CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005, **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 Community Planning & Development

Mark Kieselbach, Director of Engineering & Public Works Ray Severy, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper, EMS Coordinator Gregory Hammond,

Director of Finance Diana Hasse

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. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Jean McDonald, Chair of the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC), introduced Rick Phillips, ICRC Construction Engineer, who gave an update on the Okemos Road Widening Project. Mr. Phillips indicated the paving will be completed by November 4th, with removal of the old striping and signage. New striping will also be completed by November 4th, with subsequent sweeping and barrel removal by the end of the evening. Still to be completed is the fifth lane at the railroad tracks, due to delay by the railroad and the north driveway at Central Elementary School.

Chair McDonald inquired of the Board regarding two sections of sidewalk yet to be completed, one by Fox Hollow subdivision and the other at the medical professional building.

Director Severy responded there are current negotiations with Consumers Energy for tree removal near the section of the medical professional building. It is anticipated that an agreement will be signed on Monday, November 7, 2005 and tree removal will begin. The Township will be issuing a purchase order on November 4th to the masonry company who will construct the wall.

Director Severy noted the second section of sidewalk is near the Cornerstone Church and he is still hopeful that the easement can be obtained soon. He indicated that a sidewalk will be constructed in some fashion yet this year.

Director Severy noted there was also a Consumers Energy right-of-way section across from Knob Hill Apartments. He noted Consumers has agreed to give the Township an easement; however, the power lines are owned by another company. This company has until Monday to respond to a letter sent over a month ago.

Cheryl Fritze, 2207 White Owl Way, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the \$100,000 expenditure in the 2006 proposed budget for the Okemos Road Median Project which has yet to be approved.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy noted the addition of artwork in the Township Hall. The new paintings were donated by Lynn Ochberg:: (1) The old Okemos Barn Theatre and 2) an Alaeidon Township barn.

Supervisor McGillicuddy noted the Capstone Development rezoning and planned unit development requests have been withdrawn.

Clerk Helmbrecht announced that Meridian Township does not have a November 8, 2005 election.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Such.

Trustee Veenstra requested the minutes of October 18, 2005 be removed from the consent agenda as he alleged the motion approving Agenda Item #7C (Third Quarter Budget Amendments) was illegal, as it did not comply with the State Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (MCL 141.421). Trustee Veenstra indicated he had checked with an attorney for the Michigan Township's Association regarding his concern.

Manager Richards indicated Trustee Veenstra's concern had been researched and after consultation with the Township's auditor regarding state law and a review of the state law regulations, he and the Finance Director are comfortable with the way the budget has been presented. Manager Richards noted that the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) is not a municipal government and they do not audit municipal governments.

Finance Director Hasse added that what the Board approves is the budget at the level it has been presented. When the budget is amended, the Board adopts an amended budget. The Uniform Budget Manual from the Department of Treasury specifically states that a line item detail budget is not required. Director Hasse added that the Township's auditor would discourage adoption of a line item budget. She indicated that conversations with the Department of Treasury and the Township's audit partner resulted in concurrence with the level of the numbers the Board is approving. Director Hasse noted both were comfortable with the level of detail provided in the 193 page document.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

- (1). Board Deliberation (BD)
- 10A-1 Sheila Moore, 2128 Woodfield Road, Okemos; RE: Removal of Okemos Road Median Project line item from the 2006 Recommended Budget
- 10A-2 Win Stebbins, 3875 Roxbury, Okemos; RE: Opposition to the \$600,000 appropriation in the 2006 Recommended Budget for the design and construction of Okemos Road Beautification
- 10B-1 Kathleen Sauer, 2601 Creekstone Trail, Okemos; RE: Support for connection of Champion Woods planned unit development with Woods of Herron Creek subdivision

2). Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Elizabeth and Eugene LeGoff, 5189 E. Brookfield Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #05010 (Capstone Development).
- BI-2 Jeanne Anderson, 2692 Greencliff Drive, East Lansing; RE: Concern with Mobile Home Manor Property Rehabilitation and Capstone Proposal
- BI-3 Diane L. McNeil, Executive Director, Potter Park Zoological Society, 1301 S.
 Pennsylvania, Lansing; RE: Establishment of Friday, December 16, 2005 as
 Meridian Township Night for the Wonderland of Lights at Potter Park Zoo
- BI-4 Susan J. Hill, Director, Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing; RE: Resolution approving exemption of CADL property taxes from capture in the DDA
- BI-5 Robert E. Proctor, Secretary/Treasurer, Lansing Community College Board of Trustees, PO Box 40010, Lansing: Opposition to LCC's inclusion in the DDA and resolution approving exemption of LCC taxes from capture under the Tax Increment Finance Plan
- BI-6 John Noud, PO Box 316, Mason; RE: Resignation letter from the Cable Communications Commission
- BI-7 Teresa Williams, 16621 Thorngate Road, East Lansing; RE: Concern over automobile accidents where Haslett High School students exit school property onto Marsh Road
- BI-8 Molly Wingrove, 2649 Melville Drive, East Lansing; RE: Opposition to Rezoning #05010 (Capstone Development)
- (3) Regional Linkage (RL)
 - RL-1 Deborah L. Bellows, Secretary to the Board, Ingham County Road Commission, 301 Bush Street, Mason; RE: Notice of Public Informational Meeting to discuss temporary stop locations placed on Hamilton Road west of Okemos Road
- (4). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)
 - SC-1 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report October 14, 2005 Edition
 - SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report October 21, 2005 Edition

Trustee 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 Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

B. Minutes

(1) Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 11, 2005 Special Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

(2) Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 13, 2005 Special Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

(3) Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the October 18, 2005 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

C. 2006 Board Meeting Schedule

Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the 2006 Township Board Meeting Schedule Resolution. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

D. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	207,895.60
Public Works	\$	53,987.34
Total Checks	\$	261,882.94
Credit Card Transactions	\$	9,128.68
Total Purchases	<u>\$</u>	271,011.62

ACH Payments \$ 469,573.82

Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

- 9. HEARINGS (None)
- 10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened public comment.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman, Okemos, expressed concern over the alleged illegality of the process the Board uses to adopt its budget. He was also concerned over the declining fund balance since 2002. Additionally, he spoke in opposition to the Okemos Road Median Project.

Lynne Page, President, Briarwood Home Owners Association, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to the additional expenditure of \$60,000 for 2006 budgeted Okemos Road Enhancement funds.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed public comment.

A. 2006 Recommended Budget

Director Hasse summarized the revised budget as outlined in staff memorandum dated October 28, 2005. Trustee Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the 2006 recommended budget resolution as presented with the memo to the Township Board dated November 3, 2005. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

Board members discussed the following:

- Appreciation to staff for level of detail and answers to questions raised
- Appreciation to staff for a good budget in spite of continued decline in state revenue sharing
- Fund balance at the end of the year after bills are paid would provide the Township with the auditor recommended funds to be fully operational for 2 months
- Adoption of a budget summary is not adoption of the budget
- Review of substantive budget issues as opposed to review of methodology
- Confidence that staff has checked on legality of the Township's budget procedures
- Appreciation to staff for detailed explanation of previously raised concerns by the Board

Trustee Brixie called the question. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 5-2 (Veenstra, Woiwode)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,

Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: Trustee Veenstra Motion carried 6-1.

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 introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Such.

Board members discussed the following:

• Rezoning consistent with the Master Plan

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor

McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Rezoning #05060 (Jamzadeh/Soroushian), request to rezone 3925 Dobie Road, a 1.5 acre parcel located on the west side of Dobie Road, north of Jolly Road and south of Kinawa Drive, from RR (Rural Residential) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density), **Final Adoption**

Trustee Woiwode 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. 2005-09, entitled "Ordinance Amending the

Zoning District Map of Meridian Township Pursuant to Rezoning Petition #05060" RR (Rural Residential) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density).

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 Trustee Veenstra.

Board members discussed the following:

- Rezoning was approved by the Planning Commission
- Appropriate rezoning at this location
- Need for ZBA variance for one driveway
- One driveway would reduce impervious surface

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor

McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Zoning Amendment #05070 (Planning Commission), request to amend Section 86-440 Mixed Use Planned Unit Development to add a requirement for a Public Hearing at the Township Board for consistency with the Township Zoning Act, **Introduction**

Trustee Woiwode moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance No. ______, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, Chapter 86, Article IV, Division 4, Section 86-440 by amending Section 86-440(e)(5)."

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 introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Seconded by Trustee Brixie.

Board members discussed the following:

- Conformance with state law
- Allows more public input to be structured into the Board's process

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Woiwode, Supervisor

McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

[Supervisor McGillicuddy recessed the meeting at 6:45 P.M.] [Supervisor McGillicuddy reconvened the meeting at 7:08 P.M.]

- 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS (None)
- 12. <u>VISION SESSION/ENDS:</u>

A. Presentation by Tri-County Planning Commission (Jon Coleman and Paul Hamilton)
Jon Coleman, Executive Director offered a slide presentation of the summary report on the TriCounty Regional Growth Summary Report for the Lansing Metropolitan Area. It was a
comprehensive planning effort over the last four (4) years.

The following information from the summary report was highlighted:

- Fifty (50) of the seventy eight (78) governmental units within the region have land use powers
- Implications of continuing to follow the growth trends
- Identify and evaluate alternatives to the trend
- Slow growing region within the state
- Lowering of number of persons within a household as it relates to the number and type of housing
- Building permit data as of 2002 indicates 53% were for non-urbanized areas
- Residential change from 1978 to 1999 indicate a shift from growth in the urban areas to growth in non-urban areas
- Loss of 104 square miles of agricultural land in the Tri-County area
- Most of the agricultural land is being lost to residential development
- Elements of evaluation for the growth project plan
- Regional growth scenarios of "business as usual" v. "wise growth"
- Conversion of the existing steering committee to the new implementation steering committee
- Creation of task forces focused on specific areas to implement in the plan
- Implementation of specific areas occurring at the local governmental level
- Request by Tri-County to guide planning at the local level in a collaborative effort
- Possible formation of coordinated planning activities

Paul Hamilton, continued with the slide presentation of the summary report as highlighted:

- Several different forums for public participation
- Wise growth scenario preferred by the public as it preserves agricultural land and open space
- Wise growth scenario may cost more for police and fire protection as higher level of service would be necessary in the urban area
- Increased police and fire expenditure would be offset by reduced congested lane miles at approximately 50%
- Air quality analysis in the long term will reduce emissions at tens of thousands of kilograms/day
- Use of an integrated planning process resulted in 29 adopted regional transportation goals and objectives and land use goals and objectives
- Commission adopted policies based on wise growth map and principles for future transportation priorities
- Most of the land use and transportation objectives were tied into the regional congestion management system
- Number one public priority for transportation improvement was improving mobility for lowincome and elderly
- Land use principles integrated into investment strategies for five and twenty year periods
- Partnerships with MSU Extension, Land Use Health Committee, federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, local environmental organizations and non-motor advocates

[Copy of the report on file in the Clerk's office]

B. Discussion with Local Governments – Invitees are: Alaiedon Township; Bath Township; Capital Area Transportation Authority; City of East Lansing; Haslett Public Schools; Ingham County Road Commission; City of Lansing; Lansing Township; Okemos Public Schools; and Williamstown Township

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened the Intergovernmental Meeting and guests introduced themselves:

<u>Bath Township</u> Mark Ritter, Superintendent

Skip Losey, Trustee

CATA

Debbie Alexander

City of East Lansing

Mark Meadows, Mayor

City of Lansing

Joan Bauer, City Councilmember David Weiner, Mayor's office

Ingham County Road Commission

Joe Guenther, Commissioner Jean McDonald, Chair Larry Smith, Commissioner

John Midgley, Managing Director

Okemos Public Schools

Robert McDonough, President, Okemos School Board

Williamstown Township

Mickey Martin, Supervisor

Cindy Davis, Clerk

The representatives and Board members discussed the following areas of interest:

- Recent adoption by Meridian Township of its Master Plan to allow for a more walkable community
- Plans by Tri-County to meet with groups of neighboring communities
- Identification by Tri-County of barriers to the plan's success
- Prioritization by Tri-County Steering Committee and task force of identified issues to be addressed first
- Meetings held by Tri-County over the past year to discuss some urban service districts and urban service boundaries
- Redevelopment of warehouse space in Lansing to condominiums and apartments for empty nesters looking to move back
- City of Lansing has developed 800 residential units in the last three (3) years and 500 more are scheduled
- Nature of population is changing
- Big box stores within communities create a need for residents to drive (e.g., Meijer in Mason) which creates increase in traffic
- Need to strengthen the urban core in order to reverse the trend of moving to the outlying areas
- Redevelopment of manufacturing sites in Lansing
- Resistance to private sector initiation of issues which pit communities against each other
- Involvement of the private sector needed in the planning process
- LEED program which encourages architects and builders to create certified energy efficient structures
- LEED ND (neighborhood development) which promotes the same concept as LEED, but for communities which are more energy efficient, livable and walkable
- Need for each community to embrace the principles from Tri-County
- Need for legislation which would give local units of government the authority to require developers to pay for infrastructure improvements with the total tax to be shared between communities within the urban service district so there is no incentive to build outside the urban service boundary
- Implementation of bicycle and pedestrian sidewalks for the future
- Move forward with principles from the Tri-County

- Identify the principles where there is consensus and move forward by adopting resolutions in support of those principles
- Area designated on the Land Use Policy Map identified as forested and environmental preservation based on existing lands and future regional greenways plan
- Community endorsement of the plans but need for resources to hire staff through partnership with other communities to develop the approaches to land use
- Regional Centers for Excellence grant through Governor's office to move process forward
- Land Policy Program through MSU (Kellogg funded) as a source of funds for a collaborative approach
- Dialogue between municipalities is important to identify common goals
- City of Lansing is looking at ways to make a .7 mile pedestrian walkway from Prudden Wheel a safe and attractive route to downtown Lansing
- Bath Township recently completed a joint corridor study with the City of East Lansing on Chandler Road which will be utilized as a planning tool
- Bath Township is currently involved in the development of a sewer modeling system
- Master Plans area continuous evolving process
- Reduction of speed limit on Abbott Road from 45 m.p.h. to 35 m.p.h. within city limits achieved through transfer of jurisdiction of the roadway from the ICRC to the City of East Lansing
- Recreation trail to run adjacent to roadway on Chandler Road when the road is redeveloped
- Traffic calming devices to be implemented at Burcham/Park Lake
- Creation of Williamstown Township development rights ordinance with two property owners who voluntarily gave the easement of their development rights
- Update of Williamstown Township Master Plan to bring into compliance with state requirements for state funding
- Appreciation for the collaborative effort on the Bennett Road/Hulett Road roundabout
- Okemos Public Schools (OPS) enrollment has increased through program enhancement, turnover of housing stock and the Montessori program
- OPS participation in Okemos Road development through a number of easements to increase student safety
- OPS property exchange with Meridian Township dramatically improved the traffic flow around Cornell Elementary School and expanded Hartrick Park near Okemos High School
- Increase radius where busing is not provided in the OPS system to eliminate bus routes and more fully utilize buses
- Cross boundary efforts to emphasize strengths among school districts
- Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) identification of Centers of Excellence within districts to share programs across district boundaries
- Regional cooperation at the county level to reduce costs and leverage the scope of services delivered
- Providing more educational choices for the current population will entice residents to move into the OPS system
- Loss of students in Williamston Public Schools
- Overall small gain of students in Bath Township among the four (4) school districts
- Significant loss of 600 students in the Lansing Public School system in 2005
- Creation of a Lansing Neighborhood and School Study Committee to plan for the future of neighborhoods and schools together
- Implementation of character based education in the Lansing Public School system
- Creation of a "leadership academy" as a magnet school at Wainwright School
- Possible combination school (e.g., Montessori School with a parochial school) on the east side of Lansing
- Potential utilization of "schools within schools" model from other cities
- Possible partnerships with the private sector to create ideas which will promote the regional area 's "uniqueness"
- Schools as the main center of any community area
- Expansion of CATA's service area beyond its doors
- CATA to seek funds for a Grand River corridor study from the State Capitol to Meridian Mall
- Grand River corridor as the "spine" of a potential growth pattern
- CATA will explore all transportation options within the corridor

- Expansion of CATA's fleet capacity
- Diversification of CATA's fleet as it grows
- CATA and General Motors partnered to submit a request to the Legislature for earmarking \$5 million to purchase ten (10) hybrid vehicles
- Grants available for private developer to apply for because of the designation of the East Village area as a blighted area
- Michigan State University is one of the largest on-campus housing providers in the country
- Significant increase of noise problems in East Lansing neighborhoods near the university

13. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Carl Harmon, 1924 Birchwood, Okemos, thanked the Board for its "go slow" approach on Okemos Road. He suggested that Bennett Road be extended to the Dunkel Road interchange to alleviate traffic congestion and make it easier to travel to Lansing. Mr. Harmon asked that an overpass on Okemos Road be built for children crossing the road which would increase facilitation of traffic. Mr. Harmon spoke to the value of mass transit within the region. He also addressed the value of sharing tax base with neighboring communities.

Leonard Provenchur, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed concern over the closing of Okemos Road near Central Park Drive where the Pine lake Drive crosses the road several days each year due to flooding. He believed a functional road should take precedence over esthetics. Mr. Provenchur noted his displeasure with CATA ads in the State News. He voiced appreciation that the lane increase on Burcham Drive in East Lansing was more accommodating to bicyclists. Mr. Provenchur expressed disappointment with the Okemos Road Widening Project as it did not make accommodation for a cycling lane on the road, despite citizen requests to do so.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman, Okemos, expressed appreciation for the Tri-County Planning Commission presentation and spoke to "regional cooperation" instead of "regional competition" where land use decisions are made.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

14 ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 9:17 P.M.

SUSAN McGILLICUDDY	MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR	TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary