

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, May 20, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Schmitt, Chief Hamel, Director Wisinski, Director Clark, Manager Diehl, Director Gebes, Director Tithof

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the May 20, 2025, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked for a moment of silence for Trustee Sundland's mother.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Trustee Lentz and Trustee Sundland absent.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction of New Police Officer-Keegan Crabb

Chief Grillo introduced Officer Crabb. Officer Crabb thanked the Board.

B. Capital Area District Library Annual Report

Jenny Marr, Executive Director and Tom Moore Presented the Annual Report and gave a report on the events happening at CADL.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Opened public comment at 6:15 pm.

Closed public comment at 6:16 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- The first listening session has been moved to June 10th.
- Notices to be provided to residents about listening sessions.
- Congratulated Fire Captain Al Diaz and LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator, on their retirements.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas announced the Memorial Day service event, gave Township and Clerk's Office updates at Rotary club, and attended Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting.

Trustee Wilson thanked the Police and Fire Department , specifically Fire Captain Chris Johnson, for services provided after the recent storm.

Treasurer Deschaine thanked CADL, and noted that Flags Over Meridian will be placing flags.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson noted typographic errors to be changed on item 9.H

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Consent Agenda with amendments proposed by Supervisor Hendrickson. Supported by Trustee Wilson

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Policy Updates

Manager Dempsey reviewed changes and spoke about the final document.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the final draft version of the Township's Personnel Policy Manual subject to final copy edits as needed. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

B. Fire Engine Sale

Manager Dempsy gave an overview of the discussion that has occurred to date.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the bill of sale for the 1998 Pierce Contender fire engine to Santa's First Responders for seven thousand (\$7,000) . Supported by Trustee Wilson

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

C. 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #21 – Resolutions #1 and #2

Deputy Manager Opsommer summarized the proposed 2025 sidewalk maintenance request.

Board members asked about the requirements for a sidewalk to be placed on the list, and the cost difference between allowing the Township to do the work versus finding their own contractor.

Trustee Wilson moved to suspend the rules to take up this action. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #21 Resolutions #1 and #2, which tentatively approves the improvements and the cost estimates of proposed improvements and sets the date for public hearing on June 17, 2025. Supported by Trustee Wilson

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Parking Ordinance

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the proposed changes to the ordinance.

Board members asked about the requirements for changes to existing lots and about the timeline for the proposed ordinance to proceed.

B. Health Savings Account Contributions

Manager Dempsey presented the recommendation for 2025 contributions.

Board members asked for historical context for the amounts provided.

Board members indicated their support for the recommendation.

At 7:02 Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The Board reconvened at 7:08

C. Board Goals and Action Plan

Manager Dempsey presented the progress made on 2025 Board goals, noted items that staff has identified as potential needs going forward, and outlined the differences between values and goals.

Board members commented that 2026 goals should be fiscally conservative and noted that careful consideration should be given to the way 2026 goals are communicated to the public.

Board members supported holding a workshop session to discussion 20206 Board Goals further.

Board members indicated support for the continuation of some of the current goals and supported hearing some staff suggestions.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Opened at 7:44 pm

Closed at 7:45 pm

13. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine will miss the June 3rd Board meetings.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Clerk Demas

VOICE VOTE

**YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer
Deschaine, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor

Angela Demas
Township Clerk