

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
THURSDAY, April 3, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the April 3, 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 called for a moment of silence for the victim of a hit and run accident.

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 6:01 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Opened Public Comment at 6:02 pm

Brad Shaw spoke in opposition to Ordinance 2025-03

Jane Cheritt spoke in support of a senior center

Suzanne Leialoha spoke in support of a senior center, opposed senior/community center

Barb O’Kelley spoke in support of a senior center, opposed senior/community center

Steve Vagnozzi spoke in support of a senior center, opposed senior/community center

Beth Bechtel spoke in support of a senior center, opposed senior/community center

Cecelia Kramer spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03

Kathy Yenrich spoke in support of a senior center

Julie Stauffer spoke in support of a senior center

Jerry Fedewa spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-03

Paul Shimkos spoke in support of a senior center

Jean McDonald spoke in support of a senior center, opposed senior/community center, supported wetland protection

Joe Hessinger spoke in support of a senior center

Bonnie Jordan spoke in support of a senior center, opposed senior/community center

Closed public comment at 6:30 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- The scheduled Joint Meeting conflicts with a County Board of Commission meeting. Instead of cancelling this meeting, a second meeting will be scheduled.
- Briefed the Board regarding the MTA conference sessions he attended.

Trustee Lentz asked Manager Dempsey what the township can do to help make Grand River Ave. safer for pedestrians. Manager Dempsey gave a quick overview of Township responsibilities.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson attended the CADL meeting.

Trustee Lentz attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting and MTA conference.

Treasurer Deschaine attended the CADL meeting and the MTA conference.

Clerk Demas attended the Communications Commission meeting.

Trustee Sundland attended the MTA conference.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda with the addendum of moving 13D up to 13B. Supported by Trustee Trezise

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance 2025-03 – Rezone vacant Dobie Road (parcel ID #33-0202-22-454-003) from RAA, One-Family, Low Density Residential, to RD, Multiple Family Residential, up to 8 units per acre, Subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement-Final Adoption

Board Members asked staff to take extra care to notify neighboring property owners of the site plan and other documents regarding this parcel.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Ordinance 2025-03, an ordinance to rezone a vacant parcel on Dobie Road (parcel ID #33-02-02-22-454-003) from RAA, One-Family, Low Density Residential, to RD, Multiple Family Residential, up to 8 units per acre, subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement with the amendment that this is a two year rezoning and if construction has not begun in that time, the property will revert to RAA. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

NAYS: Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland

Motioned Carried: 4-3

At 6:53 Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. At 7:02, the Board reconvened.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Senior/Community Center

Supervisor Hendrickson, Director Schmitt, consultants from Progressive, Director Wisinski, and Deputy Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the discussion and results of the Senior/Community Center Task Force.

Board Members discussed the number of entrances, cost of and estimated use of community rental spaces, general usage metrics, membership estimates, parking lot size, need for Senior Center alone versus combined Senior and Community Center, need for a millage proposal.

At 8:34 Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. At 8:43, the Board reconvened.

B. Special Use Permit #25-03 – Okemos Land Investments– 4360 South Hagadorn Road – Recreational Marijuana Retailer

Director Schmitt gave background information on the permit and timing for project completion.

Board members discussed the changes in building construction, timing concerns raised by staff, and drainage questions. No concerns were noted regarding SUP criteria. The Board asked staff to bring a resolution to approve to the next meeting.

C. Personnel Policy

Director Tithof gave an overview of the discussion that has occurred so far. Supervisor Hendrickson reminded Board Members that the discussion will center on pages 19-41.

Board members suggested incorporating statements about marihuana into the preceding phrase under Drug-Free Workplace, swapping the lists under Code of Conduct, adding credit card use to list of unauthorized uses, clarifying legitimate business reasons for confidentiality, more detail given regarding Gifts and Favors, clarifying Outside Employment, adding more specific examples and clarifying language to Attire and Grooming, clarifying the information that is subject to FOIA, and noting that the provisions refer to work done in other municipalities under Election Leave.

D. Brownfield Policy Updates- Housing TIF Incentives

Director Clark gave an overview of the proposed changes that have been made to the policy.

Board members suggested changing language to clarify some statements in the policy. They asked questions about determining eligibility over time and discussed 10-year time period. Staff plans to return with detailed answers to Board questions.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Opened at 10:11 pm

Closed at 10:11 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Manager Dempsey told the Board about the Ingham County Broadband Task Force endorsing internet service providers and two providers have approached Township for letters of support. The Board supported Manager Dempsey to provide these letters.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Lentz

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk