

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING – **APPROVED** –  
UNION TOWNSHIP  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010 **9:30 A.M.**

PRESENT: **MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP:** Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Brixie, Trustee Ochberg and Township Manager Gerald Richards

**UNION TOWNSHIP:** Supervisor John Barker, Trustee John Dinse, Trustee Tim Lannen and Township Manager Bryan Smurk.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Supervisor McGillicuddy provided a brief overview of the Meridian Township Board's rationale for eliminating the sub-committee structure and transitioning to a more streamlined process through the use of Policy Governance.

Board members discussed the following:

- Elimination of the sub-committee structure eliminates duplication of effort and provides cost efficiency
- Learning the Policy Governance process both through John Carver's books and step-by-step facilitation by trained John Carver consultants
- Strategic Plan can be eliminated and replaced by Policy Governance documents
- Previous cumbersome Policy Books eliminated and replaced by Policy Governance Manual
- Administrative Policies developed by the Township Manager are easier to maintain and reference
- Adjustment period for staff and visible results in approximately 2 years
- Relationship between Manager and elected department heads addressed in Manual
- Hiring process for department heads – Board not involved
- Labor Negotiations – Board's only involvement provides guidelines before negotiations begin
- Eliminates Board Member micro-managing
- Removes sub-committee member false sense of power
- Need to continue to meet statutory requirements while operating under Policy Governance
- Policy Governance stresses equality of each individual Board Member
- Written monitoring reports provided periodically by Township Manager to insure compliance
- Monitoring reports vary in the depth of detail provided
- Surveys conducted as part of the feedback process regarding individual services provided
- Vision sessions, either as a Board discussion or with invited guests for input, used to further break down specific steps to be identified with ends (goals)
- Building intergovernmental cooperation with surrounding communities and counties
- Cooperative efforts with Michigan State University as well as HOM-TV
- Cooperative agreements with outside fire and police departments
- Attendance at School Board meetings and other community functions sparks program cooperation
- Recommend a facilitator to walk Board members through process and development of their manual

2. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 11:30 A.M.

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SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT, CMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK