

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, July 9, 2019 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Deputy Township Manager/ Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser, Finance Director Mattison, Park Naturalist Dillon, Economic Development Director Buck.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition – 24/2 Church

Park Naturalist Kelsey Dillon presented a certificate of recognition for the 242 Community Church for their role in providing volunteers at Celebrate Meridian and other Township events.

B. Introduction of New Police Officer – David Reinke

Chief Plaga introduced the newest officer to join the Meridian Township Police Department, David Reinke.

C. 2018 Annual Actuarial Valuation Report – MERS

Manager Walsh provided a presentation and overview of current Township MERS pension funding levels.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:23 pm.

Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Rd., Okemos; spoke in support of the Village of Okemos project (Agenda Items 12C/D).

Anne Alchin, 5972 Cypress St., Haslett; spoke in opposition to Agenda Items 12C/D.

Neil Bowlby, 6020 Beechwood Dr., Haslett; spoke in opposition to Board members voicing personal opinions on the Road Bond Proposal using official Township titles on Facebook postings and spoke in support of Agenda Items 12C/D.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Dr., Okemos; spoke in opposition to Agenda Items 12C/D.

Bill Mueller, 6241 Fenwick Ct., Okemos; spoke in opposition to Whitehills Lakes Public Streetlighting SAD (Agenda Items 11A/13A).

Bill Cawood, 2511 Raby Rd., East Lansing; spoke in support of Agenda Items 12C/D.

Renee Korrey, 4633 Okemos Rd., Okemos; spoke in support of Agenda Item 12C/D.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6: pm.

#### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported: details of the future road management plan.

#### 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine reported:

- Tax bills mailed out July 1.
- New online payment portal: Invoice Cloud.
- Tax information available online and at Treasurer's Office.
- Attended numerous neighborhood meetings; discussed roads, Downtown Okemos.
- July 29 Celebrate Meridian; success of kids activities.
- Attended Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting.

Clerk Dreyfus reported:

- Attended Michigan Municipal League's Municipal Services and Elections Committee; discussed proposed election legislation.
- Meridian Township August 6 election; early voting available, ballot application available online.
- Clerk's office open Saturday August 3 for early voting.

Trustee Jackson reported:

- Attended Asset Management Summit; discussed road management.
- Attended DDA meeting.
- Attended Tri-County Regional Transportation Commission Meeting; adopted regional CARTS program.

Trustee Opsommer reported:

- Draft Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) budget released; Meridian Township expanded hours included.

Trustee Wisinski reported:

- Attended Celebrate Meridian; applauded efforts of Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Supervisor Styka reported:

- Attended Celebrate Meridian; recognized the good work of all Township Departments in volunteering.
- Announced Wednesday Farmer’s Market from 3 pm to 7 pm until October.
- Redi-Ride proposal on August 6 ballot.
- Attended Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- Attended DDA meeting.
- Took part in various neighborhood meetings.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Sundland, Wisinski, Opsommer, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

A. Communications

**Trustee Opsommer moved that the communications be received and placed on file and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Sundland, Wisinski, Opsommer, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes - June 18 2019 Regular Meeting

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Sundland, Wisinski, Opsommer,  
Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Bills

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Clerk Dreyfus:**

|                                 |                        |    |                   |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----|-------------------|
| <b>Common Cash</b>              |                        | \$ | 197,117.17        |
| <b>Public Works</b>             |                        | \$ | 282,399.81        |
| <b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>       |                        | \$ | 0                 |
|                                 | <b>Total Checks</b>    | \$ | 479,516.98        |
| <b>Credit Card Transactions</b> |                        | \$ | 16,798.62         |
| June 12 to July 4               |                        |    |                   |
|                                 | <b>Total Purchases</b> | \$ | <u>496,315.60</u> |
| <b>ACH Payments</b>             |                        | \$ | <u>542,559.30</u> |

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Sundland, Wisinski, Opsommer,  
Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Whitehills Lakes #7 Public Streetlighting Improvement S.A.D. #428

Deputy Manager/Director of Public Works Perry provided background information on the proposed special assessment district.

**Supervisor Styka opened the public hearing at 6:58 pm**

Bill Mueller, 6241 Fenwick Ct., Okemos; questioned why he had received special assessment charges when other neighbors had not.

Director Perry noted that many developers pay upfront for the installation of streetlights and when they do not citizens are burdened with the cost through a special assessment. He clarified the petition process.

Supervisor Styka asked if it was likely if individuals with streetlights were not being assessed.

Director Perry responded it was unlikely and stated the streetlight assessment was on winter tax bills and many individuals do not notice them.

Treasurer Deschaine asked why the properties across from the lights were not being assessed.

Director Perry stated properties across the street were commercial properties with their own lighting.

Clerk Dreyfus asked if the energy cost was calculated or a fixed cost.

Director Perry stated annual adjustments are made to the energy cost during the budget process based on Consumer Energy’s projections.

Clerk Dreyfus noted the neighbors could still revoke their petition and halt the special assessment process, if they were unhappy with the assessment cost. Director Perry concurred with that statement.

Flora Mueller, 6241 Fenwick Ct., Okemos; stated she would rather have a special assessment for roads.

**Supervisor Styka closed the public hearing at 7:09 pm**

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Rezoning #19050 (Fedewa Builders) – **Final Adoption**

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the resolution for final adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-13 pursuant to Rezoning Petition #19050 to rezone 1.12 acres located at 5921 and 5929 Okemos Road from RR (Rural Residential) to RX (One and Two Family Residential) with conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board discussion: reasonable request, no impact on traffic, tree planting, drainage.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Wisinski, Opsommer, Sundland, Jackson

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

B. Recreational Marihuana – **Final Adoption**

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt, for final adoption, an ordinance prohibiting recreational marihuana establishments within the boundaries of the Charter Township of Meridian pursuant to the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2018, as amended. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Board discussion: unanimous Board support to opt out for now. Wait and see how the Medical Marijuana opt-in process unfolds.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

C. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #19024 (Village of Okemos)

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #19024 Village of Okemos. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board discussion: past efforts of downtown development, neighborhood meetings on the redevelopment, regional partners, biking community supportive, unique modern mixed-use, concern with elimination of retail space, no other changes made to project, Okemos Road changes, coordination between Developer and Ingham County Road Commission, “best-case” project, walkable communities, past desire for “quaint village” development, Township should drive development, Hamilton Street widening, benefits of adding retail space to area, higher-end apartments will attract young professionals and not students, concern with increased building height and density, unfortunate there is no exchange of protected land or conservation easement in exchange for large density increase, possible traffic concerns including truck deliveries to retail stores, 97% imperviousness of project is a big issue and new pervious materials should be used whenever possible, lack of greenspace in project, last minute large-scale changes to proposal means Planning Commission should review new proposal, proposal will give Okemos a new look, adjustments removed professional office space not commercial space, bed increases came from changing types of units not adding units, questions about current work being done at the site before building permit is obtained or Board approves the project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

D. Special Use Permit #19051 (Village of Okemos)

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving Special Use Permit #19051 Village of Okemos. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer, Jackson, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

E. Annual Review of Meridian Township Investment Policy

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Meridian Township Investment Policy as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.**

Board discussion: importance of safety, liquidity, and yield. No need to vote on Investment Policy as it has not changed.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

F. 2018 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the 2018 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report and approve dissemination to the public and required taxing jurisdictions as required by PA 57 of 2018. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board discussion: required report by Michigan Department of Treasury, debt payments to Township, reporting helps keep downtown development authorities accountable.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer

NAYS:

Motion carried 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Whitehills Lakes #7 Public Streetlighting Improvement S.A.D. #428

Board discussion: homeowner’s opportunity to discuss retracting petition.

**Board consensus to place this item on for action at the next Board meeting.**

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 9:25 pm.

Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Ct., Haslett; spoke in support of upcoming Meridian Township Ballot Proposals (Non-Agenda Item).

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Pkwy, Haslett; spoke in support of Road Bond Proposal (Non-Agenda Item), showed concern with millage impacts on winter taxes and increased utility costs, requested Recreational Marihuana (Agenda Item 12B) limit social clubs.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 9:26 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

VOICE VOTE:                      Motion carried                      7-0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.**

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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK