

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy, Police Chief David Hall, 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 (None)
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Mickey Martin, Supervisor, Williamstown Township, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, expressed her appreciation for the cooperative spirit in the continued police services contract between Meridian and Williamstown Townships.

Christine Tenaglia, 2551 Bruin, East Lansing, offered some personal background information and voiced appreciation for consideration of her application for public service to the Planning Commission.

Brett DeGroff, 4224 Shoals Drive, Okemos, communicated his desire to be appointed as a member of the Planning Commission, expressing a desire to be involved in public service for Meridian Township.

Rx Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, expressed disappointment with answers received from the Township's prosecuting attorney to questions he posed relative to the forfeiture act.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, commented on another vacancy which recently occurred in the Haslett Village Square shopping center. He voiced concern Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) will be conducting its next meeting outside of Meridian Township.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered several hypotheses as to why Lynn Hildebrandt was not recommended for reappointment to the Planning Commission, subsequently nullifying each one. He requested the Supervisor reconsider her Planning Commission appointments and reappoint Lynn Hildebrandt.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, expressed opposition to the Township's support of the new standing ruling by the Ingham County Circuit Court as it relates to the lawsuit filed regarding the proposed new central fire station.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Meeting with East Lansing City Manager tomorrow regarding mutual items of interest
- Fire truck engine repair invoice of \$17,000 was negotiated by the Fire Chief, Director of Public Works and Engineering and the Facilities Superintendent which resulted in no cost to the Township
- Continued concerns from residents regarding the Okemos Road Streetlights project
- 111 deer culled to date in the Deer Management Program

7. BOARD COMMENTS & REPORTS

Trustee Styka announced the Township will be hosting the Drive through Santa on December 13th from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. at the Meridian Service Center and Christmas in the Historical Village on December 14th from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. He indicated three (3) giving programs are taking place at the Municipal Building: Be a Santa to a Senior, Toys for Tots, and the St. Luke Coat Bank. Trustee Styka stated Meridian Cares is hosting a fundraiser to raise \$3,000 for the Community Resources Commission Needs Fund. He praised the latest issue of the Meridian Monitor as “outstanding.”

Trustee Wilson reported her attendance at the LEAP Board of Directors Meeting earlier tonight, highlighting that in 2014, LEAP was directly involved in \$250,000,000 in private investment in the Lansing Region. She also reported her attendance at last night’s Awards Ceremony for HOMTV interns.

Treasurer Brixie reported tax bills were mailed on Monday, December 1st. She noted a variety of payment options are available, including automatic recurring electronic payment. Treasurer Brixie indicated the Ingham County Services Committee is meeting tonight where discussion of the tree issues is on their agenda. She reported the Friends of Complete Streets met where the color of the pedestrian non-motorized bridge over the Red Cedar River was discussed and a decision was made on the color green.

Clerk Dreyfus reported the Township was served with a lawsuit on November 20, 2014. He noted an article in *Governing Magazine* where Grand Rapids was listed as one of the top cities in the nation utilizing Kyoto protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stating the key to its success was making a total commitment, starting with the Mayor. He believed there is a need for Meridian Township to make a commitment to reducing climate change, with success coming through commitment, measuring it and engaging the entire community.

Trustee Scales reported his attendance at the Haslett High School Black Student Union meeting today where the Ferguson, Missouri incident was discussed.

Trustee Veenstra congratulated Manager Walsh on the negotiation of the fire engine repair invoice. He expressed his desire to also see Lynn Hildebrandt reappointed to the Planning Commission. Trustee Veenstra announced the holiday party of Meridian Township Democrats will be held on December 14th from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Red Cedar Spirits Distillery. He suggested the residents of Autumn Park celebrate their many victories as the new fire station was moved at their request, reduced in size, no sirens, drive on Central Park moved, etc.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

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. Minutes

(1) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 13, 2014 Special Meeting as amended. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

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

(2) Treasurer Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the November 18, 2014 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Supervisor
LeGoff, 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	\$1,206,873.69
Public Works	\$ 258,283.90
Retainage	
Ck #1078-Mike & Son Asphalt/Perry Road	2,191.28
Ck #1079-Jules Swartz & Sons/Water Main	5,580.90
Total Checks	\$1,472,929.77
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 9,974.15
Total Purchases	<u>\$1,482,903.92</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 410,340.22</u>

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

- Q. Why is the language put in the Section 26-26 adoption (second and third to last sentences of the paragraph) about why we would include all the amendments to the International Fire Code, “including all amendments thereafter made to the 2012 International Fire Code.”
- A. That language was added to the International Fire Code adoption by reference as well as the Motor Vehicle Code previously (when it was adopted) because there was a situation several years ago where a district court judge dismissed a ticket that was written on a portion of the Motor Vehicle Code that had been previously (and recently) amended. The judge had said that if this language was in the ordinance, he would have allowed it to go forward. So, the language was added to the Motor Vehicle Code and also has been added to the International Fire Code adoption by reference. It is true that in the International Fire Code, there aren’t as many amendments as there are in the Motor Vehicle Code. If the language is there and we go in front of another court and they say you have to go back and adopt it, we haven’t lost anything. If we don’t have the language there and there is an amendment, we have to adopt a modification of the ordinance before we issue the ticket. That’s why it doesn’t hurt to have it there. However, if you want to take it out, it would just be the second part, the language “including all amendments thereafter made to the 2012 International Fire Code” and the next full sentence, the second to last sentence to that paragraph.
- Q. This language seems to suggest that if this language is included, that we are right now adopting amendments to the 2012 International Fire Code that might be made in the future, that haven’t been written at this time, but we are “sort of” giving a blank check that all amendments to this code adopted in the future we’re approving, right now, tonight. Is that a correct statement of what this language does?
- A. What this language does is adopt all additional amendments made to the International Fire Code, even though they have not been made yet. That’s correct.

11. HEARINGS (None)

12. ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in support of the resolution for Congressional Intervention for the Lansing Postal Center. He also expressed disappointment that Lynn Hildebrandt was not considered for reappointment to the Planning Commission.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, offered several comments regarding Zoning Amendment #13040, an amendment to add adult care facilities.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. 2012 International Fire Code – **Final Adoption**

Trustee Wilson 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. 2014-06, entitled “Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Chapter 26, Article II, Sections 26-26, 26-27, and Adding Section 26-28, to Adopt and Incorporate by Reference the 2012 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 Scales.

Board discussion:

- Township has previously adopted International Fire Code (IFC) language by reference
- Parts of the Building Code are also adopted by reference
- Not adopting by reference requires the Board to use its valuable time to make very minor changes

Trustee Styka offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Amend Section 26-26 by deleting “including all amendments thereafter made to the 2012 International Fire Code. Amendments made to the 2012 International Fire Code, as adopted by reference herein, become effective the same date they become effective in the 2012 International Fire Code.”**

The amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Board and staff discussion:

- Concern with adoption by reference of language that does not exist
- The state mandates the Township adopt the state building code by reference
- The Township must enforce the state building code as written
- Taking the language out or leaving it in will not change the way the Fire Code is enforced in the Township
- State has not adopted a Fire Code in 60 years
- Fire Department wanted to be proactive to ensure the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating remains at four (4)
- Trust in staff that it will present changes in the ordinance to the Board when needed

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

B. Zoning Amendment #13040 (Planning Commission), Amendment to Add Adult Care Facilities – Introduction

Clerk Dreyfus 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 I by amending Section 86-2 Definitions; Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 2 Residential Districts by amending Section 86-368 RR district; Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 3 Commercial, Retail, and Business Districts C-1, C-2 and C-3 by amending Section 86-403 C-1 commercial district, and Section 86-404 C-2 commercial district; Chapter 86, Article VI Special Use Requirements and Restrictions by amending Section 86-654 Nonresidential structures and uses in resident districts; and Chapter 86, Article VIII, Division 2 Off-Street Parking by amending Section 86-755 Schedule of requirements for parking spaces.”

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 Styka.

Board discussion:

- Language allows the Township to provide the necessary oversight using existing ordinances
- Reason for change from six (6) to five in two of the definitions is because the building code uses five (5) as the limit for adult care and there needed to be consistency with the building code

Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the definitions of family adult care home and group adult care home from five (5) back to six (6).

The motion died for lack of a second.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie, Clerk Dreyfus
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
Motion carried 6-1.

- C. Resolution Requesting Congressional Intervention for the Lansing Postal Center
Trustee Veenstra moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby requests congressional intervention to stop this proposal to close or consolidate the Lansing Processing and Distribution Center and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to forward this resolution to our U.S. Senators and Representatives and the Postmaster General. Seconded by Trustee Styka.

Supervisor LeGoff offered the following amendment:

- Amend the first WHEREAS clause by deleting “alleged”

Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee Scales, Styka, Veenstra, Wilson, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion failed 2-5.

Board discussion:

- No basis in fact closing the Lansing Processing and Distribution Center located on Collins Road would be a cost saving measure
- Concern with timely receipt of tax and utility bill payments with the delay in mail delivery
- Board member belief this type of service is an important public service and should be subsidized by the federal government
- Effect mail delay will have on requests for and delivery of absentee ballots
- State deadline of 2:00 P.M. the Saturday before an election to request an absentee ballot will require a “consolidated runner” to drive the ballots to Grand Rapids for timely processing
- Local mail from Okemos to Okemos, Haslett to Haslett, Haslett to Okemos or Okemos to Haslett will change from next day delivery to three (3) day delivery
- Board member suggestion that the postal union representative be told of Board passage of this resolution
- Concern with regional jobs which will be lost with this closing

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

- D. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Treasurer Brixie moved the revised Board and Commission appointments as recommended by Supervisor LeGoff. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Board discussion:

- Board member belief individuals who have currently served in an exemplary fashion should be reappointed if interested
 - Concern with the philosophy of rotating appointments
 - Concern with the reappointment of only two (2) of the three (3) Planning Commissioners despite the desire of all three (3) to be reappointed
 - Planning Commission appointments are the Supervisor's prerogative
- Trustee Veenstra moved to amend the motion to approve the appointments body by body, beginning with the Board of Review. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion failed 2-5 (Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer Brixie).

Continued Board discussion:

- Board has the option to not approve the Supervisor's recommendation
- Board appointments to the Planning Commission should have geographical representation
- Planning Commission appointments are heavily weighted in the Okemos area
- Board of Review has three (3) vacancies and applications are needed
- Community Resources Commission vacancy could be filled by a resident who filled out an application

Trustee Veenstra moved to appoint Kathleen Langhals to the Community Resources Commission for a two-year term ending December 31, 2016.

The motion died for lack of a second.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustees Scales, Styka, Wilson, Supervisor LeGoff, Treasurer
ON THE MAIN Brixie
MOTION: NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Clerk Dreyfus
Motion carried 5-2.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, voiced objection to the placement of a dog park in Legg Park. He offered several comments on the proposed Goals and Objectives.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Okemos, agreed with Clerk Dreyfus that Meridian Township should be proactive to become a green community. He addressed Board member comment at the last meeting relative to the fact having Board meetings during the day brings out different residents.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, offered several comments relative to the plan for the proposed new central fire station. He requested the Township Board follow the proper process.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

A. Central Fire Station Final Budget and Drawings

Manager Walsh expressed appreciation to Township resident Todd Wilson for his professional expertise at several of the recent meetings relative to the proposed central fire station. He also appreciated the work of the entire Fire Station Committee, including Trustee Styka and Supervisor LeGoff.

Director Severy summarized the drawings and final budget for the proposed new central fire station as outlined in staff memorandum dated November 24, 2014.

Board and staff discussion:

- Plans for ten (10) spaces of alternate parking to accommodate residents who will use the training center as a community room
- Township community room as a focal point of the building

- Board member request for detailed plans to be provided to the Board for its December 9th meeting
- 60% plans have been available for Board review
- Staff has complied with the direction of the Board to downsize the building and come in under budget
- Board member appreciation that given the numerous delays as a result of the lawsuit, this project will still serve the needs of the community in a “top notch” manner

[Treasurer Brixie left the room at 8:05 P.M.]

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Board approval to use a construction manager precludes the need to see total plans
- Need for a gathering space for Township residents
- Trustee desire for the Board to approve the final plans
- Sloped roof at both the north and south end of the building to allow for water runoff
- Flat area in the center of the roof will have sufficient pitch to guide water to run to drains
- Entire roof will have a membrane coating which will not leak
- Main front door is in the southwest corner of the building off Okemos Road
- Location of bicycle racks near the front door
- New central fire station will have external LED lighting
- Board member request for information on internal lighting and its efficiency

[Treasurer Brixie reentered the room at 8:11 P.M.]

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at its December 9, 2014 meeting.

B. 2015 Goals and Objectives

Board and staff discussion:

- Appreciation for the positive “different” approach than the one taken in the past
- Suggestion to add the objective: Making Meridian Township a solar ready community
- Concern with specifying only one alternative energy source
- Township Manager has met with members from the Environmental Commission and representatives from Consumers Energy relative to the use of solar energy
- Suggestion to have Consumers Energy make a presentation on solar energy
- Suggestion to add Goal 1, Objective o. which reads: Mitigate climate change including exploration of becoming a solar ready community
- Board member preference for language which states: Investigate ways to become energy efficient

It was the consensus of the Board to add Goal 1, Objective o: Mitigate climate change including investigating becoming a solar ready community.

Continued Board discussion:

- Explanation of monthly police and fire citizen surveys
- Explanation of the rental housing program which encompasses the registration process for rentals
- Consensus to add to Goal 4, Objective q: “and replace the Towar Lift Station”

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on for action at the December 9, 2014 Board meeting.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor LeGoff opened Public Remarks.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, believed the Township needs “80% plans” to adequately review the proposed new central fire station.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood, Haslett, addressed appointments to the Planning Commission. He believed some members of the Board are using “double speak” and getting away with using it to choose and shape fact selectively to block out those that don’t fit an agenda or program.

Supervisor LeGoff closed Public Remarks.

15. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Scales reminded residents that those who choose to partake of a meal at the Asian Buffet will see a donation of 10% of the gross made to the Parkwood YMCA.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor LeGoff adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary