

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, March 18, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Schmitt.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the March 18, 2025, 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 Demas called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Sundland and Trustee Trezise present at 6:01 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. CATA-Brad Funkhouser, CEO & Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO

Brad Funkhouser & Andrew Brieschke updated the Board on the status of Meridian Redi-Ride service.

B. 2025 Water and Sewer Rates

Deputy Manager Opsommer provided details about the recent Water and Sewer Rate increases.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:34 pm.

Neil Bowlby, Township resident, spoke about Township taxes.

Matthew Kloc, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Kristina Kloc, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

David Kloc, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Peggy Anderson, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Thomas Buonodono, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Jeanette Feintuch, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Debra Major, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Jerry Fedewa, applicant, spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03.

Jan Fedewa, Township resident, spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03.

Michael McIntosh, Township resident, spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03.

Rachel Fedewa, Township resident, spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03.

David Fedewa, applicant, spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03.

Brad Shaw, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Brett Stockhill spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03.

Elizabeth Chapman, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:19 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on the emergency sewer repair challenges on Lake Drive necessitating a 6 to 9-week closure.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland attended the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting.

Trustee Wilson gave a reminder about the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser and attended the Telugu Celebration.

Clerk Demas attended Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) certification training.

Trustee Lentz attended the Environmental Commission meeting and announced the Green Grant availability.

Supervisor Hendrickson attended the last Senior/Community Center Task Force and has issued recommendations.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Trustee Lentz

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the Consent Agenda.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

At 7:28 Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. At 7:34, the Board reconvened.

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance 2025-03 – Rezone vacant Dobie Road (parcel ID 33-02-02-22-454-003) from RAA, One-Family, Low Density Residential, to RD, Multiple Family Residential, up to 8 units per acre, Subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement-Introduction

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the application and the discussion that has occurred to date. He answered the Board’s questions.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson explained their support for the ordinance. The Board members expressed how the conditions are in place for drainage mitigation between development and surrounding properties, how multi-family housing helps meet the need for increased housing in the area, that this parcel is unlikely to remain zoned for single housing because of its proximity to other multi-family housing, that rezoning to 8 units per acre is a good compromise from 14 units per acre as fewer units will not increase affordability, and explained that the master plan has been updated from institutional use to multi-family housing since the original application for this parcel in 2019.

Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, and Trustee Sundland explained their opposition to the ordinance. The Board members expressed their concerns about the drainage, parking, increased traffic along Dobie Rd., the cost of the proposed residences, and mentioned that residents near the proposed rezoning have indicated their opposition to the ordinance.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Ordinance 2025-03, an ordinance to rezone one vacant parcel on Dobie Road (Parcel ID# 33-02-02-22-454-003) from RAA, One-Family, Low Density Residential, to RD, Multiple Family Residential up to 8 dwelling units per acre, subject to a conditional rezoning agreement limiting the term of the conditional rezoning agreement to two years, which will require construction to begin in that time period. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland

Motion carried: 4-3

B. Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Compliance

Manager Dempsey gave an overview of the ESTA requirements and need for compliance.

Trustee Wilson moved to suspend rules to take up this item. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the sick leave policy as presented. Supported by Clerk Demas.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Township Board 2025 Retreat Proposal

Treasurer Deschaine explained the agenda for the retreat.

Trustee Lentz moved to suspend rules to take up this item. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to accept Township Governance Retreat proposal from Larry Merrill for April 12, 2025, at the Meridian Township Hall Room, at a cost not to exceed \$3,075.00. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2025 Board Listening Sessions

Manager Dempsey gave an overview of the proposed schedule and staff suggestions then asked for input from the Board.

Board members suggested holding in-person meetings in community locations such as libraries and schools throughout the Township, discussed the feasibility of virtual meetings, made suggestions for accessibility, and discussed the proposed schedule.

At 8:39 Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. At 8:44, the Board reconvened.

B. Personnel Policy

Supervisor Hendrickson asked Board members to limit discussion to the first eighteen pages of the document to break the discussion into manageable portions.

Attorney Karsten gave an overview of the proposed changes and answered Board questions.

Board members asked questions and proposed the following suggestions:

- Using the word “criminal” in reference to specific background checks.
- Rename “hours of work” to “hours of operation”
- Add a remote work policy, which would need to be approved in a separate resolution.
- Add “if necessary” to the clause regarding improving work performance.
- Add more details about support for professional development.
- Clarify the role of who posts job openings
- Add more details about employee orientation and onboarding

C. Township Millage Rates

Manager Dempsey spoke about the current millages levied by the Township.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 9:46.

Kris Kloc, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Gia McIntosh, Township resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03.

Jerry Fedewa, applicant, thanked the Board for their thoughtful discussion.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 9:52 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Demas noted the upcoming Michigan Townships Association conference, and recognized Board members that attended the ACE Hardware grand opening.

16. ADJOURNMENT

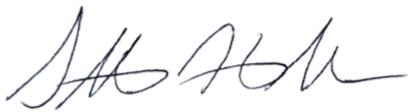
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Lentz

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk