

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, September 6th, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Director of Economic Development Clark, Human Resources Director Tithof, Director of Projects and Operations Massie, IT Director Gebes, Finance Director Garber, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Township Assessor Winstead, Communications Manager Samantha Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Assistant to the Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All Present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Police Officers

Chief Plaga introduced new Police Officers Mariam Clevenger and Stacey Bazan to the board.

Mariam and Stacey both thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the community.

B. 2023 Township Budget

Manager Walsh presented the 2023 Township Budget to the board. He detailed the spending of different departments, the current status of pensions, retiree health care and MERS. He outlined several large township projects set to begin in 2023 and covered projects that have been completed and in the process of being completed, staffing levels, and challenges the township will face.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:30 pm.

Jerry Richards 3986 E Sunwing Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about the possibility of recreational marihuana in the township and gave advice should it be adopted by the township.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about the August 02, 2022 election and gave advice should recreational marihuana be adopted by the board.

Carol Payne, 5919 Montebello Ave., Haslett, MI spoke about the Order to Maintain Special Assessment District.

Juanita Word, 5935 Montebello Ave., Haslett, MI spoke about the Order Maintain Special Assessment District.

Bob Baldori, 2719 Mt. Hope Rd., Okemos, MI spoke in support of Recreational Marihuana in the township.

James Giddings, 6000 Longsbury Rd., Williamston, MI spoke about his experience with Recreational Marihuana Facilities and how it could benefit the township.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public remarks at 6:53 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh yielded his time to Manager Diehl.

Manager Diehl reported that HOMTV was awarded the first-place award in the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors national coverage awards beating out San Francisco and Los Angeles. She thanked former Manager Yates and HOMTV interns for their work.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wisinski

- Environmental Commission is having regional electronics recycling day October 8th.

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended CATA Board Meeting and Zoning Board of Appeals on the August 17th
- Attended Mob the Block August 31st
- September 17th is Meridian Service Day

Trustee Wilson

- Attended Mob the Block August 31st

Clerk Guthrie

- Congratulated Zachary Lemaster for his promotion to Assistant to the Clerk
- Participated in the recount with the Ingham County Clerk's Office, official results will be posted on the Ingham County Clerks Website
- Addressed some issues with the August 2nd election and announced steps to fix the issues

- Absentee Ballot Applications are being sent to residents from a third party, residents can check their voter information at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us>

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Hendrickson moved to amend the agenda to move the Budget Public Hearing after the 2022 Order to Maintain SAD #20 Public Hearing. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as Amended. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – August 4th and August 15th, 2022 Regular Meeting

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of August 4th, 2022 and August 15, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	15,618,172.38
Public Works	\$	3,977.61
Trust & Agency	\$	0.00
Total Checks	\$	15,622,149.99
Credit Card Transactions 08/11/22 to 08/31/2022	\$	18,233.24
Total Purchases	\$	<u>15,640,383.23</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>1,429,162.64</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Ratification of New Police Officer Appointments

Trustee Hendrickson moved to ratify the appointments of Mariam Clevenger and Stacey Bazan to the position of Police Officers contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Charitable Gaming License – Okemos Youth Football

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve a request from Okemos Youth Football, Inc. of Meridian Township, Ingham County, asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purposes of obtaining a gaming license for

approval, and further that the Township Clerk be authorized to execute the resolution from the State of Michigan. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Haslett Village Square - Commercial Rehabilitation Act

Director Clark outlined the Haslett Village Square, Commercial Rehabilitation Act for Public Hearing.

Supervisor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 pm.

Dave Van Haaren of Tri-Terra spoke about the 10 year tax abatement included in this deal.

Several late communications were added regarding this item.

Supervisor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm.

B. 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road – Brownfield Plan

Supervisor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 pm.

Director Schmitt outlined the 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road – Brownfield Plan. He noted this is an 11-year plan with a reimbursement of \$2,780,000. This plan will capture both state and local money.

Dave VaanHaren of Tri-Terra noted the project will cost about \$60,000,000 and 289 residential units will be created in this project. He noted some of the contamination on site and discussed how it would be removed.

Supervisor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 7:21

C. 2022 Order to Maintain SAD #20 Public Hearing

Supervisor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 pm.

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the 2022 Order to Maintain SAD #20. He noted each of the neighborhoods that will be worked on, what kind of damage his department is looking for to be repaired and noted on average one concrete slab will be repaired per parcel. He noted residents may contact his office at DPW@meridian.mi.gov.

Supervisor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 pm.

D. 2023 Township Budget

Supervisor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 7:28 pm.

Manager Walsh noted that he has nothing else to add as he covered the budget in his presentation.

Supervisor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Hours Exemption for Okemos Road Transition Main

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Hours Exemption for Okemos Road Transition Main.

Trustee Wilson asked if there is a cap on the period of time.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied there is none at this time, but if there are issues he will communicate to residents.

Trustee Wilson asked what time boring would take place over how many days.

Assistant Manager Opsommer it depends on circumstances, but it should take two or three days.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to waive section 50-84, subsection (4) in our code of ordinances to Permit the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority and its contractor working on the Okemos Rd. Transmission Main Project to conduct pullbacks Monday through Friday until December 15th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to amend the motion by changing hours of operation to be between the hours of 7 p.m. through 7 a.m. Monday through Friday until December 15th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to waive section 50-84, subsection (4) in our code of ordinances to Permit the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority and its

contractor working on the Okemos Rd. Transmission Main Project to conduct pullbacks between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday through Friday until December 15th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Wisinski asked if this will be a daily activity or only as needed.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied only as needed.

B. Election Commission Location Recommendation

Clerk Guthrie outlined the Election Commission Location Recommendation for action.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the following resolution to move precinct 9 polling location from Church of the Nazarene to Faith Lutheran located at 4515 Dobie Rd, Okemos, MI. 48864 and direct the Clerk to mail new voter ID cards to each voter in precinct 9 affected by the precinct reassignment. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. 2022 Order to Maintain SAD #20 Resolution #3

Assistant Manager Opsommer noted he has nothing more to add to this item.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #20, resolution #3, which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Briarwood; Briarwood #3, #4, #5, #6, #9, #11, #12; Chippewa Woods #2; Ember Oaks; Heritage Hills; Heritage Hills #2, #3, #4; Hidden Valley; Hidden Valley #2, #3, #4; Hillbrook Park; Hillbrook Park #1, #2; Kinawa View; Kinawa View #2, #4; Okemos Square; Sanctuary; Sunwind Estates; and Wood Valley., which are located in sections 8, 10, 11, 12, 28, 20, 32, 33, 34, and 35, and to defray the cost by Special Assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$25,850.12; determines the Special Assessment District; directs the making of an Assessment Roll;

and directs notices be sent to the property owners indicating they have 20 days to replace or make safe the defective sidewalk. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson asked what would happen if someone informed the township they would conduct the work themselves and didn't follow through.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied he would reach out to the resident and would complete the repair themselves.

Supervisor Jackson noted the totals cost estimate should be \$72,993.70

Trustee Hendrickson offered a friendly amendment to replace the cost estimate of \$25,850.12 to \$72,993.70. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #20, resolution #3, which approves repair and maintenance of sidewalk in portions of the following areas: Briarwood; Briarwood #3, #4, #5, #6, #9, #11, #12; Chippewa Woods #2; Ember Oaks; Heritage Hills; Heritage Hills #2, #3, #4; Hidden Valley; Hidden Valley #2, #3, #4; Hillbrook Park; Hillbrook Park #1, #2; Kinawa View; Kinawa View #2, #4; Okemos Square; Sanctuary; Sunwind Estates; and Wood Valley., which are located in sections 8, 10, 11, 12, 28, 20, 32, 33, 34, and 35, and to defray the cost by Special Assessment; approves the cost estimate of \$72,993.70; determines the Special Assessment District; directs the making of an Assessment Roll; and directs notices be sent to the property owners indicating they have 20 days to replace or make safe the defective sidewalk. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Set Hours for 2022 Trick-or-Treating

Chief Plaga Outlined the hours of Trick-or-Treating.

Trustee Wilson move to authorize trick-or-treating on Monday, October 31, 2021 from 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Haslett Village Square – Commercial Rehabilitation Act

Director Clark outlined the Haslett Village Square, Commercial Rehabilitation Act for discussion.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the 10-year tax freeze begins on October 1st, 2022 or at the start of construction.

Director Clark replied the freeze would begin December 31st, 2022.

Manager Walsh noted he had a discussion concerning the number of years in the tax freeze and shortening it, however the developer took no money from the redevelopment fund as part of negotiating that time period.

Trustee Hendrickson noted a communication regarding the ownership of the parcel and asked if township lawyers read over these for legality purposes.

Director Clark noted that it's not required for township lawyers to read the applications but ownership of the property is not required before approval of the application.

Director Clark stated the next board meeting this item will come back as an action item to approve the application's final resolution.

B. 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road – Brownfield Plan

Director Schmitt outlined the 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road, Brownfield Plan. He noted the determination to move the Brownfield forward will be decided at the next meeting.

Trustee Wilson asked who does the final inspection after the brownfield work is completed.

Director Schmitt noted when reimbursement is sought after his department will overview the work that was done.

Trustee Hendrickson asked to include the MCL with Public Purpose definition in the packet.

C. 2023 Township Budget

Manager Walsh noted the township is in great financial shape and thanked Amanda Garber for her work in the last three months.

Supervisor Jackson thanked all those involved in creating the budget.

Trustee Hendrickson thanked all involved in creating the budget. He asked how quickly the township motor pool could be transitioned to electric vehicles.

Manager Walsh replied he didn't have a strong answer at this time but had spent some time looking into this in the past and would share that information at a study session.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about the deficit of the sewer fund.

Manager Walsh noted this is not a structural deficit and is to pay for a new lift station.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about reclassifying a staff position through unions.

Manager Walsh stated this would have to first come from the employee's union.

Trustee Wilson asked about the community needs budget being cut as the community has a great need. It was 38,000 now budgeted for 11,000. She also asked about the community development and building division increased fees, specifically the new construction bond requirement being added.

Director Schmitt noted specifically for the new construction bond, the township currently collects a lot more than that on the back end. This change would move the costs to the beginning of the project and create better compliance.

Trustee Wilson noted this doesn't make sense for existing construction.

Director Schmitt stated this is generally for something that adds to the house or disturbs the ground.

Trustee Wilson stated that seemed too high. She also asked why something was reduced from \$100 to \$30.

Director Schmitt noted it's for rentals that do not require an inspection, and generally only apply to people who still live in their rentals.

Treasurer Deschaine agreed with added \$3,000 per month to the emergency relief fund. He noted contractors' biggest complaint is the time it takes to get an inspection. He thanked Manager Walsh and Amanda Garber for their work on the budget. He further noted the township may want to save some ARPA money for roads project.

Manager Walsh noted the one-time 5% raise for employees, at the top of their pay scale, will exist in perpetuity.

Clerk Guthrie noted her concern with the ability for staff to be promoted or reclassified. She further noted that she would like to see the community needs budget fixed.

Manager Walsh noted the budget expectation is from donation projections.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of promotional opportunities through union contracts.

Manager Walsh noted the township offers a 25% raise to staff over 5 years.

Trustee Wisinski spoke about the expansion to the community needs budget. She asked about line items concerning the wetland education campaign as it will have zero funding and asked for \$10,000 to the fund. She also asked for \$10,000 to be given to the Green Grants program.

Manager Walsh explained money can be given to the Environmental Commission and they can budget accordingly.

Supervisor Jackson asked for Solar to be added to the budget.

Assistant Manager Opsommer noted wetlands money is available in the watershed management contractual services account. Solar is budgeted with electric vehicles, he asked to be able to explore these subjects over the course of 2023.

Manager Walsh stated the budget will be ready for adoption on September 20th.

D. Railroad Quiet Zone Update

Director Massie outlined the Railroad Quiet Zone Update for discussion.

Supervisor Jackson asked for the difference in traffic between the CN and the CSX railway lines and the considerations for relative costs.

Assistant Manager Opsommer noted the CN line has AMTRAK cars on it, while the CSX has no AMTRAK or passenger cars. He noted the Hulett crossing has no gates as traffic is low. The CN line has 18 trains in a 24-hour period, data on the CSX line is not publicly available.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the written cost for quick-curbs is the cost per quick-curb, or all quick curbs needed to be installed.

Director Massie replied that is the cost of all the quick curbs needed to be installed.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about how using only a few quiet zones strategically could make a huge difference across the township.

E. Recreational Marihuana

Director Schmitt outlined Recreational Marihuana for discussion. He noted seven applications for medical marijuana were initially accepted, however none of them met the timelines to open in the Ordinance and their permits were forfeited.

Assistant Manager Opsommer noted attorneys stated the township should draft standalone ordinances should the township opt-in to recreational marihuana.

Trustee Wilson stated if the township is to go forward with recreational marihuana that it needs to be done carefully and with respect to the people who voted to opt-out.

Supervisor Jackson noted the board should move forward with recreational marihuana and for Staff to begin to gather information.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson Opened Public Remarks at 10:03 pm.

Bob Baldori, 2719 Mt. Hope Rd., spoke in support of recreational marihuana.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public Remarks at 10:07 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

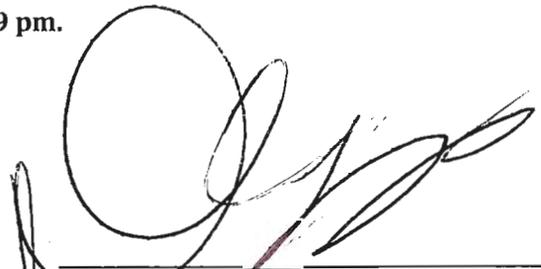
Treasurer Deschaine Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 10:09 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK