

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Deschaine, Jackson, Opsommer
ABSENT: Trustee Sundland
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Police Chief Dave Hall, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Economic Development Coordinator/Associate Planner Ben Motil

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL
The Clerk called the roll of the Board.
4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (None)
5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

6. INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Supervisor Styka opened the Joint Meeting and the following guests introduced themselves:

Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Andrew Brieschke, Director of Operations
Brad Funkhouser, Deputy CEO

Delhi Township
John Elsinga, Township Manager
John Hayhoe, Supervisor
Evan Hope, Clerk

Consumers Energy
Chris Thelen, Community Affairs Manager

East Lansing Public Schools (ELPS)
Dori Leyko, Acting Superintendent

Haslett Public Schools (HPS)
Chris Coady, President of the Board of Education
Steve Cook, Superintendent

Ingham County Road Department (ICRD)
William Conklin, Managing Director

Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)
Josh Holliday, Tri-County Development & Placemaking Manager

Lansing Township

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor

City of Mason

Deborah Stuart, Clerk

Okemos Public Schools (OPS)

Melanie Lynn, President of the Board of Education

Williamston Community Schools (WCS)

Greg Talberg, President of the Board of Education

Williamstown Township

Wanda Bloomquist, Supervisor

Mark Steinberg, Clerk

7. REPORTS OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

Board, staff and guest discussion:

- Various collaborations between Meridian Township and other local units of government
- Joint trail application for the Red Cedar River between Williamstown Township and Meridian Township Parks and Recreation
- Various collaborative agreements between HPS and several other school districts in Ingham County

8. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES OF JOINT INTEREST

Board, staff and guest discussion:

- Jolly and Okemos intersection road improvement project to start in early-to-mid July
 - Added right turn lanes for three (3) legs of the intersection for improved traffic flow
 - New better timed signal to allow more cars to go through the intersection at one time
 - County storm drain underneath the intersection needs to be replaced to address flooding in the area
 - During the road improvement process, traffic will be reduced to one (1) lane in each direction
 - Left turns will be prohibited
 - No known "spike" in auto accidents in the area due to an increase in curb cuts
 - Inquiry as to availability of ICRD funding to perform studies/analyses of progressive timed traffic signals for improved traffic flow
 - Most corridors through Meridian Township are independently timed because of differing traffic streams encountered by each and to force progression through interconnection could be counterproductive
 - Not a high-cost issue to improve signal timing
 - ICRD plans to improve older signal equipment throughout the county
- Additional funding coming into the county from the increase in state fuel tax and vehicle registration tax
 - Funding will be used to perform maintenance overlay work on some roads not in the current federal aid program
 - Plans exist to increase the ICRD's local match to local roads for each Township by approximately 50% in fiscal year 2018-2019
 - Act 51 requires any funds the ICRD puts toward construction improvement of local roads to be matched by each Township
- Half of the trees slated to be cut down for a road project in Williamston Township were saved through mutual efforts with the ICRD
- Haslett Public Schools (HPS) has a May 2nd Election to renew its non-operating millage
- East Lansing Public Schools (ELPS) also has a May 2nd Election for a bond to rebuild its five elementary schools
 - Donley Elementary School is located in Meridian Township
- Inquiry of Consumers Energy as to recommended steps local governments can take to better communicate with its residents during large scale power outages

- Smart meter rollout occurring in central Michigan will allow for tracking of power outages by sending a text message via a cell phone network
- Outage map tool
- Difficult to predict restoration times during large scale storms and outages
- Consumers Energy has a foundation and information about funding is available at www.consumersenergy.com/foundation
- Consumers Energy is responsive to Meridian Township and takes a proactive approach to communication, especially during outages
 - Meridian Township has had issues with Lansing Board of Water and Light's service
- Consumers Energy is offering staggered rates to customers who move to smart meters
- Concern with excessive tree cutting and trimming by utility companies
- Consumers Energy prioritizes the dollars allotted for its tree trimming program by considering outage rates and frequency of outages statewide
- Fallen trees and limbs were the main cause of power outages during the recent windstorm
- Consumers Energy attempts to work with every homeowner to trim only what is necessary to maintain proper clearances
- CATA enjoys its partnership with Meridian Township
 - While acknowledging recent negative press, CATA employees work hard
 - New projects planned (fare boxes, etc.)
 - Offer of continued partnership on projects
 - CATA to present information to Meridian Township's Transportation Commission regarding Redi-Ride
 - Working with Meridian Township's Redi-Ride passengers to increase capacity
 - Appreciation to the Meridian Township Board for its recent approval to accept changes to Redi-Ride's cancellation policy
- CATA to give a presentation to the Williamstown Township Board next week and discuss proposed changes to increase ridership of its residents
 - Williamstown Township residents continue to pay the same amount of taxes to CATA each year, but had service drastically cut in January of this year by eliminating Redi-Ride service to its residents
 - New service opportunities are being explored
- Successful 2016 for LEAP and the upcoming annual report will demonstrate that success
 - Desire to continue building relationships with local governments surrounding Lansing and East Lansing

9. PROPOSED JOINT PROJECTS

Board, staff and guest discussion:

- Local municipalities approach to Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) for cellular service
 - Explanation of DAS
 - ICRD unaware of any specific right-of-way permit requests outside of the normal permit standards which have been denied by the county
 - Meridian Township has received a request to install DAS around Meridian Mall
 - Ingham County Road Association is working with the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adapt rules for Michigan
 - FCC is working on new rules at the federal level to regulate placement of DAS
 - At the current time, local municipalities have the ability to negotiate a franchise fee for DAS
 - Belief that DAS providers will approach existing utility pole owners at some point
 - ICRD preference to not "clutter" the right-of-way with new additional fixed objects, but have them attached to existing signal and utility poles
 - ICRD believes the Township would also have permitting authority if not in the county right-of-way
 - City of Mason has been aggressively approached by a DAS provider, but Mason wants telecom companies to use existing infrastructure
 - DAS provider not interested in collocating on Consumers Energy poles
 - Concern that over time, multiple providers will all want to have their own poles, allowed every 500 feet
 - Michigan Municipal League hosted a session last week on DAS

- Communities have banded together to file group lawsuits in an effort to protect their rights-of-way and control antenna logistics
- Complex issue with existing private property rights v. antenna placement in the public right-of-way
- Local municipalities can control antennas on private property through the special use permit process and through Planning Commission oversight
- Meridian Township Board member belief the goal of telecomm providers is to encompass residential neighborhoods with antennas (every 500 feet per provider)
- Suggestion for the City of Mason to get together with Meridian Township regarding its proposed DAS franchise agreement and ordinance
- Meridian Township Board member belief that collocation on existing utility poles often looks “bizarre”
- Meridian Township Board member preference for municipalities to have more control regarding how an antenna looks in the right-of-way
- Meridian Township staff to meet with ICRD staff regarding current request for placement of DAS poles around Meridian Mall
- Tradeoff between pole height and pole frequency
- Discussion regarding the appropriate distance between medical marijuana provisioning centers and schools
 - No discussion by the East Lansing School Board in the last few years
 - 500 v. 1000 feet distance from schools
 - Okemos School Board worked with Meridian Township a few years ago to prevent business ventures from launching in relative proximity to several of its schools
 - Haslett School Board has not had a discussion on the issue, but would discourage location near any of its schools
 - Williamston Schools has not had a discussion on this issue
- Road in subdivisions with Delhi Township are in poor condition
 - Meridian Township Manager explanation of the process the Township uses to repair them
 - Meridian Township’s millage (less than ¼ mill) generates approximately \$400,000, Township Board contributes \$125,000-\$200,000 in addition to an ICRD contribution of \$115,000
 - \$ 2 million worth of repairs is pared down, using citizen input, and a list of \$700,000-\$800,000 in proposed repairs is generated
 - Citizen complaints using this process are minimal
 - Money earmarked each year is for approximately 4.5 miles of road repair out of a total of 125 miles of road
 - When the road millage was first approved, the emphasis was on repairs of entrances to subdivisions due to higher volume traffic
 - School bus route may impact the priority of road repair
- City of Mason has set aside 4 mills for roads, which results in a \$1 million annual budget for road repair
 - Mason utilizes a 20 year road plan
 - Regular maintenance helps keep costs down
- In 2012, six (6) communities around the Lansing Metropolitan area (Lansing, East Lansing, Lansing Township, Delhi Township, Delta Township, Meridian Township), participated in a shared fire services agreement
 - Engaged in mutual aid box alarm systems (MABAS)
 - Agreement helps the various municipalities back each other up
 - All six municipalities have developed one (1) training program
 - Overall goal was that the closest available system provides the service
 - Alaiedon Township is an example of four (4) entities providing quality services to their municipal neighbor
 - Meridian Township residents indicate the #1 service they “want to pay for” is public safety
- Appreciation for the quality of water provided by the Board of Water and Light
- School districts, to a certain degree, compete against one another
 - Shared agreements among various school districts for many services
- Citizen Engagement

- Use of coffee meetings and attendance at local service clubs
- Walking through neighborhoods speaking with residents to find out their concerns
- HOMTV is a good avenue for communication and engagement in Meridian Township
- Attendance at neighborhood association meetings
- Meridian Township Police Chief holds quarterly neighborhood leader meetings
- Meridian Township code enforcement group also meets quarterly
- School systems' medium to long-term forecast
 - HPS enrollment has been historically steady over the years
 - Data obtained from kindergarten round-up registration provides data which is monitored over time
 - Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools (OPS) to retire this year
 - OPS policy not to solicit school of choice children
 - Williamston Public Schools (WPS) is on a year-by-year budgeting cycle as they operate at the margins
 - Meridian Township board member concern that due to aging in place, not enough families with children are able to move into Meridian Township to help school districts through increased attendance
 - Different experience for HPS Board member as she has seen more movement with families and children moving into homes in her neighborhood, from infants all the way to high school
 - Aging in place is partly a result of Proposal A
 - Steady resident enrollment predicted for ELPS over the next five (5) to ten (10) years
 - Meridian Township Board member belief employment by Michigan State University's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) will aid in the area's school enrollment
- Williamstown Township's appreciation for the positive feedback received by residents relative to utilization of Meridian Township's police services

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, noted he first started attending Meridian Township meetings several years ago when he spoke in support of a pathway issue. He spoke to the benefit of HOMTV for members of the community. Mr. Provencher voiced appreciation for the attendance and interaction at tonight's meeting.

11. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (None)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

RONALD J. STYKA
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary