

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra  
(6:04 P.M.), Wilson  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public  
Works Derek Perry, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark  
Kieselbach, Fire Chief Fred Cowper

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor LeGoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor LeGoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. David Gard – Board of Water and Light (BWL) Community Solar Project

Mr. Gard indicated solar arrays will be built in the City of East Lansing and City of Lansing in conjunction with several project partners, including MI Energy Options, Patriot Solar Group and Rich VanderVeen. While he acknowledged many BWL electric customers desire to have solar panels on the rooftops of their homes and businesses, in many instances that is not possible. Mr. Gard stated 80% of residents and 40% of businesses nationwide cannot place solar panels on their property due to tree shading, available roof space not facing the sun and cost of the system and installation. He noted community solar provides an opportunity for residents to participate in a solar project if they so choose. Mr. Gard explained BWL electric customers enter into a 25 year lease for a portion of the project and receives a monthly utility bill credit, dependent upon how much of the project the resident has leased, estimated to be a \$25 overall return the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

Mr. Gard noted participation begins with a BWL customer paying a one-time upfront fee of \$399, which includes start up construction costs, maintenance for the life of the project and all other “soft costs.” He indicated each community solar array will have 1,000 panels (300 kilowatts), one located on a one acre parcel in Burcham Park, near the Park Lake Road roundabout (on a capped landfill) and one next to Benjamin F. Davis Park south of Jolly Road between Wise Road and Pleasant Grove. Mr. Gard stated the cost per installed watt is \$1.33. Upon request, Mr. Gard clarified there are 922 residential, 194 commercial and one industrial BWL electric customers in Meridian Township who can take advantage of this opportunity.

Board and presenter’s discussion:

- Board member inquiry if BWL is requesting the Township provide the site
- BWL already has two sites selected, one in Lansing and one in East Lansing
- Presentation this evening was to share information with the Board and BWL electric customers in Meridian Township
- Website has already been established to allow interested BWL electric customers to preregister
- Formal registration and construction of the projects will begin in approximately one month
- BWL electric customers have already preregistered for over 500 of the 2,000 available panels

- Customer will pay the one-time upfront fee and once the project is operational, each monthly bill for the next 25 years will receive a credit based upon the generation of the project
- BWL has estimated a 12-13 year payback period
- Credit computed by BWL is for the amount of solar energy generated from the panel
- Solar engineering modeling showed an estimated \$25 credit for the first year
- Panels designed to last well beyond 25 years
- BWL used a conservative approach in selecting 25 years as the lease period
- Earlier installations show a 35-50 year life span
- Possible opportunity to restructure a lease for those electric customers who wish to participate beyond 25 years
- Possibility of a lease extension with a marginal cost for maintenance beyond the 25 years
- Calculation of approximately .3 kilowatt per panel per year
- Industry standard for panels is 300 watts
- Usage of electricity for the average BWL customer is 500 kilowatt hours per month
- BWL electric customers can preregister at [www.micommunitysolar.org](http://www.micommunitysolar.org), and the link is available from the BWL website as well
- Program is being publicized through bill inserts
- \$25 credit is a conservative estimate, dependent upon the amount of sunshine
- Panel will generate between 1/15<sup>th</sup>-1/20<sup>th</sup> of the electrical use for an average household
- Resident who moves, but remains a BWL electric customer, can transfer the credit
- Resident who moves out of the BWL service area can include the value of the remaining lease into the sale price of the home or donate the remaining lease to a non-profit organization who is a BWL electric customer
- Option to purchase a panel up front and donate it to a non-profit organization, a tax deduction for the donor

B. Clyde Dugan, Manager, East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA) – Water Plant Testing and Quality Control

Mr. Dugan addressed lead in Meridian’s drinking water as a result of the media coverage on the Flint water crisis. He described what he believed lead to the problems with Flint’s water supply. Mr. Dugan explained drinking water quality testing and quality controls used at ELMWSA, particularly as they related to lead. He noted water supplied to Meridian Township residents come from wells that draw from a deep sandstone aquifer and then treated to reduce hardness. Mr. Dugan stated the same method of treatment has been in place since 1972. He added the regulatory parameters of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule has shown Meridian Township water has optimal corrosion control treatment (OCCT). Mr. Dugan stated water provided by ELMWSA does not contain any detectable amount of lead.

Mr. Dugan described where lead in drinking water comes from, how ELMWSA tests for lead, and what residents can do to reduce their exposure to lead in tap water. He explained that citizens who are still concerned with potential lead levels can have their water tested by a certified laboratory. Mr. Dugan stated there is a link on the Township’s website to ELMWSA’s annual water quality report for its customers (which includes results for lead testing), as well as a link to the EPA and resources for lead testing.

Board and presenter’s discussion:

- Letter generated in 1994 from the Michigan Department of Public Health provided specific water quality control parameters and acceptable ranges
- September, 2015 test revealed lead level at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was 0

- Regulatory changes over the years have provided additional protections against lead in plumbing materials (e.g., lead free solder and plugs requirement as well as the reduction of the lead content of brass (.25%) approved for home plumbing systems)
- Appreciation for the excellent water provided to Meridian Township residents by the ELMWSA
- Tips for reducing exposure to lead in tap water include running cold water through the tap until it gets cold and do not use hot water for cooking
- Mr. Dugan is an instrumental part of the Groundwater Management Board (GMB) and the Technical Advisory Committee to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, inquired if the panels used in the community solar array project would be seasonably adjustable to maximize efficiency. He inquired if the proposed sites will be prepared for vandalism, domestic terrorism and international terrorism. Mr. Provencher spoke to the annual open houses held at the ELMWSA and expressed appreciation for availability of its Annual Report for the public at a Township meeting.

Upon request, Mr. Gard replied a decision was made not to use single access pivot panels due to the cost. He added there will be a fence built around the solar array system and a 40 foot perimeter boundary inside the fence before reaching the shatter resistant panels.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, apologized to Trustee Wilson for abusive remarks he made two Board meetings ago during final public remarks. He addressed the way comments are reported in the minutes and accepted the comments as recorded in the January 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mr. Bowlby spoke to the manner in which the Board's "dirty laundry" was aired before the public over such a trivial matter as a mileage reimbursement, indicating it could have been handled in private and accommodations made. He addressed The Square Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, offering his calculations as to the revenue which would be generated over a 30 year period. Mr. Bowlby believed, contrary to a previous statement by the developer, that the developer can certainly afford the cleanup. He believed if the Township commits any money to the project, it is a tacit approval to place residents in the "face of danger." Mr. Bowlby urged the Board to not contribute to this project.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka will be leaving the Township at the end of this month to become the Finance Director for the City of Brighton
- Meeting last week with Wanda Bloomquist, Williamstown Township Supervisor to discuss common issues between the two municipalities
- Meet with Mark Burnham, Director of Governmental Affairs at Michigan State University (MSU) to converse about the relationship between Meridian Township and MSU
- Two promotions within the Police Department effective February 18<sup>th</sup>: Lt. Plaga to Assistant Chief of Police and Lt. Frenger to Captain
- The Square Brownfield will be back before the Board on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Manager will not be in attendance at the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting due to a planned vacation

7. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Treasurer Brixie reminded residents and Meridian Township taxpayers winter taxes are due by the close of business on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. She suggested residents make use of the white drop box in front of the Meridian Municipal Building beginning next week to ensure tax payments are received in the Treasurer's office by the due date. Treasurer Brixie also stated any taxpayer wishing to make their tax payment electronically can do so through enrollment in the program by February 5<sup>th</sup>. She announced the Chinese New Year Event will be held Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-4:30 P.M. to be held at the Meridian Mall.

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA) monthly meeting held on January 27, 2016. She noted her attendance, along with several other Board members, at the first Boards and Commissions Appreciation Event on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the new central fire station, where it was announced Planning Commissioner Pat Jackson and Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Brian Beauchine were award recipients. Trustee Wilson conveyed her attendance at yesterday's "hose uncoupling" ceremony to dedicate the new central fire station, an event well attended by Township residents. She indicated her attendance at today's Lansing Economic Area partnership (LEAP) Board of Directors meeting, where a presentation was given by Mike Trevorror, Lansing Area Plant Manager for General Motors, about the expansion of the two plants in Lansing and the \$400 million in wages generated by those two plants. She noted he indicated studies reveal the younger generation is buying fewer cars and relying more on public transportation, and the auto industry is working on ways to incorporate that concept into its business model. She named some of the upcoming innovations, including automobiles which drive themselves and used for taxi services.

Trustee Scales reported his attendance at the antiracism training held at Faith Lutheran Church on January 30<sup>th</sup>, where his greatest "takeaway" was that in order to effectuate change, one must change themselves. He clarified a comment he made at the last Board meeting during his road department report that if money is captured for replacement of the camelback bridge, a total replacement of the bridge would be set in one piece and would eliminate the greenspace in between.

Trustee Styka announced the Environmental Commission is seeking nominations for its Environmental Stewardship Award.

Trustee Veenstra pointed to a letter contained in the public Board packet regarding frustration in waiting over an hour for the public hearing on the Daniels Drain to commence. He suggested public hearings be moved up on the agenda, prior to approval of the consent agenda. Trustee Veenstra noted there were eight to ten letters in the packet opposed to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), explaining the Township Board does not have a voice on BRT approval.

Clerk Dreyfus agreed the Township Board needed to do a better job of communicating with the public regarding notification of a public hearing and a cover letter will accompany future public hearing notices with a link to the Township website where the public hearing is located on the agenda. He reported the Clerk's office conducted a voter registration drive last week to serve targeted underserved and hard to reach populations (e.g., disabled, elderly, affordable housing facilities, rehabilitation facilities, assisted living facilities, etc.). Clerk Dreyfus reminded citizens the Clerk's Office is accepting absentee voter applications up until the Saturday before the March 8<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary.

Trustee Styka noted road departments are interested in moving cars and he understood the long range plan for the bridges over the Red Cedar River was to replace the current southbound bridge and turn the camelback bridge into a pedestrian bridge. He suggested fellow Board members think about resident access to both Wonch and Ferguson parks if turns are not allowed, urging a request for input into the Ingham County Road Department's (ICRD) decision.

Trustee Scales addressed his request at the last Board meeting concerning a special public meeting to allow CATA to offer a presentation on the BRT and provide for a question and answer period for the public in a town hall setting. He inquired if a motion was needed to move on that.

Manager Walsh stated the Board's intent was clearly communicated at the last Board meeting and he contacted CATA the next day to convey the Board's desire. He noted he continues to have a discussion with CATA to come up with a mutually agreeable date to hold this community conversation.

Trustee Scales inquired of the Clerk if the last day to register to vote in the March 8<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary was February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk Dreyfus responded in the affirmative.

Treasurer Brixie clarified an earlier Board member comment by stating the two proposed turnaround points with the park and ride lots would be out of the right-of-way and on private properties which have active special use permits (SUP) on them. She noted both of the SUPs would need to be modified and would come before the Township Board for approval.

Trustee Veenstra inquired when the absentee ballots for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary would be sent from the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Dreyfus responded the first mailing will take place on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Scales asked if voters aged 60 will automatically receive a ballot, or do they need to sign up to be placed on the absentee list.

Clerk Dreyfus clarified there is an absentee ballot application list, which a voter must request to have their name placed on it. He noted the names on the list are sent an application, which must be filled out and returned to the Clerk's Office; once received, his office sends out a ballot.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor LeGoff reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Communications

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Cynthia Summers, 2607 Rockwood Drive, East Lansing; RE: Property Damage
- BI-2 Steve Vagnozzi, 2144 Woodfield Road, Okemos; RE: On-time Performance for Intercity Passenger Rail
- BI-3 Donna Rose, 6207 Cobblers Court, East Lansing; RE: Copy of paper titled "Inclusion in Action: Give Riders a Voice in Transportation Planning and Making Dialysis Less Stressful" by Eric Weakly, Program Specialist, Administration for Community Living and Rik Opstelten, Program Manager, Federal Transit Administration
- BI-4 Ari B. Adler, 1580 Hillside Drive, Okemos; RE: Frustration with the public hearing on January 26, 2016
- BI-5 Kathy DeVito and Rich Baum, 470 Chimney Oaks Drive, Okemos; RE: CATA/BRT

- BI-6 Bill and Chris Collette, 2373 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: Response to Treasurer Brixie's response dated January 19, 2016 concerning the CATA BRT Proposal
- BI-7 Treasurer Julie Brixie; RE: Response to Bill and Chris Collette concerning the CATA BRT Proposal
- BI-8 Sherry and Kirk Martin, 4137 Trillium Court, Okemos; RE: Proposed CATA/BRT Project
- BI-9 Treasurer Julie Brixie; RE: Response to Sherry and Kirk Martin concerning the proposed CATA/BRT Project
- BI-10 Mary Hoenshell, 2341 Barnsbury Road, East Lansing; RE: CATA Plans on Grand River Avenue
- BI-11 L.M. French, 105 Samuel Oaks Drive, Okemos; RE: Stop the Express Bus Route Now
- BI-12 Ronald W. Rowe, 6247 E Lake Drive, Haslett; RE: BRT System by CATA
- BI-13 Rita Peffers, 4932 Sioux Way, Okemos; RE: CATA BRT
- BI-14 Anne Woiwode, 5088 Powell Road, Okemos; RE: Thanks to the Township for Supporting CATA and Bus Rapid Transit
- BI-15 Ranji and Barbara Samaraweera, 430 Chimney Oaks Drive, Okemos; RE: CATA/BRT
- BI-16 Matt Rhodes, Owner, Dusty's Cellar, 1839 W. Grand River, Okemos; RE: Grand River Project
- BI-17 Louis Nigg, 3810 Hemmingway Drive, Okemos; RE: CATA express bus line
- BI-18 Virginia Perry, 1392 Stillman Road, Mason; RE: Proposed bus stop lane
- BI-19 Tom and Gerry Chirgwin, 4719 Rocky Hill Drive, Williamston; RE: Bus Plan
- BI-20 Rod Petersen, 1105 Robb Street, East Lansing; RE: Proposed CATA Grand River track
- BI-21 Tim Roth, 1671 Forest Hills Drive, Okemos; RE: New CATA Dedicated Bus Lane
- BI-22 Rhonda Bueche, 4126 Leeward Drive, Okemos; RE: CATA/BRT
- BI-23 Pam Fraker, 351 Newman Road, Okemos; RE: The incredible arrogance of CATA
- BI-24 Diane Levy, 125 Wind-n-Wood Drive, Okemos; RE: Proposed CATA/BRT Project
- BI-25 Shirley Decker Prescott, Owner, Mert's Specialty Meats, 1870 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos; RE: BRT Project
- BI-26 Treasurer Julie Brixie; RE: Response to Shirley Decker Prescott concerning the BRT Project
- BI-27 Shirley Decker Prescott, Owner, Mert's Specialty Meats, 1870 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos; RE: Response to Treasurer Brixie's response on the BRT Project
- BI-28 Treasurer Julie Brixie; RE: Continued response to Shirley Decker Prescott concerning the BRT Project
- BI-29 Debra Chamberlain-Hamilton, 4819 Meridian Road, Williamston; RE: CATA Dedicated Bus Lane

(2) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Associate Planner Martha Wyatt; RE: Site Plan Review Decisions as of January 26, 2016

(3) On File in the Clerk’s Office (OF)

Material handed out at the January 26, 2016 Board Meeting

Donald R. Isleib, 5400 Park Lake Road, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to the “The Square” Redevelopment Plan

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Request to amend minutes of January 5, 2016 Township Board meeting

Eric Helzer, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions, PO Box 204, Eagle; RE: Revised Eligible Activity Costs for The Square Brownfield Redevelopment Plan

Material submitted at the January 26, 2016 Board Meeting

Petition signatures from 78 Residents of The Ponds Cooperative Homes; RE: Daniels Drain

Eckhart Dersch, Vice President, Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC), PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: The Square on Grand River Brownfield Redevelopment Plan

Sandy Gower, Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, PO Box 319, Mason; RE: Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Project Review Worksheet

**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 Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Bills

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:**

Common Cash	\$ 326,305.77
Public Works	\$ 162,860.94
Trust and Agency	\$ 3,117.25
Payroll Checks	\$ 12,020.85
Total Checks	\$ 504,304.81
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 10,748.11
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 515,052.92</u>

ACH Payments \$ 382,852.60

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

(Bill list in Official Minute Book)

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Charles Barbieri, Foster Swift, 313 Washington Avenue, Lansing, and attorney for The Ponds Cooperative Homes, Inc., urged the Board to support improvements to the Daniels Drain through adoption of the proposed resolution.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

- A. Zoning Amendment #15080 (Township Board) – Street Tree Ordinance – **Introduction**  
**Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article V, DIVISION 1, by amending Section 86-473 Street trees.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Planning Commission spent a great deal of time working on the language
- Input was also provided to the Planning Commission by the Environmental Commission
- Language was changed to include site specific retention of existing mature trees which do not adhere to ICRD’s strict regulations relative to clear cutting
- Use of deciduous trees as street trees due to ICRD concern with sight distance
- Safety concerns with an object (e.g., newly planted street trees) within five (5) feet of the curb line
- Speed limits are lower in residential areas where street trees are planted approximately five (5) feet from the curb line
- Proposed ordinance makes it the responsibility of the property owner to replace a dead tree if it dies after two (2) years
- If a homeowner plants a tree and it dies, it does not need to be replaced
- The developer of the subdivision would be responsible for tree replacement if it dies before two (2) years
- Existing ordinance contains language which requires replacement by the homeowner after two (2) years if it was a condition of approval
- Board member preference for the time period of replacement by the developer to be longer than two (2) years
- Type of materials which deflect the roots away from growing directly under the sidewalk and is placed around the base of the tree to force the roots down into the soil
- Township does not have a specific ordinance to direct tree removal unless it becomes a public nuisance
- Subdivision regulations dictate standards for residential property
- Non-residential property has landscape requirements which must be maintained
- If a tree dies within the right-of-way, the ICRD is required to remove the dead tree
- Most residents are aware the ICRD will remove a dead tree in the road right-of-way
- Suggestion to have an explicit provision in this ordinance which requires the removal of dead trees close to the road
- Board member suggestion to have an article in the next *Meridian Monitor* about the new street tree ordinance, explaining the process for tree removal and the responsible parties involved
- Board member suggestion to issue a press release on this ordinance once approved
- 2” caliper trees addressed in the ordinance
- Inquiry if 1-1/2” caliper trees are of sufficient size

- Calls which come into the Township about dead trees in the right-of-way are referred to the ICRD for action

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Daniels Drain Improvements

Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Perry explained the steps in the petition process for the Daniels Drain.

**Trustee Wilson moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan, as follows:**

- 1. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to execute and send the Petition substantially in the form attached hereto, as Exhibit B, to the Ingham County Drain Commissioner by registered mail.**
- 2. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.**

**Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Issues with the Daniels Drain need to be addressed for the health, safety and welfare of some residents within Meridian Township
- Petition is one step in a long process of correcting problems within the Daniels Drain
- Board member disagreement with proposed assessments for individual properties in subdivisions
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will likely fund a significant portion of the project
- Object lesson regarding this project is for the Board to consider the long term maintenance costs when the size of a development is contemplated
- MDOT will receive notice of the project once the ICDC acts on the Township's petition
- Concern with the Township's ability to control costs of the proposed drain improvements
- Board member hope that MDOT's involvement will provide an additional layer of oversight to the project to ensure the project is not more than what is needed to "fix" the known problems

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

**Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Kenneth Lane to serve as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacant term ending on December 31, 2017. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Board discussion:

- Appointment to fill a vacancy as the result of Jim Hershiser's resignation
- Appreciation for the degree of professionalism Mr. Hershiser brought to his position on the Zoning Board of Appeals

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Fire Services Agreement – Alaiedon Township  
**Trustee Scales moved to approve the agreement between Delhi Charter Township and Meridian Charter Township for fire and rescue services within Alaiedon Township and authorize the Township Manager and Fire Chief to sign the agreement. Seconded by Trustee Styka.**

Board discussion:

- Timing of this agreement is in “sync” with the opening of the new central fire station
- Meridian Fire Department will provide the same level of excellent service as it provides to Meridian residents
- Board member caution that there is ample staffing to ensure the continued safety of Meridian residents
- Proposal is a continuation of the services currently provided to Alaiedon Township
- Agreement is in keeping with Meridian’s regional approach
- Board member belief ambulance service also needs to be included
- Tri-County Medical Control Authority has the final say in which municipality services an area
- Mutual Aid Agreement provides for the closest ambulance to respond to a medical emergency
- Retention of the same hourly service fees and service call charges is a testament to Meridian’s Fire Department

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

- E. 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program  
**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 \$238,600 with the Township’s 10% share being \$21,960 coming from the 2016 General Fund. Seconded by Trustee Scales.**

Board and staff discussion:

- Opportunity provided by the federal government to submit a grant
- Grant application is submitted online and the federal government inserts the match amount required from the Township
- The figure is a targeted number provided by the federal government for local agencies to “apply to”
- The amount authorized through Homeland Security grants to the State of Michigan is unknown until the federal government releases the figures
- Township’s match would come from the General Fund

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff,  
Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, posed several questions regarding the use policy of the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club Community Room. He believed the room should be exclusively available for residents of Meridian Township and a lower rate charged for non-profit groups.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club Community Room – Use Policy

Board and staff discussion:

- Board member belief the public paid for use of the room through the millage and residents should be allowed to use the community room for free
- Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club will not be charged to use the room for its meetings as it donated \$10,000 towards the room
- Board member belief non-profit organizations should be allowed the use of the community room free of charge
- Practical difficulty in staff making a determination relative to for profit v. non-profit organizations
- Board member support to continue charging a nominal fee for those who wish to rent the room
- Board member support to continue the methodology previously used to rent the Meridian Service Center
- Board member belief the community room was “sold” as part of the millage request and a fee for room use was not discussed
- Service Center reservation application already designates whether a prospective applicant is a resident or non-profit organization
- Board member preference to initially not charge for use of the community room
- Board member belief a refundable deposit is practical
- Option for the Board to revisit community room rental in the future if problems occur
- Board member recollection firefighters initiated the idea of using the training room as a community room to help pay for the facility
- Reminder that the number one priority of the room is its use for emergency operations
- Prospective renters who are not part of the Township would not necessarily use the same level of care for the room as those invested in the Township
- Board member preference for a simple priority system
- Fees are charged to Township residents for rental of the park pavilions
- Board member reminder this is public use of the firefighters’ “home”
- One of the two doors to the community room allows access to the firefighters’ quarters
- Door to the firefighters’ quarters remains locked at all times
- 2013 ice storm was the last time there was a need to set up emergency operations
- Board member belief charging \$70 to a group of Meridian residents for minimum use of the community room is “outrageous”
- Board member preference to mirror the use policy of the room at the Service Center
- Suggestion for the Fire Department to host community events at the fire station to engage the community and tie it to the fire station

**It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on the February 16, 2016 Board agenda for action.**

14. FINAL PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, suggested the Clerk could better communicate with the public with respect to public hearings by pointing out “first public remarks is available to them and that the issue is presented, to some degree, online in the packet.” He noted the other thing to point out is they will be able to hear the discussion by going to HOMTV afterward. Mr. Provencher inquired if there was a point of sale (POS) requirement relative to lead levels in drinking water and suggested any POS in our community contain lead level disclosure as well as it be a requirement for rental license renewals. He indicated \$56,000 of the fire station millage money remained and inquired if the pole barn for the auxiliary equipment can be built with those remaining funds. Mr. Provencher stated the decorum exhibited by Board members at the central fire station “hose uncoupling” was excellent and suggested that same congeniality be brought to Board meetings.

Mr. Provencher inquired how many calls were covered under the first year of the contract which provided fire services to Alaieton Township, and how much additional income was generated by those calls. He voiced disappointment the bronze plaque in the entryway of the new central fire station did not acknowledge the public who contributed \$3.44 million to the construction of the new central fire station.

Township Manager Walsh explained there was approximately \$100,000 budgeted in the general fund this year for a project to perform work at the fire stations and the project cost came in at a cost of \$50,000-\$55,000. He stated using the remaining budgeted amount in the general fund to construct the pole barn will result in only a minimal amount of the remaining bond money needed to complete the pole barn project.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Brixie spoke to earlier comments made concerning the bridge over the Red Cedar River. She shared with the Board the last time the camelback bridge was worked on, there was significant community concern expressed by residents against a complete replacement. As a result, she noted only repairs were made by the ICRD in an effort to preserve the historical quality of the camelback bridge. Treasurer Brixie suggested Trustee Scales schedule a well-publicized meeting in the Town Hall Room with the ICRD to garner public input. She believed residents still feel strongly about “getting rid” of greenspace.

Trustee Scales reiterated his statement from the last meeting that once the approximate \$1.7 million repair of the bridge is completed, the Township’s ability to obtain the remaining \$1.8 million to completely replace the bridge will be more difficult. He believed the timing of this issue to be critical.

Treasurer Brixie replied the issue last time was to repair the bridge and preserve the historical quality of it rather than replace the bridge. She indicated repair of the current bridge would “get rid” of the camelback bridge, and she was unsure whether residents would welcome the additional lanes. She voiced her desire to get in front of this issue instead of being behind. Treasurer Brixie expressed her appreciation for the update by Trustee Scales on this important issue.

Trustee Veenstra believed it critical to preserve access to Wonch Park.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:52 P.M.

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ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary