

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD BUDGET DELIBERATION – **APPROVED**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Assistant Township Manager/Personnel Director Paul Brake, Director of Finance Diana Hasse, 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

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. BUDGET DISCUSSION

Director Hasse reviewed the budget process and summarized the 2007 Budget Highlights for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Public Works and the Motor Pool.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- \$35,000 of tax revenue may be lost if proposed annexations are approved, dependent upon any agreement worked out with the City of East Lansing
- Estimated dollar amounts within the budget will fluctuate as the 2007 budget year progresses
- Assessment program for local street resurfacing would triple the amount of roads which could be repaved
- Under the current year's program, it would take seventy (70) years to resurface local streets, which is three (3) times the life expectancy of any street
- Move to Township initiated assessment district which would identify local streets for resurfacing at \$600,000/year would allow for catch up over time of the local road resurfacing program
- Approval of the proposed budget would approve Township initiated special assessments for local street resurfacing without exploring options
- Need for discussion regarding setting a Board policy for local street resurfacing special assessments
- Request to separate special assessments for local street resurfacing out of the budget and be considered as a separate issue
- Elimination of \$400,000 to separate local street resurfacing out of the budget
- May need to request match money from the county be moved to the following year for local street resurfacing if taken out of the budget
- Keep \$400,000 for road repaving projects in the budget, but remove special assessment language and have a separate discussion on the process to be used for local street resurfacing
- \$120,000 budgeted out of the General Fund for local street resurfacing and the remainder of the \$400,000 that would come from TIRF would be the property owner portion which would be repaid
- County match for local street resurfacing of \$115,000
- Board request for job description of new Parks/Grounds position from Park Millage/Land Preservation to pinpoint assistance to which Land Preservation will have access
- Board concern with 60/40 split for the new Parks/Grounds position from Park Millage/Land Preservation
- Rationale for and computation of water/sewer billing charge decrease
- Increase of .04 for sewer charge
- Transfer out of the Sewer Fund would be \$200,000 for 2007
- 2007 design of the Northwest Interceptor with implementation in 2008
- Pathway alongside the Northwest Interceptor being discussed at the county level
- Purchase of new ambulance moves one of the three (3) current ambulances to back-up status

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 \*APPROVED\*

- Age of back-up ambulance is approximately eight (8) years
- Reduction of one (1) car in the motor pool fleet
- Need for a smaller second Vactor truck to be used primarily by water department for vacuum excavation around water valves and fire hydrants and for water removal at water main breaks
- Need to designate capital items as new or replacements in list form within the budget referencing utilization by department
- Lease purchase of Vactor truck which has a life expectancy of fifteen (15) years
- Insertion of assessment from the Drain Commissioner in the activity description of the Watershed Management Department
- Any increase in permit fees should be in the form of a resolution to be passed by the Board
- Capital maintenance projects listed under Capital Outlay should have detail listed whether new purchase or replacement
- Need for specific detail of computer upgrades
- Police/Fire Dispatch Grant Match of approximately \$150,000
- Pay-off of Public Safety Building in 2008-2009
- Where there is a high probability of grants being awarded, grant matches should be incorporated into the respective Department's budget
- Possible projection of state revenues for 2007 to be given to local units of government taken into consideration
- Personnel costs budgeted at 100% of staffing level
- 2.75 months of fund balance would temporarily see Township through a revenue shortfall
- Historically, the Township does not spend 100% of revenue
- Economic development happens in communities where there are good roads and a high degree of public safety
- Objection to use of "interim/temporary" library language
- Inclusion of the new Parks/Grounds position from Park Millage/Land Preservation under the staffing changes and personnel activities portion of the budget message
- Expectation that the Director of Assessing will receive Level 4 Assessing status in 2007
- Increase in anticipated revenue for fines and tickets due to shift in prosecution from the county to the Township's attorney
- Board appreciation for the easy readability of the budget format

**It was the consensus of the Board to place the public hearing for the budget on the Township Board's agenda for October 3, 2006.**

[Treasurer Hunting left the room at 7:28 P.M.]

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, expressed concern over the alleged continued decrease in fund balance since 2002 while Township expenses increased. He expressed concern with the two proposed annexations to the City of East Lansing.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

---

SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

---

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary