

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 19, 2023, 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, Township Manager Walsh, Communications Manager Diehl, Chief of Police Grillo, Deputy Clerk Gordon

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Supervisor Jackson called the September 19, 2023, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS  
Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL  
Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board. All board members present at 6pm.
4. PRESENTATION
  - A. Howard Tanner Recognition - Presented by Director Maisner and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mark Stevens
  
  - B. Deer Management Program - Presented By Emma Campbell
5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS  
Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:30 pm.
6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
  - Township Manager Walsh acknowledged and gave condolences to residents who spoke during public comment regarding a car accident on Haslett Road.
  - He congratulated Assessor Ashley Winstead and the staff who went through the audit process and got a perfect score.
  - Manager Walsh has a meeting with Government Affairs meeting with Michigan State University Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Thanked the renovation team of Director of Public Works and Deputy Township Manager Dan Opsommer, IT Director Steven Gebes and IT department staff.

- Met with Chief Grillo who has brought a few candidates for interviews for the Police Department
- Thanked everyone for the Rotary Club hero lunch lead Treasurer Deschaine, as well as Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Wilson, and Clerk Guthrie, and acknowledged how much Rotary does for the community.
- Manager Walsh spoke at Kiwanis Club on September 12th acknowledging the community impact the club has.
- Director Ianni scheduled a meeting for the pension board.
- The bridge over red cedar is being put in place, managed by Director of Public Works and Deputy Township Manager Dan Opsommer. This is near Hagadorn and Shaw.
- The Parks and Recreation director process with Luann Maisner leaving will not begin until October, with a start time of December.
- Recycling event at Chippewa Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 am – 1:00 pm

## 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Trustee Hendrickson

- Attended the listening session September 12<sup>th</sup>, stating that it was a success and thanked staff who attended.
- Stated that there is another listening session on September 26<sup>th</sup> and encouraged residents to attend.

### Trustee Sundland

- Attended Economic Development Corporation meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>, where they spoke about Haslett Road Square, the Village of Okemos project, and a logo for reusable bags for Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) to distribute at the Marketplace on the Green.

### Trustee Wisinski

- Missed the first listening session but heard it was very appreciated by residents.

### Treasurer Deschaine

- Reiterated Trustee Hendrickson on the very successful listening session.
- Held a homerooms workshop with the Ingham County Treasurer and helped over 12 families.
- Stated that there are still funds available for that program.

### Clerk Guthrie

- Stated that September 19<sup>th</sup> is National Voter Registration Day
- The Clerk's Office held a drive at Okemos High School with National Honor Society Students and Alpha Kappa Alpha Fraternity Graduate chapter for National Voter Registration Day
- Presented 2024 voter changes at Rotary Club Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Worked with CATA on a bus shelter for residents to stand under near the municipal building and that it should be installed in a few weeks.

- Thanked Emma Campbell and Dan Opsommer for helping a resident understand how to manage Japanese Knotweed
- Swore in the new Chief of Police Grillo Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and congratulated him on his new position.

8. APPROVAL OF 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

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

9. CONCENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2024 Township Budget - Manager Walsh outlined the 2024 Township Budget

**Hendrickson motioned to adopt the 2024 Township Budget. Supported by Wisinski**

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

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

- B. HOMTV & CAMTV Channel Playback Equipment Purchase - Director Deihl outlined the Equipment Purchase

**Treasurer Deschaine motioned to adopt the HOMTV & CAMTV Channel Playback Equipment Purchase Supported by Clerk Guthrie**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**NAYS:** 0

**Motion carried:** 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Paid Parental Leave Program

Trustee Hendrickson introduced the proposed Paid Parental Leave Program.

Discussion was held with the general consensus of the Board to bring this item back as an action item at the next meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 7:33 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 7:33 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Wisinski Motioned to enter into closed session for a discussion of a confidential written legal opinion. Michigan's Open Meetings Act (Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261 et seq) permits a board to enter closed session in certain limited circumstances. See MCL 15.268. seconded by Clerk Guthrie**

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

**NAYS:** 0

**Motion carried:** 7-0.

Meeting entered into closed session at 7:34 pm

**The regular meeting of the board came back to session at 9:34 pm.**

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to direct legal counsel to proceed as discussed in closed session.**

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

**NAYS: 0**

**Motion carried: 7-0.**

**Trustee Wilson motioned to adjourn seconded by Treasurer Deschaine**



Patricia Jackson

Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie

Township Clerk