

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, April 25, 2023 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Communications Manager Diehl, Finance Director Garber, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Economic Developer Director Clark, Deputy Clerk Lemaster, Assessor Winstead, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Director of Operations Massie

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. CLOSED SESSION -

Trustee Hendrickson moved to go into a closed session to discuss pending litigation with Township Attorney under MCL 15.268(1)(e). Successful entry into closed session will require a roll call vote. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The board resumed its open session at 6:01 pm.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLLCALL

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

5. PRESENTATION

Clerk Guthrie Introduced Zacharie Spurlock to the board.

Zacharie Spurlock spoke to the board about his professional background.

A. Capital Area District Library Annual Report

Tom Moore Gave a report on the capital area district library's business for 2022.

Scott Duimstra reported the Capital Area is in the top five library districts in the state and considered one of the star libraries in the United States.

Treasurer Deschaine commended Mr. Duimstra for his decision in putting Tom Moore in charge of two libraries.

B. 2023 Local Road Program

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave a presentation on the 2023 Local Road Program. He explained this is year four of a ten-year construction plan. He noted 7.3 miles of roads that were damaged by Chip and Fog will be paved with 1 ½ inches of asphalt. He reported the township is on pace to achieve a 7-7.5 PASER rating. Total funding for 2023 is \$6,783,000. 34.36 Miles are planned for construction in 2023.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the PASER map is available on the website.

Deputy Manager Opsommer replied it is.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the board approved funding for the chip and fog treatment.

Deputy Manager Opsommer replied that part of the \$700,000 of last year's ARPA funding approved for road work, as well as the money requested in the first quarter budget amendment will go to the chip and fog overlays.

Trustee Wisinski asked why some roads are worked on that are not as bad as others.

Deputy Manager Opsommer replied with rising inflation, and to save on mobilization costs, DPW is trying to finish entire neighborhoods at once instead of jumping around to different pieces to.

Supervisor Jackson asked when the 2023 program will start.

Deputy Manager Opsommer replied mid-May at the latest.

Treasurer Deschaine asked for a community update along Grand River.

Deputy Manager Opsommer replied work is happening on small areas like bus stops and pathway stops until the first or second week of June. Paving will begin June 28 and continue until mid-August.

Supervisor Jackson asked what goal is for PASER rating.

Deputy Manager Opsommer replied the goal is for the roads to be a 10.

C. Quarterly Township Financial Report

Director Garber gave a presentation on the Quarterly Township Financial Report. She explained the increases in costs and revenues.

6. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 7:01 PM.

Rx Harrington, 820 Piper Rd., Haslett spoke about the Senior Center improvements.

Jeanne Hendry, 467 Nokoma Dr., spoke about the noise from leaf blowers in her area.

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 7:08 PM.

7. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the municipal building renovation is underway. Residents can be served out of the town hall room, and at 2|42 Community Building. He thanked Director Schmitt and Director Clark for their work on the Haslett Village Square Brownfield as it has been approved. Windscreens are up at the Marketplace. There will be a Special Township Board Meeting Thursday night. May Township Board Meetings will be held on the 2nd and the 16th. May 9 will be the community conversation with the Village of Okemos Developers.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended April 5th Capital Area Treasurer's Meeting
- Attended April 6th Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- Attended April 16th -19th MTA Annual Conference
- Attended April 24th CATA Board Meeting

Trustee Wilson

- Attended April 24th CATA Board Meeting
- Attended April 12th Community Resource Commission Meeting
- Health and safety expo May 10th

Trustee Sundland

- Attended April 6th Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- Meridian Township Juneteenth event will be held June 16th -18th
- Meridian Township Pride event will be held on August 26th 4-11 pm

Clerk Guthrie

- Attended April 16th-19th MTA Annual Conference

Trustee Wisinski

- Attended April 16th-19th MTA Annual Conference
- Meridian Township Pride event will be held on August 26th 4-11 pm

- Attended April 5th Environmental Commission 2023 Green Grant

9. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Treasurer Deschaine gave a brief description of the First Quarter 2023 Investment Report.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes- April 4, 2023 Regular Township Board Meeting Minutes

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 21st, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Common Cash		\$	288,676.14
Public Works		\$	186,067.26
Trust & Agency		\$	<u>1.47</u>
	Total Checks	\$	474,744.87
Credit Card Transactions		\$	9,204.78
03/16/2023 to 03/29/2023			
	Total Purchases	\$	<u>483,949.65</u>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>963,833.25</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. First Quarter 2023 Investment Report

Trustee Hendrickson moved to accept the First Quarter 2023 Investment Report. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

- 11. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY-NONE
- 12. HEARINGS-NONE
- 13. ACTION ITEMS

A. Ordinance 2022-16-Sign Ordinance Update Final Adoption

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-16 for Final Adoption.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Zoning Amendment 2022-16 to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian to update the sign standards throughout the ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Supervisor Jackson if 1974 is the last time the sign ordinance was updated.

Director Schmitt replied that is correct.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Ordinance 2023-04 – Rezone 5677 Cade Street – PO RB -Introduction

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2023-04 – Rezone 5677 Cade Street – PO RB for Introduction.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Ordinance 2023-04, an ordinance to rezone the property at 5677 Cade Street (Parcel ID number 33-02-02-11-304-031) from PO, Professional Office, to RB, One-Family High Density Residential. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Sundland spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7-0

C. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Garber outlined the 1st quarter budget amendments for action.

Trustee Hendrickson clarified that in December \$5.5 million was set aside for capital projects and pension stabilization. He noted those funds are not being used at this time and will sit in a separate account.

Manager Walsh further clarified this is a positive report.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 1st quarter 2023 budget amendments with a decrease in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$5,999,795 which projects a use of fund balance of \$7,593,386. Based on 2022 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2023 will be \$7,676,520. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this Item. He asked as the money is moved it would be helpful to see the fund balances in question.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. 2022 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report

Director Clark outlined the 2022 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the DDA approved this report.

Director Clark replied they have.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 2022 annual report and to submit to the State of Michigan, post on the township website and make available for members of the public. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Lake Lansing Advisory Committee Appointments

Deputy Manager Opsommer outlined the lake Lansing advisory committee appointments.

Trustee Wilson moved that the following property owners be re-appointed to the Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee for terms expiring April 30, 2025: Susan Andrews, 6076 Columbia St; Ronald Rowe, 6247 E Lake Dr; Larry Wagenknecht, 6097 Partridge St. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support in this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Section 61 Application – Land Preservation

Director Maisner outlined the Section 61 Application – Land Preservation for action.

Trustee Wisinski moved to forward land acquisition parcel number 33-02-02-26-202-001 recommendation to the Planning Commission for section 61 review. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of the item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of the item.

Clerk Guthrie noted she would like to see a recommendation from the Land Preservation Advisory Board on what direction the board should take with land preserves.

Trustee Wisinski replied the 2023 stewardship goals include this land, controlling invasive species, and controlled burns.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there would be any structures built on this land.

Director Maisner replied there would not.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 would reassess their goals for stewardship. She asked if they have looked at their acquisition goals.

Director Maisner replied they take direction from the board.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Pension Legislation – Request to Legislature/Governor

Manager Walsh outlined Pension Legislation – Request to Legislature/Governor for Action. He explained

Clerk Guthrie moved to adopt the resolution to request the legislature governor include funding in the 2023 budget for communities following pension best practices by the state. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson stated this is an effort to fix with

Manager Walsh replied that he is asked for \$250 Million to be earmarked for communities who followed the State of Michigan’s best practices guidelines and did not receive part of the \$750 Million disbursement.

Trustee Hendrickson asked how much the township has put in to their pension fund in addition to the necessary amount.

Manager Walsh replied \$3.2 Million is required, while the township puts in an extra \$2.1 Million. Currently the township is paying \$5.3 Million annually into its pension fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

14. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. School Resource Officer – Haslett Public Schools

Chief Plaga outlined School resource Officer for Haslett Public Schools. He explained the grant will cover 50% of the cost of the police office. He noted an extra full time police officer would need to be hired if this program is used.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if a new officer would be hired to fill this role.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if a separate officer would run the D.A.R.E. program.

Plaga replied the current D.A.R.E. officer has accepted this station should it be created.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about safety and conditions and asked if there is a reciprocal requirement with the School Resource Officer.

Chief Plaga replied that he has a great relationship with both superintendents in the township and the officers already have some training in this area.

Trustee Hendrickson noted this agreement could be terminated given three-month notice. He asked what would happen to the officer if the school terminated the agreement.

Chief Plaga replied that he has plenty of options to place an additional officer.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if the Haslett School Board has approved this agreement on their end.

Plaga replied they have.

Trustee Sundland spoke in support of this item and in support of increased police presence in the schools.

Clerk Guthrie asked if there is already a part time officer on location.

Plaga replied there is a liaison, but he is not full time. This would increase the roll of the liaison.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the School Resource Officer would be brought fully into the department should the agreement be nullified.

Plaga replied that is correct and he would keep the person in the school district if the agreement continues.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

B. Meeting Facilitation Training

Manager Walsh outlined meeting facilitation training for discussion.

Clerk Guthrie explained she and Deputy Clerk Lemaster had been working on some training for boards and commissions. She also noted that Cindy Dodge from Michigan Township Association is an excellent trainer.

Trustee Wisinski explained that she has been on a number of boards and commissions and noted some boards are less strict than others.

Clerk Guthrie noted that board and commission training is lacking in this township.

Manager Walsh mentioned that all boards and commission members should be a part of this training.

Trustee Hendrickson brought up the possibility of a recorded session to save on costs.

Treasurer Deschaine suggested training staff that support boards and commissions as well.

C. Resolution to Support Anonymous Gun Drop Off Resolution

Trustee Hendrickson outlined the resolution to support anonymous gun drop off for discussion.

Chief Plaga explained if you have gun and/or ammunition you do not want, contact the Meridian Police Department and you may come in and drop it off. You may do so anonymously.

Trustee Sundland asked if the firearm would be destroyed even if it was in good shape.

Chief Plaga replied it would.

Trustee Wisinski asked how the program is kept anonymous.

Chief Plaga replied you can make an appointment and an officer would meet you at your car no questions asked.

Clerk Guthrie asked how long this program has existed.

Chief Plaga replied he has worked here for 28 years so at least that long.

Trustee Hendrickson noted that info on this program will be available at the Health and Safety Expo.

Supervisor Jackson asked if gun locks will be available at the May 10th health and safety expo.

Chief Plaga replied they will, and there are gun locks available at all times in the police department.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke about National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

15. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened public remarks at 8:50 pm.

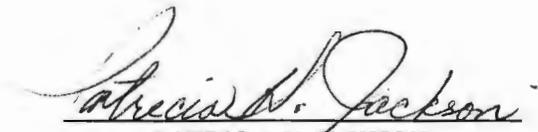
NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed public remarks at 8:50 pm.

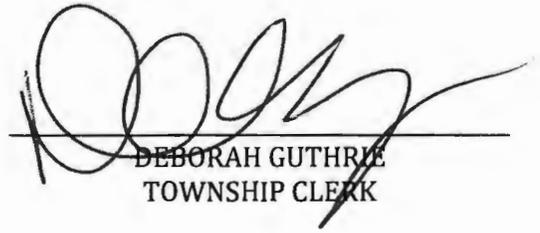
16. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

17. ADJOURNMENT

With no opposition Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK