

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, September 5th, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Director of Public Works and Deputy Township Manager Opsommer, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Communications Manager Diehl, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Human Resource Director Tithof, Director of Economic Development Amber Clark, Admin Assistant to the Clerk Spurlock

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the August 1st, 2023 regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Administrative Assistant to the Clerk Spurlock called the roll of the Board. All board members present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. 2024 Budget Presentation

Township Manager Walsh provided a presentation on the 2024 budget including improvements to township buildings over the last 10 years.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh provided the following report:

- Reno, the new police dog that Officer Travino will be training
- Acknowledgement of Denise Green's 43 years with the Township
- The Boy Scout's Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 9, 2023
- The timeline for the new Parks and Rec Director
- Rotary Hero Lunch on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.
- Renovations for the municipal building

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Treasurer Deschaine spoke on summer taxes being due and how to submit. He also spoke on MIHAF information that will be provided at Snell-Towar on Tuesday, September 6th, 2023.

- Trustee Wilson spoke on the Senior/Community Center task force, with construction details to come in the future.
- Clerk Guthrie noted her team will be at the Farmer's Market Wednesdays in September for National Voter Registration Month.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Hendrickson moved to amend the agenda to include a closed session between item 15 and item 16 to discuss a personnel matter. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: Supervisor Jackson

Motion carried: 6-1

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the September 5th, 2023 regular Township Board meeting agenda. Supported 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 materials.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the September 5th, 2023 regular Township Board meeting consent agenda. 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

Treasurer Deschaine noted the increased credit card receipts were from Katie Love completing the Kiwanis' backpack drive. He asked Township Manager Walsh about two charges that were for former Police Chief Plaga's retirement breakfast and the celebration for Denise Green's 43rd anniversary.

Township Manager Walsh stated that while these were on the Township's card, these were paid for by a private donation.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. 2024 Township Budget Hearing

Supervisor Jackson opened the public hearing at 7pm.

Attendee Benjamin Joffe (2850 Steincourt Road, MI) gave positive feedback to the budget report.

Supervisor Jackson closed the public hearing at 7:02pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit #23-011 – Haslett Gallery – 2119A Haslett Road – Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center

Director Schmitt outlined the action item for the Board.

Trustee Wisinski moved to adopt the resolution approving special use permit request #23-011, a request for Haslett Gallery Incorporated to establish a medical marijuana provisioning center at 2119 A Haslett Road. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Wilson noted that this is a medical marijuana facility, and not recreational.

The Board discussed multiple aspects of Special Use Permit #23-011, including the size and how expansion would affect the submitted permits.

VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Chief of Police Appointment

Township Manager Walsh introduced Director of Economic Development Amber Clark to present the hiring process of the new Chief of Police, Rick Grillo.

Director Clark spoke on this process.

Trustee Wisinski moved to accept the Township Manager’s recommendation to officially name Rick Grillo as Meridian Township Police Chief effective 8am Wednesday September 6th, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

The Board spoke in support of interim-Chief Grillo’s appointment.

VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2024 Township Budget

The board unanimously supported the reallocation of funds from the recycling center to complete the tornado siren project, which would finish installing four sirens in the township.

All board member minus Clerk Guthrie spoke in favor of reallocating the Municipal Building ceiling replacement fund to other projects, but replacing the sections of ceiling that needed it the most.

Deputy Township Manager Opsommer answered board member's questions related to the ceiling replacement project.

Township Manager Walsh answered board member's questions about where the reallocated funds would go.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of the Community Needs Fund being raised from \$30k to \$40k.

Township Manager Walsh was in support of this.

Treasurer Deschaine asked Township Manager Walsh if he is comfortable with the current level of staffing in the police and fire departments.

Township Manager Walsh and Interim-Chief Grillo answered questions related to department staffing.

Trustee Hendrickson inquired about the water meter replacement bill.

Deputy Township Manager Opsommer answered questions related to the water meter replacement bill.

Trustee Hendrickson asked for codified funding for DEI projects.

Township Manager Walsh and the board was in approval of this proposal.

Trustee Hendrickson inquired on the Snell-Towar funding.

Deputy Township Manager Opsommer answered questions relating to Snell-Towar.

Trustee Wisinski suggested adding a line item for climate sustainability plan programming. She also inquired on the opioid settlement funds.

Township Manager Walsh spoke on funding an educational class on fentanyl and opioids.

Supervisor Jackson inquired about the Motor Pool and EVs.

Township Manager Opsommer answered questions about the new fleet of cars and their EV plans.

Township Manager Walsh went over the discussion key points:

- Allocating the \$120k from the recycling plant renovations to finishing the tornado siren project by adding 4 new sirens.
- Allocating the ceiling project funds to the Capital Improvements Fund, while still working on certain sections in the building.
- The Community Needs Fund increased to \$40k.
- Removing the \$1.5k from the Health and Safety expo and allocating it to Meridian Pride
- Climate sustainability programming plan at \$30k, to which Treasurer Deschaine suggested bringing this before the board separately.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 8:31pm.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 8:31pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

16. CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Hendrickson moved to enter a closed session for consideration of a personnel matter under MCL 15.268 Section 1A. 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

Closed session started at 8:33pm.

Closed session ended at 8:59pm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

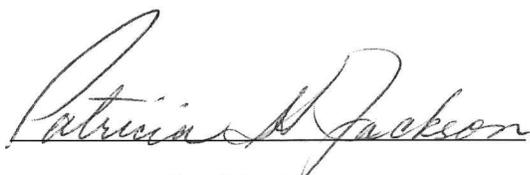
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn the September 5th, 2023 regular Township Board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.



Patricia Jackson

Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie

Township Clerk