

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY APRIL 3, 2012 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra
ABSENT: Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach

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, requested the Board packet be available on line before the beginning of the weekend.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, expressed sympathy to Clerk Helmbrecht for her continued illness. He requested the Board packet be available to the public by Thursday afternoon and online on Friday before a Board meeting. He spoke in opposition to pathway millage money being used for road improvements. Mr. Kincaid spoke in support of the Board looking at a possible relationship with the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) to share general funds for projects. He voiced support for replacement of a central fire station only in its current location within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of Okemos.

Thomas Valli, 2767 Eastway Drive, Okemos, asked the Board to consider amending subsection 3 of the Township's Noise Ordinance to protect residents in the quiet enjoyment of their own outdoor living area.

Doug Patterson, 2701 Heather Drive, East Lansing, representing the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, requested the Board allow them to enter into a dialogue regarding an update to their church sign.

Phil Ballbach, 2723 East Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, requested the Board packet be available to the public online by the end of the week prior to a Board meeting.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Without objection, Supervisor McGillicuddy appointed Trustee Dreyfus as Clerk Pro Tem for the remainder of Clerk Helmbrecht's absence due to illness.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported meeting with a resident on Kansas Street regarding noise from off-road motorcycles on neighboring properties. She also provided a tour for second and third grade school children from Cornell Elementary School. Supervisor McGillicuddy reported the Red Cedar Glen Preserve group met again. She also noted the DDA will hold an ice cream social on June 7th in lieu of the Art Walk and selections have been made to choose this year's art which will be put in place next month. Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at Prima Civitas' March 29th reception for the Counsel General of Turkey.

Trustee Veenstra announced the Board packet is available in the Township Hall for public perusal during the Board meeting. He spoke in support of the Board packet being available online in a convenient fashion for the public to consult over the weekend prior to a Board meeting. Trustee Veenstra spoke in support of the request made during previous public comment to amend the noise ordinance. He spoke in support of further Board discussion on the issue of road diets for roads like Lake Lansing from Marsh Road to Murphy Elementary School and Central Park Drive, and requested additional information from the parties involved. Trustee Veenstra believed the traffic volumes on Mt. Hope and Haslett Roads are too high and not feasible for a road diet.

Trustee Dreyfus reported the Meridian Time Bank will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at noon in the Meridian Activity Center near the corner of Hamilton and Okemos Roads. He requested staff provide a disposition on a non-resident request by Mr. Ives to be allowed to fish at the Historical Village Pond after hours. Trustee Dreyfus commented that Meridian Township roads are in such poor condition that money and resources should first be spent on road repair and not pursue road diets at the current time.

Trustee Ochberg suggested that Mr. Patterson follow proper procedure by requesting a variance for the church sign from the Zoning Board of Appeals. She tendered her resignation as board liaison to the Economic Development Corporation due to a chronic health condition.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Ochberg moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Take action on Agenda Item #11A: Central Fire Station Replacement after it is discussed**
- **Take action on Agenda Item #11B: Urban Service Boundary after it is discussed**

Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 4-1 (Trustee LeGoff).

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Veenstra moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 NAYS: Trustee LeGoff
 Motion carried 4-1.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1) Board Deliberations (BD)

BD 11A-1 Treasurer Julie Brixie; RE: Support for Central Fire Station Replacement

(2) Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Claudia Jefcoat, 5603 Maxwell Court, East Lansing; RE: Summary report from the Federal Highway Administration titled "Evaluation of Lane Reduction 'Road Diet' Measures on Crashes"

BI-2 Claudia Jefcoat, 5603 Maxwell Court, East Lansing; RE: Summary report from the Federal Highway Administration titled "Evaluation of Lane Reduction 'Road Diet' Measures and Their Effects on Crashes and Injuries"

BI-3 Elaine Davis, 4511 Arrowhead, Okemos; RE: Opposition to commissioning a study on road diets in Meridian Township

BI-4 Sam Ives, 5325 Van Orden Road, Lot 45, Webberville; RE: Request to fish after hours in the Historical Village Pond

BI-5 Thomas M. Valli, 2767 Eastway Drive, Okemos; RE: Suggested amendment to the noise ordinance

- BI-6 John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Digital Network Enhancement Expansion to Basic Service
- BI-7 John P. Gardner, Government Affairs Manager, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Changes to Comcast’s channel lineup effective March 23, 2012

(3) Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Memorandum from Cindy Cummings, Police Records Supervisor; RE: Current list of licensed vendors and non-licensed persons or nonprofit organizations engaged in soliciting or canvassing dated March 21, 2012

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

Material handed out at the March 20, 2012 Board Meeting

Thomas M. Valli, 2767 Eastway Drive, Okemos; RE: Amendment to Meridian Township’s Noise Ordinance

Thomas M. Valli, 2767 Eastway Drive, Okemos; RE: E-mail request to hold in abeyance his previous letter relative to an amendment to the Township’s Noise Ordinance

Neil R. Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Drive, Haslett; RE: Possible Greenwood Subdivision sanitary sewer service

Trustee Veenstra 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 Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 NAYS: Trustee LeGoff
 Motion carried 4-1.

B. Minutes

Trustee Veenstra moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the March 20, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 NAYS: Trustee LeGoff
 Motion carried 4-1.

C. Bills

Trustee Veenstra moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Common Cash | \$ 203,070.02 |
| Public Works | \$ 118,848.00 |
| | |
| Total Checks | \$ 321,918.02 |
| Credit Card Transactions | \$ 8,521.28 |
| Total Purchases | <u>\$ 330,439.30</u> |
| | |
| ACH Payments | <u>\$ 535,647.82</u> |

Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 NAYS: Trustee LeGoff
 Motion carried 4-1.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Disposal of Surplus Equipment

Trustee Veenstra moved that the Township Board approve the donation of studio production equipment to Williamson Public Schools listed in the Surplus Equipment document dated March 30, 2012 as follows:

| BRAND NAME | MODEL NO. | SERIAL NO. | QTY | DESCRIPTION | NOTES | PHOTO | DISPOSAL |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----|--|-------------------------|-------|----------|
| Comprehensive | CPS-8A | N/A | 1 | 8-channel A/V switch | | Y | Donated |
| GlobeCaster | ??? | PA 47097 | 1 | video switcher with built-in animator, CG, effects. Includes hardware, software, Dell computer tower, keyboard, & mouse. | Need to locate software | | Donated |
| GlobeCaster | CS-1000 | PA301196 | 1 | control surface for GlobeCaster switcher | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-8820 | 5006248 | 1 | Trinitron color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-8820 | 5006236 | 1 | Trinitron color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-8820 | 5006246 | 1 | Trinitron color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-8820 | 5006235 | 1 | Trinitron color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-1340 | 2000568 | 1 | color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-14L1 | 6201279 | 1 | color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Sony | PVM-14M2U | 2012506 | 1 | color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Panasonic | CT-S1390Y | MB63460101 | 1 | color video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Neutrik | NYS-SPP-L | 26770 | 1 | Audio patch bay, 1/4" in/out | | Y | Donated |
| FSR | ADA-4 | N/A | 2 | Audio distribution amplifier | | Y | Donated |
| FSR | CVD-4 | N/A | 2 | Video distribution amplifier | | Y | Donated |
| Burst Electronics | SG-7 | SS 20827 | 1 | Black burst generator | | Y | Donated |
| Videotek | VSG-21 | 02980070 | 1 | Black burst generator/tester? | | Y | Donated |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | ? | A whole bunch of cables...BNC, XLR, RCA, A/C power | | NO | Donated |
| Alesis | 3630 | | 1 | Audio compressor | | NO | TO SELL |
| | AC24S | | 1 | Phantom power supply | | NO | TO SELL |
| Pioneer | PD-F908 | | 1 | CD player | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Panasonic | AG-180 | | 1 | VHS camcorder | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Sony | SMC-328-A | | 1 | Studio camera view-finder | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Horita | BSG-50 | BE21225750E | | | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Tecnec | | | | DVC-PRO deck remote control A/B switch | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Fostex | 3010 | | | Patch bay | | NO | RECYCLE |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|---------|
| Fostex | 3011 | | | Patch bay | | NO | RECYCLE |
| | IEC-721 | | | Black burst generator link?? | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Toshiba | | | | Combination TV/DVD/VCR | Broken | NO | RECYCLE |
| Sony | | | | DVD player | Broken | NO | RECYCLE |
| RCA | | | | VHS player/recorder | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Quartz | | | | VHS player/recorder | | NO | RECYCLE |
| | XR-1000 | | | "high quality" VHS player/recorder | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Sony | | | | VHS player/recorder | | NO | RECYCLE |
| Panasonic | TR-990C | FS 5451833 | 1 | Black and white video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Panasonic | | ***520153 | 1 | Black and white video monitor | Damaged serial no. tag | Y | Donated |
| Panasonic | WV-BM990 | BHV00714 | 1 | Black and white video monitor | | Y | Donated |
| Telos | One | 06-100-00531 | 1 | telephone interface | | Y | ??? |
| Telos | 100 | 01-25-00024 | 1 | Direct interface module | Phone & line-switching boxes missing | Y | ??? |

Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 NAYS: Trustee LeGoff
 Motion carried 4-1.

- 8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)
- 9. HEARINGS (None)
- 10. ACTIONS ITEMS/ENDS
 Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in opposition to pathway funds being used for the Haslett Road Project. He apprised the citizenry that a proposal will be placed on the August 7th ballot for all roads in Meridian Township.

Phil Ballbach, 2723 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, requested clarification from the Board as to its "feelings" on the need for a road diet study of Lake Lansing Road if it were changed from a four lane to a two land road with bicycle paths. He believed that while road maintenance should have a higher priority than bike lanes, he spoke in favor of a road diet on Lake Lansing Road from Park Lake Road to Hagadorn Road with left turn lanes where appropriate.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, expressed opposition to the use of pathway millage money for road improvements, while voicing support for filling in gaps in sidewalks along this project on Haslett Road. He spoke to his positive experience working with the Planning Department when the Okemos Community Church Board of Trustees desired to have a new church sign.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

- A. Road Commission Request for Township Participation in Haslett Road Project

Manager Richards summarized the Ingham County Road Commission's request for Township participation in the Haslett Road project as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 30, 2012.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Monies will prepare the drainage structure through ground leveling and installation of curb and gutter to place the pathway within the right-of-way
- Pathway construction is not included in the local match funding
- Pathways will likely be completed in 2013 once curb and gutter is installed
- Without curb and gutter, the Township would need to obtain easements through these sections
- Lack of Board member support for road diets on any streets in Meridian Township
- Mt. Hope Road widening project was one of the first projects in which the ICRC requested the Township pay for half of the local match
- Managing Director of the ICRC indicated at the last meeting that the Haslett Road Project will move forward without the Township's participation in the local match
- Request for clarification as to ICRC's plan for the Haslett Road Project without Township funding
- Lack of pathway completion is due to the drainage issues and their related costs
- This section of pathway would not likely be done in the near future if the Township does not participate in the local match so that improvements can be included now as part of the Haslett Road Project
- Final engineering has not yet been completed to determine the cost, but history delineates the difficulty in obtaining the required easements for pathways
- Once curb and gutter is installed, it will raise the priority of completing the two sections of pathway on Haslett Road due to the absence of use of the shoulder
- Concern with the Township being asked to contribute to the local match when primary roads are the sole responsibility of the ICRC
- Concern with ICRC consideration of a "policy" on local match money
- ICRC consideration of adopting this policy is based, in part, on a decline in revenues as a result of a decrease in gas consumption
- Pathway Millage generates approximately \$440,000 annually
- Board member preference to expend \$20,000-\$30,000 of Pathway Millage Funds and \$50,000 of General Fund monies for Township participation in the Haslett Road Project
- Township will receive a leveraged return on its investment
- Concern with the precedent set by contributing funds towards a primary road project
- Previous Board discussion addressed the issue that if there was an existing pathway on one side of the street, completing the pathway on the other side would be less of a priority on the pathway system
- Concern over the heavy traffic and slope of land on the south side of Haslett Road in this area without the benefit of a sidewalk
- Haslett Road is a busy road and does not have a full pathway system for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Prudent to partner with the ICRC now to prepare for installation of the pathway next year

Trustee Dreyfus moved that the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Fund and the General Fund be amended to include an increase of \$33,000 and \$112,000 respectively, from the Fund Balance, for the purpose of cost sharing improvements to Haslett Road between Park Lake Road and the railroad tracks, as requested by the Ingham County Road Commission. Seconded by Supervisor McGillicuddy.

Continued Board discussion:

- Concern with setting a precedent by splitting the local match for a primary road
- Haslett Road pathway gaps were not mentioned when the Board previously discussed a priority list
- Preference to conserve the fund balance to provide a modest raise next year for employees
- Any Township contribution for local match on a primary road should be regarded as unusual and voluntary

Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:

- Amend the motion by deleting “\$112,000 and inserting “\$77,000”

The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg
Motion carried 3-2.

B. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Manager Richards summarized the 1st Quarter Budget Amendments as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 30, 2012.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Sewer study included in these budget amendments was previously approved by the Board after the budget was presented
- Inquiry if the main problem identified in the 1991 sewer study (homes which “drained” into the treatable water sewer) been corrected
- Township is taking an ongoing aggressive approach to line sewers (with commensurate small repairs) within the Township
- Board member concern this is a “make work” project
- Township’s remaining match of the federal grant (\$35,000) would come from the sewer fund
- This is a more extensive study than the previous work to decrease infiltration in the Township’s sewer system
- One provision of the grant is that the Township must complete any recommendations which comes out of the study
- Concern with the cost of the grant’s recommendations

Trustee Veenstra moved that the Township Board approve the 2012 Amended Budget as reflected on page 3 of the memorandum to the Township Board from the Finance Director, dated March 30, 2012. Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy
NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg
Motion carried 3-2.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Director Kieselbach clarified Mr. Patterson’s request regarding an electronic changing message sign for Presbyterian Church of Okemos is subject to the same sign requirements as found in the Professional and Office (PO) district. He added the ordinance currently allows electronic changing message signs only in the commercial district. Director Kieselbach indicated Mr. Patterson’s request would require an ordinance amendment.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, expressed appreciation to Board members who stayed with their principles regarding Township funds spent on the Haslett Road Project. He hoped the Board had a guarantee by the ICRC that the \$110,000 would be used for the location where the pathway would be constructed. Mr. Kincaid again voiced support for replacement of the central fire station, noting that removing it from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of Okemos area is a “death nail” in the Township’s efforts for its redevelopment. He suggested an alternative location could be the Township’s purchase of five (5) acres near the Okemos Community Church and Meijer.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, believed the best location for a replacement central fire station is to the east, along the Grand River corridor. He indicated such a location would ensure more residences within the Township would be within the 5.5 minute response time, meeting the objective of treating residents equitably.

Judy Linn, 5435 Van Atta Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the urban services district as proposed.

Thomas Deits, Planning Commission Chair, 4045 Van Atta Road, Okemos, availed himself as a resource for Board discussion on the urban services management area.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

A. Central Fire Station Replacement

Manager Richards requested the Board first decide whether replacement of the central fire station is warranted and then proceed accordingly.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Concern with the extensive water damage within the current structure
- Previous Board discussion indicated voters should have sufficient information upon which to make an informed decision when this issue is placed on the ballot
- Staff intent to provide residents with as much information as possible
- Map 4 was provided for illustrative purposes only
- Use of the website and the Meridian Monitor to provide residents with educational information on this topic
- Survey would canvass the residents to obtain community opinion on building size, location, cost, etc.
- Architect's report concludes renovation of the existing building is not feasible and would cost over \$500,000 to bring into compliance
- Traffic in the area of the current central fire station is congested and presents ingress and egress problems for ambulances and fire trucks to use Clinton Street
- Board member preference not to conduct a survey on the central fire station
- Preference to take a conservative approach and operate with only two stations
- Reminder that the trend for townships is to take a regional approach whenever possible
- Report by the Wieland-Davco Corporation and Hobbs & Black Architects was provided free of charge
- Decrease in response times due to use of the Opticom
- Preference for the option presented during the budget discussion of an emergency response garage located at the Public Safety Building
- Requesting a survey is "passing the buck" as it would be asking uninformed citizens to make decisions on a topic which is very involved
- Survey should not be conducted until the alternatives have been "narrowed down"
- 86% of the calls come from the north and central portions of the Township
- Option of building out or improving the north and/or south fire stations if the Board chooses to operate with two stations
- Staff concern that operating with two stations would be a compromise both for the Fire Department and the Township as the department currently does not have sufficient space for equipment storage
- Central Fire Station currently runs an advanced life support fire engine which would be removed from the central portion of the Township
- Continued concern with the area between the two sets of railroad tracks
- Operating with only two fire stations would place too high a demand on the north fire station
- Concern with increased response times with only two fire stations as calls can be clustered together
- Belief that the residents who spoke to the Board about the need for a replacement central fire station all lived within a tight radius of its current location
- Central fire station is not sustainable in its current location
- Preference to relocate the central fire station east of its current location
- Concern that a bigger station will necessitate additional staff
- Request for staff to provide the cost of a basic sized structure and then show different sizes and their corresponding cost estimates to taxpayers
- In the event a third station is decided upon, preference for the location of a third station further east so that most of the Township would be serviced within the 5.5 minute response time

- Comparison to the current location is “unfair” as it was built in a different area with different requirements for accommodating the residents
- Concept of 20,000 square feet was developed looking many years in the future
- South fire station is approximately 10,000 square feet and the north fire station is approximately 8,000 square feet
- Preference to bond for a shorter period of time dependent upon the millage rate
- Meridian Township firefighters do not currently have a place to train
- Location of training facilities is critical so on-duty personnel are in the Township in the event of a run
- Requirement for hoses to be tested each year
- Fire Department is currently using the Cameron Oaks subdivision to test hoses
- Preference for the size of the new central fire station to be in keeping with the sizes of the north and south stations
- Preference for more variations on a smaller scale
- Possibility of a land swap within the vicinity, but still in the eastern portion of the Township
- Ability to hire part-time firefighters to supplement the current work force provides sufficient staffing for three fire stations

It was the consensus of the Board not to renovate the current central fire station. A majority of members present agreed to a ballot proposal for a new central fire station at a different location. The Board also requested options for the sizes of the new station, costs for each option, alternative site locations, and estimates of millage rates required to service bond payments to construct the new station.

B. Urban Services District

Tom Deits, Planning Commission Chair, 4045 Van Atta Road, Okemos, gave an overview of the Planning Commission’s proposal relative to the urban services management area. He spoke to the Planning Commission’s desire for a focused growth policy in the developed areas of the Township (not one of growth limitation) and the corresponding criteria proposed.

Board members discussed the following:

- Ample opportunity over many years for public input on an urban services management plan
- Land management benefits the economy, increases land use choices, offers future protection of the infrastructure, maximizes how existing land is used and reduces carbon and the global climate footprint
- Importance of using this tool to keep Meridian Township a beautiful green community
- Township reputation of a rural oriented community while having infrastructure in place to be an urban area
- Urban services boundary concept has become a plan to manage growth in the Township by managing sewer and public water
- Board member belief that most Township residents are in favor of an urban service management plan

Trustee Dreyfus moved that the Township Board approve the urban services map and accompanying documents and will distribute this document to surrounding municipalities and agencies as noted in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Clear presentation by the Planning Commission of the criteria for changing the management area delineation
- Board approval of the Greenwood subdivision sewer extension would have required residents who did not hook up to the sewer to pay for a portion of the system’s maintenance
- Board approval would approve the language for distribution to other municipalities and agencies
- Other entities have a review/comment period of 60-70 days prior to the Planning Commission holding a public hearing

- Planning Commission would then make a recommendation to the Board and the Township Board would make the final decision to a change to the Master Plan

Supervisor McGillicuddy offered the following amendment:

- **The map which will be distributed show only the Planning Commission's recommended line.**

The amendment was seconded by the maker and seconder of the original motion.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Previous vote by a majority of Board members adopted modifications to the Planning Commission's recommendation
- Previous Board decision should be honored as it was a more rationale location of the urban service boundary
- Board previously included areas just east of Cornell Road where considerable potential exists for older homes on small lots in wetlands to experience septic failure
- Eastpointe subdivision was previously included as it currently has public water
- Board member belief that the Board asked the Planning Commission to develop criteria to create a management plan, not demarcate a specific line
- Board need for criteria for making decisions about changing the Planning Commission's recommendation on a boundary
- Planning Commission adopted the same criteria as recommended by the Tri-County Urban Services Management Committee
- When the Board made motions previously to change the designated boundary, it did not have the Planning Commission's criteria before it
- The aforementioned Board changes to the boundary cannot be defended using the Planning Commission's criteria
- Planning Commission as the appropriate body to initiate changes to the boundary
- Planning Commission received the boundary line as previously adopted by the Board
- Inquiry if the Planning Commission deliberated the specific changes to the boundary as previously adopted by the Board
- Planning Commission did not feel it was appropriate to "put its oar into the same body of water" given the Board's initiative to redraw the line
- Planning Commission belief that Board action to redraw the line was motivated by a concern that once the line was drawn, it could not be altered
- Boundary is malleable and a process is in place in the event it is necessary to extend public utilities

The maker offered the following amendment:

- **Change the boundary line to include Eastpointe Subdivision within the urban services management area**

The amendment was accepted by the seconder.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Inclusion of only the Eastpointe Subdivision would create an "island"
- Keeping the boundary as recommended by the Planning Commission would maintain an "orderly progression"

Trustee Dreyfus withdrew his amendment.

Continued Board and staff discussion:

- Planning Commission recommendation includes a list of criteria and a process for residents to request water and sewer service
- Use of the boundary line as previously passed by the full Board would allow for inclusion of the area immediately east of Cornell Road (Ethel Street, etc.) and Eastpointe Subdivision and eliminate the "island" effect

- Concern some Board members are taking advantage of the fact that two Board members who voted for the boundary line being located further east are not present at this meeting
- Concern the previously Board approved areas of Wellington Estates, Winslow Trailer Park and both sides along Van Atta Road immediately north of Grand River have been excluded
- Effort to reach a compromise by “reinitiating” inclusion of the Eastpointe subdivision
- Necessity of moving the urban service boundary to allow a resident who had a sewer line in front of their property to hook up is illogical
- Board member preference for the urban service boundary to remain as previously passed by the full Board
- Proximity to public sewer is one of the criteria recommended by the Planning Commission
- Earlier Planning Commission and Board determination not to allow hook-ups to an existing private sewer along Grand River Avenue
- None of the areas under discussion are currently at risk and have submitted a petition for public utilities
- County requires hookup to public sewer within a specified number of feet
- An urban service boundary will “harness” future development of large lots
- Continued concern with properties along Shoesmith Road

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy
 NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Veenstra
 Motion carried 3-2.

Supervisor McGillicuddy noted previous public comment requests to amend the Board’s priority list to include amendment to the noise ordinance and amendment to the sign ordinance to allow a changing message sign for churches.

Board members discussed the following:

- Current listing of Board priorities
- Simple request to amend subsection 3 of the noise ordinance
- Amendment to the sign ordinance would be a zoning amendment
- Request for a memo to the Board which describes the request by the Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- Changing message signs in residential districts is out of place
- Request for a map which identifies the locations of churches within Meridian Township
- Churches have been treated as a non-residential use in a residential district for many years
- Support for a change in the Township’s ordinance to allow text on a church sign to be changed electronically
- Both amendments will be placed at the end of the Board’s priority list

The consensus of the Board was to take up amendments to the noise ordinance and changing text messages on church signs electronically.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Doug Patterson, 2701 Heather Drive, East Lansing, representing the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, expressed appreciation to the Board for its willingness to work with him on his request.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, voiced concern with the completeness of the information provided in the online Board packet. He expressed concern that the \$33,000 the Board just dedicated toward cost sharing improvements to Haslett Road between Park Lake Road and the railroad tracks not impact the work to be executed this year on the pathway system.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Dreyfus spoke to the request by a non-resident to fish after dark in the Historical Village Pond and asked for an explanation of the ordinance relative to being in Meridian Township Parks after dark.

Manager Richards responded he would have a report for the Board at its next meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:29 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary