

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: Trustee Hendrickson

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Deputy Township Manager Opsommer, Director Maisner, Director Schmitt, Director Gebes, Chief Grillo, Chief Hamel, Director Clark, Manager Diehl, Director Ianni, Director Massie, Administrative Assistant Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant Denise Green, Chief Engineer Ishraidi, Engineer Nunn, Parks & Recreation Specialist Devlin

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the December 12, 2023, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Six board members present at 6:00 pm. Trustee Hendrickson absent.

4. PRESENTATION

- A. Will Goodale Foundation Donation - Recognition for Chief Grillo and Meridian Township Officers and Staff. Thanked LuAnn Maisner and the Park Commission for allowing plaque and park bench, both in Will Goodale's name, at Towner Park, recognized outstanding work of Parks Commission. Asked board approval for donation from Will Goodale Foundation to assist students in Police Academy. Thanks and congratulations to new officers.
- B. Introduction of New Paramedic/Firefighters - Chief Hamel introduced Emma Brown and Carson Nitts who introduced their family members and were welcomed by the board.
- C. Introduction of New Police Officer - Chief Grillo introduced Nathan Wicks who thanked the board and was welcomed by the board.
- D. Township Trustee Courtney Wisinski - Thanked the board, expressed gratitude for working with the board and making Meridian Township the best place to raise a family. Grateful for becoming the next Parks and Recreation Director and announced resignation thanking Director Maisner, the Mteam and Manager Walsh. Treasurer Deschaine recognized Trustee Wisinski's contribution to the board.

- E. Director Maisner Recognition – Introduced by Manager Walsh who recognized Director Maisner’s important contributions to and the cheerleader of the organization since October 1999. Supervisor Jackson read a special tribute to Director LuAnn Maisner. Director Maisner recognized her team, the M-Team, the Manager, and residents for their contributions in leading a top-notch parks department. Treasurer Deschaine recognized Director Maisner’s contributions to the community. Clerk Guthrie recognized Director Maisner’s contributions to the Township.
- F. Robin Faust Recognition – Introduced by Manager Walsh who recognized Administrative Assistant Faust’s important contributions to many departments as the glue to this organization since October 1989. Supervisor Jackson read a special tribute from the board to Administrative Assistant Robin Faust. Faust thanked the board, Manager Walsh, and all the Directors. Treasurer Deschaine recognized Administrative Assistant Faust’s contributions to the Township. Clerk Guthrie recognized Administrative Assistant Faust’s contributions to the Township.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:47pm

Josh Nahum Applauded Police Chief Grillo and his work with social workers.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:48 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh provided updates on the following items:

- Recognized Denise Green and her 43 years to the township.
- Recognized Younes Ishraidi and Nyal Nunn for the work on the Phase I MSU pathway.
- Recognized Mike Devlin and his contributions to the Parks Department.
- Dedicate report to Will Goodale.
- 127 Deer culled as part of deer management program.
- 2nd month of Good Morning Meridian, complimented HOMTV Specialist Danneisha McDole.
- Archie Virtue Excellence Award – one winner each year.
- Annual Goal setting is Monday night.
- Robin Faust party Wednesday at 10am.
- LuAnn Maisner party is Thursday 2pm-4pm.
- Police Department flooring project.
- Recognized Director Clark who was an adamant worker on the TIF project.
- The Planning Commission held their last meeting this year, with Commissioner Richards resigning. Apply with Supervisor Jackson as appointments are made by the Supervisor.
- Work continues on Master Plan, updates in 2024.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson – Attended meeting of the Senior Citizen Task Force meeting, beginning stages of a community center. Evaluating a potential site. Will work with Progressive AE beginning in February 2024 to develop communication and plans.

Treasurer Deschaine - Attended ribbon cutting of Phase 1 MSU to Lake Lansing complimenting Manager Opsommer and the pathway. Announced tax bills reminder to residents and happy to send duplicates. Announced two openings in Treasurer/Finance department. Attended Christmas in the Village announcing how wonderful the event was.

Clerk Guthrie – Walked the entire new Phase 1 Trail. Scheduling and conducting oaths for reappointed public servants. Reminder for voters to come into office if they have been contacted about Permanent Ballot Applicants.

Supervisor Jackson – added to Clerk Guthrie’s comments about how much work went into the pathway, thanking staff and the relationships they made to make this happen over the past 30 years. Thank you to Deputy Manager Opsommer, Engineer Nunn, Chief Engineer Ishraidi.

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, Sundland and Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

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

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Meridian Township Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Program

Manager Walsh, Chief Hamel, and Chief Grillo presented background and overview of the Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Program.

Treasurer Deschaine MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 PUBLIC SAFETY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM WITH A GOAL OF REACHING FULL STAFFING IN OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS BY DECEMBER 1, 2024, supported by Trustee Wilson.

Discussion held. Trustee Wilson and Treasurer Deschaine expressed concern that the date in the motion may not be a realistic goal given current staffing. Chief Grillo responded that he is confident that the proposed wage increase will get qualified applicants and will meet the goal. Clerk Guthrie asked how the comparison communities were chosen and for more information about the raise and the contract. Chief Grillo responded that he used four and confirmed that the raise will be 10% on top of the 3% already approved, that contracts are the same for all officers. Manager Walsh detailed his plan to evaluate and report.

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5 - 0

B. Memorandum of Understanding Okemos – Okemos Public Schools

An overview and presentation regarding the Memo of Understanding was presented by Director Maisner.

Trustee Wilson MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP AND OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT OUTLINES FACILITY SCHEDULING AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR RECIPROCAL USE OF SCHOOL AND TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: ADD THE TITLE: OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FACILITY USE AGREEMENT – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. REMOVE SECTIONS #4 NOTE: MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP DOES NOT CURRENTLY UTILIZE INDOOR FACILITIES IN OKEMOS SCHOOLS; REMOVE SECTION#5 MERIDIAN POLICE PARTNERSHIP; AND REMOVE SECTION #6 MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER PARTNERSHIP supported by Clerk Guthrie

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5 - 0

C. Election Commission appointment

NAYS:

Motion carried: 5 – 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution for Redevelopment Ready Community Recertification

Director Clark outlined the work on 21 items that have been done to achieve recertification as a Redevelopment Ready Community. Recertification grants the township \$30,000 from Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for use in design plan or technical assistance to improve areas where redevelopment needs to occur. Indicates that there is no need for action tonight, but the resolution and information is included so the Board can see the process.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 8:34 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 8:34 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

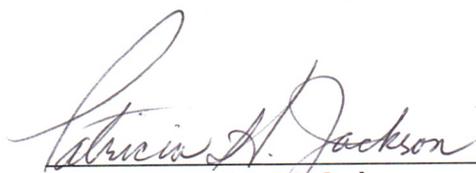
Trustee Sundland moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson

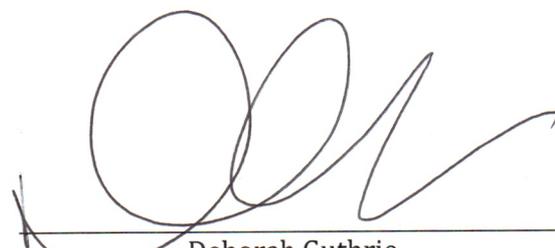
NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.



Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk