

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland,
Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Acting Township Manager Opsommer, Director Gebes,

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the May21, 2024, 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 Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:02 pm.

Emily Stivers, candidate for Meridian Township Clerk, introduced herself to the community.

Dr. Clara Regal, Township resident, spoke against SUP #24009, objecting to the type of business the SUP applicant plans to conduct.

Dr. David Pawsat, Township resident, spoke against marijuana use and the location of the dispensary proposed by SUP #24009 applicant.

Debra Dantus, Township resident and licensed social worker, spoke against marijuana dispensaries and marijuana use. Asked Board to collaborate on mental health support for youth.

Jeff Colchin, Township resident, expressed concern that the proximity of his business to the proposed marijuana dispensary would cause his business to close because of federal laws. Also expressed concern about armed security at a different dispensary.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:20 pm.

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Acting Township Manager Opsommer gave updates about the following:

- Reminded the public that the Township offices are closed on Memorial Day.
- Three listening sessions are scheduled for June 11th, 25th, & 27th.
- Trustee vacancy applications are due May 22nd.
- Acknowledged Director Clark and her team for their work on American House development.
- Marshall Park waiting for turf to arrive.
- Celebrate Meridian is June 28th and 29th.
- Progress is being made on Phase II of MSU to Lake Lansing trail construction.
- The local road program started in March and will be about 35% complete with the 2024 projects.
- Thanked Director Massie for her work on interior signage updates in Township buildings
- The audit presentation will be on June 18th Board agenda.
- Tentative date of June 28th for dedication of the Ron Styka Memorial Pathway.

In response to Treasurer Deschaine's questions about current road repairs

- Concrete joint repairs are being made by the contractor to correct issues at Grand River and Okemos Rd.
- The Drain Commission added fill material on their project on Okemos Rd.
- ELMWSA water main project on Okemos Rd progresses and the road will temporarily be open before closing the Haslett and Okemos Rd intersection for several weeks.

In response to Board questions about developments, Director Clark was invited to the podium

- Consumers Energy is doing a residential gas update along Hamilton.
- Coffee retail is planned for the corner of Grand River and Hamilton.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Guthrie announced the Memorial Day Celebration at Glendale Cemetery. She noted that local businesses are promoting the MSU to Lake Lansing trail. She attended the American House ribbon cutting. Thanked Director Massie for the updated signage project

Treasurer Deschaine reported that CATA ridership is up by 20% year-to-date and Meridian Redi-Ride is up by 22%. CATA has received a grant for micro-transport systems. Reminded residents to contact Kiwanis Club if they would like to participate in Flags Over Meridian.

Trustee Wilson reported that the Senior & Community Center Task Force met with users at the Senior Center to hear user input. The consultant is taking that input under advisement and will redevelop the plan to incorporate user ideas.

Supervisor Hendrickson attended the Block Party at Bennett Woods. Has begun reviewing the process for appointing people to Boards and Commissions and is working with Human Resources Director and other stakeholders to update how the Board conducts managerial reviews.

Trustee Trezise gave an update on the Personnel Policy Review Committee which is currently reviewing the Personnel Policy Manual and will be asking employees for their input.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the agenda.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Township Trustee Appointment Review Committee

Supervisor Hendrickson introduced the item.

Trustee Wilson, Clerk Guthrie, and Trustee Sundland expressed their interest in sitting on this committee.

Trustee Wilson clarified that the applicant will serve temporarily because the window has closed for candidates to be on the upcoming ballot.

Trustee Trezise moved that the Township Board adopts the “Process for Appointing a New Township Trustee” Including the appointment of Trustee Sundland, Clerk Guthrie, and Trustee Wilson as the Application Review Committee and adopts the “Application for Meridian Township Trustee Candidate Questionnaire”. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Election Commission Appointment

Clerk Guthrie introduced the item and proposed Trustee Trezise for the appointment.

Clerk Guthrie moved to appoint Township Trustee Trezise to the Meridian Township Election Commission. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Interim Township Manager Contract

Supervisor Hendrickson introduced the item and briefly listed the provisions in the contract. Interim Director Schmitt is unable to be present, however has stated that he will accept the position.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Interim Township Manager Employment Agreement effective April 21, 2024 with Timothy R. Schmitt and direct the Clerk and Supervisor to execute the agreement on behalf of the Township. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Whitehills Lakes South #1 – Streetlight SAD Resolution 1 & 2 (Hearing for June 18, 2024)

Acting Township Manager Opsommer reviewed the process for adopting Special Assessment Districts, then gave an overview of the Whitehills Lakes South #1 streetlight SAD.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Whitehills Lakes South #1 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #428 – Resolution #1 ordering plans to be prepared showing the streetlighting improvement location, and the estimate of cost; and Resolution #2, filing the plans showing the improvement, location and estimate of cost with the Clerk’s Office, tentatively declaring intention to install and maintain four (4) LED white bulb, tradition w/cut-off streetlights and defray the cost of installation, operation and maintenance by Special assessment against the 13 benefitting lots, and setting a Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

- E. Whitehills Lakes Subdivision #7 – Streetlight SAD Resolution 1 & 2 (Hearing for June 18, 2024)

Deputy Township Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the Whitehills Lakes Subdivision #7 streetlight SAD.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Whitehills Lakes South #7 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #429 – Resolution #1 ordering plans to be prepared showing the streetlighting improvement location, and the estimate of cost; and Resolution #2, filing the plans showing the improvement, location and estimate of cost with the Clerk’s Office, tentatively declaring intention to install and maintain two (2) LED streetlights, white bulb, acorn fixtures w/cut-off and black fluted poles and defray the cost of installation, operation and maintenance by Special assessment against the six (6) benefitting lots, and setting a Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Township Manager Search Process

Acting Township Manager Opsommer presented the timeline for the search process for a New Township Manager. He highlighted two main points, asking the Board if they would like to put out an RFP to hire a search firm and feedback on processes they would like to include in the proposed process.

Board Members spoke in support of hiring a search firm. Clerk Guthrie asked about the scope of the contract and when staff will be asked for input. Acting Manager Opsommer answered that Interim Manager Schmitt has not added that detail, however it would be valuable for the Board to have discussions about what they would like to include in the search process.

Board Members spoke in support of holding a public meeting for residents to meet the candidates selected for interview.

- B. MSHDA Affordable Housing TIF

Director Clark detailed the changes to the State Brownfield Act, mainly that developments that have a housing element can be eligible for Brownfield reimbursement and gave some suggestions for guidelines that the board could consider while determining the limits the Township could place on developers who choose to use these incentives. The crux of the changes are affordability, not contamination.

Trustee Wilson asked if the development must be multi-use. Director Clark stated that it does not. Treasurer Deschaine emphasized that affordability needs to be considered with regards to housing and attracting lower- and middle-income households to the Township. Clerk Guthrie asked for details about the current amount of affordable housing in the Township.

Supervisor Hendrickson pointed out that with the flexibility of these changes, the possibility of misuse and abuse is high. Board members and Director Clark expressed agreement. Director Clark reminded the Board that, once standards are set, the Board still retains the ability to accept and deny applications.

Treasurer Deschaine recommended waiting to create rules and guidelines until the Board has been able to see what other municipalities are doing with the State changes. Trustee Wilson concurred.

C. Draft Liquor License Ordinance

Director Clark and Township attorney Kuschel presented the updates made to the Township Liquor License Ordinance.

The Board discussed extending the moratorium to allow time for the proposed Ordinance Update to go through the Ordinance process. Board Members asked for a copy of the proposed fee schedule.

Trustee Trezise moved to suspend the rules to consider the extension of a moratorium this evening. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Trezise moved to extend the moratorium on issuing of any liquor licenses within Meridian Township for an additional sixty (60) days from the expiration of the one hundred twenty (120) day moratorium. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 8:48 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 8:48 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Hendrickson expressed his opinion that the Trustee Appointment Review Committee not interview any candidates who will appear on the August Ballot for the trustee office, that the voters have their say at the ballot box.

16. CLOSED SESSION – Regarding the lawsuit of *The Charter Township of Meridian v West Shore Fire, Inc., E-One, Inc, and REV Group, Inc.* now pending in the Ingham County Circuit Court as Case No:24-0175-CB

At 8:50 pm the board moved to enter Closed Session

Treasurer Deschaine moved to go into closed session to consult with the Township's attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with said pending litigation since an open meeting would have a detrimental financial impact on the litigation position of the Township. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 8:51 Supervisor Hendrickson asked for a 5 minute recess.

At 8:56 pm Closed Session resumed.

At 9:15 pm Open Session resumed.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Trezise moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

05-May 21, 2024 Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-06-06

Created:	2024-06-05
By:	Deborah Guthrie (guthrie@meridian.mi.us)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAuRFDg6rcGf5mZBwBPm2jNpdFHu0tCYGy

"05-May 21, 2024 Approved Regular Meeting Minutes" History

-  Document created by Deborah Guthrie (guthrie@meridian.mi.us)
2024-06-05 - 4:29:22 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us) for signature
2024-06-05 - 4:29:26 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us)
2024-06-06 - 12:53:07 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us)
Signature Date: 2024-06-06 - 12:55:15 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2024-06-06 - 12:55:15 PM GMT