

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Interim Manager Schmitt, Deputy Clerk Gordon, Police Chief Grillo, Director Tithof

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the December 3, 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

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Sundland and Trustee Trezise present at 6:00 pm

4. PRESENTATION

A. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Program

Chief Grillo gave a presentation about the Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Program and how it has worked for the past year.

Clerk Demas asked about the impact and changes to expect in 2025. Chief Grillo stated that he is recruiting for one remaining open position and may need to send a person through the police academy, he is hoping to start a traffic team and

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the updates to the locker room are helping to recruit. Chief Grillo answered that the updates are helping to retain staff.

Trustee Lentz asked about the arrest and citation statistics. Chief Grillo answered that the largest factor is the number of people in the township and the type of calls for service, that the number has gone down in part because the staff are focused on calls for service instead of proactive actions like traffic tickets.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:17 pm

Heather Goddard, township resident, spoke in opposition to dispensary in Okemos. Supervisor

Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:19 pm

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Thanked public works for addressing recent difficult water main issues.
- Director Clark, Deputy Manager Opsommer, and Interim Manager Schmitt Spoke to Haslett High School students regarding how they can make change in the community.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine informed residents that tax bills were mailed out.

Clerk Demas highlighted the upcoming Christmas in the Village event.

Supervisor Hendrickson noted the Friends of Nokomis Art Market coming up this weekend and next.

Trustee Wilson gave information about the upcoming Friends of Okemos Library Book Sale.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items that appeared on the agenda. He asked that the names be updated to reflect the correct Board Members names and spellings on both sets of minutes, and update the signatories on the Alaiedon Township agreement

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda with updates. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Special Use Permit #24-23 – Okemos Gateway LLC – 1614 West Grand River Avenue – Recreational Marijuana Retailer

Interim Manager Schmitt outlined the process that has occurred to date and the changes made to update the application.

Trustee Trezise stated that after reviewing the correction of typographical errors and the additional information added by the applicant, he will approve the permit.

Trustee Lentz said he will approve the permit after reviewing the application.

Treasurer Deschaine asked to know the capital costs of the building. Dominic Bacall, representing the applicant, stated that the buildout can be expected to cost around \$400 per square foot. Treasurer Deschaine then asked for a review of the timeline to apply for permits and start construction. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that the applicant has 60 days from licensing approval to apply for SUP, then after SUP is approved, they have an 18-month window to be open and can apply for a 6 month extension. Treasurer Deschaine asked to discuss requiring a new application if an original application cannot be approved after the initial discussion with regards to future applications.

Supervisor Hendrickson commented that to add SUP to the end of the process seems like an extra step that has been covered in the licensure portion of the approval process for these facilities. He then stated that he would approve the permit.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Special Use Permit 24-23, a request from Okemos Gateway LLC to establish a recreational marijuana retailer at 1614 West Grand River Avenue (Parcel ID 33-02-02-22-426-001). The subject property is zoned C-2, Commercial, and the property is located within the Marijuana Business Overlay District. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Text Amendment 2024-19 – RN-Village of Okemos update

Interim Manager Schmitt gave an overview of the Planning Commission's work to clean up the ordinance language and make the ordinance more useable.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked to know the area covered by the ordinance. Interim Manager Schmitt gave detail on the area and added that this is part of a larger process to clean up the zoning standards around Lake Lansing.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about the specifics that are addressed in this amendment. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that it puts standards in the district and removes a provision that allows the Planning Director or Planning Commission to allow just about any use in the district. This is the only area zoned RN in the Township and the goal is to make it work for the people who live there.

Trustee Lentz asked for more details about the existing density of the area. Interim Manager Schmitt said staff will investigate that and noted that density changes were not made in this amendment.

Trustee Wilson asked about the uses permitted by right portion. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that that language is required by State Law. Trustee Wilson asked when staff plan to review this item and move it forward. Interim Manager Schmitt indicated that staff are working on a Parking Ordinance for the Planning Commission and then will return to residential issues.

B. Township Manager Interview/Hiring

Supervisor Hendrickson stated that he placed this on the agenda in case the Board wanted to discuss the interviews at this time.

Trustee Trezise asked how long Amy Cell Talent will be collecting comments. Supervisor Hendrickson stated that it would be a few days, but that there is not a specific window for submitting comments to the talent agency. Residents and members of the public who wish to comment about the interviews can email the Board. Trustee Trezise asked for a link to be placed prominently on the website.

Clerk Demas commented that the public meet-and-greet was helpful for the community to make their voices heard and that it is appropriate to give community members time to comment over the next two weeks.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 6:56 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 6:56 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Sundland

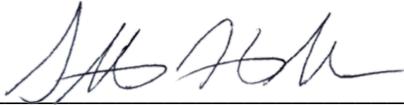
VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk