

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
WEDNESDAY, July 20, 2021 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: Trustee Opsommer

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Deputy Township Manager Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development Director Clark, IT Director Gebes, Chief of Police Plaga

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the board.

Supervisor Styka is attending virtually from Meridian Township.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Haslett Robotics Teams-Steve Sneed

Treasurer Deschaine presented the Haslett Robotics team with a Certificate of Achievement. Steve Sneed gave a presentation describing the history of the Haslett robotics team, and introduced teams to the board.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:13 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:14 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported a problem with the Woodward Way project explaining that Director Schmitt is currently working to resolve the issue with other staff. The local road project is moving forward. The solar project is being finished this week. Director Clark is working with the clerk's office to get the registered voters list for the Citizen's Survey. The Pine Village project is moving forward. Board members have been meeting with the developers of the Village of Okemos Project. The county has selected Merit to move the regional broadband

project forward. Diversity Equity Inclusion training is beginning soon. The website upgrade project is moving forward and should be before the board by September. The township budget for 2022 is moving forward and a draft will be before the board in August, in September the board will be able to vet the budget. Manager Walsh thanked the Fire Department for handling a call at Lake Lansing earlier in the day. He thanked the 113 staff members who attended the Township picnic.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Will be attending the CATA board meeting tomorrow
- Tomorrow is the annual report from ELMWSA

Clerk Guthrie

- Attended Community Resource Commission Meeting which approved the Marianne Deschaine fundraiser giving \$15,000 to help residents with housing and informing citizens about Meridian cares at the farmers market
- Working with City of Lansing Clerk's Department to get election training for absentee voting

Trustee Wisinski

- Reported last week's farmers market was a success
- Environment Commission collected 200 pounds of medication over 10 pounds of which was controlled medicine

Supervisor Styka

- Met with developers of Downtown Okemos Project

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

A. Communications

Trustee Jackson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Bills

Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Common Cash	\$	430,274.05
Public Works	\$	317,015.65
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>382.91</u>
Total Checks	\$	747,672.61
Credit Card Transactions	\$	22,804.79
06.10.2021 - 07.06.2021		
Total Purchases	\$	<u>770,477.40</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>205,661.09</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Ratification of Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment

Trustee Jackson moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Benjamin Haviland to Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Pathway Master Plan Update

Director Perry outlined the Pathway Master Plan Update.

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the Pathway Master Plan 2021 Update as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Wisinski, Sundland, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Paramedic School Sponsorship

Fire Chief Hamel outlined the Paramedic School Sponsorship.

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the sponsorship of a Firefighter/EMT to attend a 16-month Paramedic program at Ascension Genesys Hospital. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Mattison outlined the 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 2nd quarter 2021 budget amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the general fund in the audited amount of \$347,200 which projects a use of fund balance of \$1,011,985. Based on 2020 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2021 will be \$9,251,800 (this does not account for the anticipated American Rescue Plan funding in the amount \$4.5 million). Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #21050 (M & J Management), rezone an approximately 5 acre parcel located at 1999 Saginaw Highway, from C-2 (Commercial) to I (Industrial)

Director Schmitt outlined and discussed with the board Rezoning #21050.

Applicant Jim Phillipich discussed with the board Rezoning #21050.

- B. Rezoning #21030 (New China of Michigan), a request to rezone a 0.42 acre parcel at 5114 Jo Don Drive from RC, Multiple Family Residential (maximum 14 dwelling units per acre) to RCC, Multiple Family Residential (maximum 34 dwelling units per acre).

Director Schmitt outlined and discussed with the board Rezoning #21030.

- C. SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority

Director Clark outlined and discussed with the board the SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority.

Director Clark introduced Joe Carr of SmartZone to the board for further discussion and explanation of the benefits of SmartZone.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about assurances to avoid a negative tax capture as seen in the City of Lansing. Joe Carr was not able to give an answer at this time.

Trustee Jackson asked if there is a time limit to become a participant of SmartZone. Director Clark stated yes, the board will have until the end of the year 2021.

Clerk Guthrie asked if Meridian Township would have another opportunity to participate in SmartZone. Joe Carr stated he was advised to make the five year extension and changes to the tax increment financing district at the same time.

- D. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance Update

Director Schmitt outlined and discussed with the board the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Update.

Treasurer Deschaine and Trustee Wisinski asked for definitions of planning terms from Director Schmitt.

Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie and Trustee Wisinski agree that a joint meeting between the Planning Commission and Township Board on the MUPUD update would be beneficial.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:43 pm.

Jim Phillipich, resident of 5823 Wood Valley Haslett Road spoke in support of the SmartZone and congratulated Director Clark for the work she's done thus far.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:46 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka reported rain at his house.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK