

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson and Trezise

ABSENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie

STAFF: Director Gebes, Chief Hamel, Manager Walsh, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Wisinski, Lt. Kurt Squires, Director Ianni, Director Schmitt

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson called the March 19, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board. Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson present at 6:01 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. 2024 Local Road Program

Deputy Manager Opsommer recapped the work done so far. Work is behind goal because of inflation, supply chain issues, and influx in federal funding. Opsommer presented an overview of funding, roads to be addressed, and gave an overview of asphalt rejuvenator treatment.

B. Marshall Park Concept Plan

Director Wisinski gave background on the park and instructed the board members on the reasoning behind upgrading the park. The existing play structure will remain until the new structure is completed, and the swings will remain because they are newer equipment. Wisinski reported the planned cost of construction and detailed the elements to be included in the equipment. The amenities included will make this area a National Demonstration Site (NDS) for ADA compliant structures and includes signage directing

users to surveys that will gather information about structure use. Construction will begin mid-May with the plan to be open in June. Trustee Wilson asked about the safety of the turf material regarding friction burns. Director Wisinski will research friction burn as related to the material.

C. Central Park Pavilion Project

Director Wisinski spoke about the history of the Pavilion and reminded the board that the building is still in use despite the development of a newer Farmers Market Pavilion. Wisinski reviewed the planned renovations and the proposed cost. Trustee Wilson asked for clarification about the changes to the current structure of the building and footprint of the cement pad.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:44 pm.

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:44 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh gave updates about the following:

- Employee work anniversaries
- Recognized Clerk Guthrie's achievement of Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk (MiPMC) Level 3 certification and Deputy Clerk Gordon's achievement of Level 2 certification.
- Joint Board and Commission meeting upcoming on March 26
- The process for the Community Survey is underway
- Tree removal project for water plant management along Park Lake Rd
- Village of Okemos meeting produced suggestion to improve the appearance of the site
- Silverleaf development has Drain Commission approval. The developer will be speaking to the Planning Commission next week. Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson asked for clarification about the development. Manager Walsh gave more information but will have to look into the details and report back.
- Assessing reports 2024 taxable value of \$2.281 billion before calculating veteran's exemptions
- Deer management appreciation dinner on March 20, 2024
- March Madness bracket fundraiser for Meridian Cares
- Meeting with State about Senior Center
- Unruh Drain is up for discussion
- Lake Lansing Dam project is in the hands of Ingham County Board of Commissioners who will set the oversight board
- Prime Meridian magazine has been well received
- 9,000 water meters going in over the next 3 years
- Briarwood Neighborhood met two weeks ago
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority met last week
- Foyer of Police Department is under construction, is one of the last areas in need of renovation

- Police department vacancies have are being filled, and only one vacancy in the township outside of the police department
- 2023 audit will begin April 15th
- Judge Stokes is assigned to the fire truck litigation issue
- Thanked Chief Hamel and Director Ianni for meeting with the State for brush program
- Juneteenth will be celebrated June 15th
- Thanked Deputy Manager Opsommer for his work on the road program
- Hobbes & Black will oversee the fire dorm project which is estimated to cost less than expected

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland – attended January 4th EDC meeting, EDC discussed regional marketing campaign contribution, reviewed 2024 goals & action plan, 2023-2028 implementation matrix, and is in need of more members

Trustee Trezise – attended March EC meeting, EC is working with solar providers and homeowners to have solar installed at discount, heard a presentation about gleaning food that would otherwise go to waste for food banks in the region, encouraged community to watch the meetings

Trustee Wilson – attended CRC meeting last week, discussed an extremely successful baby bottle fundraiser, thanked Human Services Specialist Love for her creativity and efforts to help residents. With Director Walsh, Trustee Wilson met with DHHS about the grant to build the Community Center which includes the Senior Center, going to assess a site with a building to repurpose into the Senior Center, discussed how to get information into the community.

Treasurer Deschaine – reminded board that Meridian Township received the Gold Leaf award from International Society of Arboriculture for tree planting the first year the EC offered the Green Grant.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson reviewed the items on the agenda.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson asked about reimbursement of excess employment taxes. Director Ianni explained that a tax calculation error was made when some employees' vacation time was paid out as required by contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trezise and Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

At 7:08 a five-minute recess was called.

At 7:12 the meeting resumed

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consulting Agreement One Month Extension-Maisner

Manger Walsh indicated that the proposal is the same as presented on March 5, 2024, with an addendum that the Township will pay former Director Maisner's health care premiums instead of Maisner paying and the Township reimbursing her, and that the addendum does not extend her health care.

Trustee Wilson moved to amend the current Maisner Retirement Agreement between Meridian Township and former Parks and Recreation Director Luann Maisner through August 2, 2024. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trezise and Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

B. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Ianni presented proposed changes in revenues and expenditures, some of which are related to grants and staffing, and to correct errors

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the attached 2024 1st Quarter Budget Amendments with a decrease in Budgeted Fund Balance for the General Fund in the amount Of \$640 which projects a use of Fund Balance of \$542,074. Based on 2024 results, the Projected Fund Balance at December 31, 2024, will be \$9,355,754. Supported By Trustee Wilson

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

C. EDC Appointment

Trustee Sundland noted that this is a necessary appointment because the EDC has been unable to meet due to lack of members. Trustee Trezise concurred adding that when commissions and boards have vacancies it is difficult to meet quorum which prohibits action of the board. Treasurer Deschaine added that community members who are interested in serving can contact the Treasurer's office or the Clerk's office to apply.

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson moved to appoint Nathan Ide to the Economic Development Corporation for a six-year term ending 12/31/29. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Ordinance to Amend the Number of Members of the Planning Commission

Director Schmitt explained the change was initiated by recognizing that Town Hall renovation does not provide enough space on the dais for nine people. The Planning Commission has discussed that they have in the past and can currently function with seven members, and that they currently have only seven members, which makes it an ideal time to discuss reducing the number of members. Treasurer Deschaine asked the other board members who have sat on the Planning Commission if they thought the Commission could function with less members. Trustee Trezise responded that he supports the change because the Commission has had difficulty seating nine members, and the board has frequently functioned well with less members. Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson and Trustee Wilson concurred. Director Schmitt added that the current Planning Commission Chair and Vice-Chair are supportive of this

amendment, that he will speak with the entire Commission at their next meeting and report back to the Township Board.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 7:35 pm

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:35 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland

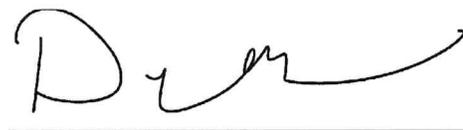
NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:36



Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk