

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 **-DRAFT-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, May 16, 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, Assessor Winstead, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Director of Operations Massie

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

A. Introduction of New Marketing & Public Relations Specialist

Communications Manager Diehl introduced Marketing and Public Relations Specialist Rachel Stohlin and Intern Stella Govitz to the board.

Both Rachel Stolen and Stella Govits thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the township.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if HOMtv had been given any recent awards.

Manager Diehl replied that HOMtv has received an award for overall excellence in government access from the Alliance for Community Media's Home Town Media Awards.

B. Introduction of New Police Officers

Chief Plaga introduced new officers Steven Sloan and Alex Stachura to the board.

Both Officers Steven Sloan and Alex Stachura thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the township.

C. Mid-Michigan Autism Alliance

Firefighter Samantha Weber introduced Kathy Blatnik to the board,

Ms. Blatnik spoke about the Mid-Michigan Autism Alliance and what services they provide.

D. New Electric Cots-Fire Department

Chief Hamel gave a presentation on the Electric Cots that have been purchased so the fire department may provide a better service.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:17 PM.

Mark Santucci, 5909 Blythefield Dr., spoke in support of Recreational Marijuana and in support of allowing professional growing operations in the township.

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 6:21 PM.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the building renovation is going well. The community signs have received positive feedback.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Hendrickson

- Spoke about the success of the Meridian Cares About You: Health and Safety Expo

Treasurer Deschaine

- Spoke about attending the EDC meeting and the Ron Styka Memorial Luncheon
- Attended the Village of Okemos Community Conversation

Trustee Wilson

- Thanked the community for attending the Meridian Cares About You: Health and Safety Expo

Trustee Wisinski

- Announced progress on the LGBTQ+ celebration coming on August 26th from 4:00 pm to 11:00pm

Clerk Guthrie

- Announced the Memorial Day event coming up at 11:00 am at Glendale Cemetery.
- Announced medicine collection at the Market on May 20th.

Supervisor Jackson

- Thanked Trustee Wilson for organizing the Meridian Cares about You Expo.
- The Village of Okemos developers are planning for vertical construction in 2024.

8. 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

9. 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- May 2, 2023 Regular Township Board Meeting Minutes

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 2nd, 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. Meridian Pride Outdoor Gathering Permit Approval

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the outdoor assembly license for the Meridian Pride event to be held on August 26, 2023 in Marketplace on the Green. 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

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY-NONE

11. HEARINGS-NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Final Plat #03012 – Sierra Ridge Phase 4

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the resolution for Final Plat #03012, G.S. Fedewa Builders, for Phase 4 of Sierra Ridge, a phase of a single family subdivision consisting of 14 lots on the east side of Newton Road, north of Lake Lansing Road. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Resolution to Support Anonymous Gun Drop Off

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the resolution to support anonymous gun drop off program. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Federal Policies & Procedures Manual Update

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the updated Meridian Township Federal Policies and Procedures Manual. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Ingham County Parks & Trails Millage – Multi-Jurisdictional River Clearing Grant

Trustee Wilson move to approve the attached resolution supporting the Red Cedar River Multijurisdictional Clearing Project Grant Application to the Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage Program in the amount of \$500,000 in conjunction with the City of Williamston, Williamstown Township and Meridian Township offering no local match. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. School Resource Officer – Haslett Public Schools

Chief Plaga outline the School Resource Officer Proposal for action.

Trustee Wisinski moved to authorize the agreement between the Haslett Public Schools and the Township for one School Resource Officer and increase authorized sworn officers to 42 annually. Seconded Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution in Support of Ingham County Trail Grant – Eastern Third Regional Trail, Phase I

Trustee Wilson moved to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of Agenda Item 13A. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the resolution in support of Meridian Township's application to the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage Program for Phase 1 of the Eastern Third Regional Trail. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened public remarks at 7:40 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed public remarks at 7:40 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

16. CLOSED SESSION – Motion to go into closed session to discuss a written confidential legal opinion from the township attorney regarding recreational marihuana.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to go into closed session to discuss a written confidential legal opinion from the township attorney regarding recreational marihuana. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The Board entered into closed session at 7:41 pm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK