

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,  
LeGoff, Veenstra  
ABSENT: Trustee Ochberg  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Director of  
Finance Diana Hasse, Director of Parks and Recreation LuAnn Maisner, Fire Chief Fred  
Cowper

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS  
Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL  
The secretary called the roll of the Board.
4. PUBLIC REMARKS  
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed appreciation for the Board packet being placed online, although he believed it incomplete as it did not contain draft minutes. He spoke in opposition to the beginning of the year budget amendments (i.e., sewer fund expenditure for the Greenwood subdivision sanitary sewer), expressed concern the amendments to the AFSCME Office Clerical and Secretarial Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement was confidential and not included in the public packet, spoke in opposition to the closed session as he believed it did not meet the Open Meetings Act and in opposition to a portion of the 2012 Millage Elections as he believed it inappropriate to place a bond millage on the ballot for a new central fire station.

Supervisor McGillicuddy clarified the Greenwood subdivision sanitary sewer was removed from the beginning of the year budget amendments.

Erik Furseth, 5082 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, commended the Board for its understanding of the necessity for a deer management program. He suggested a panel be created which would compile data to make the program more effective.

Carrie Hiser, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, thanked the Board for taking the funding of the sewer extension for the Greenwood subdivision off of tonight's agenda. She urged the Board to place the removal of the one year requirement for sewer hookup on a "fast track."

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett, expressed appreciation that the Township Board packet is accessible online. He thanked the Board for taking the funding of the sewer extension for the Greenwood subdivision off of tonight's agenda. Mr. Bowlby also urged the Board to remove the one-year hookup requirement. He spoke to language in Ingham County's code relative to sewer hookup and urged the Board to be cautious in crafting language to remove the Township's current mandatory one-year requirement.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at the Grand Opening of Walgreen's, meeting twice with a group about drainage problems onto Land Preservation properties, the Chinese New Year celebration at the Meridian Senior Center, several millage meetings with senior center representatives, and attendance at an evening Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting, where engaging the Asian community was discussed as well as welcoming the new LEAP President and CEO, Bob Trezise.

Treasurer Brixie reported her attendance at the Chinese New Year Celebration at the Meridian Senior Center and Walgreen's Grand Opening, along with the EDC strategic planning meeting. She also reported her attendance at the Capital Area Treasurer's meeting, where work continues on cost saving efforts and economizing by cooperative agreements. Treasurer Brixie announced taxes are due by February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M., noting the Treasurer's office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. She added the white drop box in front of the Meridian Municipal Building is available for those residents wishing to drop payments off without coming into the building, cautioning residents not to use cash for drop box payments. Treasurer Brixie added she attended the Groundwater Management Board meeting where a speaker from Michigan State University, Jeremiah Asher, spoke about a program entitled "Network to Neighborhoods for Eco Conservation Online."

Trustee Dreyfus reported his attendance at the Cable Communications Commission meeting and announced the redesign of the control room has moved forward. He noted that during the meeting, discussion revealed that AT&T, one of the Township's franchisee holders, is not participating in Cable meetings or taking an active role with the Township. Trustee Dreyfus stated that AT&T's cable service, U-Verse, is not available to the Township Hall. He also reported his attendance at the MTA conference late January, focusing on several sessions, one of which was increasing community interactivity and access to the public through social media. Trustee Dreyfus noted the session offered innovative and creative ways the Township can instantly communicate with its residents.

Clerk Helmbrecht reminded residents of the February 28<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary Election. She noted absentee ballot applications are being processed on a daily basis and will be mailed up through 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Helmbrecht announced voters in Precinct 12, who historically voted at Wardcliff, will continue to vote temporarily at the Township Hall until a permanent precinct location can be obtained in the fall. She reminded residents that they must specifically designate a Democratic or Republican ballot and, in the case of individuals who reside within the East Lansing School District, a bond issue ballot.

Trustee Veenstra reported his attendance at the annual meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. He spoke in support of the request to remove the one-year hookup requirement to sanitary sewer currently in the Township's code and in support of the concept of an advisory panel to reduce deer population. Trustee Veenstra spoke to a letter from Chester Lewis indicating Wolverine Pipeline was notifying individuals of its intent to clear cut through residents' yards. Trustee Veenstra mentioned the packet contained a letter from Andrew Finley which supported Township efforts to reduce the deer population and urged additional measures for this fall's program.

In response to several inquiries, Treasurer Brixie clarified residents who vote in the February 28<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary will also be able to vote in the May Democratic caucus.

Trustee LeGoff reported her attendance at the Michigan Township Association's conference held in Detroit January 25<sup>th</sup> through January 27<sup>th</sup>. She expressed appreciation for the discussions on wind energy and floodplain management as well as the legislative update provided to attendees.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:**

- **Add Agenda Item #10C: Appointment to the Board of Review and Board of Pension Trustees**

**Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1) Board Deliberations (BD)

BD 7F-1 Charles J. Veverka, Jr., 5266 Cornell Road, Haslett; RE: Letter in protest of the 2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No. 13

(2) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Judy and Bill McMillan, 6078 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Support for public utility extension to the Greenwood subdivision

BI-2 Fred W. Hipshear, Right-of-Way and Claims Specialist, Wolverine Pipe Line Company, 8075 Creekside Drive, Suite 210, Portage; RE: Notification of Right-of-Way Clearing, Wolverine Easement WSL-0273

BI-3 Fred W. Hipshear, Right-of-Way and Claims Specialist, Wolverine Pipe Line Company, 8075 Creekside Drive, Suite 210, Portage; RE: E-mail to Director Severy regarding the handling of complaints on the clearing right-of-way

BI-4 Andrew Finley, 3985 Windy Heights Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for additional measures to reduce the deer population in Meridian Township

BI-5 Ron Rivard, 3655 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos; RE: Support for expanding the Township's Deer Management Program

BI-6 Everett Root, 928 River Knoll Drive, Haslett; RE: Recent poor service by the Ingham County Road Commission

BI-7 John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Enhancement to services and price increases

BI-8 Karen Majewski, President, Michigan Municipal League, 1675 Green Road, Ann Arbor; RE: Elimination of Michigan's Personal Property Tax without replacement revenue for local governments and public schools

(3) Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Bill Conklin, Executive Director, Ingham County Road Commission, RE: Response to Township resident regarding the road conditions on Sunday, January 29, 2012

(4) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Material handed out at the January 17, 2012 Board Meeting

Michael Lee, 6017 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Opposition to being forced to hookup to the proposed public sewer extension in the Greenwood subdivision

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Fact sheet on the proposed extension of public utilities into the Greenwood subdivision

Roger Eberhardt, 812 Piper Road, Haslett; RE: Support for extending the off-road pathway from the east end of the Interurban Pathway to Haslett Road

Material received at the January 17, 2012 Board Meeting

Doris Imshaug, 5280 Cornell Road, Haslett; RE: Opposition to construction of sidewalks on Cornell Road

**Clerk Helmbrecht 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 Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

**(1) Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 10, 2012 Policy Governance Review Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

**(2) Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor  
McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:**

Common Cash	\$ 757,484.18
Public Works	\$ 70,522.26
Total Checks	\$ 828,006.44
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 14,654.54
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 842,660.98</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 828,939.73</u>

**Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Approval of Part-time Paramedic/Fire Fighters

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved ratification of the appointment of Adam Gaukel and Michel Kueppers to the position of part-time paramedic/firefighter to satisfy a stipulation in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

- E. Reappointment to the East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority  
**Clerk Helmbrecht moved that Raymond Severy, Director of Public Works and Engineering be reappointed to the East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority for a three year term ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

- F. 2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk, Special Assessment District No. 13 - **Resolution #3**  
**Clerk Helmbrecht moved to approve 2012 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #13, Resolution #3 which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Bird Strawberry Farm; Carriage Hills Estates, and #3; Chippewa Woods, and #2; Country Green; Country Place, and #2, and #3; Hillbrook Park, and #1, and #2; Sunrise Estates, and #2; Wilkshire, Wilkshire #1, and #2; Wood Valley, and #2, and #3; Woodridge; Woodside Estates, and #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6; Maple Ridge Condos of Haslett; Meridian Hills Condos; Nemoke Trails Apartments; Woodhill Condos; and five metes & bounds parcels in Sections 15, and to defray the cost by special assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$23,931; determines the special assessment district; directs the making of an assessment roll, including a certificate; and authorizes notices be sent to the property owners giving 20 days notice to replace defective sidewalk. Seconded by Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

A. Beginning of Year Budget Amendments

Finance Director Diana Hasse summarized the beginning of the year budget amendments as outlined in the revised staff memorandum dated February 7, 2012.

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved that the Township Board approve the 2012 amended budget as reflected on Page 3 of the revised memorandum to the Township Board from the Finance Director dated February 7, 2012. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Amendments deal primarily with carryover projects from 2011-2012
- Revised budget amendment removed the Greenwood subdivision sewer project
- Half of the carryover funds for Central Park Master Plan comes from the General Fund and half from the Park Millage Fund
- Fund balance ratio has increased from last year
- South Okemos Road streetlight project has not been included in the amendments, but will be included as an additional expense once final costs on the LED lights are obtained
- Township is typically conservative and does not spend all of the budgeted amounts
- Some revenues in 2011 were higher than anticipated
- \$30,000 cost for uniforms and gear for part-time firefighters
- Use of existing gear in some cases
- Part-time firefighters will greatly reduce the cost of full time firefighter overtime
- Belief that the \$6,000 expenditure for a regional fire study is a waste of money
- Study will address operations and how training and purchasing can be more efficiently provided

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 REGULAR MEETING \*APPROVED\*

- Township participation in the regional fire study is only a small portion of the total cost
- \$28,500 expenditure for the consulting engineer's services regarding the streetlights on South Okemos Road is excessive
- Just because the Township obtained the grant does not mean the project merits spending the money
- \$18,000 expenditure is for a previously approved land acquisition of two specific parcels

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 5-1.

- B. Amendments to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Office Clerical and Secretarial Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement  
**Treasurer Brixie moved approval of the amendments to the collective bargaining agreement for 2012-2013, as tentatively agreed to and further ratified by the AFSCME Office, Clerical and Secretarial Employees as described in the February 3, 2012 staff memorandum and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Concern this agreement was labeled confidential although it had been ratified by the employees
- Two year agreement with a 0% wage increase
- Employees have received a 0% wage increase for several years
- Inflationary index approximately 3% per year
- In real dollars, employees are being required to take a 3% pay cut
- Specified dollar amount as a wage increase for employees needed in next year's budget
- Necessity of confidentiality in order to preserve the rights of both employees and the Township
- Lump sum sign-up bonus of \$250 per year
- Surplus in the fund balance does not mean the money should not be kept for other "reserve situations"

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
NAYS: Trustee Veenstra  
Motion carried 5-1.

- C. Appointment to the Board of Review and Pension Board  
**Supervisor McGillicuddy moved to appoint Diane Galbraith to the Assessing Board of Review for a two year term ending December 31, 2013. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to appoint Joseph Bonsall to the Pension Board of Trustees for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Applicant is an excellent candidate for the position
- Rule changes in the financial industry require residents who are active pension managers to obtain a release from their employer to serve as an appointee
- Applicant's resume indicates Mr. Bonsall would be a good addition to the Pension Board
- Mr. Bonsall does not have investment experience
- Rationale given previously by a Board member for not approving a proposed applicant was because he did not have investment experience

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Jerry Cvengros, 4300 Kenosha Trail, Okemos spoke in support of the millage renewal and millage increase for the Meridian Senior Center.

Barb Kissling, 1480 Sylvan Glen Road, Okemos, spoke in support of the millage renewal and millage increase for the Meridian Senior Center.

Jefferson Sharp, 1733 S. Crystal Cove, Haslett, spoke to the benefits of the Meridian Senior Center and in support of the millage renewal and millage increase for the center.

Mary Davidson, 3607 W. Hiawatha Drive, Okemos, spoke to the activities offered at the Meridian Senior Center and the sense of community created through the center. She spoke in support of the millage to continue care for the elderly in the Township.

Ed Gillespie, 2692 Rockwood Drive, spoke to the quality of life in Meridian Township bettered by the Meridian Senior Center and in support of the millage renewal and small increase proposed. He urged the Township Board to place this issue on the August 7<sup>th</sup> ballot.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

A. Possible 2012 Millage Elections

Board members discussed the following regarding the community services millage renewal/increase request:

- Need for the senior center to be open additional hours
- Need for the Township's aging population to have social connectivity
- Revenue to fund the senior center is derived from property taxes which have declined over the last few years
- Preference for the Board to take action at its next meeting to place this issue on the August 7, 2012 ballot
- Current hours of the senior center are from 9:00AM-3:00 PM
- Increased funding would allow the current part-time person to become full-time, and the possibility of hiring an additional full-time and part-time position
- Suggestion to place this issue in the Meridian Monitor
- People from outside of the community attend the Meridian Senior Center
- Advisory Board met and decided on the .15 mill
- Discussion will give staff direction in order to move forward with ballot language
- Currently, the .10 mill is divided among the center, recreation activities and human services

Township Manager Richards summarized the possible replacement of the Central Fire Station. He reminded Board members discussion took place during the 2012 Budget deliberations where a majority of members were in favor of this issue being placed on the ballot this year. Manager Richards indicated if it is the Board's intent to move forward on this issue, staff will develop options relative to location, cost breakdowns and what will be included in the replacement fire station. He added the timing is favorable to explore the use of tax exempt bonds as the rate for borrowing money is very low.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Review of the facility by a real estate consultant as a component of the regional fire service consolidation study indicated the present Central Fire Station is inadequate, obsolete and should not be renovated
- Regional fire service consolidation study to be completed by April
- Regional fire study will contain two parts: ways in which the fire departments can work together without consolidation and a plan for consolidation
- Need to continue exploration of options while awaiting results of the regional study
- Need to wait for results of the regional study in order to adequately address this issue

- Suggestion to create various scenarios with corresponding costs to determine if a millage, and what type of millage, will move forward
- Need to begin the process now of ascertaining feasible places owned by the Township on which to locate the replacement for a Central Fire Station
- Request for staff to look at the cost of bonds
- Residents have expressed an interest in keeping three fire stations in Meridian Township and should decide if all three (3) fire stations will remain
- Inquiry if the Township will make the building “livable” if the Board decides to place this issue on the ballot
- If the replacement of the central fire station is placed on the ballot, the Township will do what is necessary to make the building livable in the interim
- If voters turn down the millage proposal for replacement of the central fire station, the Township is in a position to function with two (2) stations
- Building a central fire station on Township owned land at the corner of Okemos Road and Central Park Drive would reduce response times
- Additional benefit of moving the central fire station location to Okemos Road and Central Park Drive would allow the current location to operate while the new station was being constructed
- Belief the voters, not the recommendations which come out of the regional fire service consolidation study, should determine if the Township has three (3) fire stations
- Request for staff to provide the pros and cons of rebuilding on site v. moving the station to the corner of Okemos Road and Central Park Drive
- Construction on land currently owned by the Township is less expensive than purchasing additional land
- Board members must often make decisions based on a great deal of information, conflicting information and information which is not made readily available to the public
- Concern that the “forces” are changing the dynamic of this game, and the Board is not receiving objective, unbiased information
- This issue is no different than any other important issue which affects the Township
- Replacement of the central fire station as a board issue or one which goes before the public
- Total cost to taxpayers for building a new central fire station must be clearly delineated
- All residents need unbiased relevant data (e.g., EMT response times and grid maps received by the Board)
- Board member belief that the entire issue is about response times
- National and state standards for response times need to be clearly defined
- Need for residents to have average response times of other communities across the state for comparative purposes
- Board member belief that ninety percent (90%) of residents which spoke before the Board on this issue live within approximately 1.5 miles of the central fire station, a small percentage of the Township populace
- Concern with spending \$5 million for a new central fire station which might cost the average homeowner “X number of hundreds of dollars per year” in millage and extra taxes to save 30-40 seconds in response time
- Operating with only two (2) fire stations would not cost the Township additional money
- Data received by the fire department union is not unbiased information, as the union has a vested interest in wanting more fire stations
- Information on this issue could be presented to the public through the Meridian Monitor
- Policy Question #1 contained in the 2009 National Citizen Survey dealt with the central fire station
- Aging population of Township residents is a factor in the increased need for paramedic services
- Request for Board members to receive information as to the rationale used by the real estate consultant to determine the current central fire station was inadequate and obsolete
- Suggestion that an explanation also be given to the public as to why the current central fire station is inadequate and not worth renovating
- Board member belief that data would show operating with two (2) fire stations would require a major addition to the north station
- North fire station currently has some inadequacies



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 REGULAR MEETING \*APPROVED\*

- Every millage language contains the exact cost of the issue
- Township Board and the Township itself never supports or opposes a millage
- Function of the Board is only to decide whether or not to place this issue on the ballot
- Acceptable and current response times have previously been given to Board members
- A majority of Board members will need to reach agreement as to what the cost estimate will “clearly delineate” and agree to spend the money necessary to obtain that information
- Request for staff to provide a list of pros and cons of the current site and the Okemos Road/Central Park Drive property owned by the Township
- Suitability of the land located at Okemos Road/Central Park Drive
- No objection to placing this issue on the ballot once requested information is received and a “reasonable” decision on the issue can be ascertained
- Option for the Township to save money towards building a new central fire station v. requesting a millage from residents

Township Manager Richards summarized the road improvement millage renewal as outlined in staff memorandum dated February 3, 2012.

Board members discussed the following:

- “Due to the General Fund” is \$400,000 used for the local road repaving program
- Funds for Mt. Hope Road came from the Water and Sewer Fund, Pathway Fund and the General Fund
- Placing this issue on either the August or November, 2012 ballot
- Belief the majority of residents would approve this millage
- Preference to place this on the ballot as a 20 year renewal
- Board has the ability to not levy an approved millage if replacement of the central fire station comes in under budget
- Township cannot levy twice in one year
- Increase in the gas tax needed to address degradation of local roads
- Preference not to spend money (\$30,000-\$40,000) to have this issue on the ballot in 2013
- Belief it is premature to forgive the \$400,000 loan from the general fund to the local road fund
- Preference to place renewal of the road millage on the August ballot so there are not multiple ballot proposals on the November ballot

B. 2012 Township Citizen Survey Questions

- Moving the Farmer’s Market to a location owned by the Township which has more parking
- Frequency of use of the Township’s off-road pathways
- Support for increasing the number of off-road pathways
- Shopping opportunities in Meridian Township (i.e., Do you shop at Meridian Mall and, if not, why not?)
  - Does the Township lack the types of stores you would shop at?
- Would you like to see additional assisted living facilities in Meridian Township
- Do you support a regional consolidation of fire departments
- Level of support for taxpayer dollars being used towards public art in the community
  - Also pose the same question to the Arts Commission
- Support for a Headlee override to continue current service levels of EMS and Police
- Support for a tax increase to expand and relocate the Farmers’ Market
- Need for survey questions to be phrased in an information context in order for respondents to have a basis upon which to provide an answer

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, requested the Board present the regional approach for fire protection to the residents prior to considering a millage question regarding replacement of the central fire station.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 REGULAR MEETING \*APPROVED\*

Treasurer Brixie announced Township Manager Richards has been recognized by the Michigan's Transportation Asset Management Council for his outstanding service as a member of the council.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Board go into a closed session for legal opinion with the Township Attorney. Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Board member belief the subject of the closed session should be revealed to the public prior to the Board recessing for closed session

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra

Motion carried 5-1.

Supervisor McGillicuddy recessed the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

The Board adjourned to the Administrative Conference Room for a closed session.

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved to return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reconvened the meeting at 9:45 P.M

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved to amend the settlement agreement with Wal Mart and effectuate an order to extend the three year time limit as described in Provision M to four years and strike the language allowing for other alternatives without additional request. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie

Motion carried 4-2.

14. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

15. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:50 P.M.

---

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

---

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary