

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
THURSDAY, May 8, 2025, 6:00PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Schmitt, Chief Hamel, Director Wisinski, Director Clark, Manager Diehl, Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the May 8, 2025, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, and Trustee Trezise present at 6:00 pm.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened Public Comment at 6:01 pm

Gaylord Mankowski supported Santas First Responders.

Jeff Kessner opposed Senior/Community Center.

Larry Ezzo opposed Senior/Community Center.

Beth Bechtel opposed Senior/Community Center.

Heidi Doherty opposed Senior/Community Center.

Steve Vagnozzi opposed Senior/Community Center.

Kris Kloc opposed Senior/Community Center.

David Kloc opposed Senior/Community Center.

Neil Bowlby opposed Senior/Community Center.

Dave Batten opposed Senior/Community Center.

Joe Fox opposed Senior/Community Center.

Timothy Zeigler opposed Senior/Community Center.

Nathaniel Marriott opposed Senior/Community Center.

Stacey Tadgerson opposed Senior/Community Center.

Barbara O'Kelley opposed Senior/Community Center.

Ciney Rich opposed Senior/Community Center.

Closed public comment at 6:38 pm

5. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Goal setting for the Board will begin at the next meeting.
- Listening Sessions schedule has been set.
- Attended Road Diet meeting regarding Mount Hope Rd, information is available on the Ingham County Road Department website.
- Announced upcoming events.

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about the Joint Meeting with Local Governments & Schools, and the Hulett Road resident meeting.

Clerk Demas congratulated Deputy Clerk Gordon on becoming MI Assoc. of Municipal Clerk's certification.

Trustee Wilson attended the Mount Hope Road open house, and wanted the public to know that the construction will not last a long time.

Trustee Lentz spoke about the Environmental Commission meeting.

Treasurer Deschaine attended the Ingham Health Committee meeting.

Trustee Sundland attended the Hulett Road resident meeting and the EDC meeting.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Brownfield/Housing TIF Program and Procedures Amendment

Director Clark gave an overview of the discussion that has occurred to date. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has approved the amendment.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the modifications to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Program policies and procedures incorporating the proposed changes, permitting housing as an eligible activity under PA 90 of 2023. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

At 6:54 pm Supervisor Hendrickson called a recess. The board reconvened at 7:01 pm.

B. Senior/Community Center

Deputy Manager Opsommer outlined the discussion that has occurred to date and gave an overview of the options presented to the board.

Board members asked for clarification regarding operation cost estimates, total cost, anticipated revenue and use of the building. Board members also asked for more details regarding the potential for lowering the millage rate, about modifications to the Option 1 proposal for utilization by all of the community, and for a timeline should a millage question need to be postponed until November.

Board members expressed concerns about the way in which the material has been presented, the time frame under which the millage discussion has been presented to

residents, the economic effect of an additional millage on residents, and the potential for a millage request to fail leaving the senior group without a senior center.

Board members commented they have spoken to community members interested in this project who are unable to attend the meetings, noted the needs expressed by residents for community spaces, and thanked staff and task force members for the time and care that has been taken to craft these proposals.

Some board members indicated their support for Option 1, other board members indicated their support for Option 4a.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the ballot proposal for a 10-year senior center operating millage and to submit the question to the voters at an election to be held on August 5, 2025. Supported by Clerk Demas.

Withdrawn by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the ballot proposal for the Community and Senior Center bond option 4a. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Hendrickson

NAYS: Trustee Sundland, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine,

Motion carried: 4-3

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the ballot proposal for a 10-year Community and Senior Center operating millage option 4a and to submit the question to the voters at an election to be held on August 5, 2025. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz

NAYS: Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine

Motion carried: 5-2

At 9:27 pm Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The board reconvened at 9:33.

10. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Meridian Historical Village Memorandum of Understanding

Director Wisinski gave an overview of the packet item with some historical context.

Board members asked about the additional work the Parks and Public Works staff has contributed to the Historical Village since the last MOU was signed, noted some edits, and asked for clarity that this contract reflects work currently being done since the last MOU was signed.

Seeing no concerns, Supervisor Hendrickson recommended this be put onto the consent agenda for the next meeting pending the attorney's approval.

B. Fire Engine Sale

Manager Dempsey gave an overview of the agenda item, indicating that a purchase agreement would be provided at the next meeting should the Board choose to sell the engine to the charity organization.

Board members indicated their support.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Opened at 9:50 pm

Barbara O'Kelley regarding Senior/Community Center.

Closed at 9:51 pm

12. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Demas commented about the upcoming election.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk