

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson and Trezise

ABSENT: Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Chief Grillo, Manager Walsh, Director Gebes, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Chief Hamel, Director Schmitt

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson called the April 2, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson present at 6:01 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. New Police Officer Introductions

Chief Grillo presented Kevin Schultz, sponsored through Washtenaw Community College Police Academy, and Jacob Scarvey, cadet in 2018 and graduated from Washtenaw Community College Police Academy.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:06 pm.

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:07 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh gave updates about the following:

- Acknowledged employee work anniversaries, noted that all Township vacancies are now filled outside of the Police Department
- Meeting with EGLE this week regarding the corner of Okemos Rd & Hamilton Rd

- Attending Women in Police event at Kellogg Center this week
- Meeting with Nokomis leadership this week regarding their potential expansion
- Manager Walsh, Chief Grillo and Chief Hamel, will attend Critical Incident Training for Police, Fire, and Elected Officials. Manager Walsh asked if one board member would like to attend
- Developers of Haslett Village Square has requested a meeting regarding a new State law that allows housing to be included in TIFF
- CIA-TIFF is moving forward
- Thanked Board of Review and Assessing Team
- Asked County officials about Senior-Elder fund support for proposed Senior Community Center

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine – annual wire transfers for Road bond and Fire Station bond have been made. CATA offered holiday service for the first time this year assisting dozens of community members. Invited community members to join a board or commission.

Trustee Wilson – Senior Community Center task force met to assess the potential site and discussed potential millage dollars from Ingham County Replacement Senior Millage and other funding sources. Attended Solarize Meridian meeting with Trustee Trezise and invited community to look into the project. Attended local Telugu celebration.

Clerk Guthrie – Will be joining Small Talk Children’s Advocacy Center to place pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention month. Attended Vietnamese cultural event though MSU.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson reviewed the items on the agenda.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Resolution #4 – Public Hearing

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson opened the Public Hearing at 6:19 pm.

Deputy Manager Opsommer explained the public hearing requirements, that this is the second of two public hearings, and this is an opportunity for residents to provide comments for or against the accuracy of the assessment roll.

Clerk Guthrie requested for a letter be added to the record as part of the public hearing

Supervisor Pro Tem closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 pm.

B. Recreational Marijuana License Applications in Zones 1, 4, & 5

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson stated that each zone will be handled separately.

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson opened the Public Hearing for Zone 1 at 6:21

Director Schmitt reviewed the districts as defined in the ordinance. All three applications included in the hearing are the only applicants for their respective zones. The applicant for Zone 1 is the same applicant approved for Medical Marijuana, they received permits in 2020 and have begun work to re-open those permits. No major concerns were raised with respect to the applicant.

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson closed the Public Hearing for Zone 1 and opened the Public Hearing for Zone 4 at 6:26

Director Schmitt indicated that the applicant for Zone 4 was approved for Medical Marijuana, however their application has changed. The applicant intended to build a new building under their medical application, however they intend to reuse the existing structure in the new application. The applicant satisfactorily responded to the concerns of the review committee. Applicant Sam Pernick stated distinctions between the fines at his business partner's Jackson facility and the Belleville location that Pernick manages, which has had no fines since opening a year previous.

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson closed the Public Hearing for Zone 4 and opened the Public Hearing for Zone 5 at 6:33.

Director Schmitt followed up the violation issue, clarifying that each location is a stand-alone LLC with separate documents and Township staff asked for disclosure from each applicant regarding other similar businesses with which they are associated. The applicant for Zone 5 was approved for Medical Marijuana applicants, stayed on top of their business

since applying for the Medical Marijuana License, submitted a detailed application, and have followed through effectively on staff requests. Applicant Jamie Garmo updated the board regarding their building permit process.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Unruh Drain Conversion – Chapter 20 to Chapter 3/4

Deputy Manager Opsommer explained that this is one of seven drains to be converted from Chapter 20 drains to Chapter 3/4 drains. This resolution is one of two regarding this drain. Treasurer Deschaine asked for greater detail about the conversion and the costs associated with it. The Drain Commissioner’s office will set the assessment roll. Clerk Guthrie asked for more detail regarding the maintenance project the County has planned for the Drain. Deputy Manager Opsommer gave that information and will send that information to Board Members.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend rules to vote on this issue tonight. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 – 0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Resolution approving relinquishment of Unruh Drain and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the Emergency Maintenance Agreement. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 – 0

B. MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division Section 19 Resolution

Chief Hamel explained that this is an application to the State of Michigan for reimbursement for debris cleanup from the August 2023 storm.

Supervisor Pro Tem moved to suspend rules to take up Agenda Item 12.B tonight. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the State's Disaster Contingency Fund Grant Resolution for Meridian Township's application for disaster assistance. Supported By Trustee Trezise

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

C. Ordinance 2024-03 – Planning Commission Membership - INTRODUCTION

Director Schmitt shared that the Planning Commission recommends that the Township Board approve the change.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the Resolution approving for introduction Text Amendment #2024-03 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 2-287 to change the number of Planning Commission members from nine to seven. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Recreational Marijuana License Applications in Zones 1, 4, & 5

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson stated that each zone will be handled separately.

Trustee Wilson asked Director Schmitt for more details about the significance of violations and fines within the perspective of Marijuana industry operations. Director Schmitt detailed the differences in severity of violations and noted that none of the applicants in Meridian Township appear to have been associated with the State's list of severe violations.

1. Zone 1 – Haslett Gallery

Clerk Guthrie asked for verification that the business's lease has been extended and asked for clarity about several points in the application. Director Schmitt answered the questions.

2. Zone 4 – Okemos Local Investments

Treasurer Deschaine asked about the completeness of the application. Director Schmitt answered that the application is complete, and that the applicant has been encouraged

to provide more information as recommended in the competitive review criteria. Clerk Guthrie expressed concern that traffic issues were not well addressed in the application. Trustee Wilson expressed concern about some of the violations at a different facility and regarding the financial information provided. Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson asked the applicant to come to the podium to answer questions regarding violations and the financial plan.

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson requested the topic be brought back for discussion at a future meeting.

At 8:03 pm Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson called for 5-minute The board reconvened at 8:08 pm.

3. Zone 5 – SAANDS Meridian

Board members complemented the applicant on the thoroughness of their application and the work they have completed towards the previous Medical Marijuana License

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson re-stated that the applications for Zones 1 & 5 will come back in front of the board for action and that the application for Zone 4 will return to the board for further discussion.

B. 2024 Pathway Master Plan Update

Deputy Manager Opsommer presented the need for the addition to the Pathway Master Plan but asked that the board hold off on action because there are more proposed changes expected.

C. Central Fire Station Expansion Architect Selection

Chief Hamel reviewed the need to update the Central Fire Station Dormitory and explained the reasoning behind choosing the Hobbs+Black Architects proposal. Trustee Trezise asked for greater detail about the RFP. Director Schmitt stepped up to the podium to answer Trustee Trezise's questions that are related to the construction process. Clerk Guthrie asked for more information about the initial project for the existing building and the bonds issued for that project. Manager Walsh stepped up to the podium to answer questions about the history of the existing building.

D. Greater Lansing Area Regional Stormwater Program MOA

Deputy Manager Opsommer explained the regional collaboration to comply with Stormwater permit requirements. Treasurer Deschaine asked for details about the changes since the last renewal of the agreement. Deputy Manager Opsommer stated that he did not have details but that he was aware of no major changes.

E. Fire Apparatus

Chief Hamel updated the board on the status of the existing equipment, including reserve apparatus and replacement schedule. Manager Walsh stressed the need for action for public safety reasons and expressed concern about financing to cover the cost of the apparatus. Chief Hamel has estimated that the cost at around \$950,000.

F. Policy Review working Group

Supervisor Pro Tem outlined the recommendation to create a Policy Review Working Group.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 8:58 pm

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 8:58 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

VOICE VOTE

**YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie,
Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Trezise and Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:59



Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk