

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** –
PARK COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010 **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus,
LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:02 P.M.)
ABSENT: None

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Banas, Commissioners Aronoff, Dersch, Stephens, Wilson
ABSENT: None

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Wilcox, Commissioners Beyea, Deits, Honicky, Jackson, Reicosky
ABSENT: Commissioners Domas, Jorkasky

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRESENT: Chair Madle, Members Brixie, Ochberg, Richards, White
ABSENT: Members Ferguson, Gillette, Morrison, Rowlee, Vine

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Chair Hershiser, Jackson, Ochberg
ABSENT: Members Ide, Ohlrogge, Shoup, Stier

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Youth Member Donahue
ABSENT: Members Jackson, Kielbaso, McConnell, Scherbarth, Schools

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Members Dersch, Helmbrecht, Thomas
ABSENT: Members Caszatt, Hatfield, Kielbaso, Webster, Woiwode

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Executive Director Paul Brake, Member White
ABSENT: Members Korrey, Raynak, Carpenter, Fisher, Russell, Spanos, Weaver

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Assistant Township Manager/ Human Resources
Director Paul Brake, Director of Parks and Recreation LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
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.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, requested the Board not support the grant application for Your Town: The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design. He spoke to the closing of several pedestrian bicycle pathways within the Township. Mr. Kincaid requested draft minutes be supplied for public inspection, addressed policy governance as a failed practice and urged the Township Board to have an open and accountable government.

Phil Ballbach, 2723 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, requested draft minutes be made available according to state law, requested approved minutes from the previous meeting be supplied to the public at the next subsequent Board meeting, requested a more detailed agenda, and spoke in opposition to Board support of the grant application for Your Town: The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Township Manager Richards reported an agreement has been reached between plaintiffs Meridian Township, City of Dearborn and Bloomfield Township and defendant Comcast of Michigan in a lawsuit relative to the placement of public, educational and government (PEG) channels on the basic service tier. He noted Comcast has agreed not to move the PEG channels until its entire system is digitized. Manager Richards stated the settlement agreement included a grant to the plaintiffs provided by Comcast in the amount of \$250,000, of which the largest portion will come back to Meridian Township.

Clerk Helmbrecht responded to earlier public comment regarding minutes, clarifying that the information which needs to be available to the public is the action taken at a Board meeting. She noted a synopsis of Board action at a meeting is always available within 24 hours of that meeting. Clerk Helmbrecht further clarified that state law requires draft minutes to be made available within eight (8) working days and are available for review at Township offices on the Friday prior to a Board meeting.

Trustee Brixie requested Board members receive all applications for Boards and Commissions to review prior to receiving their packets for the next Board meeting where appointments will be a discussion item.

[Some of Trustee Veenstra comments were inaudible as he did not speak into the microphone.] He spoke to the Board communication from Jim Brazier on alleged deficiencies of Policy Governance. Trustee Veenstra noted the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's December 17, 2009 meeting offered a presentation by Manager Richards on pavement preservation. He reported on plans by LEAP, Inc. to take over the functions of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and expressed disappointment that LEAP is wasting time and money.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

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

Trustee Veenstra requested the following:

- **Move Agenda Item #7C to the first Action Item: #8A**
- **Move Agenda Item #7E to the second Action Item: #8B**
- **Reletter the remaining agenda items accordingly**

VOICE VOTE

ON THE AGENDA

AS AMENDED: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Ginger Petty, Vice-President, Friends of the Haslett Library, 2387 Kings Cross, East Lansing; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-2 Angela Safferman, 5911 Coventry Circle, East Lansing; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-3 Mark D. Garrod, 221 Shoemsmith Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-4 Laura Clark-Roumpz, 9409 Braden Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-5 Elise Eckenrode, 408 Shoemsmith Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-6 Tonia Whittaker, 700 Barry Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-7 Laurie McMahan, 6194 Graebear Trail, East Lansing; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-8 Tisa Vorce, 1282 Milton Road, Perry; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-9 Gerry McNamara, 628 Emily Lane, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-10 Suzanne H. Brouse, 5696 Bayonne Avenue, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-11 Susan Merkle, 5475 Maple Ridge, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-12 Brent and Michele Bartley, Greyson Dwyer, 5836 Green Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-13 Sharon Adams, 2374 Kings Cross, East Lansing; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-14 John and Mary Miller, 5825 Green Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-15 David Batten, 580 Gulick Road, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-16 Myrna and Robert Simms, 5836 Wood Valley Drive, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School
- BI-17 Carlene McGrath, 5664 Wood Valley Drive, Haslett; RE: Letter of support for the alternate location of the Haslett Branch library to the site of the old Meridian High School

BI-18 Robert K. Schroeder, Mayberry Homes, 15851 S. US 27, Suite 41, Lansing; RE: Concern with the Township assuming responsibility for the soil erosion permitting process

BI-19 James Brazier, 4185 Cornell Road, Okemos; RE: Carver’s Policy Governance Model’s Impact

BI-20 Bill Cambray, President, Indian Hills Homeowners Association, 4672 Chippewa Drive, Okemos; RE: Appreciation for the construction of sidewalk along the Red Cedar River on Nakoma Drive and transmittal of \$5,000 check as partial payment towards construction of the project

(2). Regional Linkage (RL)

RL-1 Michigan/Grand River Avenue Transportation Study, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing; RE: Notice of Public Meetings on January 12-14, 2010

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 Ochberg.

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

B. Resolution to Adopt a New Financial Institution

Treasurer Brixie moved to adopt a resolution entitled “Authority to Open an Account” at Nu Union Credit Union. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

D. Assessing Stipulations

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Kelly Eyde, on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2009	0350268	957 Tihart, Okemos
<u>Assessment</u>	2009 <u>AV/TV</u>	\$194,200/\$194,200
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2009 <u>AV/TV</u>	\$165,000/\$165,000

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

Treasurer Brixie moved that the Township Assessor be authorized to sign a stipulation with Kelly Eyde, on the following property:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF PROPERTY</u>
2008	0350268	957 Tihart, Okemos
<u>Assessment</u>	2008 <u>AV/TV</u>	\$208,100/\$208,100
<u>Proposed Assessment</u>	2008 <u>AV/TV</u>	\$170,000/\$170,000

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

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

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Bills

Supervisor McGillicuddy moved that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 189,685.00
Public Works	\$ 137,791.52
Retainage Disbursement	
Check #1017-McKearney Asphalt \$ 596.08	
Check #1018 – Hardrock <u>\$ 7,990.11</u>	\$ 8,586.19
 Total Checks	 \$ 335,062.71
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 10,570.03
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 345,632.74</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 534,915.54</u>

Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.

Board discussion:

- Payment to Safety Systems
- Payment to Vision Collision
- Payment to West Shore Services
- Concern with some charges on the legal bill
- Change in the billing dates from the old contract to the new contract for legal fee billing
- Supervisor’s continued request that internal management questions be directed to the Township Manager for a response prior to the Board meeting in order to not waste Board time
- Concern with legal fees incurred as a result of Trustee Veenstra’s interference with legal counsel on a legal matter
- Inappropriateness of grandstanding by one Board member

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie
 NAYS: Trustee Veenstra
 Motion carried 6-1 .

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

B. Grant Application for Your Town: The Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Executive Director Paul Brake provided an overview of the program.

Supervisor McGillicuddy moved approval to authorize a grant application in the amount of \$22,000 from Your Town: The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design Program as described in the staff memorandum dated December 22, 2009. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.

Board discussion:

- \$10,000 local cash match would come from the DDA budget
- Concern with continued costs of planning for the DDA area
- Concern with sufficient attendance of community leaders at the workshop
- No additional fee for the cost of the consultant
- Continued interest as evidenced by good community leader participation at the open public forum in June, 2008
- Cost would be reduced proportionately if 35 individuals do not participate
- Suggestion that the proposed \$200,000 DDA debt commence after this grant application
- Concern with the lack of participation by members of the business community in the neighborhood
- DDA Board to expand by two members for a total of ten

Trustee Dreyfus offered the following friendly amendment:

- **Add language after "2009" to read " , combined with a contribution of \$5,000 in cash and \$5,000 in an kind contribution from the DDA for a total of up to \$32,000"**

The maker accepted the amendment.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht,
Treasurer Brixie
NAYS: Trustee LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra
Motion carried 4-3 .

9. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commission
Supervisor McGillicuddy explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to promote alignment within our community among boards and commissions and to discuss future goals of each body. She requested the various Boards and commissions discuss current goals of the respective bodies, as well as goals for the ensuing year.

Meeting participants discussed the following goals, objectives and concerns as well as ideas for Board goals:

Planning Commission:

- Concern that control of sprawl is maintained in the Township
- Request for continued dialogue with Williamstown Township regarding Grand River Avenue and the issue of sprawl
- Clear direction from the Board on problems with the MUPUD ordinance
- Continued work on a redevelopment ordinance for existing commercial areas
- Request for more public participation at Planning Commission meetings
- Appreciation for Township participation in the potential for development of a light rail system
- Reengineering of the Township's process flow
- Keep open minds relative to creativity to bring new business opportunities into the Township
- Opportunity to look at the Township's comprehensive planning due to changed economic times
- Need to find innovative ways to redevelop existing commercial properties, specifically mall/shopping properties
- Development of private/public partnerships to redevelop areas surrounding the mall and the Grand River Corridor
 - Possible redevelopment workshop with an educational component and an informed speaker

- Concern with the process of fractionally appropriating water runoff to each individual project
- Reapportioning of public open meeting times
- Concern over staff time being spent on issues (e.g., wind energy) without knowledge of their origin
- Request for the Township Planning Commission to go paperless
- Proposed addition to the No. 1 natural resources end – process of reduction to global warming
- Decisions made by Township officials affect global warming (e.g., land use planning)
- Solving the problems of global warming will have costs and benefits
- Redevelopment as a way to minimize the Township's carbon footprint
- Planning Commission ability to propose amendments to the Master Plan relative to global warming

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

- ZBA Board is totally reactive in nature
- Integrity brought to the ZBA by the Planning Commission and Township Board representative
- Changes needed to adequately address redevelopment; possibly criteria based
- Consideration should be given to not having to ask for new variances when non-conforming uses are being redeveloped

Economic Development Corporation (EDC):

- Adoption of a new vision statement: Become the community of choice for residents, businesses, educators and visitors
- Adoption of a new mission statement: Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture. Be the example for revitalization of our business districts and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships
- 2010 Goals
 - Support of Meridian Asset Resource Center project and efforts
 - Develop a business retention program
 - Build a welcome campaign for new businesses in the area
 - Establish and operate a business liaison group
 - Identify revenue generating elements and business lending programs
- Positioning statement suggestions
 - Make Meridian your first choice
 - Choose Meridian
 - Meridian - Your community of choice
- Invitation to chairs and vice-chairs to reconvene the Meridian Champions in 2010 in a joint effort to tackle the issues that face our community
- Request for the Board to continue focus of economic prosperity in 2010
- Request for the Board to encourage residents and business community to look ahead to a new future
- Business liaison group as a start towards more public involvement
- Small business economic development should remain a Board priority even during the economic downturn
- Reduction of the carbon footprint through a system of all weather paths to connect shopping districts
- Concept of community supported agriculture to spur economic development
- Creation of an e-mail station for spontaneous public involvement at the end of Board meetings
- Use of the eco-village concept

Park Commission

- 2010 Activities
 - Receipt of funding for two projects in 2010: North Meridian Road Park restroom facility and development of a fishing dock at Lake Katherine in the Historical Village in Central Park
 - Work on the dog park in Legg Park
 - How to obtain a multi-use sports park at the Towner Road Park
 - \$20,000 in trail improvements
 - Work on the 2011 Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan
 - Look at how to augment the facilities in Central Park with the goal of a celebration of Central Park's 50th anniversary in seven (7) years
 - Continuation of community outreach efforts
 - Eradication of invasive plant species in the Township's parks

- Appreciation for a park system that consists of 28 parks over 900 acres
- Park plans have a significant effect on the shape of the community's environment far into the future

Environmental Commission (EC):

- Current work on a wetland use permit to reconstruct a bridge on Dobie Road over the Red Cedar River
- Request for consideration of an alternate location for the dog park currently slated to be placed in Legg Park
- Consideration of a more centrally located dog park in Meridian Township (e.g., property next to the lake in the southern portion of Central Park)

Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB):

- 3 general areas of goals
 - Property Acquisition and Stewardship
 - 27 parcels over 600 acres since 2000
 - One year of Land Acquisition Funds remain in the budget
 - Current negotiations with owners of several parcels totally approximately 260 acres
 - Property Maintenance
 - Land Preservation Reserve Funds continue to be used to protect and enhance the properties
 - Review of all stewardship and property management plans
 - Interest local groups in management of properties in their area
 - Community Education and Partnerships
 - Three events to be held this Spring throughout the township in geographic locations
 - Recruitment of additional local neighborhood organizations to participate in cleanup and maintenance of preserves
 - Continued collaboration, where appropriate, with the Mid-Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network formed to help identify invasive species and develop programs for their eradication
 - Collaboration with Ingham County Parks Department to coordinate county and township parks with the preserves to provide public access and trails where appropriate
 - Collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Rose Lake Wildlife Research Station, The Nature Conservancy, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to use the best management techniques to protect, preserve and enhance
 - Program Sustainability
 - Funding established by public vote in 2000 concludes at the end of 2010
 - Recommendation for establishment of a Steering Committee to review the results of the ten year program, evaluate whether the program has met the vision of the Land Preservation Task Force and determine whether the program should be considered in the future and in what form

Downtown Development Authority:

- Request for an annual joint meeting with the Township Board

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, stated it would be helpful to have the unapproved minutes in the public packet.

Kadri Wichman, 2236 Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke to rental housing fees and requested the Board cut rental owners a "break."

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 8:19 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILlicUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary