

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016 **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 Parks and Recreation LuAnn Masiner, Director of Information and Technology Stephen Gebes, Police Chief David Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Associate Planner/Economic Development Coordinator Ben Motil, Senior Planner Peter Menser

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 (None)
5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS  
Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in support of applying for the Ingham County Regional Trails Grant Application. He addressed resolution which fail to be approved v. resolution which are denied. Mr. Bowlby asked if the citizenry can rely on the fact the Board follows the rules of its Policy Manual and Policy Governance. He recommended Thomas Deits be appointed to serve on the Planning Commission and Clerk Dreyfus as the board representative to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

Diana Paiz Engle, 2164 Quarry Road, East Lansing, spoke in support of her application for public service to sit on the newly created Transportation Commission, as she is a user of all forms of public transit.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke to the "ethics" involved with the 50% reduction in public comment during Board meetings. He spoke in support of the Supervisor Pro-Tem appointment and requested written answers be provided to the public regarding pension and long-term retiree health care liability.

Thadd Gormas, 2578 Woodhill, Okemos, introduced himself as a Township resident who has submitted an application to serve on the Planning Commission.

Aaron Richmond, 1424 Biscayne Way, Haslett, voiced support for the Welcoming Community Resolution. He encouraged the Board to remember the Township can always do more and offered several examples.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT  
Manager Walsh reported the following:

- New development - \$56.4 million in new development through November, 2016
- Moderate growth in 2016 for the Township
- Items on the December 13<sup>th</sup> Board agenda:
  - Branding (including logos and tag lines)
  - Board appointments
  - Closed session regarding pending litigation and an informational update on collective bargaining agreement negotiations

#### 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus reported the election recount officially began yesterday at noon. He indicated all Meridian Township ballots were delivered last Friday to the Ingham County Fairgrounds as requested by County Clerk Barb Byrum.

Treasurer Brixie reported winter tax bills were sent out December 1<sup>st</sup> with a due date of February 14<sup>th</sup>. She noted the Township offers a program for electronic payment and enrollment forms are available on the Township website. Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at last week's Economic Development Corporation where that body finalized its goal and objectives.

Supervisor Styka reported the Meridian Garden Club has announced its Plant it Pink Garden, a tribute to women who lost their lives to breast cancer, women who are fighting the disease and women who have triumphed. He indicated the garden will be partially supported through the sale of memorial bricks (\$75) which will be placed in the garden. Supervisor Styka announced bricks can be purchased at [www.meridiangardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.meridiangardenclub.weebly.com).

Trustee Deschaine voiced his appreciation to Township Manager Walsh for keeping new Trustees up to speed on the business of the Township since the Primary Election in August.

Trustee Opsommer reported a package of legislation regarding Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities has been stalled in the House Local Government committee, with only one bill reported out which only requires additional reporting requirements.

#### 8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. CONSENT AGENDA (SALMON)

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

#### A. Communications

##### (1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Kevin V. Schumacher, 5868 Westminster Way, East Lansing; RE: Appreciation for the fog line painting on Park Lake Road
- BI-2 Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos; RE: Appreciation for the bike-friendly north-south route through the Township with the fog line painting on Park Lake Road
- BI-3 Matthew R. Trecha, 605 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Apt. 314, Seattle, WA; RE: Concern sharrrows are still listed in the 2016 Master Plan
- BI-4 Ryan N. Henry, Kincaid Henry, 934 Clark Street, Lansing; RE: Walnut Hills Rezoning Request

- BI-5 Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Road, Okemos; RE: Support for the appointment of Erik Lindquist to the Planning Commission
- BI-6 Laura Rose Ashlee, 1931 Yuma Trail, Okemos; RE: Support for the appointment of Diana Paiz Egle to the Transportation Commission
- BI-7 Pat Cannon, 2700 Marfitt Road, #307, East Lansing; RE: Support for the appointment of Diana Paiz Egle to the Transportation Commission
- BI-8 John P. Gardner, Director of External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Simplification of charges on Comcast customers' bills effective January 1, 2017
- BI-9 Craig D'Agostini, Vice President, Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Removal of Fox College Sports programming from Comcast's Channel line-up effective January 1, 2017
- BI-10 John P. Gardner, Director of External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Conversion to a new billing system effective December 5, 2016

**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 Clerk Dreyfus.**

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 November 15, 2016 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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	\$ 237,146.28
Public Works	\$ 10,616.19
Trust & Agency	\$ 30,972.15
 Total Checks	 \$ 278,735.62
 Credit Card Transactions	 \$ 14,190.05
 Total Purchases	 <u>\$ 292,924.67</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 738,995.69</u>

**Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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. Resolution to Approve Financial Institutions/New Signers  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt a resolution entitled “Authority to Open an Account” for each of the listed financial institutions in a staff memorandum dated December 2, 2016. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

- E. 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the Fire Department to apply for and accept an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$74,000.00 with the Township’s 10% share being \$7,400.00 coming from the 2017 General Fund. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

- F. Regional HazMat 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to authorize the Fire Department to apply for and accept an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$661,865.10 with the Region’s 10% share being \$66,186.51 and the Township’s share being \$11,031.09 coming from the 2017 General Fund. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

- G. Fireworks Display Permit Extension-New Year’s Eve Celebration  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the Fireworks Permit for the Meridian Township New Year’s Eve Celebration on December 31, 2016 by Pyrotechnic Operator Night Magic Displays with an inclement weather date of January 1, 2017. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

- H. Ingham County Regional Trails and Parks Millage Fund – Meridian Township Grant Applications 2016  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to support the applications for the Ingham County Trails and Park Application resolution contained in staff memorandum dated December 1, 2016. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Majority of the cost is relative to the bridge which will cross the Red Cedar River

- Appreciation to the Director of Parks and Recreation for her devotion and commitment to the Township’s park system

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)

Supervisor Styka reported that according to the Township attorney, the meeting format designed by the Supervisor wherein two (2) opportunities are provided for public comment is legal. In an effort towards brevity during Board meetings, he noted Board members will read a motion to adopt a resolution and not read the resolution in its entirety. Supervisor Styka added Township counsel concurred that annual adoption of the Supervisor Pro Tem is also legal.

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #16040 (Sumbal) 2267 Saginaw, 6217 and 6219 Newton from PO (Professional and Office), RD (Multiple Family) and RA (Single Family – Medium Density) to C-2 (Commercial), **Final Adoption**

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the resolution to finally adopt Ordinance No. 2016-09 and approve Rezoning Petition #16040. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Senior Planner Menser summarized the rezoning request as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 2, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Applicant has listened to Board comments throughout this process and amended his request accordingly
- Support for the rezoning based on the information found on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for the new Master Plan
- Proposal is a “good outcome” for this property
- Assisted living facilities should be placed in areas where citizens can maintain an independent quality of life, achieved in part through access to public transit

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

- B. Wetland Use Permit #16-05 (Mayberry Homes) Silverstone Estates subdivision, a request to enclose approximately 192 feet of the Unruh Drain

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving Wetland Use Permit #16-05 with the conditions set forth in the resolution of approval. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Senior Planner Menser summarized the wetland use permit (WUP) request as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 2, 2016.

Board discussion:

- Both the Township’s environmental consultant and the Environmental Commission have recommended approval of the WUP for this project
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has also approved the wetland use permit request

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

C. Supervisor Pro-Tem Appointment

**Trustee Deschaine moved that the Board appoint, through December 31, 2017, Trustee Patricia Jackson to act as President Pro-Tem at any meeting of the Township Board wherein the Supervisor is absent. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

Board discussion:

Annual appointment of a Supervisor Pro Tem allows for Board meetings to run smoothly

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

D. Welcoming Community Resolution

**Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt the Resolution in Support of Meridian as a Welcoming Community and Elected Official Pledge of Support. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.**

Board discussion:

- Meridian Township became a member of Welcoming Michigan and Welcome America in 2014
- Meridian Township approved its human relations ordinance in 2013

**Treasurer Brixie 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 each board member commits to the following Welcoming Michigan pledge:**

**“I pledge to stand against hate and discrimination and affirm that Michigan should be a welcoming state for all.**

**I am proud of Michigan’s diversity. I recognize that, at every level of American society, refugees, immigrants, and people of all backgrounds contribute to our democracy, culture and economy. We must advance the basic principles upon which the United States was founded, establishing the equality and dignity of all people, regardless of their background.**

**I condemn any attacks on, harassment of, or intimidation of individuals or places of worship that are based on race, ethnicity, immigration or refugee status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or other social identities. From our schools to our neighborhoods and our governmental halls, the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, must be a place that respects all of our diverse communities.”**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2017 Goal Setting Process

Township Manager Walsh suggested the Board may wish to establish a schedule to complete its annual review as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 1, 2016.

## Board and staff discussion:

- Preference to set an initial date of January 7<sup>th</sup> commencing with a bus tour of the Township
- Goal setting session may take longer, but a five (5) hour commitment should result in the top 10 goals being identified
- Manager's preference to move away from including routine items which staff will continue to perform
- Manager's preference for the Board to establish an action plan and staff will implement those actions
- Board member belief ten (10) items on the action plan should be reduced and simplified
- Inquiry if the Board will tie the Township Manager's performance review into the process
- Contract language for the Township Manager's performance review states November-December, but was typically April-May
- Board member preference to arrange a time for the Township Manager's review in the month of December
- Suggestion for the Board to tie the Township Manager's review in with the goal setting process sometime in January
- Township Manager suggestion to name the three-member committee for the Manager's review at the December 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- Board member suggestion to conduct the Township Manager's review in closed session
- Board member suggestion to conduct the Township Manager's review in November, prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, in order for continuity to exist in four (4) years from the previous Board
- Board member preference for the goal setting and performance review to be conducted at the January 7, 2017 meeting

**It was the consensus of the Board to establish January 7, 2017 as the goal setting session. The Supervisor will provide procedures at the next Board meeting for how the Board will conduct the Township Manager's review.**

## B. Urban Cooperation Agreement

Township Manager Walsh offered an update on the Urban Cooperation Agreement as outlined in staff memorandum dated December 2, 2016.

## Board and staff discussion:

- Issue of concern is the amount of the brownfield redevelopment costs approved by the East Lansing City Council
- Brief explanation of a brownfield and a "pass through"
- Continued concern with "big box" deed restrictions
- Continued concern with the ability to appeal taxes, which lengthens the time of tax recapture
- Significant community interest in seeing a Costco store come to the area
- Appreciation for the large conservation easement
- Continued concern with development of the outlots
- \$1 million brownfield amount was a figure stated by the Costco representative at a community meeting
- Board member belief the deal will not fall through over \$800,000, given the potential for large profits
- Request for the Township Attorney to provide language for the consent agreement which would cap the Township's obligation at \$1 million for the brownfield
- Staff has consulted with the Township Attorney and is prepared to address the issued based on results from tonight's East Lansing City Council meeting
- Support for placing deed restrictions on the property

- Only issue up for discussion is whether the East Lansing City Council will approve a brownfield in excess of \$1 million this evening
- Preference to retain 1/3 of the mills collected on the first \$1 million as previously agreed upon regardless of action by the East Lansing City Council to approve a higher amount
- Broad support by Township residents for the Costco development
- The Township was diligent to protect the nearby neighborhood while working through this agreement
- Costco development could be a catalyst for redevelopment of Carriage Hills

#### 14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed the 2016 Goals document to be a good communication to the public for apprising them on what the Township is doing. He expressed concern with dark store concept and potential tax appeal relative to the proposed Costco development.

Aaron Richmond, 1424 Biscayne Way, Haslett, reminded Board members of the significant amount of money Costco has already invested in this development. He did not believe the company would “walk away” from the project because of \$800,000.

Diana Paiz Engle, 2164 Quarry Road, East Lansing, expressed appreciation one of the new Trustees made the connection between assisted living facilities and the need for public transit. She pointed out there are several letters of support in the Board packet for her appointment to the Transportation Commission. Ms. Engle suggested the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Welcoming Resolution.

Supervisor Styka closed Public Remarks.

#### 15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus welcomed the four (4) new Trustees. He thanked Supervisor Styka for his professional approach to conducting Board meetings.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at today’s Tri-County Regional Planning non-motorized plan kick-off. She congratulated HOMTV interns who won awards at the Golden Tape Award ceremony last night. She reported the fundraiser basketball game held between the Police and Fire Department raised \$4,600 for Gayelord Mankowski’s Christmas Party for disadvantaged Meridian Township children.

Trustee Deschaine voiced appreciation for more concise public comment times during Board meetings.

#### 16. CLOSED SESSION – Pending Litigation

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to go into closed session to consult with the Township Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation and to discuss negotiations in connection with our collective bargaining agreements as permitted by Sections 8 (c) and (e) of the Open Meetings Act. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka recessed the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

The Board adjourned to the upstairs conference room for a closed session.



**Trustee Opsommer moved to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the settlement agreement and release made by and between the Charter Township of Meridian and Kelly Trentin and authorize Township Manager Frank Walsh to sign on behalf of the Township. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka reconvened the meeting at 9:16 P.M.

17. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Sundland moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:19 P.M.

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RONALD J. STYKA  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary