

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 9, 2024-DRAFT  
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Chair Styka, Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Langhals, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson, Commissioner Maingu

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

GUEST: Dawn Orr: Walmart Organization: Coordinates employees to volunteer and is a connection for possible donations through Walmart.

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Accepted as written.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Vice-Chair Robinson moves to approve the September 11, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Langhals Motion Carried 7-0**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

A: Coat Drive

- Coat drive is through 10/31/24. Recycle day was another huge success to get donated coats.
- Okemos Community Church has a small room where the coats, boots etc. are organized and ready for pick up.
- The ACTION group at OHS has joined our effort and is collecting teenage and children's coats through October 31st.
- Anything not given to residents will be given to school needs closets, Cristo Rey etc.

B: Sparrow Health Clinics

- Karen gave a report. We just had the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 5 planned dates.
- The clinic will now be available to book through the winter.
- Having healthy snacks for residents using the clinic has been a great hit. Contact Karen to coordinate snacks. Dawn from Walmart could help fill in holes if needed.

- The next dates are October 25<sup>th</sup> at Grange Acres 1-4 p.m. October 29<sup>th</sup> at Edgewood Village.
- It has been great for Meridian Cares to make these connections.

#### C: Holiday Food Assistance

- We are currently collecting request forms from residents.
- We are in a collection phase. In the next meeting we will set up a plan of action.
- Walmart may be able to fill in some food if needed.
- Discussion about involving students to include a holiday card with the food distribution.
  - Chairperson Styka is going to reach out to Rachel Freeman to see if the ACTION students might be able to create a card hand out.
  - Commissioner Whiting-Dobson will get a hold of School at St. Marthas to see if there might be interested in.

#### D: Santas First Responders

- December 14<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30 p.m. at Murphy Elementary School.
- The event is for neighbors in need. It is catered for by Olive Garden. The children are given high value toys.
- Meridian Cares has been asked to provide some grocery compliments for neighbors to take home with their frozen donated venison. Expect 100-150 families.
  - Ideas: Hamburger helper, spaghetti sauce, noodles, taco seasoning
- We are working with Tom's to see if we can get things at Tom's in donation or at cost. Possibly work with Walmart as well.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS:

#### A: Police Halloween Open House

- Several hundred families come through the Halloween Open House.
- October 26<sup>th</sup> 10-1at the Meridian Police Department.
- Commissioner Webster is interested in helping.
- Specialist Love with get some stickers to hand out.
- Perhaps a donation will be made to Meridian Cares.

#### B: End of Year giving letter: Took off Agenda

#### C: Restricted Donations

- Discussion about having a sub account for restricted donations that could be used for personal basic hygiene needs relating to laundry, cleaning etc.

**Chair Styka moves to explore setting up a fund for Special Hygiene needs for residents of Meridian Township. Seconded by Commissioner Langhals Motion Carried 7-0**

## **6. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT**

- September numbers are back to normal levels mainly because the state is opening the application for utility assistance.
- Financial Director Ianni submitted a 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter budget amendment for the Emergency needs fund to raise our budget from \$40,000 to \$50,000. The budget amendment was approved by the Township Board.
- \$1400.00 was transferred from our PayPal account to our 272 emergency needs fund account.
- So far in 2024, we have assisted 94 families with 41,502.16.

## **7. BOARD LISASON REPORT**

Chill Grant Applications are available for some areas in Meridian Township.

- \$10,000 grants for structural improvements to low-income housing. It is for homeowners.
- More detailed information is available using this link.

<https://www.meridian.mi.us/community/resident-information/homeowner-improvement-project-hip>

## **8. OPEN FORUM**

## **9. ADJOURNEMENT**

Co-Chair Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 P.M. with no opposition.