



To: Board Members

From: Frank L. Walsh
Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager

Date: January 5, 2017

Re: 2017 Annual Goal Setting

On behalf of the Meridian Township Management Team (M-TEAM), I'm pleased to present you with the 2017 Goals packet for your review prior to our annual meeting on Saturday, January 7th. Our meeting will commence at 10 A.M. in the Municipal Building.

The agenda will allow us to cover our end-of-the-year financial outlook, a complete review of 2016, an overview of departmental achievements and setting the course for 2017 and beyond. Beyond what has been accomplished to date, and memorialized in the packet, there are a few projects and issues that arose that are worth mentioning that are not covered in your attached materials. Here is a snapshot of 2016 that wasn't planned for when the Township Board established their goals in December 2015.

July Brush Storm

On Friday, July 8, 2016 our community was hit hard with high winds and hail that caused widespread power outages and massive tree damage. Although the storm was much less invasive as the December 21, 2013 ice storm, the damage was felt especially hard in the Wardcliff and Haslett communities. Assistant Township Manager Derek Perry led a high charged response to the storm and we had the debris cleaned up in less than 15 days. The township put their best foot forward in responding to the storm.

Costco Development

In May of 2016, the Township was notified that Costco was interested in breaking ground at the corner of Saginaw Highway/Park Lake Road within the former Four Winds Golf Course. The challenge became the site was located in the City of East Lansing and shared an Urban Cooperation Agreement (UCA) with Meridian Township that dated back to 2001. Through a series of discussions with East Lansing and Costco, Trustee (Supervisor) Styka and our economic development team produced an amendment to the UCA that was supported by the City of East Lansing, Costco and Meridian Township. Costco plans to break ground and bring 230 jobs to the region in April. It is noteworthy that this is Costco's 14th site in Michigan.

Economic Development

With the promotion of Peter Menser to Senior Planner, a void was left in our economic development office. With the challenges that we face in downtown Okemos, Haslett Village Square and Carriage Hills the selection of the "right" Economic Development Coordinator was paramount.

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We are pleased that Ben Motil joined our team from the St. Louis, Missouri region. We have a lot to accomplish in 2017 regarding brownfield properties and I firmly believe we have the “right” person on the bus.

Okemos Pointe Brownfield Negotiations

The new large-scale development at Jolly and Okemos Roads led to the approval of a brownfield plan. The new policy at Ingham County requires that local communities that do not have their own brownfield plan pay 5% of the total brownfield request to help fund remediation work throughout Ingham County. The 5% fee was slated to cost the township nearly \$170,000. Through negotiations with Ingham County, the Township was able to lower the remediation fee to 2.5%, or a savings of nearly \$85,000.

Grant Awards

2016 was a very successful year for Meridian Township in regards to grant awards for our pathways and park and recreation facilities. Our pathway system was awarded \$88,000 for pathway surface improvements and over \$500,000 for footbridge repairs from the County wide voter approved Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage. Our Team worked closely with the County and proved successful in returning significant Meridian taxpayer dollars back to our community.

In addition, Director LuAnn Maisner and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway, were able to secure \$150,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for a new restroom and footbridge at the Historical Village and close to \$800,000 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The MNRTF dollars will be used to assist with the purchase the Ponderosa Land Preserve and to develop the Central Park Regional Trail Connector.

Team Events/Team Appreciation

It's not all about paving new roads, solving neighborhood issues and buying new park equipment.

In 2016, the Township took the time to properly appreciate and acknowledge our team members. Through the efforts of our Human Resource Department, we began a new SHOUT OUT program for team members to identify their colleagues for the many good things that occur on a daily basis. Each month several names are nominated and at the end of the month 4 names are drawn with the winners receiving a small gift. In the summer, we raised over \$3,000 to allow for over 100 team members to attend a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game. We provided transportation, food allowance and the afternoon off to enjoy a fun-filled atmosphere. In December, we held a holiday party to thank our team members for another outstanding year of public service to our 42,400 residents. The event was held at Walnut Hills and included lunch, prizes and a lot of laughs.

We believe that team members who are appreciated will ALWAYS do more than expected.