

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland,
Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Interim Manager Schmitt

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the June 4, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:01 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:02 pm.

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Interim Manager Schmitt gave updates about the following:

- Thanked Deputy Manager Opsommer and Director Clark for leading the Township in his absence.
- Updated the Board on the Police Department hiring process, stating that by December there should be 42 Officers
- The new Nokomis garden is a joint project with MSU and will be a pollinator research location and include heritage education.
- The Utility Billing department is getting back on track after COVID disruption.
- Marshall Park is almost complete, but not yet open.
- Budget discussion has begun and is being brought to the Board this evening.
- Trader Joes is close, but no opening day has been announced.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Trezise reminded the public that Juneteenth celebration is next week, and Celebrate Meridian is two weeks after that.

Supervisor Hendrickson attended the Memorial Day Celebration, thanked Clerk Guthrie for planning the event, and recognized the Meridian Community Band and Norm Reese who provided music for the ceremony.

Treasurer Deschaine reminded residents about the upcoming listening sessions.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the agenda.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Township Trustee Appointment

Supervisor Hendrickson gave an overview of the interviews conducted during the Special Meeting. He stated that the Board has 45 days from the date the vacancy occurs to fill the vacancy.

Clerk Guthrie thanked the candidates and expressed her support for James McCurtis. She recognized James Etherton and Jeff Romback for the quality of their responses to the Board's questions.

Treasurer Deschaine thanked all of the candidates and expressed his support for James McCurtis.

Trustee Wilson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, and Supervisor Hendrickson each expressed their support for James McCurtis, remarking that his experience on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals will help him jump right in for this 5 month appointment.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to appoint James McCurtis to fill a vacancy as Meridian Township Trustee for a term ending November 20, 2024. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem

Supervisor Hendrickson explained the need for a Supervisor Pro Tem appointment and nominated Trustee Trezise.

Trustee Trezise accepted the nomination.

Clerk Guthrie moved that the Board appoint, through November 21, 2024, Trustee Peter Trezise to act as Supervisor Pro Tem at any meeting of the Township Board wherein the Supervisor is absent and may act with the statutory authority of Township Supervisor, when specifically delegated that authority by the Supervisor in writing. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Resolution Recognizing Pride Month

Supervisor Hendrickson introduced the Resolution reinforcing that all people are welcome in Meridian Township.

Clerk Guthrie asked to amend the Resolution to include reference to the Resolution in Support of Meridian as a Welcoming Community and Elected Official Pledge of Support resolved by the Board on September 19, 2017.

Clerk Guthrie moved to amend the motion to add after the December 6, 2016 Whereas an additional Whereas that states “Whereas, at a regular meeting of the Township Board on September 19, 2017 the Meridian Township Board officially pledged support to stand against hate and discrimination and affirm that Michigan should be a welcoming state for all; and,” Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Resolution Recognizing June 2024 as Pride Month in Meridian Township as amended. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Resolution in Recognition and Celebration of Juneteenth

Supervisor Hendrickson introduced the Resolution recognizing the importance of Juneteenth to our community, the State, and at the Federal level.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Resolution in Recognition and Celebration of Juneteenth. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Resolution Supporting National Flag Day

Supervisor Hendrickson introduced the Resolution recognizing the dedication of the Township to support this holiday for many years.

Treasurer Deschaine remarked that Kiwanis Club of Haslett-Okemos has nearly 1,000 participants in Flags Over Meridian and gave residents information for how to participate in the program.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve Supporting National Flag Day 2024.
Supported by Clerk Guthrie.**

**VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer
Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Listening Session Planning

Supervisor Hendrickson introduced the item and asked the Board to discuss moderators, topics, and staffing assistance.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the intent is to be different from the previous listening sessions, or if updates will be included from the Clerk's office and the Treasurer's office. She asked if a staff person will be taking notes or if she should plan to do so. Interim Manager Schmitt said he did not plan to have a staff person taking notes and encouraged her to do so, as she did the during the last round of Listening Sessions.

Trustee Wilson suggested ordering the topics as follows: police update, local roads, Community Center, then economic development, and to also include a brief tax update and election update. She stressed the need to keep the agenda topics within the first half hour and leave an hour for questions and discussion from residents.

Treasurer Deschaine asked to have the monitors removed from the dais to eliminate a visual barrier between Board Members and residents for the listening sessions.

B. Township Legal Services Contract

Interim Manager Schmitt gave an overview of the timeline for the current agreement with Fahey, Schultz, Burzych and Rhodes.

Treasurer Deschaine stated his support for a three-year extension.

Trustee Wilson asked Interim Manager Schmitt if he was aware of any problems that might occur with a three-year extension versus a one-year extension with respect to the upcoming transition to a new manager as well as the potential for new Board Members being elected. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that it is a possibility, but also noted that the current firm has been very professional during the time they have been retained by the Township and is aware of not controversy that would indicate that issues would arise.

Trustee Trezise stated his support, but also said that it would not be wise for the Township to continue extending the contract without periodically exploring other options.

Supervisor Hendrickson made the point that a one-year extension may be more prudent given that there will be new leadership who may want to make a different decision. He clarified that he does not otherwise have an issue with a three-year extension, except that he does not want to tie the hands of the next board or the new manager and recommended a one-year extension. Clerk Guthrie concurred.

Treasurer Deschaine suggested a compromise of a two-year extension. Trustee Sundland and Trustee Wilson concurred.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked Interim Manager Schmitt if a two-year contract could be negotiated with the current firm. Interim Manager Schmitt indicated that it could and will bring a proposal back to the Board for final adoption.

C. Recommended 2025 Budget Schedule

Interim Manager Schmitt gave an overview of the proposed 2025 budget schedule, noting that there are discussions planned throughout, not just at the end.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the rules and take action on this item tonight. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie,
Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise,
Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 2025 Township Budget Schedule as presented by Interim Manager Schmitt as presented in item 13.C in tonight's packet. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer
Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 7:14 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:14 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Guthrie announced that the township will be receiving almost \$200,000 from the State for reimbursement for the Presidential Primary Election.

Supervisor Hendrickson announced that Congressperson Slotkin's office has named the Meridian Township Community and Senior Center in a request for Federal Funding.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Scott Hendrickson

Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

Signature: 

Email: hendrickson@meridian.mi.us

06 - June 4, 2024 Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-06-22

Created:	2024-06-21
By:	Deborah Guthrie (guthrie@meridian.mi.us)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAyKmlGs9ZwGEeqj_kzn6X9aUp_LEVso1X

"06 - June 4, 2024 Approved Regular Meeting Minutes" History

-  Document created by Deborah Guthrie (guthrie@meridian.mi.us)
2024-06-21 - 2:28:44 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us) for signature
2024-06-21 - 2:28:48 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us)
2024-06-21 - 2:29:28 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us)
Signature Date: 2024-06-22 - 11:30:19 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2024-06-22 - 11:30:19 PM GMT