

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP- COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Chair Styka, Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Langhals, Commissioner Orr, Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson

ABSENT: Commissioner Maingu

Board Liaison: Trustee Wilson

Guest: Val Lafferty-Food Rescue US

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. CONSENT AGENDA: Add 5D: Mobile Health Clinics

Vice Chair Robinson moves to approve September 2025 agenda with the addition. Seconded by Commissioner Whiting-Dobson. Motion Carried 7-0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Robinson moves to approve July 2025, minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Whiting-Dobson. Motion Carried 7-0

4. GUEST: VAL LAFFERTY-FOOD RESCUE US

Contact: 517-349-6660

<https://foodrescue.us/lansing-communities/>

<https://www.instagram.com/foodrescueus.lc/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FoodRescueUSLansing>

- The model for Food Rescue is for perishable food recovery.
- Food is picked up by volunteers and delivered directly to shelters, food pantries, community kitchens etc.
- There is an APP for ease of use.
- The current need is MORE Food donors.
 - o The CRC can help by approaching a potential food donor, handing out Val's card and seeing if they would like more information. Val handed out cards.
 - o Call Val with any ideas or email valerie@foodrescue.us

5. OLD BUSINESS

A: Ingham County Housing and Homeless Millage Grant

- Meridian Cares received a \$80,000 grant over 2 years to support housing and homeless in Meridian Township.
- We are expecting to start the grant in October 2025, and the money must be spent by September 30, 2027.
- The Press Release from Ingham County was given to the Commissioners and available in the packet.

B: Arrow Tree Apartment Fire Response

- We are waiting on a few residents to pick up their checks from the donations received.

C: School Supply Project

- The last thing to do is give out the food only Meijer gift card for the schools to purchase snacks.
- The project went well again, and schools gave feedback that they are getting what they need.
- Sandy from Cedar Creek was appreciative of the 40 school supply bags we gave her. Thank you to Commissioner Webster for coordinating that project.

D: Sparrow Mobile Health Clinic- Commissioner Webster

- There may be an opportunity in the future to do a larger flu shot clinic.
- For now, we will focus on meeting the needs at our smaller communities. Grange, Marsh Point, Edgewood.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A: Coat Drive/Recycling Day

- The Fall Electronics and Recycling Day and Coat Collection will be Saturday September 20th 9-1 p.m.
 - o Information and the Coat Drive flyer are in the packet.

B: Holiday Food Assistance Program

- Meridian Cares coordinates food assistance for approximately 500 requests every year.
- Meridian Cares ends up being responsible for a little over 200 requests to directly assist. The others we coordinate assistance directly with Okemos Community Church, St. Lukes, Council of Catholic Women, Schafer Dental, Rotary etc.
- Meridian Cares collects donations to go into a restricted Holiday Food Assistance Fund. We plan to spend between \$10,000-\$12,000 on holiday food assistance. We currently have about \$2000.00 left over from last year.

- We are requesting monetary donations instead of actual food. This makes things so much easier for delivery, donations, storage, working with food restrictions/allergies etc.
- We will take food donations if they are given but we would rather steer people to monetarily give.
- We will use donations to purchase Meijer Food Only Gift Cards.
- Checks should be made to Meridian Township with *Holiday Food Assistance* on the memo line.

C: Santas First Responders Holiday Party: Saturday, December 13th.

- Meridian Cares has been asked to help again with Santa's First Responders Holiday Party.
- We will be taking donations to help provide items that can go with venison. Last year we had seasoning packets, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta Noodles, and other items. Commissioner Orr is working with Walmart to help with food donations.

D: Library Series

- Tom Moore from CADL reached out and asked if we would support the talk. This is a place where non-profit organizations can come and share what they do.
- The next Community Spotlight will be on Wednesday, September 24th at the Haslett Library and will feature the non-profit *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*.
- The flyer for the event was available at the meeting and in the packet.

E: November 12th, 2025

- Specialist Love proposed moving the November meeting.
- The Commission decided to move the November meeting from November 12th to November 19th, 2025, at 6:00.
- Specialist Love will contact the Clerks office to make the date change.

7. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT

- July Emergency Funds Used: \$2808.00
- August Emergency Funds Used: \$5,528.24
- 66% of the year has passed and 71% of the budget has been used.
- Cash balance continues to sit around \$13,000 (minus Money Market).

8. BOARD LISASON REPORT

- The Senior Center/Community Center milage did not pass.
- Trustee Wilson said they do have a lead on a property does not know any more details. This would be a senior center only.
- More information can be found at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/community/community-and-senior-center-proposal>
- There is a listening session at St. Lukes on Tuesday, September 30th great place to hear about all the Hot Topics.

- The development on the corner of Marsh and Haslett is ready to go. It should be happening soon. No firm date on when it will begin.
- Four Corners of Okemos: There is nothing new to report. The owner wants 12 million for the property. Trustee Wilson said there is a plume of some chemical heading to the Red Cedar River that is going to be millions of dollars to clean up.

9. OPEN FORUM

10. ADJOURNEMENT Vice Chair Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 P.M. with no opposition.