

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010 **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Dreyfus (6:02 P.M.), LeGoff, Ochberg, Veenstra (6:02 P.M.)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy

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.

Robert Sepeter, RLS Energy, 7290 Island Highway, Eaton Rapids, expressed concern with several components contained in Zoning Amendment #09070, the wind energy overlay district.

Ganesh Reddy, 3614 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of abolishing the Elected Officials Compensation Commission. He expressed concern with the Board over regulating the Township.

Leonard Provenchur, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, spoke in opposition to Zoning Amendment #09070 (wind energy overlay district) and expressed concern the 50 db noise level at the property line is unreasonable. He also questioned equitable application of the lawn fertilizer ordinance.

Vance Kincaid, 4530 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to Zoning Amendment #09070 (wind energy overlay district) as written, stating the ordinance is overly complicated and too burdensome for residents.

Richard Baumgartner, 1064 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett, believed Zoning Amendment #09070, as written, is overly restrictive.

Jon Chester, 383 Shoesmith, Haslett, requested reconsideration of zoning restrictions for housing chickens in suburban and rural areas of Meridian Township.

Dick Datema, 5839 Bois Ile, Haslett, stated he lives immediately south of an operating energy windmill and negated expressed concerns, i.e., noise, glare, shadow flicker, size, width of blades, height of the structure and bird mortality.

Lynne Page, Chair, Okemos High School Traffic Safety Committee, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, read from a prepared statement which announced the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) erected new 45 mph speed limit signs on Jolly Road as a result of Township Board action through a successful petition to the ICRC.

[Prepared statement in Official Minute Book]

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, expressed concern with the handling of the DDA art initiative.

Scott Eisensmith, 5847 Bois Ile Drive, Haslett, stated he has a wind energy system on his property and stated Zoning Amendment #09070, as written, will prohibit and inhibit any type of wind energy in the Township. He suggested the Township place a wind energy system on its property to gain experience and education on the issue.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

A. CADL Annual Report, Ann Chapman (Haslett Library) and Betsy Hull (Okemos Library)

Ann Chapman, Haslett Librarian, gave an overview of programs and services offered at the Haslett Library during 2009. She added two significant events occurred over the last year: the installation of the new custom-made circulation desk funded entirely by donations and the proposed relocation of the Haslett Library to the site of the old Meridian High School.

Betsy Hull, new Okemos Hope Borbas Head Librarian, gave an overview of programs and services offered at the Okemos Library during 2009 and programs scheduled for 2010.

Lance Werner, Director, Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, offered district wide statistics on circulation increase and Internet use. He expressed appreciation for the upcoming Haslett Library relocation project.

Township Manager Richards recapped accepted recycling materials for the Meridian Township Recycling Event to be held Saturday, April 24, 2010 in the Meridian Township Municipal Building parking lot at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. He indicated anyone interested in volunteering should contact Barbara at 337-1705.

Supervisor McGillicuddy reported her attendance at the Downtown Development Authority meeting last Monday where the upcoming art walk was discussed, the Michigan Municipal League two-day conference in downtown Lansing last week and the Tri-County urban growth boundary committee meeting. She announced seventeen communities have come together in the Tri-County region to reduce sprawl and an agreement is anticipated in the fall of 2010. Supervisor McGillicuddy participated in the Green Star event where CATA was recognized for its introduction of two additional hybrid electrical buses for the Redi-Ride system.

Trustee Ochberg, in response to earlier public comment, clarified that the committee members who chose the sculptures for the downtown Okemos area are all practicing artists or vendors of art. She reported on the continuing development of the Meridian Area Business Directory and stated there are over 4,400 registered businesses in the Township, of which approximately 70-75% are still in business. Trustee Ochberg noted there will be a Legg Park clean up day on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00-2:00 P.M.

Trustee LeGoff reported her attendance at the Michigan Municipal League Conference where the Medical Marijuana Act was discussed.

Clerk Helmbrecht announced the May 4, 2010 Election for two (2) Haslett School Board members and the Clerk's office will be open on May 1, 2010 from 8-2 P.M. for those residents who wish to receive an absentee ballot.

Treasurer Brixie, as liaison to the school districts, reported Okemos Public Schools are currently going through their budget process. She noted Central Elementary School is having its annual rummage sale on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Treasurer Brixie indicated any donations may be dropped off at the school on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> during school hours. She stated she attended the quarterly Capital Area Treasurer's meeting where investments, bank ratings and investment pools were discussed. Treasurer Brixie inquired if the Township desired to become a Tree City, USA.

Trustee Dreyfus reported his attendance at the Michigan Municipal League conference where he viewed a presentation by a vendor who provides identity theft solution and consulting services for municipalities. He suggested the Township consider the free in-house review session. Trustee Dreyfus took note the City of East Lansing has “bent” its rental housing ordinance to allow three (3) unrelated occupants for a particular project.

Trustee Veenstra commended Trustee Ochberg on her work with home occupations and suggested the Township review its own home occupation ordinance. He reported his attendance at last week’s Tri-County Regional Planning Commission’s grants committee and transportation review committee. Trustee Veenstra expressed appreciation to both Manager Richards and resident Lynne Page for their successful efforts in obtaining a reduced 45 mph speed limit on Jolly Road from Hagadorn to Okemos Roads.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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 Stephanie Kammer, Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Lansing District Office Water Bureau, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing; RE: Approval of Meridian Township’s Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance
- BI-2 Stephanie Kammer, Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Lansing District Office Water Bureau, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing; RE: Approval of Meridian Township’s request to become designated as a Municipal Enforcing Agency (MEA)
- BI-3 Lynne Page, Chair, Okemos High School Traffic Safety Committee, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos; RE: Ingham County Road Commission approval of lowering the speed limit on Jolly Road between Hagadorn and Okemos Roads to 45 mph
- BI-4 Joyce Hammond, Susan Middlebrook and Joyce Theisen (no known addresses); RE: Letter of appreciation for maintenance near family headstone at Glendale Cemetery

(2). Staff Communications (SC)

- SC-1 Director Mark Kieselbach; RE: Notification that Commission Review #10053 (Herron Road and Pioneer Trail water and sewer main improvement) was approved by the Planning Commission at its April 12, 2010 meeting

**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 LeGoff.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes

**Treasurer Brixie to approve and ratify the minutes of the April 6, 2010 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$ 185,293.35
Public Works	\$ 704,349.88
Total Checks	\$ 889,643.23
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 6,145.23
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 895,788.46</u>
 ACH Payments	 <u>\$ 399,303.10</u>

**Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

D. Resolution of Support for the Legislature to Match Federal Funds for Drinking Water Protection and Infrastructure Financing

**Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Meridian Township Board declares its support for the Michigan Legislature to set aside sufficient matching funds to capture Michigan's full federal share of water and infrastructure funding.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk is hereby authorized to sign this resolution and transmit it to the Michigan Legislature and other governments and agencies involved in the protection and provision of a safe, reliable water supply for our constituents, as an indication that Meridian Charter Township supports and endorses this funding match for the State of Michigan. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Reappointments to the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee

**Treasurer Brixie moved that the following property owners be appointed to the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee for terms expiring April 30, 2012: Marvin Johansen, 6236 W. Reynolds, Haslett and Steven Culling, 6193 Columbia, Haslett. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- F. 2010 Order to Maintain Sidewalks, **Resolution #2**, Set Public Hearing Date (May 6, 2010)  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve 2010 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #11 – Resolution #2 – Revised, which sets the date for a public hearing on May 6, 2010. Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

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

- G. Water Payback District, Carlton Street and Lake Drive  
**Treasurer Brixie moved to approve the resolution establishing water system benefit charges for Carlton Street (from CN Railroad tracks to Hickory Island Drive), Hickory Island Drive and Lake Drive (from Hickory Island Drive to 5945 E. Lake Drive), establishing a cost of \$105 per linear foot of frontage (plus 5% annual increase); with a minimum of \$7,500.00 (plus 5% annual increase) for all parcels and a maximum for single family residents of \$10,000.00 (plus 5% annual increase). Seconded by Trustee LeGoff.**

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

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Steve Townsend, 5777 Whisperwood Drive, Haslett, spoke in support of the purpose of the wind overlay district, but expressed concern with several significant standards contained in Zoning Amendment #09070.

Robert Sepeter, RLS Energy, 7290 Island Highway, Eaton Rapids, extended an offer to Board members to view an American made wind energy turbine just south of Eaton Rapids.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

- A. Amendments to the Teamsters Labor Agreement  
**Trustee Ochberg moved approval of the amendments to the collective bargaining agreement for 2009-2011 as tentatively agreed to and further ratified by the Teamsters employees as described in the April 15, 2010 staff memorandum and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the same. Seconded by Trustee Veenstra.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Agreement represents a 0% increase in wages

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

- B. Resolution Regarding Community Media Cable Television  
**Trustee Dreyfus moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, the Township Board hereby resolves to**

**promote and enhance the development of a Community Media Channel through the following action:**

- **A commitment to support Centers for Regional Excellence Grant language: The City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Lansing Township and Meridian Township are all anticipating contributing their 2% PEG funds or a portion of those funds to the community media channel. This money is paid to the local governments specifically for the purpose of replacing the closed studios in compliance with P.A. 480.**
- **A commitment of up to 2% of total PEG fees received by HOMTV from video service providers in the Charter Township of Meridian to support the development and continuing activities of a Community Media Channel for the next two years. After two years, this body will review the continuation of financial support based on need and regional municipal involvement.**
- **A commitment to appoint a HOMTV staff representative and appoint a cable commissioner(s) to meet these ends.**

**Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Referenced 2% PEG fund contribution is a portion of the 3.4% being paid by AT&T subscribers
- Discretion of each municipality to commit an amount of up to 2%
- Need for a channel that all citizens can use for programs they prepare
- HOM-TV will be compensated for use of the studio and staff services provided to start the program
- Budget amendment in the future will need to be approved by the Board before any money is spent
- Interconnected regional system to be implemented by summer
- Long term solution is to create an umbrella non-profit corporation which would handle the creation of a public access studio with equipment for citizens to use
- Township cable staff could periodically offer production courses
- City of East Lansing uses the majority of its cable franchise funds in its general fund
- East Lansing does not receive PEG funds
- Staff to prepare a business plan
- Two (2) year financial commitment for the community media channel

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

NAYS: Clerk Helmbrecht

Motion carried 6-1

- C. Zoning Amendment #09070 (Township Board), a request to add Section 86-443 Wind Energy Overlay District and amend other applicable sections of the Code of Ordinances to establish regulations pertaining to wind energy systems, **Introduction**

**Trustee LeGoff moved to refer Zoning Amendment #09070 to staff for review of suggested changes offered by residents and a vendor of wind energy systems. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Resident request for inclusion of language in the ordinance indicating the noise measurement must be taken when the unit is at full capacity
- Concern with low frequency noise
- Staff analysis of concerns expressed by the public prior to determination if the amendment should go back to the Planning Commission

- Staff to explore statement that an individual can't capture an economic amount of wind unless the device is 30 feet higher than anything within 500 feet of it
- Not feasible in the typical subdivision due to required setbacks and need for height
- Request for staff to research small household sized units appropriate for residents
- Request to include technology created in Michigan
- Suggestion that all references to anemometers be excluded from the ordinance
- Lattice towers and guy wires should be allowed
- Request to remove "unreasonable" burdens currently written in the proposed ordinance

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

D. Lawn Fertilizer Ordinance, **Final Adoption**

**Clerk Helmbrecht moved [and read into the record] NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2010-07, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, by Amending Chapter 82, to Add Article III, Lawn Fertilizer."**

**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 finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board. Seconded by Treasurer Brixie.**

Board members discussed the following:

- All lawn application businesses which one Board member spoke to do not use phosphorous fertilizer
- Educational component is critical to the success

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:**

- **Amend Page 3, Section 5. Effective Date by deleting the effective date of "one year" and inserting "six months"**

**The maker did not accept the amendment.**

**Trustee Veenstra moved to Amend Page 3, Section 5. Effective Date by deleting the effective date of "one year" and inserting "six months"**

**Seconded by Trustee Dreyfus.**

Continued Board discussion:

- Concern with use of staff time to enforce this ordinance
- Educational campaign itself should be adequate for this issue
- Concern with having the code contain a frivolous and meaningless infraction
- Concern the ordinance will pit neighbors against each other
- Specific timelines contained in the ordinance cannot be enforced

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Veenstra  
 NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie  
 Motion failed 2-5.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: YEAS: Trustees Dreyfus, Veenstra, Clerk Helmbrecht  
 NAYS: Trustees LeGoff, Ochberg, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Treasurer Brixie

Motion failed 3-4.

**Treasurer Brixie moved to assign the Environmental Commission the task of educating the public about the topics discussed in the ordinance prepared for the April 20, 2010 Board meeting. Activities shall include, but not be limited to, the preparation of an informational pamphlet, a public information campaign and direct contact with affected groups. After one year, the Meridian Township Board shall reconsider whether a lawn fertilizer ordinance is necessary. Seconded by Trustee Ochberg.**

Board members discussed the following:

- Motion should be viewed as a compromise
- Concerns with the practical difficulty of enforcement when the Board first discussed this issue
- Other communities across the country have passed an ordinance controlling phosphorus in fertilizer with enforcement provisions

**Trustee Veenstra offered the following friendly amendment:**

- **Insert “staff, the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee and” before “the Environmental Commission”**

**The amendment was accepted by the maker.**

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

E. Essential Wetland Determination, Okemos Road Pathway

**Treasurer Brixie moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, pursuant to Section 22-156 of the Township Code of Ordinances, hereby identifies Township Wetland #16-15B, located on the east side of Okemos Road and north of Central Park Drive as essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Charter Township of Meridian. Seconded by Clerk Helmbrecht.**

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Importance of completing the pathway system, especially along a primary road in the Township
- Importance of the proper amount of mitigation as the area is the one most prone to flooding
- This section of the pathway will be at grade concrete
- Area across the drain will be elevated prior to construction

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

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

Will White, 2142-½ Hamilton Road, Okemos, spoke to the purpose of the mixed use planned unit development (MUPUD) and stated the MUPUD, as currently written, is too burdensome for developers. He requested the Board reconsider the restrictive language contained in the ordinance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance Amendments

Director Kieselbach summarized the updated draft ordinance as outlined in staff memorandum dated April 16, 2010.



Board members discussed the following:

- Line 152: Strike “15. public transit” and insert “15. Bus stop”
- Line 156: Setback from railroad should not be waived
- Berms can create a physical barrier between railroad tracks and buildings
- Concern that keeping the 175 foot setback for the MUPUD as is currently written in the ordinance for residential would preclude redevelopment of small village areas (i.e., Haslett)
- Request for staff to look at the number of properties which would be affected by implementing the 175 foot setback in the MUPUD
- Suggestion for staff to develop language incorporating the use of berms near railroad tracks
- Exceptions to the 175 foot setback from railroad tracks for the older areas of the Township could be addressed through the variance procedure at the Zoning Board of Appeals using the accepted criteria of lot size or unique circumstances
- Consensus of the Board to allow staff to prepare language changing the railroad setback or allow for a smaller railroad setback with berm
- Line 159: Intent of total development plan to mean the final plan approved by the Board
- Line 163: Suggestion to remove maximum height of no higher than 45 feet and express height limitation based on casting shadows on adjacent properties for more than an hour a day
- Concern too much height would be intrusive to neighbor’s privacy
- Vertical horticulture is becoming a more acceptable alternative in large cities with density
- Utilization of height makes the most of infrastructure and greenspace
- Suggestion to require subterranean parking for any building above 45 feet
- Line 165: Consensus of the Board to add floodways to floodplains and wetlands language
- Line 167: Idea was to prohibit all metal buildings (e.g., pole buildings)
- Line 170: Board would have the ability to approve use of solar panels
- Request for staff explanation of historic Meridian Township design
- Line 174: Remove remaining language after “encouraged”
- Line 182: All downtown redevelopment design standards use windows covering no less 50 percent of street level facades
- Line 182: Consensus of the Board was to insert “non-residential” before “street level”

#### B. Elected Officials Compensation Commission

Supervisor McGillicuddy believed repealing the Elected Officials Compensation Commission (EOCC) would make for a more transparent process to the public.

Board members discussed the following:

- One Board member belief the process for setting the Board’s salaries is a “ruse”
- Proper procedure for placing this item on the next Board agenda
- Belief there has been informal discussion on this topic
- Elimination of the EOCC could politicize the setting of salaries
- Disincentive to politicizing the setting of salaries would be the process would take place in the same manner as other issues which come before the Board (e.g., public hearing, etc.)
- Concern with allegation that one of the Township’s official boards and commissions is acting in secret
- EOCC operates in a totally public and transparent fashion through the legal public participation process, legal posting procedures and the recording of minutes
- EOCC uses information provided to its members by the Michigan Township Association and through the use of salary studies
- EOCC allegedly does not have all the budgetary information received by the Board
- Board should review its salaries as one component of the whole during the budget discussion
- No compelling reason to abolish the EOCC
- Salaries for a position should be determined prior to the deadline to enter a political race
- Example of the Michigan EOCC being political when it granted a large salary increase for legislators many years ago without the legislature voting on it
- Another component of Board discussion on this issue should consider review of the amount of work being performed by full-time Board members

- Township attorney opinion that under the current Township structure, an elected official's salary cannot be changed during the official's term without the approval of the elected official
- Township attorney opinion that if the Board chose to eliminate the EOCC, the same procedure relative to change in an elected official's salary should be followed in order to avoid possible litigation

**The consensus of the Board was to not repeal the Elected Officials Compensation Commission.**

Continued Board discussion:

- EOCC only meets in odd-numbered years
- Suggestion to direct the EOCC meetings to be televised to underscore policy of openness and transparency
- Staff to research the process to be used to implement changes in the roles of the Department heads and the 2013 Township Board
- Suggestion to direct the EOCC to determine salaries in 2011 for the elected officials terms beginning in November, 2012
- Board members concerned with the impact their salaries may have on the budget have the option to visit the EOCC to submit a written request for a salary change
- Need to have all data available when making a comparison with another township
- EOCC does an exemplary job of collecting all the pertinent data
- Michigan Township Association offers its members a comprehensive salary comparison service using a vast number of available data parameters
- Need for Board discussion regarding the full scope of each Board member's job and the number of hours required to meet those responsibilities
- Belief the EOCC is not the appropriate body to determine the full scope of each Board member's job
- Board member's desire to have the "freedom" to donate a portion of her salary to various causes within the Township
- Preference to have an opportunity at the Board level to debate the issue of what salaries are appropriate as a means to proactively affect the decision(s)
- Board discussion is proof that the topic is divisive and unproductive

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Will Tyler White, 2142-1/2 Hamilton Road, Okemos, believed the Township Board should abolish the Elected Officials Compensation Commission and allow the citizenry, as the Board's employer, to determine salaries of the Township Board.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Ochberg voiced support for repealing of the prohibition on chickens.

Trustee Veenstra clarified earlier public comment by stating it is illegal under current Michigan law for Townships to conduct any type of advisory vote.

Trustee Veenstra, Treasurer Brixie and Trustee Dreyfus also voiced support for liberalizing the Township's chicken regulations.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 10:25 P.M.

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SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary