

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED AS AMENDED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, April 23, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT:

STAFF: Assistant Manager/Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Inspector Millerov, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Principal Planner Menser, Economic Development Director Buck, Finance Director Mattison.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Supervisor Styka announced a special resolution to be signed declaring April Autism Awareness Month in Meridian Township.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:08 pm.

Hui Liu, 1338 Spicewood Rd., Okemos; spoke in opposition to Zoning Amendment #19030 (Township Board) Medical Marihuana (Agenda Item 13A).

Ronald Calhoun, 2875 Northwind Dr., East Lansing; spoke on Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #18034 (Meridian Investment Group, LLC) Red Cedar Manor (Agenda Item 13C).

Marc Santucc, 5909 Blythefield Dr. East Lansing; spoke in support of Agenda Item 13A.

Huibo Ma, 4573 Spicewood Dr., Okemos; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

Xiaoman Yan, 4094 Breakwater Dr., Okemos; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Dr., Haslett; mentioned the John Veenstra Memorial funding drive, spoke on Local Street Improvement Program Funding (Agenda Item 13F), and on removal of the Camelback Bridge (Non-Agenda Item).

Wei Li, 2565 Sophia Pkwy., Okemos; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

Shu Zhang, 2266 Knob Hill Dr., Apt. 3, Okemos; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

David Pierson, 1142 S. Washington Ave., Lansing; spoke on Zoning Amendment #19040 (Township Board) Senior Living Communities.

Cindy Liu, 1575 Maiden Ln., Okemos; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

Bob Homan, 1571 West Pond Dr., Okemos; spoke in support of Agenda Item 13A.

Yangfom Liu, 2165 Long Leaf Trl., Okemos; spoke on Agenda Item 13A.

Milton Scales, 2025 Central Park Dr., #1152, Okemos; spoke in support of Agenda Item 13A.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:44 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported: Haslett Marathon Gas Station updates, meeting with Delta Dental new CEO, Village of Okemos plans, new Farmer's Market groundbreaking on May 22, Redi-Ride Contract completed, meeting with MSU President, Recreation Services meeting with City of Williamston, Administrative Professionals Day.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Dreyfus Reported:

- Attended Groundwater Management Board Meeting; discussed groundwater quality assessment study results and recommendations.
- Upcoming May 7 Okemos School Bond proposal election; Friday May 3 last day to mail out Absentee Voter applications, Clerk's Office open Saturday May 4 from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday May 6, 8am to 4pm last day to vote Absentee, eligible to register to vote up to 8 pm on day of election.
- Clerk sent letter to Director of MI Bureau of Elections supporting blind & visually impaired voters having equal access to Absentee Voting through Remote Ballot Marking technology

Treasurer Deschaine reported:

- Attended Meridian Area Business Association meeting.
- Participated in Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce RoundTable discussion.
- Attended the Downtown Development Authority Village of Okemos Subcommittee meeting.
- Attended Election Commission Meeting.
- Will attend live call-in show in HOMTV to discuss roads on April 24.
- Will attend Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association Treasurer's Academy training April 28 – May 3

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- Capital Area Transit Authority meeting; discussed additional capacity needs for Redi-Ride.

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Attended Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce round-table discussion.
- Met with Michigan State University President Udpa.
- Met with Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin; discussed local issues.
- Ingham County Road Commission open meeting on roads, April 25th.
- Upcoming Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Arbor Day tree planting, April 27th.
- Upcoming Recycling event at Chippewa Middle School on April 27th.
- Upcoming Meridian Cares fundraising event, May 6th at Culvers.
- Discussed the presentation in support of Autism Awareness.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Opsommer requested to add "Resolution to Declare April 2019 as Autism Awareness Month" as Agenda Item 9G to the Consent Agenda.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

A. Communications

Clerk Dreyfus 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 Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Minutes – April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,
Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Bills

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Trustee Opsommer:

Common Cash		\$	374,973.16
Public Works		\$	8,894.88
Trust & Agency		\$	-
	Total Checks	\$	383,868.04
Credit Card Transactions		\$	6,631.48
April 4 to April 17			
	Total Purchases	\$	<u>390,499.52</u>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>2,306,477.88</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,
Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

D. Lake Lansing Advisory Committee Re-appointments

Clerk Dreyfus moved that the following property owners be re-appointed to the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee for terms expiring April 30, 2021: Robert Hollenshead, 6068 Columbia; Ronald Rowe, 6247 E. Lake Drive; Larry Wagenknecht, 6097 Partridge. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,
Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

E. Resolution Establishing Authorized Signatories for MERS

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the resolutions establishing authorized signatories for MERS Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,
Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

F. Celebrate Meridian Liquor License Resolution

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the attached resolution supporting the application of a one-day liquor license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for sale of beer and wine at the Celebrate Meridian festival on June 29, 2019. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,
Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

G. Resolution to Declare April 2019 as Autism Awareness Month

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the attached resolution declaring April 2019 as Autism Awareness Month in Meridian Township. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,
Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Kansas Road Sewer SAD #52 Reapportionment

Assistant Manager/Director Perry introduced and explained the Special Assessment District Reapportionment proposal.

Supervisor Styka opened the hearing at 7:02 pm.

Supervisor Styka closed the hearing at 7:03 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Time Limitations for Vending - **Final Adoption**

Trustee Jackson move to adopt the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-05 to amend Chapter 38, Article IV, Vendors of the Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Board discussion: details of ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Fireworks Ordinance - **Final Adoption**

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-06 to amend Chapter 26, Article I, Fireworks of the Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Board discussion: details of ordinance, compliance with changes in State law.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. 2018 Order to Maintain Sidewalk SAD #18 - Resolution #4

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the 2018 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #18 Resolution #4, which files the proposed special assessment roll with the Office of the Township Clerk and sets the date for a public hearing on Thursday, May 9, 2019. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland, Jackson, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

D. Option for Nonpartisan Township Offices

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the resolution that supports the option to have its elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: Township offices are less politically polarized than State and Federal public bodies, non-partisan elections may encourage individuals to become more politically active, importance of political parties, political parties as identifiers for citizens. ~~option for local communities to operate as nonpartisan, negatives of providing local Boards the choice, pros and cons provided by the Michigan Township Association, logistics of election primaries & ballot structure NOT CLEAR IN PROPOSAL, nonpartisan candidates can still identify with a political party, candidate's actual platform will be emphasized vs political affiliation, about 50% of Americans don't use political parties for decision making, trends are against partisanship, incumbents would be at risk by removing their party identifier, primary system helps narrow race, partisan nature of the state proposal, value of political parties, local issues are more important than partisanship, proposal is too vague.~~

VOICE VOTE: 1 (Yes: Clerk Dreyfus) – 6 (No) Motion failed.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Zoning Amendment #19030 (Township Board) Medical Marihuana

Director Kieselbach summarized the current proposed zoning element of the Medical Marihuana Ordinance and provided details on the proposed permitted zoning.

Board discussion: use of Special Use Permit process with recommendations from Planning Commission, amendments to proposed ordinance.

Trustee Opsommer moved to amend the ordinance under current discussion amendments that he provided. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: 5-2 (Dreyfus, Sundland) Motion carried.

~~Board discussion: marijuana been present in community for decades, easy access for students if they desire it, evidence/data do not support accusations and emotional statements in letters opposed to ordinance, commercial development component in ordinance, legalization and impact on medical marijuana facilities, market forces determine availability of sites for facilities, concerns about proposed limit of one permit in any class, continued "demonization" of cannabis due to long-term prohibition and propaganda, ordinance requirements will prevent illegal procurement, ordinance and safety/odor issues, facilities could be unnoticeable to citizens, alcohol and opioids more dangerous to young people than marijuana, factually inaccurate information circulating among some residents, Board has the final approval on facilities, "legitimate" LEGITIMATE concerns of parents, WILL BE A highly-regulated ordinance BACKED BY state law, Township will need to address recreational marijuana later, NEED FOR clarification on lottery amendment and process of future amendments, SOME citizens/businesses MAY BE concerned about Board backtracking on compromise of 6 overlay zones and 6 provisioning centers, discussion on facility numbers, discussion of fear vs fact.~~

Board consensus to have this item up for action, with proposed amendments, at the next Board meeting.

- B. Rezoning #19020 (Township Board) Martinus Street

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the proposed rezoning on Martinus Street.

Board discussion: no concerns evident at the public hearing, benefits of rezoning, communication received in opposition.

Board consensus to have this item up for action at the next Board meeting.

- C. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #18034 (Meridian Investment Group LLC) Red Cedar Manor.

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the proposed Mixed Use Planned Unit Development, submitted by Meridian Investment Group, LLC.

Ronald Calhoun, 2875 Northwind Dr., East Lansing; explained the proposed concept and provided responses to concerns raised by the Board at a previous meeting.

Board discussion: deficiencies of previous proposal, positive amenities, reduction of project size, appropriateness of increased height, concerns about height on **neighbor's** privacy, setback distances, positives of reduced unit size, flood way restricts options, belief proposal will improve the immediate area, options for reducing non-permeable surface, flood impact mitigation efforts, impact on beds-per-unit when size is reduced.

Board consensus to have this item up for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

- D. Special Use Permit #18031 (Meridian Investment Group LLC) Red Cedar Manor

Board consensus to have this item up for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

- E. Zoning Amendment #19040 (Township Board) Senior Living Communities

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the proposed Zoning Amendment initiated by the Township to allow zoning for Senior Living Communities.

David Pierson, 1142 S. Washington Ave., Lansing; provided details on a possible development that would utilize the proposed ordinance.

Board discussion: details of set-back requirements, ordinance should conform to multi-family residential zoning, adjustments to ordinance can come after it is tested, proposed development set-back in relation to Indian Lakes Estates.

Board consensus to have the item up for action at the next Board meeting.

- F. Local Street Improvement Program Funding

Assistant Manager/Director Perry provided an outline of the proposed funding options for the Local Street Improvement Program.

Township Manager Walsh explained the details of initial investment options with the proposed bonding funding.

Board discussion: impact and cost of millage for taxpayers, input from Ingham County Road Department (ICRD), contribution amounts from ICRD, monitoring of investments, asset management approach, regressive taxes, possible earnings from investments, need for stable and consistent contractors, net increase for millage rates,

Board consensus to have this item up for action at the next Board meeting.

G. Central Park Road/Newman Road - Road Diet

Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the proposed "Road Diet" that would reduce the painted lanes of Central Park Road and Newman Road.

Board discussion: inclusion of portions of Hamilton Road in the proposal, road diet proposed by Ingham County Road Department (ICRD), ~~problems with reducing painted lanes~~, impact on core commercial areas, use of bike lanes and bike emblems, anticipated traffic capacity was never realized so reduction in lanes are ~~OK~~ OKAY, ICRD doing road work so good time to repaint roads for road diet, possible benefits for consistent traffic flow. ~~discomfort of passing bicyclists, laws accommodating bicyclists, safety was not stated as a reason for the road diet, no rationale PROVIDED BY ICRD given to reduce 4 lanes to 2 lanes, proposed road diet will encircle the C-3 Commercial District - highest intensity commercial area in Township, safety concerns about one lane in each direction due to sudden and numerous cars stopping for Meridian Mall and businesses contained in C-3 District, unnecessary traffic backups will occur, proposal will cause driver problems and needless delays, current 2 lanes in each direction works well.~~

Board consensus to have this item up for action at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Opsommer moved to continue Township business past 10:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

H. 2018 International Fire Code with Township Amendments

Inspector Millerov provided an overview of the 2018 International Fire Code and what Township Amendments would follow.

Board consensus to bring this item up for action at the next Board meeting.

I. Kansas Road Sewer SAD #52 Reapportionment

Assistant Manager/Director Perry provided an outline of the proposed reapportionment of the Kansas Road Sewer Special Assessment District.

Board consensus to bring this item up for action at the next Board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 10:12 pm.

Hui Liu, 1338 Spicewood Rd., Okemos; provided an overview of the process taken to draft submitted Board Communications and spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

Cindy Lui, 1575 Maiden Ln., Okemos; spoke in opposition of Agenda Item 13A.

Marc Santucci, 5909 Blythefield Dr., Okemos; supports Agenda Item 13A but is in opposition to amendments just made to the draft ordinance.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 10:21 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- Clarified on comments made about amendments proposed to Agenda Item 13A. Was prepared to support all 6 overlay districts, desired Board consensus, stated it “wasn’t his decision to take two districts out.”

Clerk Dreyfus reported:

- Clarified his use of the term of “minority” as a term relating to the number of voters that had voted against medical marihuana in the State of Michigan, which had 64% majority support in the Township and 36% minority opposition.
- Noted that the original draft Medical Marihuana Ordinance (without amendments by Trustee Opsommer) with 6 Overlay Districts and 6 provisioning permits was an appropriate compromise and well-thought out, and encourages Board members to reconsider reducing overlay districts and facility permits at the last minute.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK