

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
MONDAY, August 15th, 2022 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Director of Economic Development Clark, Human Resources Director Tithof, Director of Projects and Operations Massie, IT Director Gebes, Multimedia Staff Samantha Diehl, Township Attorney Kuschel

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk's Assistant Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All Present.

4. PRESENTATION-NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:01 pm.

Sheryl Page, 3888 Rawley Dr., Okemos spoke about the Marihuana Ballot Initiative from the August 2nd, 2022, State Primary Election.

Kevin Schoen, 6102 Columbia St., Haslett, MI spoke about increased traffic on Lake Lansing and how to address it.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public remarks at 6:27 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the draft budget will be before the board on August 26th. It should be about a \$55,000,000 spending plan. September 6th will be the budget public hearing. Union negotiations are taking place with four bargaining groups, whose contracts will expire in

December. The Okemos Library will undergo roof repairs that will likely cost 130-150 thousand. Manager Walsh is asking if CADL will help fund the project. Thursday five new police officers will start the academy. The Local Roads Program is continuing as well as the Okemos Bridge and Grand River Rd. projects. The Brownfield Authority meets Thursday morning to look over the Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan and to reduce the Brownfield request from the American Homes at Meridian. There is an art festival on Friday from 11 am to 6 pm at the Marketplace on the Green. The township currently holds an AA+ rating bond rating. The township recently sold \$12,000,000 of bonds for the local road project at 1.79% interest rate.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wisinski

- Land Preservation Advisory Board met last week and visited Tower Forest Preserve where there will be a tree planting event on Nov. 5th
- Environmental Commission is finalizing their Climate Sustainability Plan and there will be an electronic recycling event on Nov. 8th
- Groundwater Management did not meet due to lack of quorum

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Jordan Munsters of High Caliber Carting gave further information about item the Outdoor Assembly License for High Caliber Carting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

Trustee Hendrickson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – July 26th, 2022 Regular Meeting

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of July 26, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Common Cash	\$	823,176.00
Public Works	\$	486,345.48
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>1,993.88</u>
Total Checks	\$	1,311,515.36
Credit Card Transactions 07/07/22 to 07/20/2022	\$	17,803.97
Total Purchases	\$	<u>1,329,319.33</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>897,392.71</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Outdoor Assembly License – High Caliber Carting, Inc.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the outdoor assembly license for the charity car show to be held on September 4, 2022 at the meridian mall parking lot. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. 2023 Township Budget – Set a Public Hearing for September 6, 2022

Trustee Hendrickson moved that a public hearing be held at 6:00 pm on September 6, 2022 for the purpose of taking comments regarding the 2023 charter township of meridian recommended budget. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Haslett Village Square – Commercial Rehabilitation Act – Set a Public Hearing for September 6, 2022

Trustee Hendrickson move to set the Public Hearing of Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Act for the September 6, 2022 Township Board meeting. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road – Brownfield Plan – Set Public Hearing for September 6, 2022

Trustee Hendrickson moved to set the Public Hearing of 1621 & 1655 Haslett Rd. Brownfield Plan for the September 6, 2022 Township Board meeting. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Fund Balance Reserve Policy

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Fund Balance Reserve Policy for action.

Trustee Hendrickson Moved to approve the Meridian Township Fund Balance Reserve Policy. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson asked why there was a dip in the general fund balance in 2017.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that was due to Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning renovations.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. 2022 Order to Maintain Resolution #1 & #2

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined 2022 Order to Maintain Resolutions #1 for action.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if staff perform site inspections to make the Order to Maintain determinations and after list is published do owners ask for reinspections.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied most people are confused by wording of the letters. He noted the township will investigate calls regarding the assessments and will provide options to home owners.

Trustee Wilson asked if a homeowner does their own sidewalk repair, must it be to the same standards as the township.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that is correct.

Trustee Wisinski asked why there is a special assessment roll as opposed to covering the repair with taxes.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that pathways used by everyone are covered by millage, while sidewalks in neighborhoods that are mostly used by residents of the neighborhood call for a special assessment.

Supervisor Jackson asked what residents in these Special Assessment District should expect to see, should this be approved.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated notices will now go out to all property owners in the Special Assessment District. Then a second Public Hearing will be scheduled. Residents will be notified of the Public Hearings. Around January or February 2023 Resolution #5 should be passed, finalizing the Special Assessment roll. Repair work will begin this fall. Residents will pay for the repairs in summer 2023.

Treasurer Deschaine noted these Special Assessments are separate from tax bills.

Trustee Hendrickson asked why there is a five-resolution process.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied it's covered under Public Act 188. He noted drafters viewed it as consumer protection so that residents will have notice before receiving a bill.

Trustee Wilson noted the assessment may be paid in full, but it may also be paid over 5 years at a 5% interest per year.

Treasurer Deschaine asked what if someone is outside of the district but has dangerous sidewalks.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied Public Works would go out and repair hazardous sidewalks.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #20 Resolutions #1 and #2, which tentatively approves the improvements and the cost estimates of proposed improvements and sets the date for a Public Hearing on September 6, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Recreational Marijuana Petition

Manager Walsh outlined the Recreational Marijuana Petition for action. He explained a petition had been submitted to Opt-in to Adult Use Recreational Marijuana. He noted the

petitioner asked to have the petition withdrawn and that legal counsel advised the petition was invalid.

Township Attorney Matt Kuschel explained why the petition should be considered invalid.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if there is a way a petitioner may withdraw a petition under law.

Township Attorney Kuschel replied there is not.

Trustee Hendrickson noted petitioners could come to the State Board of Canvassers to validate petition language.

Township Attorney Kuschel explained that is not common at the local level.

Treasurer Deschaine noted a correction in the opening line of the memo where June 29th should be replaced with July 29th. He explained the withdrawal request is not important. He further explained the improper Ordinance language and missing language warning petition signers their signatures could be invalidated is enough to invalidate the petition as a whole.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution rejecting the petition which would initiate an ordinance to allow adult-use marihuana establishments in the township. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Clerk Guthrie noted the petitioner asked to have the petition removed in writing.

Supervisor Jackson noted the desire to withdrawal is not a basis to reject a petition.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of the motion but against the methodology.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of the item, but against the methodology.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski,
Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS-NONE

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson Opened Public Remarks at 7:06 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public Remarks at 7:06 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

16. CLOSED SESSION- Motion to go into a Closed Session to consider confidential written legal opinion regarding personnel matter

Trustee Wisinski Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The board entered a closed session at 7:07 pm.

The board resumed its regular session at 8:25 pm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

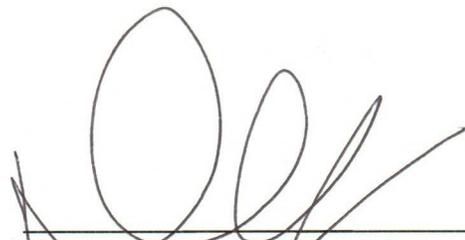
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK