

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, March 07, 2023 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Communications Manager Diehl, Finance Director Garber, Human Resources Director Tithof, Chief of Police Plaga, Economic Developer Director Clark, EMS/Training Chief Booms

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. All board members are present.

4. PRESENTATION-NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:01 PM.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 6:02 PM.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh spoke about the upcoming renovations and explained the building will be shut down on April 24th however about 80% of residents will still be able to be served in the Town Hall room as staff members from Treasury, Assessing, Building, and Engineering, will be stationed in the Town Hall Room. The rest of staff will be stationed at the Public Safety Building, the Service Center and building next to 24|2 Church, while Communications will operate from the HOMTV studio. He also noted the framework of the new community signs are currently being installed, and the signs themselves should be in place soon.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson

- Attended February 28th Community Center Taskforce meeting
- Potentially co-hosting a gun safety community event with Okemos Schools, and potentially Haslett Schools

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended February 24th Michigan Township Association Meeting on Wind and Solar Ordinances
- Attending March 1st Capital conference on legislative affairs
- Attending February 28th Community Center Task Force Meeting
- All taxes were due by March 1st, if you have not paid your taxes at this time please contact the County Treasurers Office at 517-676-7220

Clerk Guthrie

- Attended March 1st Environmental Commission meeting
- Attended Michigan Township Association conference covering next year's elections
- Attended two informational broadband meetings last week
- Attended Michigan Barn Preservation Network conference
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee is working on the Meridian Pride Event

Supervisor Jackson

- Spoke in support of Trustee Wilson and Hendrickson's plan to potentially co-host a gun safety event with the local schools
- Attended Michigan Township Association conference
- Attended Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors meeting last week

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine,
Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with one Amendment to the minutes. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees
Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

Treasurer Deschaine moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes- February 21st, 2023 Regular Township Board Minutes and February 28, 2023 Special Township Board Minutes

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21st, 2023 and the Special Meeting of February 28, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Common Cash	\$	557,785.35
Public Works	\$	271,043.31
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>22,442.94</u>
Total Checks	\$	851,271.60
Credit Card Transactions 02/16/2023 to 03/01/2023	\$	5,589.85
Total Purchases	\$	<u>856,861.45</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>900,270.23</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Celebrate Meridian Liquor License Application

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Parks & Recreation request to apply for one-day liquor license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for the Celebrate Meridian event on June 24, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Celebrate Meridian Outdoor Gathering Permit

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Outdoor Assembly License for the Celebrate Meridian Festival to be held on June 23, 2023 and June 24, 2023 in Central Park and Marketplace on the Green. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Meridian Pride Event Liquor License Application

Treasurer Deschaine motion to approve the Meridian Township DEI committee request to apply for one-day liquor license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for the Meridian Township Pride Day Event on August 26, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Township Board Regular meeting Change-Local Schools & Governments

Treasurer Deschaine moved to set a date of Thursday, April 27, 6:00 pm as the date for the annual local government/school board regional meeting to be hosted by Meridian Township. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

H. Resolution in Support of Meridian Pride Event-DEI Committee

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the resolution in support of Meridian Pride Event. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY-NONE

11. HEARINGS-NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance 2023-01 – Rezone 1642 Lake Court – RB to RCC, with a Conditional Rezoning Agreement-Final Adoption

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2023-01 for final Adoption. He noted staff would recommend approval of this ordinance at this time.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the resolution approving Ordinance 2023-01, an ordinance to rezone the property at 1642 Lake Court (Parcel ID number 33-02-02-10-207-032) from RB, One-Family High Density Residential, and C-1, Neighborhood Service, to RCC, Multiple-Family Residential, subject to a condition of rezoning limiting development on the lot to 12 dwelling units. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson Spoke in support of this item as it is an infill project.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item as surrounding properties are zoned similarly.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this project as it is entirely replacing blighted buildings.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the property extends to the corner of Marsh Rd. and Lake Lansing Rd.

Director Schmitt replied this property is just off that corner, behind the commercial building.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Application

Director Clark outlined the Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Application for action. She noted this is the last formal approval the board will need to give on this project.

Trustee Wisinski moved it be resolved by the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township be and hereby is granted a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption for the real property, excluding land, located in Commercial Rehabilitation District, Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1 at 1655 and 1621 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840, for a period of 10 years, beginning December 31, 2023, and ending December 30, 2033 pursuant to The provisions of PA 210 of 2005, as amended. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item and noted this is the first time the township has taken advantage of the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this project and asked if the developer will receive the lowered tax rate for the full 10 years even if the project is completed sooner.

Director Clark replied that is correct.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if this is a phased project and if some parts of the project will be completed long before the estimated completion date.

Director Clark replied that is correct.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there is a date for the demolition of the old L&L store in the adjacent plaza.

Director Clark there is not at this time.

Supervisor Jackson asked Director Clark to describe the major aspects of the project.

Director Clark replied this is the southwest corner of the intersection of Haslett Rd. and Marsh Rd. It will be about 19.5 acres and will included about 21,000 sq. ft. of non-residential space in two commercial buildings on the property. 290 housing units will be available ranging from studio to three bedrooms units, as well as several townhouses.

Supervisor Jackson noted this is the last step the township and board are responsible for. She asked if the only thing the township is waiting on is the approval of the brownfield plan at the State level.

Director Clark replied that is correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Findings of Local Compensation Commission (LOCC)

Director Tithof outlined the findings of the Local Officials Compensation Commission. She noted an 8% wage increase has been recommended for Township Board Members for the remainder of this year, and a 3% increase next year. She further noted the wage for Park Commissioners has not changed.

Treasurer Deschaine noted these increases appear to be similar to wage increases offered to township employees.

Director Tithof replied the employee raises were considered by the Local Officials Compensation Commission.

Trustee Hendrickson asked for the LOCC meeting minutes to be posted on the Township Website.

The Township Board found no issue with the recommendation from the LOCC.

D. Building Lease-242 Church

Manager Walsh outlined the Building Lease of 242 Church for action. He noted the building being leased is a non-church facility.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Township Manager's recommendation to lease 2630 Bennett Road in an amount not to exceed \$19,000 and authorize Supervisor Jackson and Clerk Guthrie to sign the lease as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Manager Walsh noted this lease had been previously budgeted for, and funding will not be taken from the general fund to pay for it.

Trustee Wilson asked if residents will be able to call township staff who are no longer located at the municipal building.

Manager Walsh replied they will.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if the renovation will impact the Brightline project.

Director Gebes explained this will set back the Brightline project roughly three weeks.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Firefighter Contract 2023-2026

Manager Walsh outlined the 2023-2026 Firefighter Contract for action.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Township Manager's recommendation to approve the attached wage increase as presented, including an extension of the current employment contract with the Meridian Township Fire Fighters Association through December 31, 2026. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

EMS/Training Chief Booms thanked the board and staff for their work on this contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Community Conversation-Village of Okemos

Manager Walsh outlined the Community Conversation with the developers of the Village of Okemos Project.

Trustee Wilson moved to set the public meeting for the Village of Okemos project update to May 9, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Township Hall or an alternative location to be announced. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Wilson spoke about disappointment in the developer not attending with township residents on the agreed upon date.

Clerk Guthrie spoke about her disappointment in the developer not attending with township residents on the agreed upon date.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about his disappointment in the developer not attending with township residents on the agreed upon date.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke about his disappointment in the developer not attending with township residents on the agreed upon date.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine,
Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Stryker ALS 360 Program

Director Garber outlined the Stryker ALS 360 Program for action. She explained this is a 10 year contract with new replacement equipment being given to the township after five years.

EMS/Training Chief Booms further outlined the Stryker ALS 360 Program for action.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there have been any offers similar to this from any other companies.

EMS/Training Chief Booms replied not that he is aware of.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the fire department's experience with Stryker has been positive.

EMS/Training Chief Booms replied they make good equipment and he has not heard any complaints in his career.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if the township would get to keep the old equipment after the five year replacement.

Director Garber replied Stryker would take back the old equipment from the first five years of the contract.

Trustee Hendrickson asked what the life span of a power cot is when purchased outright.

EMS/Training Chief Booms replied he is not sure of the life span of a power cot, but when purchasing the power cot outright the township would become fully responsible for maintenance of the power cot.

Trustee Hendrickson stated that he would like to see the current cost of equipment upkeep before he fully supports this.

Manager Walsh noted that he had gone over the costs with Chief Hamel and feels confident this is a worthwhile purchase. He further noted the past annual payment of \$250,000 used towards the purchase of a new ladder truck, which has now been payed off, will be used to pay for this contract.

Clerk Guthrie asked what the current yearly maintenance cost of Fire Department equipment is.

Director Garber replied it varies as there are multiple multiyear contracts active.

Clerk Guthrie asked if this contract would put all of the contracts together.

Director Garber replied that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie asked how many ambulances the township currently has.

EMS/ Training Chief Booms replied there are five.

Clerk Guthrie asked if one ambulance would not use one of the four power cots.

EMS/Training Chief Booms replied the fifth ambulance is a back-up ambulance that isn't used unless needed. He also noted the fact that Stryker will maintain all of the equipment in this contract would eliminate some of the stress of finding a 3rd party mechanic.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the contract could be amended.

Director Garber replied that she believed it could.

Trustee Wisinski asked if the township currently pays about \$150,000 more a year than what the Stryker program would cost.

Director Garber replied that is an estimate based on maintenance timing.

Trustee Wisinski asked if equipment breaks would it be covered under the Stryker contract.

Director Garber replied it would.

Trustee Wisinski asked if there is a cost to cancelling the Fire Departments current contracts.

Director Garber was not able to answer at this time.

Trustee Wisinski asked if this contract would assist in scheduling maintenance.

EMS/Training Chief Booms replied it would.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the recommendation from the Finance Director and Fire Chief to enter into the Stryker ALS 360 program and to transfer ARPA funds in the amount of \$214,677 originally earmarked for the Stryker Power Cots to cover the first year payment for the Stryker ALS 360 program. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item as it will reduce stress, and should decrease costs.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item as it should reduce costs.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

H. Resolution Celebrating Women's History Month

Supervisor Jackson outlined the resolution celebrating Women's History Month.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Resolution celebrating Women' History Month. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Sundland spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski read the resolution in its entirety.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Wisinski Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Okemos School Delegation of Authority for Building Permitting and Inspections

Director Schmitt outlined Okemos School Delegation of Authority for Building Permitting and inspections. He currently estimates this project will generate \$788,000 in building permit revenue over the next five years should the township enter into this agreement.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about increases to staff work load should the township enter into this agreement.

Director Schmitt replied staff is confident this project can be absorbed into current workloads.

Treasurer Deschaine asked how much of the permit revenue would be paid out during plan review.

Director Schmitt replied it should be under 10%.

Treasurer Deschaine noted this could be quite burdensome on the township and he would like to be sure residential inspections will not be delayed as a result of this agreement.

Director Schmitt replied that will not be the case.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item because of the amount of revenue it brings in.

Trustee Wisinski asked what the alternative to using the states multiplier are.

Director Schmitt replied the township could use its own multiplier but it wouldn't be cost effective for the schools.

Trustee Wisinski asked if having township building inspectors will help keep the project moving due to its close proximity.

Director Schmitt replied that it would.

Supervisor Jackson asked if this is a contract between the school board and the township.

Director Schmitt replied technically the township and the school board would be jointly applying to the state to allow the permits of the project to be submitted locally.

Supervisor Jackson asked how long the project would last.

Director Schmitt replied it's currently scheduled to be an eight year construction project, with five years of permitting.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if that state ever declines these applications.

Director Schmitt replied that he believes the state cannot say no as long as the minimum requirements of the application are met.

Clerk Guthrie asked if this a five year or eight year agreement.

Director Schmitt replied this agreement must be renewed annually, but the township should only generate permit revenue during the first five years and possibly early into the sixth year.

Clerk Guthrie asked if this would generate roughly \$100,000 a year.

Director Schmitt replied roughly \$125,000.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the township must hire another inspector to keep up with workloads the permit revenue would cover that cost.

Director Schmitt replied that he does not anticipate that issue, but that revenue would cover the cost of another inspector.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 8:10 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 8:10 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Wisinski asked if 25% of staff are women.

Manager Walsh replied the police department is 30% women, and the majority of directors are women as well.

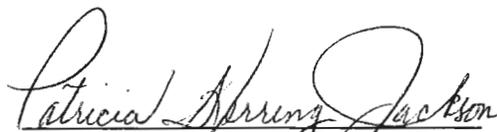
Supervisor Jackson asked the board if they would like to hold a study session to discuss the sign ordinance.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of holding a study session to discuss the sign ordinance.

Manager Walsh suggested deciding the study session date at the next board meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.


PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR


DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK