

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.349.1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021; 6:00 pm.

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Information Technology Director Gebes, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

The Township Board took a moment of silence in remembrance of the 100th year anniversary of the Tulsa Oklahoma Race Massacre

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction of New Police Officers – Lt Bart Crane introduced new police officers Bryant Martin, Taya Catherwood, Meghan Cole and Maggie Cole

B. Introduction of Assessor Candidate – Supervisor Styka introduced Assessor Candidate Ashley Winstead

C. 2020 Audit Presentation – Finance Director Mattison introduced Ali N. Barnes, CPA, Yeo & Yeo, who presented the findings of the virtual 2020 Township Audit

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:45 pm

Jody Bond, 1502 Jolly Road, spoke in support of the rezoning request for the Sparrow facility

Dr. Sherren Tabrizi, co-owner of 3566 Kansas Road and owner of 3917 Sheldrake Avenue, spoke in opposition to the Sparrow rezoning request

John Faichney, 3566 Kansas, spoke in opposition to the Sparrow rezoning request

Celene Tabrizi, 3566 Kansas, spoke in opposition to the Sparrow rezoning request

Peter Lupa, 3575 Kansas, spoke in support the Sparrow rezoning project with conditions

Aubrey Holmes, Smith/Packett Med-Com LLC, 34 Broadstreet, Charlestown, South Carolina, representing Okemos IL-AL Investors LLC, outlined the application to rezone two parcels from C-2 (Commercial) to RA One Family, Medium Density Residential)

Brent Felton, 2470 Robins Way, spoke in opposition to the Sparrow rezoning request

Joell Ackerman, 3521 Indiana Road, spoke in opposition to the rezoning request

Steve Freemire, 3622 Kansas Road, spoke in opposition to the rezoning request

Sharon Morrisett, 3531 Indiana Road, spoke in opposition to the rezoning request

Alex Amiri, 3566 Kansas Road, spoke in opposition to the rezoning request

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 7:16 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported welcomed new Community Planning and Development Director Tim Schmitt; local road program has begun in Tacoma Hills; thanked Supervisor Styka for his work with Consumers Energy on the Briarwood area project; thank you for responding to the Community Survey and it will be on the June 15 agenda for discussion; thanked Clerk Guthrie for the Memorial Day Service; the Township is at full service, open to the public and the work from home program has been discontinued; the EDC meets this Thursday; induction of four new police officers by Lt Bart Crane and 75% of them being female; Road Safety Concerns for the Skyline Neighborhood have been referred to Ingham County Road Department and Road Director Conklin is in contact with Mr. Thompson on what can and cannot be done on Skyline

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Thanked staff, board, community members and friends for their support to the Deschaine family and contributions to the Meridian Cares Fund in the memory of his daughter, Marianne

Trustee Wisinski

- Environmental Commission meets on Wednesday; Green Grant for Rademoor Montessori is almost complete with the planting underway and installing water lines by the children; Tree Team volunteers and the Green Team have distributed over 300 trees in May at the Farmers Market; Green Team has also recycled 100 bikes with MSU Bike and Share a Bike Program volunteers; has been weeding and mulching at the Hidden River Garden; Green Neighbors Network is increasing in membership with over two dozen neighborhoods
- Ground Water Management Board Meeting on Wednesday and submitted a letter of support to Senate Majority Leader Shirkey and Speaker of House Wentworth to appropriate funds to support the Water Use Advisory Council and update the Michigan geologic survey

Trustee Opsommer:

- The Transportation Commission met last month and had a second over-view and discussion on the Pathway Master Plan update. With Deputy Manager Perry receiving updates from the other boards and commissions, this will be before the Township Board in the near future

Trustee Jackson

- On May 25 attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Board meeting and the group is going through a federal certification process by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. There is an opportunity for input on an individual's experiences on-line and could receive a gift card

Clerk Guthrie

- Thank you to the community members for attending the Memorial Service with over 100-150 attending; thanked the participants: Meridian Community Band, Flags Over Meridian Program, benediction by Pastor Dave Davis; presentation by Retired Air Force Captain Tom Cooper, Scout Troops presented the flags, Meridian Fire Department personnel and bagpiper Terry Carroll

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Styka recommended the addition of Action Item 12G Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month Resolution

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the revised agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – May 6, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the May 6, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Jackson

Common Cash	\$	212,542.28
Public Works	\$	41,202.32
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>120.80</u>
Total Checks	\$	253,865.40
Credit Card Transactions 05.13.2021 – 05.26.2021	\$	6,428.08
Total Purchases	\$	<u>260,293.45</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>518,736.98</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment of Assessor

Trustee Jackson moved to support the Township Manager's recommendation to appoint Ashley Winstead as Township Assessor with a starting date to be determined by the Administration. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Rezoning #21020 (Martin Investment Properties, Inc.) rezone approximately six acres located on the north side of Jolly Road and east of Kansas Road from I (Industrial) and RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional Office)

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Rezoning #21020 (Martin Investment Properties, Inc.) to rezone approximately six acres of land located on the north side of Jolly Road and east of Kansas Road, from I (Industrial) and RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional Office) with conditions. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Okemos Drain

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Resolution Requesting the Relinquishment of the Okemos Drain to Township, Approve the Operation and Maintenance of Township Drain Agreement, Approve the Resolution to File a Drain Petition Pursuant to Chapter 8 and 19 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as Amended and Approve and Submit the Petition For The Consolidation Of Drainage Districts and For Cleaning Out, Relocating, Widening, Deepening, Straightening, Tiling, Extending, Providing Structures, Adding Lands Not Within The Existing Drainage Districts, Adding Branches And Relief Drains, Relocating Along A Highway, Adding Structures And Mechanical Devices That Will Properly Purify or Improve The Flow, Adding Pumping Equipment Necessary to Assist Or Relieve The Flow And For The Consolidation Of Drains Pursuant To Chapters 8 And 19 Of The Michigan Drain Code Of 1956, as Amended and presented.. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

Discussion:

- Deputy Manager Perry summarized the consolidated drain proposal

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. National Gun Violence

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the National Gun Violence Awareness Day Resolution. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Acceptance of 2020 Township Audit Findings

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the 2020 Audited Financial Statements and the Single Audit as presented by Yeo & Yeo. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

F. Legal Counsel Contract & Continuing Legal Services

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Renewal Engagement as Township Attorneys with Fahey, Schultz, Burzych and Rhodes for a term of three-years as presented, and authorize the Township Supervisor to sign the agreement on behalf of the Township. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month Resolution

Clerk Guthrie moved to approve the resolution Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Rezoning #21040 (Okemos IL-AL Investors, LLC) rezone approximately 9.07 acres located at 1510 and 1560 Grand River Avenue from C-2 (Commercial) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density)

Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt outlined the proposed rezoning request

Aubrey Holmes Senior Development Manager; Lynn Bishop Senior Vice President Development and Construction; and Michele Sons Development Manager, Smith/Packett Med-Com LLC, 34 Broadstreet, Charlestown, South Carolina, representing Okemos IL-AL Investors LLC, outlined their aging in place senior facility. They plan to customize the building with many amenities to blend into the surrounding area such as walking paths, three gardens, three dining halls, etc. There will be approximately 90-100 independent living units, 50-70 assisted living units and 35-40 memory care units. They plan to have everything approved for the project before closing on the property and financing is in place when they are ready to proceed with the purchase and construction

Board members expressed the following concerns with the proposed plan: density, preserving green space and the wetlands, reforesting the area, creating a rural residential atmosphere, potentially seeking an alternative location with at least 10 acres to develop on

Board consensus to place this item on the next Board meeting agenda

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 9:07 pm.

None

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 9:08 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka stated there is not a meeting schedule during the week of July 4th and the July meetings are the 13th and 20th. It was suggested to move July 13th meeting to June 29th. Trustee Opsommer stated he would not be available.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

DEBORAH GUTHRIE,
TOWNSHIP CLERK