk Oct 13, Chipmunk Story Time Oct 17, Halloween Adventure October 19.
- Meridian Cares hosting a fundraiser for the Community Resource Commission at Old Chicago on Oct 18, 4:00 – 9:00pm. CRC provides resources for Township residents needing assistance.
- Halloween event at Meridian Municipal Complex on Oct 26.
- HOM-TV recognized for awards in community broadcasting and for election coverage.
- Noted success of Recycling Event Sept 28. Despite bad weather, volunteers showed up and thousands of pounds of materials were processed for recycling.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson .

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer .

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 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 Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

B. Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2019 Regular Meeting

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

C. Bills

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Common Cash	\$ 273,254.05
Public Works	\$ 501,447.21
Trust & Agency	\$13,066,713.79
Total Checks	\$13,841,415.05
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 9,725.73
Sept. 12 - Sept. 25	

	Total Purchases	<u>\$13,851,140.78</u>
ACH Payments		<u>\$ 479,036.86</u>

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2360 Jolly Road Brownfield Plan

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving the 2360 Jolly Road Brownfield Plan in an amount not to exceed \$422,458 over an estimated 12 year period. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Board discussion: This is an additional Brownfield Plan for the Okemos Elevation, site was location of former tire store containing asbestos and other contaminants, redevelop plans for restaurant and fitness center. MT Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) recommended approval of Plan.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Tentative Preliminary Plat #19012 (Giguere Homes)

Director Kieselbach presented updates to the proposed Plat, including clarification of the Consumers Energy power lines easement and conditions offered by the developer.

Board discussion: existing buffers between proposed development and adjacent existing homes, tree loss due to Consumers trimming, trimming in buffer area can grow back over time, resident concerns about tree vs. open space buffer, developer statement that he "cut no trees" and was unaware of Consumers tree trimming, designated preservation areas should not be affected by Consumers trimming operations.

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

B. Haslett/Park Lake Road Rezoning Request

Director Kieselbach explained that the rezoning, for approximately 2 acres, originated from the City of East Lansing, due to Urban Cooperation Agreement signed in 2001. Property is south of outlot reserved for Costco. Current zoning in EL is RA (Residential Agricultural) and proposed is B-2 (Retail Sales). Need MT Board approval to Amend Urban Cooperation Agreement to allow this rezoning category.

Board discussion: boundary of property, Future Land Use Map error – original intent was single family housing, importance of preserving corner to prevent gas station or other inappropriate development, vacancy issues currently for Professional/Office, Haslett Road is all residential from Okemos Rd to Park Lake (except for YMCA), citizens and non-planners can clearly see that residential is the logical choice for this property, rezoning could be considered spot zoning – which is not permissible, B-4 also requires Township approval, Agreement expires in 2039, attractive corridor should be left “as is” considering Costco development diminished natural beauty in adjacent subdivision.

Board unanimous consensus to not approve amending the Urban Cooperation Agreement and notify the City of East Lansing regarding this decision.

C. Ordinance Prohibiting Cat and Dog Sales at Pet Stores

Board Discussion: Goal to reduce demand for puppies and kittens that originate from puppy mills, Humane Society fact sheet on puppy mill problems, proposal to prohibit sales in stores in Township, will not prevent person-to-person sales or stores working with Humane Society and adoption events, concerns about over-regulation, question if all pet shops support puppy/kitten mills, alternatives for stores who are selling puppies/kittens, are there independent retailers that do not purchase from mills, possibility of Preuss Pets or other pet store owner present information to Board, question regarding whether Township residents express concern on this issue.

Board consensus for staff to develop draft ordinance and bring to Board for discussion.

D. Trash Receptacle Ordinance

Supervisor Styka initiated this proposal regarding the regulation of placement and retrieval of trash containers.

Board Discussion: Supervisor reported several complaints about where receptacle is stored and time they are left out, Planning Director commented on potential difficulty of ordinance enforcement, question about actual number of code violation complaints under current public nuisance ordinance, some homeowner associations have trash container storage regulations, Board member report that he never heard any citizen concerns on this issue and belief there is a lack of need for it, first-time warning preferable vs fine, concern about retrieval requirements being difficult to comply with, review of other community regulations, discussion of potential fines, discussion of Village of Colon and City of St. Joseph regulations.

E. Public Comment Policies

Board Discussion: Township Attorney firm recommendation that Board officially adopt Public Comment Policies as part of its Board Policies, good idea to put it in writing, prevent challenges in the future.

Supervisor statement that Board will vote on this at an upcoming Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:51 pm.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:51 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus:

● New development concept called Vertical Forests, gaining much publicity worldwide. Italian architect built 262 ft and 367 ft apartment buildings that are considered “living, breathing organisms.” Extensive plantings and greenery drape outside the building from every unit and balcony. With Township allowing taller buildings – innovative landscaping design on buildings could be a good way to go for 3, 4 or 5 story MUPUDs.

Treasurer Deschaine:

● Reminder to citizens about second Consumer Education Series presentation – Online Safety, at the Meridian Senior Center on Oct 8 at 10am. Topics include protecting your devices, your money, and your personal information, how to avoid common and emerging online scams, and tips on setting up strong passwords.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6 – 0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK