



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
Communications Commission Regular Meeting **APPROVED** Minutes
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Commissioner (Chair) Lisa Whiting Dobson (virtually; ADA waiver signed with Meridian Township HR Department); Commissioner Mike Nevells;
Commissioner Amol Pavangadkar; Commission (Vice Chair) Leslie Charles
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager; Tim Dempsey, Township Manager
TOWNSHIP: Clerk Angela Demas
COUNSEL: None
COMCAST/AT&T: None

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Whiting Dobson called the meeting to order at **6:00 pm**

2. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Pavangadkar moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.**
Seconded by Commissioner Nevells.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Charles moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.** Seconded by Commissioner Pavangadkar.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER REPORT**

Manager Diehl went over the 1st quarter manager's report.

Manager Diehl informed the Commission that the Prime Meridian Magazine was sent to all residents in early March.

Manager Diehl went over the PEG and Franchise Fees collected in 2024.

Manager Diehl went over the list of events they marketed in the first quarter.

Manager Diehl discussed the Township's media partnership with WLNS to help promote multiple Township events.

7. **COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Communications Chair: Chair Whiting Dobson did not have a report to share.

Township Board Liaison: Clerk Demas informed the Commission that there may be two elections in 2025, but nothing is solidified yet. She stated that the Board may put a millage on the ballot.

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nevells went over the Communications Commission Rules and Procedures to provide potential edits but would like more time to look it over.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. HOMTV Operating Policies Update

Manager Diehl provided the Communications Commission with an update to the HOMTV Operating Policies for them to approve. The last update to the policy was in 2020.

Commissioner Nevells **MOVED TO APPROVE THE HOMTV OPERATING POLICIES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Megan English Application

Megan English applied for a vacant position on the Communications Commission. Megan was in attendance at the meeting and spoke about her experience and reason for joining the Commission.

Commissioner Charles **MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEGAN ENGLISH TO THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEMBER, WITH A TERM ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2026**. Seconded by Commissioner Nevells.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Universal Connectivity in Meridian Township

Commissioner Pavangadkar asked what broadband actions were happening at Ingham County.

Manager Dempsey informed the Commission that two internet providers reached out to the Township about approving their application. He said that the County is not applying for broadband funding but is leaving it up to the internet service providers (ISP) to apply. Frontier and Peninsula Fiber Network, LLC are the two applicants who applied.

Commissioner Nevells brought up the possibility of providing financial assistance to people who can't afford their cable or internet. Manager Diehl and Chair Whiting Dobson discussed Meridian Cares and how their emergency needs fund does not cover cable or internet bills. Manager Diehl shared that Human Services Specialist Katie Love has spoken to residents who need assistance with their bills.

Chair Whiting Dobson asked what comes next. Manager Diehl said she would speak with Katie Love to see what ideas she has.

B. Communications Commission Policies and Procedures Review

Commissioner Nevells went over the Communications Commission Rules and Procedures to provide potential edits but would like more time to look it over.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Compliments/Complaints

None.

B. Correspondences

None.

11. REPORTS

A. Video Service Provider(s)

None.

B. Programming

The Community and Senior Center Task Force meetings have concluded, so there will be no more televised meeting coverage.

C. Website & Social Media

None.

D. Promotions/Publications

Manager Diehl discussed the Prime Meridian Magazine and how much it cost (\$17,800).

E. Finance

None.

F. HOMTV Internship/Alumni

None.

G. Broadband

None.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pavangadkar moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Nevells.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Whiting Dobson adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.