

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, December 2, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: Treasurer Burghardt

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Schmitt, Director Clark, Chief Hamel

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the December 2, 2025, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Demas called the roll of the Board. Six Board members present at 6:03 pm.

Treasurer Burghardt was absent.

4. PRESENTATION

None

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:03 pm.

Vince Tomanica spoke about the Authentix Central Park Project, agenda item 12A.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:08 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- November 13th Listening Session summary is available online, as well as prior session summaries.
- Tax bills have been sent, the issue with online payments will be resolved in the next few days.
- The Grand River bridge closure will be extended into next week due to weather, but Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has not yet provided a specific date. The Township will notify residents when it is open.

- The Township’s Police Department has completed their final step of the reaccreditation process. Manager Dempsey and Supervisor Hendrickson thanked the police department, Chief Grillo, and Lieutenant Besonen for their work.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson reported that Meridian Cares has raised funds for over 600 Holiday baskets. She attended the Okemos Public Schools open session and mentioned an online survey for the public to complete to help guide the superintendent selection process.

Trustee Lentz attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Meeting and shared that the Commission has asked for people with connections to REO Motor Car Company to contact them. He also noted that Christmas in the Village will be December 14th.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson proposed moving Agenda item 11.A before 10.A.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda with the change indicated to move 11.A before 10.A. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Hagadorn Road Land Donation/Acquisition

Deputy Manager Opsommer summarized the discussion that has occurred so far and updated the Board on changes that have occurred since the last discussion.

Board members asked about resolution language, determination of property value, and potential future uses.

Trustee Lentz moved to approve the attached resolution to acquire the portions of Parcel #33-02-02-29-105-005 and 33-02-02-29-151-004 shown on Exhibit A of the Resolution, consisting of 22.4 acres of environmentally valuable land in the amount

of \$1 from Shangri La Real Estate LLC and authorize Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the purchase agreement on behalf of the Township. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 6:28 pm, Supervisor Hendrickson called for a recess. The Board reconvened at 6:32 pm.

11. HEARING

A. Authentix Central Park Project

Director Schmitt gave a brief overview of the project and discussion that has occurred to date.

Supervisor Hendrickson opened the public hearing at 6:34 pm.

Milton Scales, Ray Gasser, Paulette Grace, Dianna Cavalier, Vince Tomonica, Yidi Du, Jade Shi, David Latimer, Praveen Raparathi, Prem Naliganti, and Rupender Veridhi spoke in opposition to the project. Comments included concerns regarding traffic, construction, affordability, desirability, infrastructure, overall benefit, neighborhood character, the environment, master plan compliance, zoning, density, drainage, sewage, dumpster placement, lighting, noise levels, impact to property values, impact to schools, impact to public services, and Planning Commission discussion.

Mark Clouse spoke in support of the project. Comments included use of property and development, housing diversity, Township growth, and court-ordered zoning.

The opportunity to speak during the public comment section was given.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed the public hearing at 7:09 pm.

12. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Authentix Central Park Project

Director Schmitt gave a detailed overview of the proposal and the trajectory of the Planning Commission's discussions. Stephen Dorn, Development Director for the applicant, presented information about their settlement agreement request. Matthew Kushel, Township attorney, was present to answer legal questions.

Questions were asked by Board members regarding wetland preservation, sidewalks, building lengths, variances, master plan compliance, density and composition of the zoning, flexibility of the Board to place requirements into the settlement, a letter of support from the third party on the initial litigation, Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) and Ingham County Drain Commission (ICDC) feedback, the applicant's existing portfolio, and the overall process.

Discussion was had by the Board regarding the Planning Commission discussion and decisions, the nature of this settlement verses other re-zonings, traffic studies, single-family housing, and housing market values.

Board members proposed rezoning the parcels to RD with restrictions on density calculations at around 207 units, calculating parcel density separately, seeking feedback from the ICRD and ICDC, confirming with Walmart's agreement to the plan or revisions, having a conservation easement on the east side of the parcel, sidewalks, a detailed grading plan, lighting standards, maintaining all wetlands, removing apartment buildings near edge of the neighborhood, and implementing bollards on Belvedere Ave. and Columbus Ave.

The Board requested this item come back for discussion.

At 8:37 pm, Supervisor Hendrickson called for a recess. The Board reconvened at 8:42 pm.

B. Haslett Road Corridor Study Proposal

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the proposal.

Board members asked about traffic control structures to protect pedestrians, grant funding availability, ICRD financial contribution, and traffic speeds between School St. and Green Rd.

The Board indicated support of proposal and requested this item come back on the consent agenda.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 9:11 pm.

Erik Hahn spoke about the Authentix Central Park Project, agenda item 12A.

Joshua Nahum spoke about the Haslett Road Corridor Study Proposal, agenda item 12B.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 9:13 pm.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments made.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Lentz moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk