

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Finance Director Miriam Mattison, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. 2017 Police and Fire Millage Presentation

Township Manager Walsh and Fire Chief Cowper provided a visual presentation which summarized the data behind the 2017 Police and Fire millage request.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Steve Carpenter, 6397 W. Reynolds Road, Haslett; Ali Damsaz, 743 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos, and Mike Duffy, 734 Grand River Avenue, Okemos spoke in support of the Grand River Avenue Water Main Extension Special Assessment District (SAD).

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT (None)

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- Her attendance last week at the East Lansing Meridian Water Sewer Authority Annual Board Meeting and participation in a tour of the plant

Trustee Brixie reported the following:

- Quilt Display will be coming to Meridian Mall on September 8-11, 2017
- Her attendance at the Tri County Regional Planning Commission's (TCRPC) Transportation Review Committee last week
- Her attendance, along with a quorum of Board members, at the July 24th Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission to discuss the draft 2017 Master Plan

Clerk Dreyfus reported the following:

- Clerk's office produced a new training manual for the new election equipment
- Clerk's office conducted three (3) election inspector trainings last week and specialized trainings this week for precinct chairs and vice-chairs as well as inspectors for the Absentee Voter Counting Board (AVCB)
- Open House held on July 26th for residents to view and try the new voting equipment

- 2,127 absentee voter (AV) ballots returned to date
- Last day to request absentee voter ballots to be mailed is Saturday, August 5th
- Clerk's office will be open Saturday, August 5th from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM
- Voters may request an AV ballot on Monday, August 7th until 4:00 PM and the ballot must be voted in the Municipal Building
- Polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM on election day, August 8th, to vote on the police and fire millage proposal
- A resident's polling location information can be found at www.meridian.mi.us or by calling the Clerk's office at (517) 853-4300

Trustee Opsommer reported the following:

- Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) held its listening session last evening at the Hannah Center to gather community input on a national search for a new CEO
- Search committee will meet with the CATA consultant to establish a profile based on community input and then begin the national search
- He met with the consultant to offer guidance and advice
- Supervisor Styka and Manager Walsh also met with the consultant to provide input
- His attendance at the Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission on the draft 2017 Master Plan

Trustee Deschaine reported the following:

- Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Meeting will be held Thursday morning where the health of Meridian Mall will be an agenda item
- Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Project on tonight's agenda is a grant which could not be applied for by the Township before the park millage was approved by voters

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- August 12th event at Carriage Hills titled Rock the Block! as part of Meridian's 175th Anniversary

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as revised. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1. (Clerk Dreyfus)

9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Bill and Chris Collette, 2373 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to CATA being named as the sole Redi-Ride Transportation Provider

BI-2 Katina Baryames, 5955 Summerfield Lane, Haslett; RE: Deer

(2) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Material handed out at the July 18, 2017 Board Meeting

Judith Andre, 2457 Wild Blossom Court, East Lansing; RE: Enbridge Line 5

Material submitted at the July 18, 2017 Board Meeting

Anna Fisher, 1657 Snyder Road, East Lansing; RE: List of Cities, Counties, Townships and Villages in Michigan which have passed a resolution in support

of shutting down Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac

Material received for the July 24, 2017 Special Meeting

David Pierson, McClelland & Anderson, LLP, 1305 S. Washington Avenue, Suite 102, Lansing; RE: Opposition to Proposed Urban Service Boundary

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 Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the July 18, 2017 Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, 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	\$	280,790.46
Public Works	\$	252,517.88
Trust & Agency	\$	1,169,393.58
Total Checks	\$	1,702,701.92
Credit Card Transactions (July 13 to July 26, 2017)	\$	12,224.47
Total Purchases	\$	<u>1,714,926.39</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>601,043.41</u>

Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Outdoor Gathering Permit Application - Rock the Block! Carriage Hills

Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Outdoor Assembly License for the Meridian Township Rock the Block! Carriage Hills event to be held on August 12 2017 as part of Meridian Township’s 175th Anniversary Celebration. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- E. MNRTF Grant Agreement – Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Project
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the resolution authorizing acceptance of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$272,500 (69%) with a local match of \$122,500 (31%) to be paid by the Park Millage Fund for development of the Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Project in Central Park. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Sierra Ridge Estates No. 3- Final Plat Reapproval
 Director Kieselbach summarized the final plat reapproval as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 25, 2017.

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution to reapprove Final Plat #03012 (Sierra Ridge Estates No. 3), a single family subdivision consisting of 20 lots located north of Lake Lansing Road and east of Newton Road. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- B. 2017 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD #17 - **Resolution #3**
 Director Perry summarized the proposed 2017 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD #17 as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 27, 2017.

Trustee Deschaine moved to approve the 2017 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #17, Resolution #3, which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Briarwood #4; Crestwood #3; Cornell Woods #1, 2, 4, 6, North & South; Country Place #2 & 3; Heritage Hills & Heritage Hills #3 & #4; Whispering Oaks; Whitehills Lakes & Whitehills Lakes #2, 3, 4, & 6; Whitehills Woods #2, 3, & 5; Wilkshire #2; Wood Ridge; Wood Valley; and 4507 Cornell Road, which are located in Sections: 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 23, and 26, and to defray the cost by special assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$15,578.01; 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 Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Georgetown #3 Streetlighting SAD #425 - **Resolution #3**
 Director Perry summarized the proposed Georgetown #3 Streetlighting SAD #425 as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 27, 2017.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve Georgetown #3 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #425- Resolution #3, which approves the construction of the public improvement, the estimate of cost, and defraying the cost by special assessment; determines the special assessment district and directs the making of an assessment roll. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- D. 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments
 Finance Director Miriam Mattison summarized the proposed 2nd quarter budget amendment as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 27, 2017.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the June, 2017 budget amendments with a decrease in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$159,487 which projects a use of fund balance of \$546,880. Based on audited 2016 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2017 will be \$6,878,823. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion:

- Previous request by the Treasurer for staff to provide the history of overtime costs for elections and the Clerk’s office for the last decade
- Anticipated overtime costs for the May and August election
- 2017 Clerk’s budget did not contain any money for overtime costs as there were no anticipated elections when the budget was being prepared
- Review of overtime costs for the three (3) presidential cycles and two (2) gubernatorial cycles contained in the provided spreadsheet
- Question about the source and accuracy of data provided
- Concern the numbers presented at this meeting may be inaccurate and misleading similar to the previous overtime report given to Board members in January, 2017 where combined overtime costs from other departments and accounts were inappropriately assigned only to the Clerk’s office

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Transportation Commission Appointment
 Supervisor Styka summarized the proposed appointment as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 27, 2017.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the Supervisor’s appointment of Christine Beavers to fill a vacancy on the Transportation Commission for a term ending December 31, 2018. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

Board discussion:

- Applicant is an active member of the Wardcliff Homeowners Association, and a previous user of public transportation

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

F. 2015 International Fire Code – **Final Adoption**

Fire Chief Cowper summarized the adoption process for the 2015 International Fire Code as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 26, 2017.

Trustee Jackson moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, that the Township Board hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2017-05, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Chapter 26, Article II, Sections 26-26 and 26-27, to Adopt and Incorporate by Reference the 2015 International Fire Code with Meridian Amendments.”

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 adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

G. Land Preservation Boundary Correction Sale

Treasurer Brixie summarized the correction sale for the Land Preservation Boundary of the Tank Revocable Trust as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 28, 2017.

Trustee Opsommer moved that the Meridian Township Board approve the sale of a portion (0.05 acre) of the 2.51 acres, parcel #33-02-02-11-177-008 to the buyer of 1351 Hickory Island identified by HUD (current owner of 1351 Hickory Island) for the sum of \$500. Furthermore, the sale is contingent upon reimbursement of costs (\$2200 for survey), splitting a portion of parcel #33-02-02-11-177-008 as depicted in the attached survey, combining the portion to parcel #33-02-02-11-177-004, and recording the new deed. Furthermore, the Township attorney will review/draft language for the closing of the property for the boundary correction. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
 NAYS: None
 Motion carried unanimously.

H. Add a Copy of the CATA Forensic Audit to the Packet of the August 15, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Supervisor Styka summarized the request for the forensic audits to be included in the Township Board packet and the rationale for non-inclusion.

Trustee Deschaine moved that this Board include a copy of the CATA forensic audits into the packet of the August 15, 2017 Regular Board meeting packet.

Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Treasurer Brixie called the question.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-1. (Clerk Dreyfus)

Board discussion:

- Request that the Supervisor explain to the public the meaning of calling the question
- Supervisor's explanation that calling the question means there will be no further debate on the issue

VOICE VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: 6-1 (Clerk Dreyfus).

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Grand River Avenue Water Main Extension SAD

Director Perry summarized the 2017 Grand River Avenue Water Main Extension Special Assessment District #49 as outlined in staff memorandum dated July 26, 2017.

Board discussion:

- Fire hydrants were included as part of the special assessment
- Proposed water main will run approximately 1,600 feet to the east of the existing main
- Fire engines typically carry a total of 1,500 feet of hose which are various lengths and si
- Previous fire at the Winslow Mobile Home Park relied on tankers from various fire departments filled with water, which was a labor intensive process
- Water main extension will enhance the quality of life for affected residents

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its August 15, 2017 Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened and closed Public Remarks.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus addressed lack of Board civility and lack of Board respect by the inappropriate use of calling the question. His position is that proper parliamentary procedure regarding calling the question is to use it to end long protracted debate and should never be used to silence a dissenting or opposing position. Clerk Dreyfus explained the rationale used by him regarding content of items placed in Board packets. He noted Township residents pay more taxes into the school systems than are paid to Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), yet the Board does not include those audits into the Board packet. Clerk Dreyfus stated he believed that Board packet items are there to be used solely for Board deliberations and not as a supposed information and news resource for citizens.

Supervisor Styka explained his position on adding the CATA audits in the next Board packet, as Meridian Township citizens send “substantial taxes” to CATA and had expressed concerns about CATA’s services for several years. He stated his opinion this was not like including an audit from a school district, because this was a forensic audit and was part of an ongoing concern by the Board, which has two representatives on the CATA Board. He believed the Clerk had time to express his concerns on inclusion of the CATA audits in the Board packet at the last meeting and that redundancy is unnecessary.

Trustee Sundland expressed her concern that items “pop up” as amendments the same night as they are to be acted upon, and it is difficult to form a conclusion with little time for review.

Trustee Opsommer reminded citizens that CATA’s forensic audits were not the “traditional” annual audits, but performed to report on their findings regarding payment of payroll taxes and make those findings and reports available. He responded to public comment over the last several meetings that Meridian Township has the third highest tax rate among all Michigan Townships by clarifying our Township has the 40th highest tax burden of all townships in Michigan according to data extrapolated from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Treasurer Brixie spoke to increased transparency by Board action to place the CATA forensic audits into the next Meridian Township Board packet.

Clerk Dreyfus noted Meridian residents pay more taxes to the school systems, Ingham County, etc. than to CATA and reiterated financial statements of those organizations are not included. He emphasized the Board packet is for Board deliberations, not to be used as a “citizen tool.” Clerk Dreyfus believed the appropriate time to present oppositional viewpoints is when Board members are going to vote on an issue, not just when an item was previously discussed.

Manager Walsh voiced appreciation for Supervisor Styka’s involvement in the meeting with the consultant for CATA’s search committee.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Brixie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:36 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary