



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD – VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING  
February 2, 2021 6:00 pm

---

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
3. ROLL CALL
4. PRESENTATION
  - A. 2020 Township Annual Report
5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS\*
6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
9. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Communications
  - B. Minutes
    - (1) January 19, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting
    - (2) January 26, 2021 Virtual Joint Meeting of Boards and Commissions
  - C. Bills
10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY
11. HEARINGS (CANARY)
12. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)
  - A. Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC) rezone 31.63 acres east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre)-**Final Adoption**
  - B. Economic Development Corporation Appointment
  - C. Resolution Commemorating Black History Month
  - D. Extension of Poverty Exemption to Qualified Households
  - E. Pension Board Appointment
13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)
  - A. 2021 Citizen Survey
14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
16. ADJOURNMENT

---

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Supervisor.  
Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem and/ or Temporary Clerk if necessary.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall (VIRTUAL MEETING)



# 2020

## Annual Report

Charter Township of Meridian



### Meridian Township

5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI  
48864  
517.853.4000



[meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us)

# TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald J. Styka, Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus, Clerk (January 1-November 19, 2020)

Deborah Guthrie, Clerk (November 20-December 31, 2020)

Phil Deschaine, Treasurer

Courtney Wisinski, Trustee

Patricia Herring Jackson, Trustee

Dan Opsommer, Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland, Trustee





**To: Board Members**

**From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager**

**Date: January 29, 2021**

**Re: 2020 Annual Report**

---

The Meridian Township Management Team is pleased to present you with the Township's 2020 Annual Report. The enclosed report of departmental activities is meant to satisfy the requirements of the Charter Township Act and provide our residents with a complete overview of 2020 operations. This report is a compilation of activities provided by each department.

A copy of this report will be on file in the Clerk's Office, both libraries and posted on the Township's website at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this report. We will continue our efforts in 2021 to work as a team united in spirit for the betterment of our 43,424 Township residents.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>2020 GOALS ACTION PLAN</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>ACCOUNTING and BUDGETING</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>ASSESSING</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>CLERK’S OFFICE</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>FIRE/EMS</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>PARKS and RECREATION</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>POLICE</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b> .....	<b>58</b>
<b>TREASURER’S OFFICE</b> .....	<b>64</b>



# 2020 GOALS ACTION PLAN

- A. Fulfill our August 2019 promise to allocate, and account for, 100% of the local road bond revenue in an effective and transparent process. At a minimum, we shall complete work on 26.94 miles of local roads and enhance our PASER rating from a 4.48 to 5.08.**

The year 2020 was a banner year for road improvements in the Township. Honoring our commitment, 10.24 miles of neighborhood streets were reconstructed or resurfaced this year. The following local roads received work as part of the first year of the program: Wild Iris, Starflower, Lady Slipper, Canoga, Kasey, Strawberry, Shoals, Starboard, Nautical, Shaker, Calgary, Sago, Mirabeau, Capeside, Aztec, Hidden Meadows, Seville, Graystone, Hemmingway, Yosemite, Dixon, Raven, Arundel, Wood Valley, Moss Glen, Skyline Court, Dawn North, Mohawk, Seminole, Algonquin, Wenonah, Algoma and Arbutus. The work affected many of our residents all summer, and we appreciate their patience and understanding as we completed our inaugural work of the 10-year program.

Our preservation program has also been completed. We were able to crack seal over 16 miles of local roads this year. This preservation work will allow our “good” roads to last longer by slowing their deterioration. Funding for this preventative maintenance program is provided from the Township General Fund to allow all of the road bond revenue to go towards reconstruction and resurfacing work.

The resulting rehabilitation and preventative maintenance work this year allowed our local road network Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) to go from 4.48 in 2019 to 5.08 at the end of 2020.

The only outstanding local program roadwork is associated with the Nemoka Drain project just west of Lake Lansing. The contractors were not able to install the entire planned storm sewer infrastructure this fall, so work will continue into the spring of 2021. Colby, Edson, Lake, Lake Lansing and Potter have received their base paving so the gravel road surface is not exposed. Once the drain project is finally installed in 2021, the remaining roads will be based and then final paving will occur.

In addition to our local road program, Ingham County also provided significant improvements in the Township. Work included the resurfacing of Central Park Drive and Newman Road. All of Central Park was resurfaced from Grand River to Okemos Road and was completed over the summer. The project incorporated lane reductions (4 to 3 with center turn lane and bike lanes) as part of the project.

The Lake Lansing Road resurfacing project from Hagadorn to Saginaw Highway was also completed in 2020. The only remaining work is pedestrian signal enhancements at the major intersections of Hagadorn and Park Lake Road. The local road-resurfacing component resulted in new pavement on Hagadorn, north of Lake Lansing Road, and on Birch Row.

Another significant County project was the resurfacing work on Jolly from Dobie to Hagadorn. This project incorporated lane reductions, additional turning lane improvements, and traffic signal modifications as part of the project. This was completed by the end of summer.

Beaumont Road, Forest (east half) Road, Van Atta (Grand River to the bridge) and Hulett from the traffic circle to Jolly Road were resurfaced this year too.

**B. Serve as an active partner in redeveloping the Village of Okemos and Downtown Haslett.**

The 2020 calendar year began with a change of leadership in the Economic Development Department, but the department did not change focus. No one could have anticipated the economic stall caused by COVID-19 in the first quarter of the year. Even with COVID-19, the Village of Okemos development still remained a priority for this Department to fulfill through efficient partnerships. The Meridian Township Redevelopment Fund (MRF) is a great resource tool created to provide financing options to make improvements to this property. The Village of Okemos Developers came to the Township with an application requesting the use of the funds in 2019. This request was approximately \$500,000 which would have depleted the majority of the fund.



In October 2020, the Village of Okemos, LLC, provided the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) with an application request in the amount of \$85,481.44, almost 10% of the total demolition cost of the development. The application requests reimbursement for eligible costs related to demolition and asbestos removal. The EDC approved a recommendation to the Township Board on October 8, 2020. The October 21, 2020 Township Board meeting held a public hearing and approved the EDC's recommendation to create a development agreement in the grant amount. This is the first requested and approved MRF application since its creation. The community is eager to see the buildings come down as the sign of progress.

As a Department and local partner, over the past year, we have focused our energy to present different financing resources available to developers. The Village of Okemos, LLC, may be eligible for local Brownfield reimbursement, make an amendment to their MUPUD for additional density options, and work with other boards and organizations to cover financial needs.

The community's commitment to this project has not faltered even though the COVID-19 pandemic financially impacted many of our community projects. The planned partnership with the Village of Okemos developers to remove the buildings to improve the overall site should be complete within the first quarter of 2021.

**C. Enhance Township diversity and inclusion initiatives that promote equal opportunity in workforce recruitment, employee retention, flexible work environment and housing opportunities.**

We look forward to our upcoming DEI training and the development of new and robust ways to improve in this area.

One area where we have improved is in our ability to work remotely and offer a flexible work environment. The stark realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed us in that direction and provided the impetus to move toward online permitting and billing options for our customers.

**D. Fulfill our promises made to voters in 2017 by allocating enhanced pension payments to MERS, maintaining 73 emergency responders and submitting our purchase order for a new ladder truck.**

The Township will be fulfilling the promise of enhanced pension payments to MERS by contributing over \$4,170,000 to MERS for the fiscal year 2020. The Township contributed an extra \$1,500,000 to the plan and is using a 5.75% rate of return assumption and not the 7.35% rate of return assumption used by MERS.

The Police Department is working toward fulfilling the 2020 goal of maintaining the 73 emergency responders and enhance diversity through the sponsorship of police candidates to the Mid-Michigan Police Academy. They have recently sponsored two applicants through the academy and have identified potential candidates for the January 2021 academy. By sponsoring candidates to the police academy the applicant pool is broadened and provides for a more representative applicant group.

The Fire Department is working on fulfilling their promise to the residents of a new ladder truck. Great progress has been made to purchase the new ladder truck. The manufacturer that was selected is E-ONE RevGroup. E-ONE is an industry leader in the engineering and manufacturing of fire trucks worldwide. All specifications are completed and Fire Department staff will be meeting with Manager Walsh and Finance Director Mattison to perform a final review of the contract language. The current plan is to order the new truck in November with a projected delivery date twelve months from the time of order.



Over the past three years, the Fire Department has seen a decline in qualified Firefighter/Paramedics seeking a job. A variety of hiring paths have been examined to allow for successful recruiting and also maintaining good, qualified employees. New options have been implemented, designed to expand upon the traditional process of hiring only Firefighter/Paramedics. One option is to hire personnel licensed as paramedics on a part-time basis while sponsoring them to attend an area Fire Academy. This concept has proven to be very successful and in the past three months, we have hired two paramedics and are sponsoring each of them at an area Fire Academy. The second option is hiring trained firefighters that are attending a paramedic program or would like to attend. This takes a change in current operations of two paramedics working on each ambulance and changes to one paramedic and one EMT until they graduate from a paramedic program and become state licensed.

As for the one remaining vacancy, the Fire Department has worked closely with the dedicated and talented team members within the Communications Department to collaboratively develop an attractive

recruitment flyer. The Communications Department has since utilized a variety of social media platforms to distribute the flyer throughout the State.



**E. Expand our branding efforts to include new community pride signage at the major entry points to Meridian Township. We shall also include welcoming signs at the Marsh Road and Central Park Drive ingress points to our Municipal Building.**

This fall we hired Corbin Design to assist us with our new community signage. Corbin Design is a regional leader in the development of community signage plans. The new signs will incorporate our existing branding standards into their design to create a consistent community image.

In the spring of 2021, we expect to install new gateway signs for our Township along our major roads leading into the community, two new monument signs for the entrances to the Municipal Building, additional Municipal Complex wayfinding signage to assist our visitors and a new design for the Meridian Township Park System.

Our internal sign team consists of the Communication Manager, the Parks and Recreation Director, the Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director, the DPW Superintendent and the Deputy Township Manager. The Team is excited to work with Corbin Design on the long overdue signage update.

**F. Open our much-anticipated Meridian Township Marketplace on the Green.**

This project was completed in September with the ribbon-cutting event held on October 7, 2020 to signify the grand opening of Marketplace on the Green! The Farmers’ Market operated in the new facility from October 7 – December 19. The extended outdoor Market has replaced the normal indoor winter market in Meridian Mall this year due to COVID-19 safety concerns.



This facility contains a large U-shaped 14,650sf pavilion with electric outlets on each post; office/restroom building, covered performance stage, playground, courtyard with site furnishings made from recycled plastic, and shared parking lot with Meridian Mall. Energy efficiency and conservation elements include LED lighting, solar panels, shared use of existing parking area, and rain gardens, trees and landscaping.

**G. Continue progress on the Meridian Township Sustainability Plan by expanding our solar energy capacity through installing two 20KW photovoltaic panels on township property, by joining with Michigan State University on their solar panel project, and by increasing energy efficiency at township facilities by replacing the outdated HVAC system.**

In the fall of 2020, the Township completed the installation of two solar photovoltaic arrays totaling 40.32kW at the south Fire Station (114 PV modules) and the Market Place on the Green restroom building (12 PV modules). In a typical year, we anticipate the south fire station system to generate almost 60% of its electrical usage and 100% at the farmers' market. The systems generation statistic and history can be viewed on our Township website.

In partnership with MSU, we also submitted our solar efforts and sustainability plan to the EPA for inclusion in their Local Government Solar Project Portal. The purpose of the portal is to provide information and best practices to other communities throughout the United States.

The Municipal Building HVAC project was substantially completed by the end of October. Final control and balancing work will be complete by mid-November. The \$2.2 million project will greatly enhance energy savings, allow for improved employee comfort, and incorporates enhanced filtration to safeguard the air quality in the building.

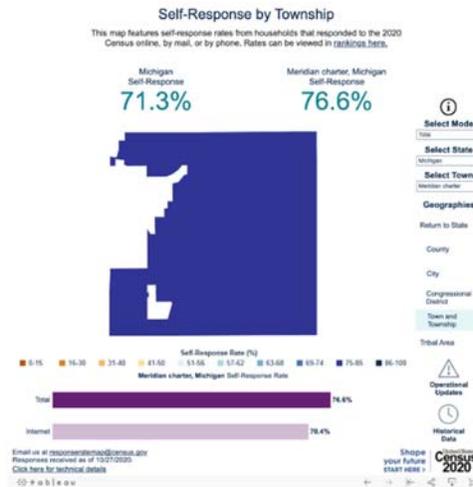
**H. Complete a thorough cost/benefit analysis for a potential new site to construct an environmentally sound Meridian Township Recycling Center.**

This year two sites were evaluated for potential relocation of the existing Recycling Center. The first is located on Okemos Road adjacent to the Service Center and Nancy Moore Park. It is currently for sale, and the property owner has expressed a willingness to sell to the Township. Because it has a greater potential for an improved entrance to Nancy Moore Park and a trailhead/restroom site for the MSU to Lake Lansing pathway, it was taken out of consideration. The other potential site is the north water tower open space adjacent to Saginaw Highway. This property is owned by the Township, so no acquisition costs would be incurred, but it is estimated that it would require a minimum of \$150,000 to construct a new site at this location.

Ultimately, based on community feedback and projected relocation costs, it is recommended that we remain at the current site and proceed with enhancements to the facility. The first improvement to occur this winter will be improvements to the existing center road and main area. We plan to utilize a portion of our asphalt millings from the 2020 local road program to resurface the existing gravel areas. The asphalt millings will create a significantly better surface for the facility. We will also work to improve the yard waste area of the facility to improve its collection and disposal. Additional recycling offerings and signage will also be part of the planned first round of improvements for 2021.

**I. Be diligent in our efforts to have a successful 2020 Meridian Township Census Count.**

The U.S. Census Bureau concluded self-response and field data collection operations October 15th. As of October 27th, Meridian Township ended with a 76.6% self-response rate on the 2020 Census Self-Response Mapper. Out of the 76.6%, 70.4% of Township residents completed their Census survey online. In 2010, the Township’s self-response rate was 77.2%. The Township’s self-response rate is expected to increase, once group quarter numbers are tallied as well as the MSU off-campus student addresses. As of October 2nd, the Non-Response Follow Up (NRFU) numbers for the Lansing Area Census Office, which includes Meridian Township, shows a completion rate of 95.2%. NRFU is the final 2020 data collection operation relative to counting households that have not already responded to the Census.



The Communications Team and the Meridian Township Census Complete Count Committee actively promoted Census information throughout 2020 across multimedia channels including the Township website, social media platforms, NextDoor, Constant Contact digital newsletters and HOMTV Government Access Channel. A total of 82 social media posts were sent from January 6th through October 15th. Facebook posts reached a total of 50,012 people. The Communications Department created a dedicated Census 2020 webpage on the Meridian Township website ([www.meridian.mi.us/Census2020](http://www.meridian.mi.us/Census2020)). That webpage received 745 page views with 263 new visitors and 241 returning visitors. Staff and interns also engaged in the national “Chalk the Walk” social media campaign across the Township. The Communications Team coordinated with Census representatives to be present at the Meridian Township Farmers’ Market in September to assist individuals with completing their Census questionnaires.



In a recent press release, the Census Bureau announced they have begun processing the data collected for the 2020 Census. Through the hard work of thousands of dedicated employees, both temporary and permanent, the Census Bureau was able to overcome challenges and count nationally 99.98% of addresses included in the 2020 Census. The combined final numbers for communities across the country will be released next spring after tabulations have been completed.

**J. Continue to work to connect the Township's pathway system, including beginning construction of the MSU to Lake Lansing phase one and two in the fall of 2020.**

To date, we have returned over \$3.6 million dollars from the County Park and Trail millage back to our residents. Our most recent grant success (\$788,000) is for the widening of the existing pathway along Okemos Road (Boardwalk to the Inter Urban Pathway), the development of a path that ties East Lansing recreational facilities to our system, and a portion of the phase 3 project that connects existing pathway on Haslett Road to the Lake Lansing South County Park along Shaw Street.

Phase one and phase two of the MSU to Lake Lansing are currently in the process of final design and layout. Significant surveying and engineering were required in the development of these projects. Phase 1 is the more difficult of the two, as it includes a river crossing and skirts difficult terrain.

Acquisition of easements caused significant delays this year, as the MDOT TAP grant required that we utilize a consulting firm to appraise and negotiate the easements and/or land purchases. Normally we do this in-house, but it was not an option for this project if we did not want to jeopardize losing \$1.7 million in match funding. Several of the apartment complexes along the route also have financing from HUD, and that has also complicated matters, as the Federal Government is required to review and consent to the easements.

The acquisition of the necessary easements will be finalized by the end of this year, and we can then proceed to bid the project. Construction of many of the segments will begin in 2021.

Regarding the general pathway system, 2,600 square feet of defective pathway was replaced at various locations, and trail wayfinding signs were installed in the summer of 2020. Funding was provided by the Ingham County Trail Millage. The pathway was also extended to the tune of 3,650 feet as part of the Elevations Development. The new pathway connects the development to pathway on Jolly Oak to the south and the pathway between Bennett and Okemos Road to the north.

# ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING



The Department of Accounting and Budgeting is responsible for all aspects of the Township's accounting system. The Department maintains the general ledger, processes outgoing payments through the accounts payable system, approves purchase orders, processes utility billing transactions, prepares and monitors the budget, coordinates the pension board meeting, coordinates grant accounting, and is the coordinating department for the annual financial audit.

Meridian Cares functions to ensure that the human infrastructure within the community remains strong and vital. To that end, the program strives to help residents by developing, coordinating, and promoting local resources.

Information, referral, or emergency assistance was provided to Township residents for various services on an as-needed basis. 720 requests were received and included, but were not limited to, emergency assistance for shelter, utilities, furniture, food, clothing, transportation, food baskets, or other issues. Requests for assistance came from 398 households. Need for financial assistance ramped up at the end of the year, as the moratorium on evictions expired.

Year	Number of Households Served	Funding Spent
2016	488	\$9,810
2017	436	\$8,475
2018	509	\$10,589
2019	465	\$16,855
2020	398	\$18,311

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **Work with Invoice Cloud to Bring on Payments for Other Areas**

We have implemented a donation platform for Utility Bill and Tax customers to make a donation to Meridian Cares. As of December 31, 2020 we have had 633 donations made for a total of \$1,910.91. Finance is working with the Police Department, Building & Planning, Parks and Public Works. We are gathering list of items that they would like to have available to collect on line. We have supplied a partial list to Invoice Cloud for them to get started.

### **Implement New Chart of Accounts from MI Treasury**

The State of Michigan has postponed the implementation of the New Uniform Chart of Accounts. They recommending an implementation date of January 1, 2022 for units of government that have a December 31, 2022 year end. Finance will work with BS&A software in 2021 to get this implemented and ready for January 1, 2022.

**Look at a New Credit Card (purchasing card) Company**

The Purchasing Manager started the process before his departure. The Finance Team will need to start this process again. This has been set as a 2021 goal.

**Review and Update Purchasing Policy**

Finance has worked with the new Purchasing Coordinator to update this policy. A draft was completed before his departure. The draft was presented to the Township Board and approved at the January 5, 2021 meeting.

**Adopt the 2021 budget**

The 2021 budget was presented to the Township Board on September 15, 2020 and adopted at a special meeting held on September 22, 2020.

**Prepare the 2019 Audit**

The 2019 audit was completed by the independent auditors of Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants. The audit was done completely remote this year by the Finance team and the Yeo & Yeo team. The audit was presented and approved at the June 2, 2020 Township Board meeting.

**TEAM MEMBERS**

Miriam Mattison, Director  
Bernie Faulkner, Accountant  
Deanne Muliett, Bookkeeper  
Danielle Hughes, Bookkeeper  
Kimberly Graham, Bookkeeper  
Darla Jackson, Human Services Specialist

# ADMINISTRATION



The Township Manager works directly with the Township Board and the various departments of Meridian Township. The Manager is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Township, budget preparation and administration, human resources, public service, public safety, public works, parks and recreation, and community relations. The Department Directors report directly to the Township Manager.

Numerous activities and projects were accomplished in 2020 under the leadership of the Township Manager's office:

- Coordinated the 2020 Goals and Objectives process.
- Continued to seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs.
- Development and oversight of the Township's 2021 Budget.
- Created a COVID-19 hotline and outdoor pods to serve the community during the pandemic.
- Held the first Board Retreat. The plan is to conduct a second retreat in February 2021.
- Following the retirement of Joyce Marx, we were fortunate to select Abby Tithof as our new Human Resources Director. Abby brings energy, passion and customer service to our team.
- With Ken Lane's resignation, we were able to recruit and bring Amber Clark to her new role as Economic Development Director. Amber brings energy and strategic thinking to our team.
- Under the Board's direction, we were able to provide additional support to Meridian Cares. On two separate occasions, the Board allocated funds to support small business relief.
- Secured the Klingman's/Toys R Us development.
- Attended the monthly meetings of the Okemos Downtown Development Authority and the Economic Development Corporation.
- Continued our collective efforts to foster an environment that is welcoming, diverse and inclusive.
- Facilitated two development issues with Silverleaf and Andev.
- Surpassed the state response rate to the 2020 United States Census by 5%.
- Opened the Marketplace on the Green to rave reviews.
- Improved 26 miles of local roads in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of our 10 year plan.
- With a \$2.2M cash payment, we overhauled the unreliable HVAC system at the Municipal Building.
- Became one of 24 police departments to be accredited through the Michigan Chiefs of Police.
- Pine Village, our first redevelopment project in Downtown Haslett, was approved.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager  
Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering  
Michelle Prinz, Executive Assistant

# ASSESSING

The Assessing Department is responsible for establishing assessments of taxable property for the equitable distribution of the property tax burden in accordance with Michigan's General Property Tax Act and other applicable statutes. The Assessing Department's responsibilities include creating the annual assessment roll, maintaining ownership records and property descriptions for taxing purposes, processing Personal Property Statements and personal property exemption requests, and inspecting existing property and new construction for property tax purposes. Taxable values established by the Assessing Department annually are used by the Township Treasurer to produce property tax bills for property within the Township.

## 2020 TOP TEN TAXPAYERS

2020 TOP TEN TAXPAYERS (BY TAXABLE VALUE)					
RANK	TAXPAYER	PROPERTY TYPE	REAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUE	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUE	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE
1	CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY	UTILITY	\$953,703	\$26,017,800	\$26,971,503
2	MERIDIAN MALL, LP	RETAIL	\$22,018,909	\$519,700	\$22,538,609
3	C150 2929 HANNAH LOFTS, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$21,909,513	\$379,200	\$22,288,713
4	EAST LANSING I, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$14,701,636	\$0	\$14,701,636
5	EAST LANSING ATHLETIC CLUB, INC.	HEALTH CLUB	\$9,545,914	\$627,300	\$10,173,214
6	TEG CENTRAL, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$10,152,428	\$0	\$10,152,428
7	BRANDYWINE CREEK II, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$8,896,629	\$0	\$8,896,629
8	TEG CLUB MERIDIAN, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$8,465,851	\$0	\$8,465,851
9	ACC OP, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$8,314,659	\$0	\$8,314,659
10	OKEMOS POINTE I, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$7,831,775	\$0	\$7,831,775

## 2020 VALUE SUMMARY

<b>PROPERTY CLASS</b>	<b>PARCEL COUNT</b>	<b>SEV</b>	<b>TV</b>
Commercial	673	496,820,000	411,380,226
Industrial	42	3,170,400	2,559,283
Residential	13,174	1,615,844,100	1,391,098,027
Personal	1,738	67,315,700	67,315,700
Exempt	341	0	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>15,968</b>	<b>2,183,150,200</b>	<b>1,872,353,236</b>

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **Defend Tax Appeals with Vigor**

At the end of 2020, there were 12 parcels under appeal in the Entire Tribunal Division of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Three appeals were resolved during 2020. The taxable value in contention for pending 2020 appeals is just 0.16 percent of the Township’s tax base. Efforts are being made to determine which of the pending cases can be resolved without a trial and which, if any, may need to be defended at trial.

### **Conduct Annual Assessment/Re-Inspection of Taxable Properties**

Although inspections conducted by full-time Assessing Department staff continued for new home construction, etc., the annual re-inspection program involving selected areas of the Township and conducted using intern labor was suspended for 2020 due to the presence of COVID-19 in the community.

## 2020 Board of Review Members

Martha Bashore (alternate)	Diane Galbraith
Xavier Durand-Hollis	Charles Hagen (alternate)
Bertice Ellis	Sonya Pentecost
Deborah Federau	Lanny Brunette

## TEAM MEMBERS

David Lee, Assessor  
 Jennifer Flower, Appraiser II  
 Angela Ryan, Assessing Clerk  
 Dawn Wozniak, Appraiser II

# CLERK'S OFFICE



## RESPONSIBILITIES AND 2020 ACTIVITY

The Clerk's Office responsibilities are largely set by state statute and include but are not limited to; Election Administration, Freedom of Information Coordinator, official Township record retention, updates to the Code of Ordinances and maintaining official Township Cemetery records. The Clerk's Office also provides free Notary services to the public.

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEMBER LISTS

The Clerk's Office maintains and updates the member list for all the Townships Boards and Commissions. In December 2020, staff committed to dedicating time to resolve discrepancies in the member list and create a new method for processing public service applications. This work was a collaborative effort with Township Supervisor Styka and Executive Administrative Assistant Michelle Prinz.

## CODE OF ORDINANCES -CODIFICATION

The Clerk's Office is responsible for the codification and publication of Township Ordinances. This includes publishing all ordinances in a binder. In 2020, only three codes were sent to Municipal Code for codification. Staff spent a considerable amount of time updating the records, working with Municipal Code and collaborating with Director of Community Planning and Development Director Mark Kieselbach and Principal Planner Peter Menser to rectify the records. In 2021, codes will be sent to Municipal Code for codification as they are approved.

## ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND 2020 ELECTIONS IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

The Clerk's Office is also responsible for preparation, publication and posting of all public notices pertaining to elections, performing public accuracy testing on all tabulators, logistics for all polling locations, processing ballots, and transmitting election data to the County Clerk.

In 2020 the Clerk's office election voting records included:

- Registered 2,776 new voters
- Updated 14,100 voter records via the voter data base which included 9,758 manual changes
- Maintained (by hand) Voter Cards (Master Cards) and Voter Identification Cards for 34,119 registered voters

Meridian Township had three major elections in 2020: Presidential Primary, State Primary and State General.

March 10<sup>th</sup> - Presidential Primary - 14,837 registered voters cast their ballot

- Over 8,000 residents applied to be added to the permanent absentee voter list increasing the absent voter list to 15,823 residents
- 199 New Voters Registered 14 Days Prior to the Election
- 7,684 Absentee Ballots were issued
- 7,168 Absentee Ballots were returned
- 45 Overseas Ballots were issued
- 112 Absentee Voter Ballots were issued in the Clerk's Office the Monday prior to Election Day
- 938 Absentee Voter Ballots were returned on Election Day

August 4<sup>th</sup> - State Primary - 13,331 registered voters cast their ballot

- Over 2,000 residents were added to the absentee ballot voter list
- 151 New Voters Registered 14 Days prior to Election Day
- 13,123 Absentee Ballots were issued
- 10,941 Absentee Ballots were returned
- 79 Overseas Ballots were issued
- 74 Absentee Voter Ballots were issued in the Clerk's Office on the Monday prior to Election Day
- 1,161 Absentee Voter Ballots were returned on Election Day

November 3<sup>rd</sup> - State General - 25,811 registered voters cast their ballot

- 314 New Voters registered in the 14 Days prior to Election Day
- 20,215 Absentee Ballots were issued
- 19,739 Absentee Ballots were Returned
- 261 Overseas Ballots were issued
- 947 Absentee Ballots were returned on Election Day

The Township entered into an agreement with Ingham County Clerk's Office to provide the Absent Voter Counting Board for the November General Election.

Canceled voter Master Card records are being digitally scanned and stored, freeing up valuable space and allowing faster voter data retrieval. Scanned voter records/Master Cards are being updated on a daily basis along with the 14,100 changes from 2020.

We restructured some of the polling locations to ensure better spacing for election workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic complying with the Township's goal of keeping everyone safe. Hosting sites were nervous about having many people that came to each polling location. The August election was particularly difficult to staff as people were extremely nervous and hesitant to work with large volumes of people. We were only able to staff three people per polling location when we generally staff five per location and seven in the larger polling locations. Election workers were supplied with masks, gloves, face shields, and hand sanitizer.

## **PETITION SIGNATURE VALIDATION PROCESS**

The Clerk's Office validated around 500 signatures on petitions presented by candidates running for office in the Township. Petitions were presented to the Clerk's office from Township Board candidates and Township Parks & Recreation Commission Candidates to be validated for the August Primary election.

Haslett Public Schools and Okemos Public Schools School Board candidates presented petitions to the Clerk's Office for validation in order to be to be validated for the November General election.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA)**

The Clerk's Office responded to 71 Freedom of Information requests filed with the Clerk's office during 2020. Although many of the police FOIAs come through the Clerk's office, this information does not take into account the number of Police FOIAs since they have their own logging system.

## **LEGAL NOTICES AND POSTING OF OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP MEETINGS AND MINUTES**

The Clerk's Office is tasked with submitting legal notices to newspaper for publication. Notices are done to meet the Open Meetings Act requirements advising members of the community of upcoming meetings, hearings as well as changes in resolutions and ordinances. Legal notices are submitted to the local paper, posted online and the posted in Township Lobby.

## **NOTARY SERVICES AND OATHS OF OFFICES**

The Clerk's office performed 68 notarial services during 2020, several of them were over 30 pages. Because we have such a wonderfully diverse community, there are many papers that have to be sent overseas and need our services. A majority of area banks are cutting back on the types of notary services they are providing to customers.

## **TOWNSHIP CEMETERY RECORD KEEPING**

Meridian Township oversees two cemeteries with Glendale cemetery being the most active. There were 34 burials in 2020. There were 32 lot sales in 2020.

## **TOWNSHIP RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

Evaluation of our record keeping needs, status, priorities, retention periods, and storage options (both paper and electronic) is an ongoing process. Emphasis has been placed on continually building efforts to permanently preserve records as well as increase the efficiency through which records may be retrieved.

## **2020 ELECTION COMMISSION**

Clerk Brett Dreyfus  
Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland  
Treasurer Phil Deschaine

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

Brett Dreyfus, Township Clerk  
Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk (elected November 2020)  
Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant II  
Bette Bigsby, Deputy Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk  
Rebekah Kelly, Records Technician II

# COMMUNICATIONS



The highest priority of the Communications Department is to provide residents with an increased access to transparency in governance with relevant information in a timely fashion. The Department is responsible for coordinating a strategic and comprehensive effort to inform the public of the Township's goals, plans, activities and events through various multimedia platforms including web, digital and print. The Department oversees, creates and coordinates the writing, publication and production of all communication products – printed materials, photos/videos, website and social media postings generated from the Township. The Department ensures that all media and communications successfully reaches their intended audience. Other main functions of the Communications Department includes serving as the Local Franchise Authority for nine Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channels in Meridian Township, overseeing the operations and production for HOMTV (Government Access Channel) and CAMTV (Public Access Channel), operating a multimedia television internship training program and providing staff support to the Township's Communications Commission.

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **COVID-19 Communications**

In early March, the COVID-19 pandemic hit Michigan and the Governor initiated the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order. The Communications Team continued to work remotely communicating information pertaining to COVID-19 to the community. While the information available to share changed quite frequently, the Communications Team developed a strategy that categorized the information. Sandwich board signs, door flyers and graphics were all created to support the information being shared. Assistance was also provided to other Township Departments to create graphics and share additional information. The categories of information included Community Health & Safety, Meridian Cares and helping those in need, Township Operations and Closures, Event Cancellations, Park Updates, Small Business Grant Opportunity through the Meridian EDC and Township Board, Police & Fire Birthday Parade Celebrations, Community Giving Back to Frontline Workers and the Township's Reopening Plan. The Reopening Plan included two portable Outdoor Service Centers. For each category of information, the Communications Team provided website updates with links to community partners and community assistance, graphics to use on social platforms, print materials and video content.

### **Strategic Communications & Marketing Plan**

The Communications Team incorporated the current Communications and Marketing Plan into a new outline that follows the Township's strategies and goals. The new Strategic Communications & Marketing Plan included a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the current strategy and development of consistent branding objectives and messaging. A Social Media Audit was also conducted as part of the Strategic Communications & Marketing Plan to help refocus the Township's social marketing and

branding to reflect the Township goals. Staff is in the process of evaluating and modifying current processes to reflect the new Strategic Communications & Marketing Plan and will continue to do so into 2021.

### **Township Website Audit & Enhancements**

The Communications Team worked with individual Township Department staff and representatives from the Township's website provider, Granicus, to conduct an audit of the content, accessibility and design of the current Meridian Township website, which was launched in 2017. Industry standard states a website should be reevaluated and revamped every 2-3 years. The Granicus ADA Compliance Specialist, Customer Success Team and Account Manager provided data and recommendations for enhancements to the Township website throughout 2020. Staff is utilizing this information to implement design and content revisions. These steps are in preparation for the website refresh project to take place in 2021.

### **Expand Branding Efforts**

The Communications Team continues to work with the Department of Public Works as members of the Branded Sign Committee to design new monument signs to be installed within the community in 2021. This project is still in the early stages due to delays during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Throughout 2020, staff has been working with individuals on Township brand standards and training on a case-by-case basis. Township Branding Zoom Trainings will take place throughout 2021 to promote internal brand ambassadors and provide refresher brand training within the Township Departments. Revised branded templates and instructions will be provided to employees during the trainings. Expanding Township branding internally and externally is an ongoing project and will continue into 2021.

### **2020 Meridian Township Census Count**

The U.S. Census Bureau concluded self-response and field data collection operations October 15th. As of October 27th, Meridian Township ended with a 76.6% self-response rate on the [2020 Census Self-Response Mapper](#). Out of the 76.6%, 70.4% of Township residents completed their Census survey online. As of October 2nd, the Non-Response Follow Up (NRFU) numbers for the Lansing Area Census Office, which includes Meridian Township, shows a completion rate of 95.2%. The combined final numbers for communities across the country will be released in Spring 2021 after tabulations have been completed. The Communications Team and the Meridian Township Census Complete Count Committee actively promoted Census information throughout 2020 across multimedia channels, including the Township website, social media platforms, NextDoor, Constant Contact digital newsletters and the HOMTV Government Access Channel. A total of 82 social media posts were sent between January 6th - October 15th. Facebook posts reached a total of 50,012 people. The Communications Department created a dedicated Census 2020 webpage on the Meridian Township website which received 745 page-views with 263 new visitors and 241 returning visitors. Staff and interns also engaged in the national "Chalk the Walk" social media campaign across the Township.

### **Digital Conversion into HOMTV Video Archive System**

Due to staffing changes of the Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist position and the COVID-19 Pandemic, this project was put on hold for most of 2020. Staff is now gathering previous staff procedures for the Archive Project and evaluating what has been completed in order to develop a new timeline to move the project along. Before digitizing of tape formats can begin, staff is working on organizing the current file system within the EditShare media spaces and archive drives; making sure the tape conversion system is properly connected in the HOMTV Server Room. This project will continue into 2021.

## **Additional HOMTV Revenue Sources**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, plans for the Media Camp for Kids and the creation of a marketing plan for the Alumni Giving Program are both on hold until 2021.

## **Digital Analytics**

The Communications Department oversees the content development and engagement of 2 websites and 24 different social media accounts across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube and Nextdoor. The Township added the Nextdoor platform in June 2019. A social media audit began in 2020 and will continue into 2021 and include a Social Media Marketing Strategy for the Township and HOMTV.

### **Website Performance Summary**

- **Meridian Township Website Traffic 2020** - The Meridian Township website saw 884,451 pageviews in 2020, which is an increase of 137,591 pageviews compared to 2019. There were 365,104 users in 2020, with 71.7% being new visitors and 28.3% being returning visitors.
- **HOMTV Website Traffic 2020** - HOMTV.net saw 79,916 pageviews in 2020, a slight decrease compared to the 2019 statistics of 80,457 pageviews. There were 31,950 users, with 67.4% being new visitors and 32.6% being returning visitors. Video On-Demand via Swagit on the HOMTV website had 10,941 page views in 2020. The average time spent on the page was 2 minutes and 46 seconds. HOMTV's website livestream via Swagit. Of the total 10,941 pageviews, 380 of them were directly related to Meridian Live Township meeting coverage.

### **Social Media Performance Summary**

- **Facebook** – The Communications Team manages nine Facebook pages for the Township with direct responsibility over Meridian Township, HOMTV and CAMTV pages, and indirect responsibility for the other six, which consist of the Fire Department, Parks & Recreation, Farmers' Market, Harris Nature Center, Meridian Cares and Green Meridian pages. Meridian Township's Total Facebook likes year-end 2020 equaled 6,377 with an increase of 420 likes compared to year-end 2019. Total Facebook reach YTD is 268,959. HOMTV's Total Facebook likes year-end 2020 equaled 2034 with an increase of 118 likes compared to year-end 2019.
- **Twitter** – The Communications Team manages only two Twitter accounts: one for the Township and one for HOMTV. Meridian Township's Total Twitter followers year-end 2020 equaled 3,117. Total Twitter impressions year-end equaled 382.6K. HOMTV's Total Twitter followers for year-end 2020 equaled 1,775. Total Twitter impressions year-end 2020 equaled 936k with 5,440 profile visits year-end 2020.
- **Instagram** – The Communications Team manages two Instagram accounts: one for the Township and one for HOMTV and assists with the Harris Nature Center's account, which was started at the beginning of 2020. Meridian Township's Total Instagram followers year-end 2020 equaled 1646. HOMTV's Total Instagram followers year-end 2020 equaled 399.
- **LinkedIn** – The Communications Team manages a LinkedIn account for Meridian Township and HOMTV. Meridian Township's Total LinkedIn followers year-end 2020 equaled 514, an increase of 64 new followers compared to January 2020. HOMTV's Total LinkedIn followers year-end 2020 equaled 1193, a decrease of 23 new followers compared to January 2020.

- **NextDoor** – NextDoor is a communications platform that allows neighborhoods to connect and have conversations. The platform allows the Township to post messages to specific neighborhoods and then verified residents will automatically receive the updates. Total members from the community year-end 2020 equaled 9870 out of 22,355 households in the Township. An increase of 688 residents that have joined Nextdoor since January 2020.
- **YouTube** – Staff manages two YouTube channels: one for HOMTV and one for the Township. HOMTV’s total video views for year-end 2020 equaled 37,769. Total subscribers year-end 2020 equaled 384, which is an increase of 155 compared to year-end 2019. Due to the increased virtual offerings by multiple Township Departments, the Meridian Township YouTube Channel has been reactivated. Total video views for year-end 2020 equaled 9,100. Total subscribers year-end 2020 equaled 94, which is an increase of 27 compared to year-end 2019 and reactivating the channel.
- **Constant Contact** – The Communications Team sends out a weekly e-Newsletter using Constant Contact. Even while working remotely, the team has been able to send this weekly e-Newsletter. The Meridian Happenings open rate averages 42% YTD. The industry average is 24.1%. The Meridian Happenings open rate has fluctuated this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the contacts are work emails, so when contacts are not at work to receive and open, the open rate drops. We saw a higher open rate between June – December as contacts started returning to work or working remotely.

### **HOMTV Programming**

HOMTV continued its tradition of excellence with award-winning election programming throughout 2020 including programming for the March Presidential Primary Election, August Primary Election and November General Election. Your Choice 2020 was a series of programs designed to help educate the public on candidates running for office and ballot proposals. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and construction occurring in HOMTV’s Studio and Control Room, this year’s election coverage was mostly conducted virtually utilizing the Zoom Video Communications Platform. HOMTV aired a total of 61 regular programs, 57 live Township meetings (many held virtually via Zoom) and over 200 stories, social media videos and promos in 2020. HOMTV provided live event coverage of the Township’s press conferences, Virtual Community Forum on Policing, Marketplace on the Green Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and the Elected Officials Virtual Swearing-In Ceremony. A Special Feature Program called “Dear Santa” was produced to encourage community engagement and connect kids with Santa who were unable to see Santa in person due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **CAMTV Programming**

CAMTV currently has a total of 7 programs and 6 active producers who are constantly creating content to air on CAMTV. Additional marketing efforts will take place at the start of 2021 to add more producers and create digital marketing for the channel. The Communications Team is also working to replace equipment to help the channel run more efficiently.

### **HOMTV Internship Program**

Twenty-three (23) interns participated in HOMTV’s multimedia television internship program in 2020. The interns contributed approximately 5,000 hours producing approximately 160 online articles and more than 200 videos. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, much of the internship program had to be completed virtually. However, the interns were still able to get some hands-on experience and training in person in the HOMTV facilities. This included crewing and anchoring multiple Meridian News Now shows, two full election night shows,

candidate interviews and other programming.

### **Awards**

The Alliance for Community Media (ACM) recognized HOMTV as a 1st place national award winner in the 2020 Hometown Media Awards Competition. For three years in a row, HOMTV has received the “Overall Excellence in Governmental Access” award from ACM in the \$650,000 - \$1,000,000 budget-based division. The Overall Excellence awards recognize access organizations for their overall operational activities and programming efforts. The ACM Central States Region, which includes Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, recognized HOMTV as an award winner in the 2020 Philo Media Award Competition. In the “Underserved Voices” category, HOMTV received a First Place Award in the Professional Division for the A Chance to Dance Special Feature highlighting a young dancer and Okemos High School student’s journey of creating the A Chance to Dance Program offering free social dance classes to students with disabilities. HOMTV also received a Finalist Award in the “Children’s Programming” category for the HOMTV Summer Media Camp for Kids Special Feature. Under the supervision of HOMTV Staff and Interns, the 19 campers who participated in the 2019 HOMTV Media Camp produced the special feature program.

### **CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Tunga Kiyak, Chair  
Walter Benenson, Vice Chair  
Leslie Charles, Commissioner  
Mike Nevells, Commissioner  
Brian Seipel, Commissioner  
Deborah Guthrie, Alternate Commissioner  
Rita Adhi, Alternate Commissioner

### **TEAM MEMBERS**

Brandie Yates, Communications Manager  
Andrea Smiley, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist  
Samantha Diehl, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist (Hired, March 2020)  
Ben Makulski, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist (Resigned, February 2020)  
Lynn Meikle, Freelance Media/Print Publications/Graphics (Resigned, April 2020)

# COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



During 2020, the Department of Community Planning and Development continued to provide quality service to the community related to permit applications, zoning updates, building inspections, code enforcement, and rental housing. In addition to working closely with Township residents, business owners and leaders on a day-to-day basis, staff provided ongoing services to various Boards, Commissions, and Committees, including the following:

- ✓ Township Board
- ✓ Planning Commission
- ✓ Zoning Board of Appeals
- ✓ Building Board of Appeals
- ✓ Transportation Commission
- ✓ Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **Serve as an active partner in redeveloping the Village of Okemos and Downtown Haslett.**

Facilitated the renewal of \$1M EGLE Brownfield Redevelopment Loan and \$1.3M Brownfield Grant to fund site preparation activities. An application to amend the MUPUD project approval is expected soon that will add an expected 82 units to the project and reduce commercial space by approximately 27,000 square feet.

### **Enhance Township diversity and inclusion initiatives that promote equal opportunity in workforce recruitment, employee retention, flexible work environment, and housing opportunities.**

The Department, when hiring new employees, has sought individuals with the ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures and to be respectful and responsive to the diverse population of the Township.

### **Complete Form Based Code for the western portion of Grand River Avenue.**

The Planning Commission has discussed adoption of a form-based code ordinance for an area on Grand River Avenue near the East Lansing border. A draft ordinance has been discussed, but still needs additional work.

**Complete a plan for the review and update of the Master Plan in 2020.**

The most recent Master Plan was adopted in 2017. State law requires a municipality review the Master Plan every five years, which is due in 2022. Staff would like to start the update by reviewing the Future Land Use Map in the Master Plan, but has not yet begun that work.

**Revise the sign ordinance so it is content neutral.**

Several provisions of the Township's sign ordinance are at odds with recent court cases prohibiting the regulation of signs based on their content. A wholesale review of the sign ordinance is needed, which has not yet begun.

**Update and amend the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development ordinance.**

The Planning Commission has identified several desired changes to the MUPUD ordinance and in September appointed a sub-committee to review the ordinance and produce a draft incorporating revisions. The sub-committee provided a report at the December 14, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

**Finish updating all applications used by the Department.**

All applications have been reviewed and updated. The applications will continue to be revised, as needed, with changes in codes.

**Continue to discuss the need for a separate ordinance to address short term rentals.**

All residential rental properties whether long term or short term are required to be registered. The same standards and requirements are applied to both types of rentals. Because of the impacts short term rentals can bring to residential neighborhoods, the Board may still want to consider an ordinance to address short term rentals.

**Continue the discussion with the City of Mason to provide increased building services and determine the cost for the Township to provide the additional services.**

Discussion with the City of Mason regarding providing increase building services has continued through 2020 and may continue in 2021. Based on the current contract, the Township is providing the necessary services to the City. To provide the type of services the city would like the fee would need to be increased and the hiring of an additional inspector may be necessary. The Township does not want to be in a position that would reduce the services provided to residents, contractors and builders in the Township.

**Provide Rental Housing Inspectors with tablets and create an interactive inspection checklist to streamline inspection reporting.**

With Covid-19 and the turnover of personnel in IT, tablets were not provided to Rental Housing Inspectors. The checklist used for rental inspections has been updated and can be loaded on to a tablet when provided.

**Evaluate checklists and guides for residential and commercial permit applications to streamline the processes and eliminate unnecessary confusion and questions.**

The checklists and guides for residential and commercial permit applications have been revised and are posted on the Department webpage.

**Work with the City of East Lansing to decrease the time for an applicant to wait for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing inspections.**

Staff has worked with the staff at the City of East Lansing to improve the scheduling and inspections of mechanical, electrical and plumbing permits. In 2020, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of delays.

## 2020 COMMISSION AND BOARD MEMBERS

(\* indicates former member)

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Scott Hendrickson, Chair  
Peter Trezise, Vice-Chair  
Jerry Richards, Secretary  
David Premoe  
Holly Cordill

Alisande Shrewsbury  
Bill McConnell  
Mark Blumer  
Christina Snyder  
Amber Clark\*  
Ken Lane\*

- Ten special use permit requests were processed including four medical marihuana provisioning centers, Pine Village, 1673 Haslett Road, and Andev Senior Living Community on Hannah Blvd
- Recommendation on two rezoning's, the thirty acres east of Central Park Drive and 1259 Grand River Avenue were provided
- Public Hearings and Recommendations were made on the Commercial Planned Unit Development for the Bank at Meridian Mall, the Planned Unit Development for Silverleaf on Bennett Road, and the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development for Pine Village , 1673 Haslett Road
- A Zoning Amendment was recommended to allow single family detached housing as part of a multiple family development
- Devoted regular meetings and work sessions to discuss Form Base Code and amendments to the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development ordinance

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Alexia Mansour, Chair  
Monique Field-Foster, Vice-Chair  
Don Kulhanek  
Scott Hendrickson  
Courtney Wisinski

Rick Shafer (Alternate)\*  
Phil Deschaine\*  
Brian Beauchine\*  
Kenneth Lane\*

- Reviewed and acted on nine variance requests
- Variances included three for wall signs, three for residential structure setbacks, one wetland setback, one parking lot setback, and one to allow an addition to a nonconforming commercial building

### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Steven Vagnozzi, Chair  
Bob Lovell, Vice-Chair  
Phil Deschaine  
Jon Kolbasa

Karla Hudson  
Tim Potter  
Joshua Robertson  
Chris Hackbarth\*

- Meet with representatives from CATA and Ingham County Road Department
- Held a public hearing and made a recommendation to the Township Board on the Jolly Road conversion from four lanes to three lanes
- Met in a joint meeting with the Corridor Improvement Authority and prepared a letter to MDOT on needed improvements to Grand River Avenue
- Recommended the expansion of hours for Redi-Ride
- Reviewed the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and made a recommendation to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

## BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Jeff Theuer, Chair  
James E. Jackson, Vice-Chair  
Jade Sims  
David Premoe

Joyce Van Coevering  
Frank L. Walsh  
John Matuszak  
John Scott-Craig\*

- Brownfield plans and reimbursement agreements were approved for Haslett Marathon, 1619 Haslett Road and Pine Village, 1673 Haslett Road
- Reimbursement agreements were approved for 2360 Jolly Road Brownfield plan and Elevation at Okemos Pointe Brownfield plan Phase 1

## BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Charles Wallin, Chair  
Pete Potterpin, Vice-Chair  
David Premoe

- The Building Board of Appeals met in June and unanimously decided to uphold the order of the Code Enforcement Officer to secure and/or demolish structures on the Walnut Hills Country Club property.

## TEAM MEMBERS

(\* indicates staff person left position in 2020)

Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development  
Debbie Budzynski, Administrative Assistant II  
DeKeea Quinney-Davis, Administrative Assistant I  
Silva Brownlee, Administrative Assistant I\*  
Peter Menser, Principal Planner  
Keith Chapman, Assistant Planner  
Justin Quagliata, Assistant Planner\*  
Mackenzie Dean, Assistant Planner\*  
John Heckaman, Chief Building Inspector  
Ron Rau, Building Inspector  
John Martin, Building Inspector  
Frank Christmas, Rental Housing Inspector  
Kevin Reed, Rental Housing Inspector  
Joe Wade, Senior Code Enforcement Officer

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## **Neighborhoods & Economic Development**

The changes made in this Department in 2020 include a new Director and title. Amber Clark is the new Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director, and this position oversees engaging the business and residential sectors to efficiently build up our community. The economic development goals for this department focus on new business growth, retention, planning and implementation. We believe that by engaging with our residents, businesses, developers, and regional partners we will facilitate better developments that suit our community's diverse needs.

By engaging with our neighborhood associations, creating an organized association database, the information can be shared with interested parties. These include neighbors, residents, developers, township staff etc., wishing to reach out or engage. This database created will be like the business directory database this department is responsible for. There is potential to hold these databases on the Township's website to allow for these organizations to maintain accurate records.

The Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director utilizes the talents of the volunteer business focused Township Boards/Commissions established by the Township Board. The Downtown Development Authority, The Corridor Improvement Authority, and the Meridian Economic Development Corporation are comprised of business owners and township residents passionate about serving their community. In addition, this Department coordinates work with the Planning Commission and Brownfield Development Authority.

## **2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN**

### **Marketplace on the Green**

The Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was able to assist in the development and construction of the Marketplace on the Green our new pavilion for our growing Farmer's Market. The Meridian EDC contributed \$50,000 in a matching crowd sourcing grant to assist with funding the new pavilion. The expansion of the Farmer's Market was a necessary one due to its popularity, to provide a more efficient space that will act as a social and economic centerpiece of our community. Some vendors have hit record sales this year due to the improved communal space. The Meridian EDC is thrilled with the success of the Marketplace on the Green project.

### **COVID-19**

The 2020 year challenged the Economic Development Department to adapt quickly and make recommendations that suit the further development of our community. The end of the first quarter in 2020 onset by the COVID-19 pandemic, launched the State of Michigan and the Nation into lockdown. The restrictions set in place were necessary to preserve life; and the consequences of the lockdown triggered a recession like market.

The Meridian Township Board elected to create a subcommittee comprised of two Township Board Trustees, The Meridian Economic Development Chair, The Downtown Development Authority Chair, The Township Manager and Economic Development Director. This Small Business Grant Relief Program Subcommittee (MTSBGRP) initiated a grant to small business owners in Meridian Township. The grant fund allocation was set at \$168,000 and awarded 42 Meridian Township businesses \$4,000 in assistance. In November 2020, one week before the largest shopping weekend in the country's annual calendar, additional spikes in new COVID-19 cases triggered another shut down. Restaurants, bars, hotels, events, hospitality, and entertainment businesses were severally negatively impacted by this second round of restrictions. The Meridian Township Board again elected to activate the MTSBGRP with a grant allocation of \$500,000. This grant assisted 105 Meridian Township businesses of all business sectors with most of the recipients being small local bars and restaurants for \$486,700 in funding. In total, the efficient implementation of funding assistance granted by the Township Board injected \$654,700 in direct financial support to our business community.

### **PICA Development**

Pine Village/Hudson Senior Living project was approved for the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) on June 2, 2020 by the Township Board. This 133-unit senior housing development will include commercial retail on the first floor and enhancements to the Haslett Village Square area. This development is a cornerstone piece bringing new opportunities for a traversable space at Haslett and Marsh roads. Discussions have already begun about future developments near adjacent to this site.

In July 2019, the Village of Okemos proposed development was approved for a five story MUPUD with commercial retail and office on the ground floor, and residential rental units on the remaining floors. COVID-19 threw in many delays due to shut down restrictions and financing options. Progress continued internally and the Village of Okemos LLC, worked to secure approval for reimbursement through the Meridian Redevelopment Fund for up to \$85,000. The year 2020 ended with demolition permits being issued to begin removing the six dilapidated properties to make way for the new residential gem in downtown Okemos.

### **Form Based Code- MUPUD Revisions**

Working with the Planning Commission, this Department was requested to assist with revisions to the Mixed Used Planned Unit Development ordinance and the Form Based Code proposed ordinance. The Planning Commission has actively worked on Form Based Code for over two years to establish an efficient development process, specifically for development along Grand River. The enhanced cohesive look will define our community, while having an efficient development process. At this time, the Form Based Code continues to be revised. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development took on many great enhancements, focusing on defining amenities and requirements for amenities. Final approval of the changes to the ordinance will help the Planning Commission determine if proposed projects are meeting the community's expectations.

## **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Susan Fulk, Chair  
Peter Campbell  
Bill Cawood  
Renee Korrey, Vice-Chair  
Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor

James Spanos, Secretary/Treasurer  
Will Randle  
Scott Weaver  
James Raynak  
Thomas Stanko

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Jade Sims, Chair  
Phil Deschaine, Township Treasurer, Ex-Officio  
Kathy Sundland, Township Board Liaison  
Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager  
Shawn Dunham  
Brenda Chapman

Dave Ledebuhr  
Kim Thompson, Vice-Chair  
Tom Conway  
Adam Carlson  
Joel Conn  
Mikhail Murshak

## **CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**

Chris Nugent  
Ron Styka, Township Supervisor  
Barry Goetz  
Jeff Ross, Chair  
Eric Foster, Vice-Chair

Kellie Johnson  
Bruce Peffers  
Chris Rigterink  
Brian Jones

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

Amber Clark, Economic Development & Neighborhoods Director  
Michelle Prinz, Executive Assistant

# FIRE/EMS



Station 93 - Engine, Ladder, Ambulance, Rescue Water, Safety Trailer, District 1 Mass Casualty Trailer, "Jaws of Life"



Station 91-ALS Engine, Ambulance, Command Vehicle, Reserve Ambulance, Ambulance Engine Carries "Jaws of Life", Rescue (confined space, water rescue)



Station 92-Engine, Ambulance, Boat, "Jaws of Life"

*Serving our community with Pride, Integrity and Professionalism since 1929.*

It is my pleasure to share with Meridian Township residents the Fire Department 2020 Annual Report. This year has been especially challenging for our department, as we, like many others, were heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The content of this report is designed to provide insight into how our efforts continue to focus on providing the highest level of customer-centered service delivery while also maintaining accountability and fiscal responsibility.

Despite facing enormous challenges, and cases of COVID-19 in the community, we continued to serve the Township 24/7/365, staffed with our 32 professional full-time paramedic/firefighters. Additionally, our administrative staff worked hard to maintain our daily operations supporting a safe response.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it the need to adapt procedures to reduce the risk of transmission, as well as additional incident management duties to assist in the state's pandemic response. In February, we started working on new policies and response strategies, and as the country closed down in March, we moved forward implementing new policies, response guidelines and engineering controls to protect our staff and citizens. New personal protective equipment was purchased for the protection of each firefighter from exposure to COVID-19. As of the writing of this document, the Meridian Township Fire Department has only had one employee test positive for COVID-19.

We estimate that the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced our call volume by 10%; however, we still responded to 4906 emergencies in 2020. As we continue into 2021, our COVID-19 response plans remain in effect. This assures daily protection of our firefighters and administrative staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a centennial event. Meridian Township Fire, in conjunction with our Township departments and partners, continues to serve our community during this time. It has been 100 years since a similar event, and there has been no road map to follow. During the early phases of this incident, we were presented with more questions than answers. We all continue to be concerned about our families, friends, community and general health. However, thanks to the dedication and patience of our team, our leadership and our community, we are moving in a positive direction. The community is shifting from a response to a recovery phase, but there is a lengthy road ahead. While we will see more challenges, Meridian Township Fire remains committed to sustaining the services our communities need.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide efficient, dependable and professional services to the citizens of Meridian Township. Our values are to educate and provide caring, compassionate service with excellence and dignity. Our vision is to exceed the expectations of the community by proactively responding to the established priorities and needs.

The Meridian Township Fire Department is a full-service organization providing fire, rescue and emergency medical services to a community of 43,318 citizens across 36 square miles. Three stations are strategically located to provide timely responses to residents and visitors alike. Three dual-paramedic staffed advanced life support ambulances deliver emergency medical care at the highest pre-hospital level. The department also provides fire prevention, code enforcement, plan review and fire safety related programming. The department is an active member of the Metro- Lansing Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Teams. These teams respond to high-risk, low- frequency incidents involving confined spaces, trenches, bodies of water, high/low angle rescues, chemical/gas releases and structural collapses. Each department member is committed to serving the community with excellence through the delivery of outstanding customer service.

In 2020, the Meridian Township Fire Department continued to be a leader in the state through our many accomplishments. Over the past 10 years (with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19), the Fire Department has seen an overall increase in call volume. This increase correlates with population growth, Medicare and Medicaid changes, the Affordable Care Act, a decreasing number of primary care physicians, an aging population, availability of mental health services, the opioid epidemic and access to preventative care.

The U.S. Census estimated Meridian Township at 43,318 residents in 2018. Since the 2010 Census, the Township's population has grown by approximately 9.2%. This growth has been a direct result of decreased populations of cities and increased populations of townships. In 2020, Meridian Township was named one of the best places to live in Michigan. Over the past few years, there have been many proposed and approved projects for single family homes, retirement homes and assisted living facilities adding to the significant expected population increases as we continue to attract new residents and businesses. Population growth will increase demands on the Fire Department, requiring us to evaluate staffing and equipment needs to support emergency response.

### **Fire Prevention**

The primary goal of the Fire Inspector office is reducing life and property loss. These services are presented to the public through code enforcement, life safety inspections, educational classes, youth fire-setter intervention, fire cause investigation, issuance of operational permits, corrections of fire code violations in buildings and plans review and inspection of new construction.

Fire Prevention completed 57 plan reviews of construction projects, 154 fire inspections, 40 fire alarm inspections, 57 fire sprinkler inspections and 6 commercial hood inspections. Sixteen fire investigations were completed, including three as part of mutual aid with neighboring municipalities. In 2020, we continued to build our fire inspection software. This software will keep track of all inspection documentation and serve as data storage. Our firefighters do company-level pre-incident plans that include inspections, and this software will help streamline the process utilizing iPads and an online computerized data point that can be used during emergencies.

### **Training**

The Training Division has many charges. Foremost among these is the continual facilitation of the ongoing training needs of the second busiest fire department in Ingham County. Our firefighters are

dually trained in emergency medicine and firefighting. All employees are state licensed paramedics and subject to strict training requirements outlined by the State of Michigan. All firefighters are held to state-mandated standards in highly technical areas, each with their associated training requirements. Some areas of training include firefighting tactics and strategy, emergency driving, hazardous materials, ice and water rescue, extrication, confined space operations and medical care for the sick and injured.

In 2020, our overall training hours decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however we recorded 480 hours of COVID-related training for policies, procedures, personal protective equipment and decontamination. Additionally, firefighters completed 1286 hours of annual continuing education for EMS and safety training. Our operations require daily training at the company level, hazardous material training, officer training and continual new recruit training which accounted for 2348 hours total.

**Fire Suppression**

All frontline fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS) apparatus in the Suppression Division are Paramedic units. Every day, 24/7, the fire apparatus are staffed with officers and firefighters. All fire personnel assigned are licensed at the Paramedic level. This ensures that every medical call has at least two Paramedics with Advanced Life Support training and equipment arriving on scene at the earliest possible moment.

2020 demonstrated once again that Meridian Township Fire did much more than respond to emergency medical calls and residential structure fires. MTFD is an all-hazards department that also responds to significant motor vehicle accidents, a variety of rescues and fires that present unusual hazards for the community. While responding to emergencies is the priority of the Operations Division, personnel also spend their time completing required training classes, conducting station tours for the public and maintaining the stations, apparatus and equipment. In 2020, this was all completed with the added challenge of keeping the community and crews safe while in the midst of a worldwide pandemic.

Firefighter/paramedics responded to 57 cardiac arrests in 2020. Meridian Township Fire Department firefighter/paramedics recorded 13 “Return of Spontaneous Circulation” (ROSC) 21% of all cardiac arrest compared to the national survival rate for cardiac arrest of 4 to 16%.

Below is a table showing total fire and EMS incidents over a ten-year period from 2011-2020 (Fig. 1). Figures 2 and 3 show the number of fire (Fig. 2) and medical (Fig. 3) calls Meridian Township Fire Department responded to in 2020 categorized by dispatch type. The final chart compares total EMS calls by month in 2019 and 2020 (Fig. 4).

<b>10 Year Incident Count-Fig 1</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Fire Incidents</b>	<b>EMS Incidents</b>	<b>Total Incidents</b>
2011	532	3,711	4,243
2012	600	3,847	4,447
2013	737	3,619	4,356
2014	714	3,683	4,397
2015	623	3,884	4,507

2016	925	4,028	4,953
2017	1,181	3,988	5,169
2018	991	4,226	5,217
2019	1217	4,220	5,437
<b>2020</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>4031</b>	<b>4906</b>

<b>Confirmed Fire Responses Dispatch Type-Fig 2</b>	
MUTFIRE - Mutual Aid Fire	5
HAMIN - Hazmat	2
FBURN - Illegal burns	53
FSTRUC - Residential Structure fire	82
FMAJOR - Commercial Building fire	2
FSTILL - Smoke Investigation	58
FALARMS - Fire Alarms	311
FBRUCH - Brush Fire	13
CAR/ Dumpster fire	124
UTILF - Utility Poll fire / wires down	52
Stuck in elevator	6
PROGRAM - Community education	167
<b>Total Fire Calls 2020</b>	<b>875</b>

<b>Medical Responses Dispatch Type-Fig 3</b>	
MED - Start EMD	1287
MEDIC - Medical response	297
MEDICA - Alpha response	635
MEDICB - Bravo response	198
MEDICC - Charlie response	569
MEDICD - Delta response	504
MEDICE - Echo response	50
MDIC - Medical response	297
PIACCF - Injury Accident	73
CITAST - Fallen and can't get up	318
DROWN - Lake or river	3
PINNIN vehicle accident	8
UNKACCF - Unknown Injury accident	34
MUTAMB - Mutual Aid medical	45
SHOOTF - Med/Fire response	1
<b>Total EMS Calls 2020</b>	<b>4,031</b>

EMS Calls by Month	2019	2020- Fig 4
January	372	385
February	286	351
March	356	329
April	336	234
May	332	270
June	313	281
July	308	312
August	338	326
September	333	336
October	343	343
November	301	348
December	359	331

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **Outdoor Warning Sirens**

Our commitment to protect the residents of Meridian Township from severe weather and other emergencies continued in 2020 with the addition of a new outdoor warning siren installed at Marshall Park on Bliss Street. Our project has installed nine sirens, and six remaining sirens will be installed by the completion date of 2026.

### **Fire Department Safety Equipment**

In 2018, we committed to be fiscally responsible in managing our budget while evaluating the operation of the Fire Department. It was determined that we had an aging equipment inventory, prompting an annual five-year replacement schedule that would eliminate large lump sum purchasing.

As Meridian Township Fire Department's five-year plan is updated annually, it includes replacement schedules supporting NFPA 1971 and MIOSHA Part 74 for Personal Protective Equipment such as structural firefighting clothing, saws, hose, SCBA, tools and more, as well as NFPA 1901 vehicle replacement schedules for ambulances, engines, ladder truck and command vehicles.

In 2020, the Department was able to meet equipment needs by purchasing structural firefighting gear, hose, tools, apparatus (SCBA) cylinders, rope equipment and COVID-19 personal protective equipment.

### **Ladder Truck**

In 2020, our Ladder Truck Committee spent many hours working on specifications for a ladder truck that would fit the needs of Meridian Township. After many delays due to COVID-19, we were able to pick E-ONE to build our new 78' Rear Mount Aerial Ladder. E-ONE will take approximately 14 months to build the ladder with an expected delivery date between December 2021 and February 2022.

### **Department Policies**

In 2018, we committed to look at and annually update all Standard Operational Guides and Standard Operational Procedures that are obsolete or outdated. In 2020, we rewrote seven operational policies and four COVID-19 pandemic response policies.

- Vehicle Use
- Fire Investigation Response
- Emergency Response Guidelines
- Performance Improvement Plan

- Emergency Traffic
- Mayday
- Opticom Traffic Light Preemptive System
- Coronavirus Employee Screening
- Coronavirus Emergency
- Transform Anti-Microbial Disinfectant Use/Application (COVID-19)
- Transform Anti-Microbial Disinfectant Use/Application #2

### **Township of Meridian Support Emergency Operations Plan**

In January 2020, the Meridian Township Board approved the updated Meridian Township Emergency Operations Support Plan as required by the Michigan Emergency Management Act 390 of 1976. This document will be updated annually or as needed and a copy given to the Ingham County Officer of Emergency Management who supports Meridian Township during emergencies.

In our plan, we recognize that a Damage Assessment Team should be developed to support required documentation for cost recovery from Michigan or FEMA if a declaration is indicated. As part of the team, we will train first responders in damage assessment (Windshield Survey) supporting early stages of an emergency to survey critical infrastructure in the Township. The training program, procedures and documents developed in 2020 will be presented to the Township Manager in the first quarter of 2021.

Lastly, the plan recommends that the Township develop and institute a Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP). This plan will outline each Township department's roles and responsibilities during emergencies. COOP document drafts developed in 2020 include:

- Meridian COOP Basic Plan
- Meridian COOP Functional Annex
- Meridian COOP Support Plan

These draft plans will be submitted to the Township Manager for review in the first quarter of 2021.

### **Recruiting**

In 2020, we had four vacancies within the Fire Department and could only fill two. This is due in part to a shortage of paramedics in the state. We looked at different ways to recruit including sponsorship to Fire and EMS training. In 2020, we recruited two part-time employees and sponsored each to a Fire Fighter I & II training academy. After completion, both were hired full time. In December, we sponsored a third part-time employee with a completion date of April 2021. We have also looked at future recruiting including sponsoring an individual through EMT and Paramedic training.

### **A Note from Fire Chief Michael Hamel**

I would like to thank all of our citizens for the amazing support during the COVID-19 pandemic. The donations of masks, food and good cheer were a welcome reminder of the support you all give us at the Meridian Township Fire Department.

The men and women are highly trained and professional individuals that place their lives on the line every day to keep the Township citizens safe from daily emergencies and disasters. I will continue to work closely with our community to identify risk and mitigate potential hazards that influence life and property while tasking our firefighters to rise and meet new challenges.

## MTFD TEAM

### **FIRE CHIEF**

---

Michael Hamel

### **ADMINISTRATION**

---

Bill Priese, Training/EMS Chief

Tavis Millerov, Fire Inspector

Christine Cassidy, Admin Asst. II

### **BATTALION CHIEFS**

---

Mark Vroman

Ken Phinney

### **CAPTAINS**

---

Bill Richardson

Ryan Campbell \*\*

Rudy Gonzales \*\*

### **LIEUTENANTS**

---

Paul Cullimore

Jason Hillard \*\*

Jason Everest

Chris Johnson \*\*

Jeff Rommeck

TJ Booms \*\*

Al Diaz

### **FIREFIGHTERS**

---

Brian Pennell

Corey Pant

Eddie Dennis

Amanda Arnett

Erik Sellen

Chuck Malesko

John McDermott

Nate Lafayette

Bob Caretti

Tony Kozlowski

Sam Weber

Don Carr

RJ Lewis

Tyler McNalley

Dustin Farhat

Angela Kohls \*

Dan Ackles

Steven Garelik \*

\*\*\*Firefighter Vacancy

\*\*\*Firefighter Vacancy

### **Retirements**

---

Matt Walters

Derek Burcham

### **Resignations**

---

Justin Adair

**Promotions**

---

Lt. Ryan Campbell

Lt. Rudy Gonzales

FF. Jason Hillard

FF. Chris Johnson

FF. TJ Booms

Kristen Cole (Moved to IT department for Township)

**PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS**

---

Kristy Virgin

*\*Hired in 2020    \*\* Promoted in 2020    \*\*\* Vacancy*

# HUMAN RESOURCES



The Human Resources Department is responsible for multiple employment related matters including labor relations and contract negotiations, staffing, diversity and inclusion initiatives, payroll, personnel record keeping, benefits administration, pension administration, risk management, legal compliance, personnel policy manual administration and skill-based training programs.

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **Labor Relations**

The Township successfully negotiated 3-year contracts (2020-2022) with four units: Department of Public Works, Administrative Professional Employees, Professional Non-Supervisory Employees and Professional Supervisory Association and 5-year contracts (2020-2024) with three units: Police Command (CCLP), Police Patrol (POAM) and Fire (MTFFA).

### **COVID-19**

Since March of 2020, the Township has diligently worked to provide service to residents and continue operations to the extent permitted in the midst of the global pandemic brought on by the Coronavirus. The Township implemented a *Safe Work from Home Program* for employees whose work could, at least in part, be completed at home during pandemic. Serving in its capacity as COVID-19 Workplace Coordinator, HR remained connected with leadership and employees, including first responders, to ensure all are following protocol, taking necessary steps and precautions to remain safe at work.

### **Personnel Policy Manual**

The Non-Discrimination and Fair Employment Practices Policy which was approved by the Board on January 19, 2021 shall be incorporated into the Township's Personnel Policy Manual. The Township is working with the current software provider to update the online application form as described in the newly adopted policy. The Personnel Policy Manual will be reviewed and updated as necessary, and to align with the Union contracts that were successfully negotiated in 2020.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives**

A Task Force consisting of [3] Board Trustees [3] Township Leaders, including the HR Director, has been designated to promote and support a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce through training, evaluation, and action. Several (virtual) work group meetings and surveys have taken place since last quarter 2020 and will continue through 2021, including regular reporting to the Board to provide

updates on Township action and results.

### **Healthcare Benefits**

The self-insured Blue Care Network (BCN) product continued to save money for the Township even with rising healthcare costs. The Township calculations continued to remain under the PA 152 Hard Cap allowing for no employee premium cost sharing for BCN insurance. Calculations under the hard cap provided an opportunity for a Health Savings Account (HSA) deposit for those employees with BCN coverage. There is a nominal employee premium cost sharing for the alternative option for Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan (BCBSM) insurance. The expected costs for active employees is running 4.9% below a fully insured product and expected costs for the whole group (including retirees) is running 3% below a fully insured product. The HR Team, along with Gallagher Healthcare Benefits Consultants, closely monitored actual expenses versus maximum expected costs throughout the benefit year and will continue to do so in 2021 to ensure maximum cost effectiveness.

### **Loss Prevention**

Monthly Safety Committee meetings and resulting communication continues to promote awareness and yield positive results across Township departments. Detailed incident reports with direct follow-up investigations continue to reduce repeat injuries. For employees with lost work time, mandated specific re-training is conducted upon return to work. All township vehicles are now equipped with COVID-19 prevention-related supplies, as well as first aid safety kits in case of an emergency. We look forward to resuming First Aid/CPR/AED employee training and certification covering every building in the Township through instruction provided by EMS/Training Chief Priese upon approval to resume in-person training per pandemic response guidelines.

### **Workplace Ergonomics**

Employee workstation assessments resulted in recommendations for sit-to-stand workstations and ergonomic chairs. Implementation was completed for employees in 2020 and will continue as needed for new hires into the future.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

Abigail Tithof, Human Resources Director  
Carol Hasse, Human Resources Specialist/Payroll  
Michelle Prinz, Executive Assistant

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



## METHODOLOGY FOR OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVES

1. Highest priority is given to core infrastructure stability and keeping existing services and resources operating at optimum performance and availability.
2. Resolution of emergent end-user issues related to technology is an important function that all Department personnel spend a significant time addressing.
3. Training initiatives are utilized in cases where staff resources are recognized to be deficient in the use of available technology or additional expertise would increase employee productivity.
4. Remaining resources are committed to replacing technology that is still functioning, but aging, and at end of useful life.

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Obviously, in addition to supporting the Board established Goals, the year brought many unexpected challenges in comparison to previous years. This presented many opportunities to re-evaluate work processes and find solutions that met emergent needs. This, in turn helped to streamline operations. From a staffing perspective, the Department also experienced major changes and opportunity for improvement. Foremost, was the departure of the Assistant Director in July. With the assistance of the Township Manager's Office & Human Resources Director, it was decided to split the Assistant Director position back into two lesser positions to help manage the Department workload. To mitigate the loss of technical expertise the Department plans to augment full time staff with additional third party technical services on an as needed basis. The process officially started with the hiring of two network technicians in October. While these less experienced employees have many training needs, the extra hours of activity a week has proven invaluable. As of the end of the year, various outside support services are in the process of being established.

### **Installation of Mobile Workstations for Police Command Staff**

The technology team replaced traditional mini-tower workstations with docking workstations for key police positions. This project included extension of the existing FIPS 140-2 standard encryption required for some of the connections used on these devices.

### Election Laptop Support

In order to assist the Clerk's Office with emergent requests made by the State of Michigan & Ingham County, IT staff updated 26 election laptops to Windows 10. This is a stopgap measure until there is a formal plan for replacement of all of these devices.

### Deploy Hardware to Support Tele-Medicine

In response to COVID-19, the IT Department worked with the Fire Department to purchase rugged smartphones to allow doctors to confer with patients prior to transport. This allowed the emergency response system to minimize the number of people being concentrated in local hospital emergency rooms & receiving centers.

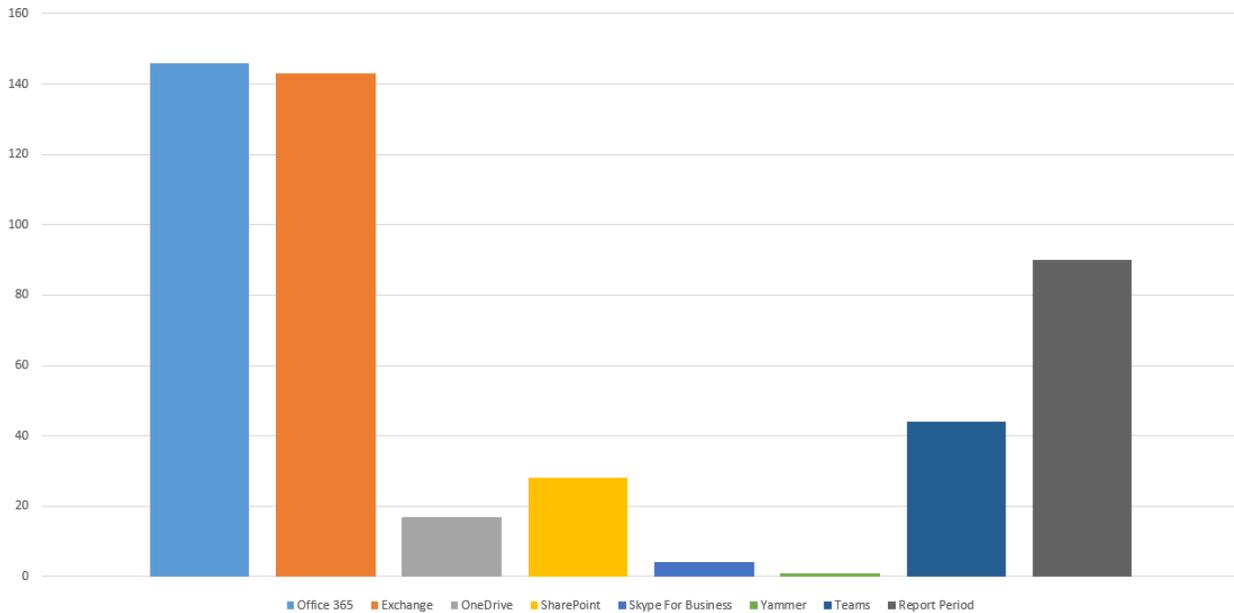
### Consolidation and Replacement of Cellular Equipment

IT staff worked with end-user departments to replace all legacy Verizon 3g devices with newer hardware that supports the 5g systems that rolled out throughout the last half of 2020. This process culminated with a consolidation and elimination of many lines of service at the end of the year.

### Expand Software Assets to Support Virtual Operations

In response to changes in the Township work environment, IT staff worked with end user Departments to roll out many new applications to support new virtual operations. Zoom was a particularly important tool used to conduct hundreds of public meetings throughout the year. Office 365 licenses were modified to include remote applications such as Teams, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Sharepoint and others. The changes made these applications available for all full-time Township employees with emails both inside and outside the office. Many other existing software licenses were expanded to accommodate a separated work force where not everyone reports to the office every day.

Office 365 Usage 4q 2020



IT staff will focus on training to increase use of Teams, OneDrive, & SharePoint throughout 2021.

### Enhanced Remote Services to Support an 'Office in a box' for Outdoor Service Points

IT staff built Virtual Private Network Kits that allow workers to go virtually anywhere with Verizon service. With a single power plug, employees are able to work on the Township network & telephone system as if they were in the building. The team installed these in the outdoor service sheds that were set up to help minimize the number of customers who needed to set foot inside the building. After the outdoor service centers closed for the winter, staff reallocated these set-ups for end user's work-from-home solutions.

### Established Heat-Shelter Work Locations

During the seven month HVAC renovation at the Township Hall, IT staff set up temporary computers &

phones at other Township facilities to allow workers to escape the high temperatures of the unconditioned building.

**Established Procedures to Protect Technology Assets**

During the Township Hall HVAC renovations, special equipment & schedules were implemented to protect critical IT infrastructure. Between the months of May & September, special checks of sensitive areas were made every 12-18 hours, seven days a week.

**Remote Work Access for Employees and Partners**

As a first phase of our work-from-home program, IT staff established remote work accounts for over 70 employees & partners to make sure that they can obtain access to access to required resources from any connected web browser. This allowed for a significant reduction in the number of employees in various work areas.

**Purchase of Mobile Devices for Desktop Replacement and Work from Home Devices**

In response to COVID-19 new IT staff members purchased over 50 new laptops which are being deployed in various capacities to make it easier for in-field & remote work without relying on end-users personal hardware.

**Negotiate Contract for Helpdesk and Network Engineering Service**

As part of the restructuring of the Department, IT has established a contract with Logicalis for helpdesk services. A multi-national company with a long established local presence, Logicalis will be working with IT staff to roll out the service in the first half of 2021.

**Routine Items**

The Department serviced over 490 requests for service throughout the year, and managed a network with over 1,000 nodes, including security and backup services.

**TEAM MEMBERS**

- Stephen Gebes, Director of Information Technology
- Troy Kaminga, Assistant Director of Information Technology (Through July10, 2020)
- Kristen Cole, Network Technician (Started October 8, 2020)
- Kamic Jok, Network Technician (Started October 8, 2020)

# PARKS AND RECREATION



## **2020: A Year of Renewed Appreciation of our Parks and Open Spaces**

The Covid-19 pandemic brought us stay-at-home orders and social distancing. Simple things like a walk in the park has proven to be more important than ever. Many of our residents gained a renewed appreciation and recognition of parks as critical suburban infrastructure. Parks and recreation staff saw record numbers of park visitors and volunteers. Staff swiftly adapted and mobilized to keep our green spaces open and to safely support physical, emotional, and mental health. As a group, we strive to cultivate a sense of place, meaning, and ownership for Meridian Township residents.

The year 2020 was our busiest park construction year to date with total construction costs of over \$3 million dollars. The park improvements made in 2020 mean that 2021 will be filled with many more exciting opportunities for our residents to get outside!

## **2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN**

### **Marketplace on the Green**

The ribbon was officially cut for this facility in October consisting of a large pavilion; restroom; office space; music stage; playground; outdoor musical instruments; patio area with seating; rain gardens; and open green space. The market also features electricity for each vendor and an area with a bike fix-it station, memorial plaque, and seating that was funded by donations received in memory of former Trustee John Veenstra. Marketplace on the Green received an MParks Design Award that will be awarded virtually in February, 2021.

### **Central Park Grant Projects: Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector and Gateway Walkway and Restroom in Historical Village**

This is an example of leveraging local Park Millage funds as grants were received from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund for these two projects. Construction began on both projects during the spring of 2020. The Gateway Walkway and Restroom in the Historical Village was completed in the fall of 2020 and the Central Meridian Regional Trail is expected to be completed in spring 2021. Some highlights of these projects include a fishing dock, boardwalk, interpretive signage, a bike fix it station, and electricity for motorized wheelchairs.

### **New Large Dog Park**

Large dogs finally got their very own dog park in 2020. A total of 231 dogs are currently registered to utilize the large dog park. The park is located in Central Park South, directly across from the Marketplace on the Green. It features a natural walking path, control gate, dog fountain, open grassy area, and shaded areas with lots of opportunities for good sniffs! The entryway has a beautiful dog mural that was painted during Celebrate Meridian in 2018. The Park Maintenance Staff installed a majority of the items for this project. A HOWL-O-WEEN party was held in October and fun was had by all 30 dogs who attended.

### **Harris Nature Center Pavilion and Restroom Project**

The Harris Nature Center has always been a popular destination in our community for environmental education and accessible walks in the woods. Thanks to state and federal grants, a new waterless restroom building and picnic pavilion will enhance the usage of this township gem. The construction began in spring of 2020 and is complete with the exception of landscaping that will be done in the spring. A special feature of the pavilion is the adjacent patio that features engraved donor pavers (still available!) and a grill. This pavilion is a much-needed amenity as our pavilion rentals throughout the park system are very popular.

### **Harris Nature Center Bird Overlook**

The Harris Nature Center has been able to complete many projects due to the support from the Harris Nature Center Foundation Board. The Board's funding, along with a grant from the Capitol Region Community Foundation allowed for the construction of a 20' x 20' accessible bird overlook at the Center. All-weather binoculars and a Michigan Birds interpretive sign serves to enhance the experience.

### **MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Hub Acquisition Grant**

Meridian Township received notification in December of its successful grant proposal from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for acquisition of a parcel to enhance the entrance to Nancy Moore Park and also to create a hub for the upcoming MSU to Lake Lansing Trail. This property will provide a vital link and opportunity to build a rest stop for trail enthusiasts and community members to explore and utilize the regional trail system. Funds for this acquisition will not be released until mid-2021.

### **New Trailhead and Directional Signage in Parks**

This wayfinding project, which began in 2018, added new trailhead and directional signage in multiple parks. The goal is to make the parks more welcoming, informative and easier to navigate. An additional 15 parks received new signs in 2020 and we have three more to go in 2021. All 20 miles of park trails were GPS marked and uploaded to a Google-based smartphone app called "All Trails". In addition, Ingham County funded and installed numerous trail signs throughout the Township in locations along the cross-country trail and various parks including Hartrick Park, Central Park, and Nancy Moore Park. The signs were installed by our Parks Maintenance Staff.

### **Parking Lot Improvements**

Our Parks Maintenance department installed an overflow parking lot in Towner Road Park utilizing asphalt millings from the current road projects in the Township. This area was on the original development plan, but was put on hold because of costs. In addition, we also paved the entry drive and parking lot to Legg Park with recycled asphalt millings, as well. This work will allow the park to remain open all year as former muddy conditions would force temporary park closures throughout the year. This type of application creates a firm, stable and pervious surface.

### **Pathway Maintenance**

In 2020, the Parks Department made a very strong effort in trimming and mowing the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathways. Staff trimmed and mowed 80 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathways (prior to 2020, this work was contracted out). We received numerous phone calls during 2020 from residents telling us "the pathways and park trails have never looked this good!"

### **Harris Nature Center (HNC) Facility/Programming Report**

The Harris Nature Center building received a beautiful facelift in 2020. Improvements included: a

renovated new classroom space with six bench risers (funded by the HNC Foundation); new paint throughout the entire interior of the building, a refurbished archway with lights at the entrance, and a new split-rail fence around the frog pond all completed by our Park Maintenance Staff. Despite the pandemic, HNC staff made great efforts to offer programs to engage the public with the natural world while still keeping people safe. Quick Facts: • Hosted two weeks of Annie's Big Nature Lesson with 100 students participating in a weeklong outdoor classroom • Hosted 1,979 drop-in visitors • Hosted 1,467 program participants (both in person and virtual) • Implemented new virtual programming for schools, senior centers, and families • Created and offered private guided programs (these were extremely popular).

### **Farmers' Market Report**

In 2020, the Market moved from the Central Park Pavilion to the Meridian Mall parking lot in an effort to space out the vendors to accommodate Covid-19 safety protocols. The Market officially moved into the new Marketplace on the Green in October. Quick Facts: • Market days in Operation: 51 (33 Saturdays & 18 Wednesdays) • Days missed due to Covid: 5 (3 winter and 2 spring) • 101 unique vendors • 61 new vendors • Total Customers: 62,756 people • Food assistance utilized at the Market: Total= \$23,809

### **Senior Center**

Operation of the Meridian Senior Center is a joint collaboration between the Okemos School District and Meridian Township. The Meridian Senior Center was created to provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for persons age 55 and over to gather and engage in programs and services to meet the ever-changing lifestyle needs for older persons throughout the community. With a current membership of 362 members (down from 2020 due to Covid-19), the Senior Center is an important facility for enrichment, socialization, meals, information and resources, and fitness for our older adults. While quarantining helped to mitigate seniors' risk of contracting Covid-19, it also put many of the community's older adults at risk of isolation and depression. The Senior Center adapted to Covid-19 guidelines and taught the seniors new skills like using Zoom and how to use and find information on the Senior Center Facebook and web page. In addition, the Center Staff made regular phone calls to check in on all of the seniors. The Center held many events on Zoom including bingo, lunch dates, and educational sessions. Since March of 2020, the online class offerings grew from just 1-2 per week to 1-2 per day. During the summer and fall, the Center offered some in person outdoor events in the wonderful new senior courtyard (installed in 2019) such as birthday celebrations, Trunk or Treat, Jingle Bell drive through, and exercise classes. We strongly believe these actions and activities have helped many of our members. We receive positive feedback weekly on the programs we are offering, the sense of normalcy and purpose we bring to many of our members day, and how helpful we have been to them during this time. Quick Facts: • 27 new members this year • 362 total members • 206 active members • 383 non-members or guests • 11 volunteers who gave 69 hours of service • total events- 1296 events.

### **Senior Stretch Program**

One of our most popular recreation programs for older adults is our Senior Stretch. (This program is separate and independent from exercise classes offered through the Senior Center). A group of approximately 50 seniors gathered three times per week at Meridian Mall for exercise and socialization until Covid-19 caused a shutdown. Following a brief pause, we moved their operation outdoors to Nancy Moore Park and then to the former Farmers' Market pavilion where they continued to meet through mid-December.

### **Deer Management – 10<sup>th</sup> Year**

The Parks Department placed and managed 75 hunters on 1,600 acres of parks and land preserves (41 properties) during the 2020 deer management archery program, as well as, on seven private properties in the Township. A much stronger effort was put forth to increase the cull from 87 in 2019- to 300 in 2020. This goal was achieved in combination of our volunteer archers during the regular hunting season, as well as, through a supplemental cull from January to mid-March 2021 utilizing the Police Department. Quick Facts: • Total deer harvested during archery program= 176•Total venison donated to local foodbanks= 2,400 pounds (9,600 meals provided) • Dollar amount of venison donated= \$26,376• Total roadkill deer removed: 75 (these deer are not donated). This program was the most successful in its ten-year history

based on the efforts of Jane Greenway, Emma Campbell, Mike Ellis, Chief Plaga, Sgt. Andrew McCready, and the Meridian Police Department.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

In 2020, we welcomed Emma Campbell as the new Stewardship Coordinator and she has proven to be a very valuable asset to the Parks team. Emma developed and launched the first ever Meridian Conservation Corp (MCC), a community volunteer group devoted to increasing community involvement in the parks and preserve areas. The program is designed to grow awareness of volunteer opportunities involving the care and conservation of Meridian Township’s expansive local green spaces. Through the program, the Department can utilize the community’s knowledge and expertise in one concentrated group. Volunteers have the opportunity to choose which path of conservation they would like to follow and in what park or preserve area. Focus groups include: Forest Watch Team, Clean Up Crew, Trailblazers, and the Invasive Species Strike Team. In partnership with the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative, stewardship workdays are held every other Saturday at various parks and preserves around the Township. Quick Facts: ● Volunteers collectively completed 499 hours of habitat restoration ● 65 volunteers worked in seven parks and preserves ● Aided Meridian Tree Team plant 40 native trees at Chippewa Middle School ● Removed 246 pounds of invasive dame’s rocket and garlic mustard from 2 parks ● Held 15 stewardship workdays at 10 different parks and preserves ● Removed 10 different species of invasive plants● Cultivated 22 native plant species in 2 preserves ● Removed 263 pounds of litter from 12 parks● Managed one unpaid summer intern who spent 60 hours mapping invasive species in the parks and preserves. Voters also approved a renewal of the Land Preservation Millage at the rate of 1/10<sup>th</sup> for ten years.

### **Youth Sports and Events**

- K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball – 285 students
- Sporties for Shorties – 20
- Howl-o-ween Event at Dog Park – 30 dogs and Owners
- Drive Thru Santa 37 vehicles and 76+ participants

### **PARK COMMISSION**

The Meridian Township Park Commissioners are elected to 4-year terms and have the responsibility of setting policy and direction for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks.

### **PARK COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Amanda Lick, Chair  
Ami Van Antwerp, Vice Chair  
Mark McDonald  
Mark Stephens  
Mary Nardo Farris

### **LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

#### **Description of the Land Preservation Program**

The Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) members are appointed to 4-year terms with a two term limit. The LPAB has the responsibility of advising staff in implementing the land preservation program. The program was developed to preserve lands and waters that provide valuable habitat for native plants and animals, protect air and water quality, add aesthetic value, and enhance public enjoyment of the outdoors. 956 acres of the Township’s most beautiful, scenic and natural lands have been acquired through twenty three (23) total properties comprised of forty three (43) acquisitions located throughout the Township.

## LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

James Kielbaso, Chair and Environmental  
Commission Liaison  
Jamie Hiller, Vice-Chair  
Yu Man Lee

Chanelle Russ  
Kris Parnell  
Dan Opsommer, Township Board Liaison  
Mark Stephens, Park Commissioner Liaison

## TEAM MEMBERS

### **Administration**

LuAnn Maisner	Director of Parks and Recreation
Robin Faust	Administrative Assistant II
Michael Devlin	Parks and Recreation Specialist
Jane Greenway	Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator
Emma Campbell	Land Stewardship Coordinator
Kati Adams	Parks, Pathways and Land Preservation Superintendent
Tom Cary	Farmers' Market Manager

### **Harris Nature Center**

Kati Adams	Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent
Allison Goodman	Park Naturalist

### **Parks, Land Preservation and Pathways**

Kati Adams	Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent
Larry Bobb	Parks, Land Preservation & Pathways Maintenance Lead
Don Cuson	Utility Worker
Josh Cannon	Utility Worker
Dan Inman	Utility Worker
Tom Baker	Utility Worker
Mike Love	Utility Worker

### **Meridian Senior Center**

Cherie Wisdom	Center Coordinator
Courtney Caltrider	Administrative Assistant

# POLICE



The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation and equality; we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.

## CORE VALUES

### **COMPASSION**

We care for and empathize with our fellow human beings.

### **COURAGE**

We face danger to ensure the safety of others. We will stand up for what is right. We will be brave when others may not. We strive to eliminate fear through our actions.

### **EXCELLENCE**

We employ those who strive to achieve a higher standard. We listen to our employees and the members of our community to continually improve our effectiveness and reliability. We strive to exceed community and professional expectations.

### **FAIRNESS**

We will treat all individuals impartially. We will act in a just manner. We appreciate different points of view. We exercise discretion appropriately.

### **INTEGRITY**

We will fulfill our mission in its entirety using sound principles, honesty and sincerity.

### **RESOURCEFULNESS**

We can be relied upon for help and support. We have the ability to deal with situations effectively. We build on our mutual experiences to effectively resolve problems.

## RESPECT

We value the rights and beliefs of others. We are courteous. We treat others as we expect to be treated. We appreciate diversity.

## WORK ETHIC

We are self-motivated and self-directed. We do what is asked and strive to achieve expectations. We hold ourselves to a higher standard.

In 2020, there were 16,228 calls for service (excluding traffic stops 3,465).

2020 Written Reports	
Alarms	575
Traffic Crashes	588
All Other	3,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,963</b>

### Yearly Comparisons

#### Written Reports

2017	2018	2019	2020
6,282	6,801	6,421	<b>4,963</b>

#### Calls for Service

2017	2018	2019	2020
17,545	18,588	18,552	<b>16,228</b>

#### Arrests

2017	2018	2019	2020
559	577	563	<b>402</b>

#### Citations

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Citations Issued	1,752	1,922	2,096	<b>1,517</b>
<b>Total # of Charges</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>1,888</b>

### Traffic Safety

Meridian Township views traffic safety as an important key to keeping the community safe. The Department works with the Ingham County Road Commission and the State Highway Department to address road design related concerns. Officers take enforcement in areas identified as directed patrols based on complaints from citizens. Additionally, the speed trailer and speed sign are utilized to educate motorists, complete traffic studies regarding speed-related safety concerns and traffic counts and can be deployed to locations with citizen's request. This year we completed 10 traffic studies and 42 directed patrols.

Two of our officers provide car seat inspections to the public. A total of 17 inspections were completed in 2020. Officers completed car seat inspection recertification in 2020.

The Department also participates in the Capital Area Traffic Safety Network. This is a regional group made up of law enforcement, driving instructors and insurance providers that focusses on traffic safety and best practices for the region.

**Traffic Crash Investigation Team**

Traffic crashes involving fatal or potentially fatal injuries require investigators with specialized training and equipment. Area law enforcement agencies have committed personnel to a regional crash investigation team. On-duty team members are called to assist participating agencies with potentially fatal crash investigations. This effort has increased the experience of the investigators while reducing overtime costs for the Departments.

<b>Meridian Township Deer Involved Collision Data</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Injury Involved</b>	<b>No Injury Involved</b>	<b>Total</b>
2017	4	122	126
2018	2	125	127
2019	3	150	153
<b>2020</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>162</b>

**Volunteers**

2020 was a challenging year for our volunteers. With social gatherings being canceled, we were unable to have our annual Halloween open house. In 2020, we also had our volunteer parking team retire and we will attempt to fill those positions in 2021.

**Community Police Officers**

Community Policing is the cornerstone of all our actions and interactions. From the first day of employment until the day they retire, officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods to participate in community activities, communicate directly with citizens, and form relationships, so that our community trusts and understands our Department.

Our largest community event is National Night Out which is an annual event to promote community partnerships with law enforcement and take a stand against crime. Officers visit nearly 30 neighborhoods that have gatherings to promote safety throughout the community. The 2020 event was canceled and we look forward to the having the event in 2021.

**Adult Crossing Guards**

The Department hires, trains, and manages the six adult school crossing guards for the six schools in the township. The guards are supervised by the School Resource Officers.

**Canine Team**

With the retirement of K9 Yukon in 2019, the Department purchased another K9 in 2020. Officer Blaine Anderson is the Department’s current K9 Handler and is assigned K9 Ares. K9 Ares was imported from Poland and purchased through Mid-Michigan Police K9. K9 Ares is a 2 year old German Shepherd. Officer Anderson and K9 Ares completed their initial training at the end of May 2020. This team is trained in article searches, building searches, narcotics detection, and tracking. In addition to providing police K9 service to Meridian Township, when on-duty, this team does provide mutual aid to surrounding police agencies when they either do not have a K9 team on duty or within their Department. This provides an opportunity to receive similar K9 mutual aid, if



needed, when Officer Anderson is off-duty.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, training throughout the department was greatly reduced, including most formal, regularly scheduled K9 training days. In addition to maintenance training during available on-duty time, the K9 Team completed 72 hours of continued training beyond the K9 handler school.

2020 Canine Team Activity Numbers	
Calls Handled By Meridian's Canine Team	14
Calls Handled By Other Departments	13
Call Outs To Other Departments	14
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	<b>41</b>
Activity Type	
Ingham Regional SRT	0
Article Search	3
Area Search	1
Building Search	0
Narcotics Search	20
School Sweeps (OHS/HHS/ELHS)	0 (Schools closed due to COVID-19 pandemic)
Tracking	14
Demonstrations	0
Other Use	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

\*A canine call may include more than one activity type.

### Special Response Team

The Ingham Regional Special Response Team (IRSRT) is comprised of personnel from the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, East Lansing Police Department, MSU Police Department, and Meridian Township Police Department. The team is called upon by agencies when a tactical team is needed to respond. Meridian Township commits three officers and one sergeant to the team. Meridian Township Officers received 528 hours of regular monthly training and 180 hours of annual training. This totals 708 hours of yearly training. IRSRT had eight activations in 2020.

### School and Community Resource Unit

The School and Community Resource Unit is comprised of two officers who work with the Haslett and Okemos Public Schools. The officers provide a number of services to the schools in an effort to provide a safe environment for children to learn. The officers also assist with a number of community events.

The officers participated in "No Senior without Christmas" event. This is a Tri-County TRIAD program. There were 400 holiday baskets distributed to the tri-county elderly residents. Meridian Township delivered 28 of those.

Meridian Township held their own virtual "Shop with a Cop" event in 2020. The officers worked with school counselors and 11 area students participated. The officers worked in conjunction with Walmart, and the Haslett Okemos Rotary Foundation, as well as the FOP and POAM unions.

Number of Classes Held in 2020	
D.A.R.E	80
T.E.A.M.	8
Other Presentations	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>

### Investigations Unit

Personnel are selected to serve in the Investigations Unit for a three-year assignment. Extensions may be granted based on rotation to keep experienced officers as part of the team. The Investigations Unit includes a sergeant, four officers investigating cases and a Court Services Officer (CSO). The CSO is assigned to be the liaison with prosecutors, township attorney and courts. The CSO is also responsible for sex offender registration and verification. The officers are assigned to investigate criminal complaints including but not limited to homicides, sexual assaults, robberies, child abuse, elderly abuse, home invasions, embezzlements, larcenies and death investigations. Cases are closed when a suspect is identified and the prosecutor authorizes charges, or all investigative efforts have been exhausted. Crimes against persons are given greater priority than crimes involving theft.

The table below shows the Investigations Unit assigned a total of 351 complaints in 2020.

Complaints Assigned Per Year	
2017	398
2018	467
2019	504
<b>2020</b>	<b>351</b>

### Court Services

The Court Services Officer (CSO) processes criminal complaints and submits them to the Ingham County Prosecutors Office and the Township Attorney to request arrest warrants and juvenile petitions. The CSO swears to warrants, arraigns prisoners, attends juvenile hearings, serves subpoenas, delivers citations to the court and collects bond money posted and delivers it to the court. Registered Sex Offenders report to the CSO as required by law. The CSO schedules Sex Offender Address Verifications on a regular basis. The CSO investigates Sex Offender Registry Act violations and submits those complaints to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office for arrest warrants.

COURT SERVICES	2017	2018	2019	2020
Subpoenas Served	842	832	692	<b>729</b>
Personal Protection Orders	67	38	41	<b>43</b>
Warrant Requests	522	605	614	<b>581</b>
Warrants Signed by CSO	431	429	378	<b>362</b>
Twp. Attorney Requests	177	188	144	<b>113</b>
Total Petition Requests	152	134	102	<b>39</b>
Retail Fraud Requests	319	332	234	<b>190</b>
OWI Requests	80	66	62	<b>61</b>
Assault Requests	62	48	42	<b>47</b>
Assault Requests-Domestic	144	175	180	<b>151</b>
Larceny/Fraud Requests	76	95	82	<b>70</b>
Narcotics Requests	75	75	20	<b>10</b>

### Records Unit

The Records Unit staff consists of three full-time employees. They provide support to the Uniform Division as well as the Investigations Unit by preparing criminal reports for prosecution and reporting crimes to the state. Stats are compiled from many different databases and provided to Department staff, the Township Manager and Township Board members. Customer service is a large part of the records staff duties as well. Report copies, Freedom of Information Requests, background checks and licenses to purchase pistols can be obtained in the Records Unit.

<b>Annual Crime Reporting Summary</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% Change 2019-2020</b>
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	1	1	0%
Rape and Attempted Rape	32	58	70	51	-27%
Robbery	18	15	12	12	0%
Aggravated Assault	35	41	37	39	5%
<b>Total Part 1 Violent Crime</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Burglary	112	115	96	88	-8%
Larceny	801	864	935	749	-4%
Vehicle Theft	18	21	52	44	-14%
Arson	4	3	4	0	-100%
<b>Total Part 1 Property Crime</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Offenses</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>-6%</b>
OWI Arrests (Liquor or Drugs)	58	72	63	53	-9%
Traffic Accident – Roadway	1046	916	847	588	-34%

### **Training**

Under the direction of the Chief of Police, the Training Sergeant oversees all training for the Department. The Department provided employees with 3,455 hours of training in 2020. It included some of the following:

- In-Service: 1,178.5 hours (this includes de-escalation training, mental health/PRT training)
- External: 1538 hours
- Firearms: 361 hours

The in-service training program consists of monthly training for all sworn employees, periodic roll call videos, policy tests, quarterly firearms sessions, and computer based instruction. The external training program utilizes universities and private experts to handle specialized training outside the scope of the Department trainers. The Department strives to remain at the forefront of progressive policing by acknowledging the importance of both continuing education to retain current skills and the acquisition of new knowledge for officers to expand their skill base.

### **Accreditation**

The Meridian Township Police Department became the first agency in Mid-Michigan to become a fully accredited police department in December 2019. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of assisting law enforcement to improve performance and service to the community. It is the voluntary adoption of the best practices in law enforcement and requires a constant evaluation of the professional objectives set forth by the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. It is an on-going process that ensures our Department is consistently achieving professional excellence. Accreditation status acknowledges the implementation of conceptually sound written directives, policies, procedures, and training.

### **Mid-Michigan Police Academy**

The Services Division Commander is assigned as a coordinator for the Lansing Community College's Mid-Michigan Police Academy. During the seventeen-week academy, the coordinator works closely with the recruits in training and career development. The coordinator also has the unique position of monitoring the recruit's individual progress and identifying potential future Department employees. The Department sponsored one recruit, Sierra Alvarado, through the Mid-Michigan Police Academy. The Department hired an additional officer, Megan Heinemann, from the Mid-Michigan Police Academy. Officer Alvarado and Officer Heinemann completed their police academy training in December 2020

and have been assigned to the road patrol.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Citizens' Academy**

The Department typically hosts a ten-week Citizens' Academy that meets once a week for three hours in the fall. This academy exposes the attendees to police operations and procedures. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Department did not hold an academy.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Youth Citizens' Academy**

The Department hosts a seven-week Youth Academy that meets once a week for two hours in the spring. The students learn about police work while being able to experience hands-on activities. The Department began a Youth Academy in 2020, but had to cancel it in March due to the COVID19 pandemic.

### **Property Room Report**

The Quartermaster maintains the property room. Activity involving the property room in 2020 included:

- 2,120 items entered as evidence.
- 607.75 pounds of narcotics incinerated from the Prescription Drug Drop Off Box.
- 34 firearms sent to the Michigan State Police for destruction.

The Department processed 202 abandoned vehicles in 2020.

### **Citizen Satisfaction Survey**

A total of 1,000 citizen satisfaction surveys were mailed to victims and complainants involved in traffic accidents and other calls for service in Meridian and Williamstown Township. Surveys are used as a tool to monitor customer satisfaction with the Department's services. In 2020, a total of 211 surveys were returned. The 21% response rate was increased as compared to 2019.

#### **Citizen Satisfaction Survey for Sworn Personnel**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Rating of Excellent/Good</b>
Helpfulness	99%
Friendliness	97%
Knowledge	99%
Quality of Service	97%
Professional Conduct	97%
Response Time	96%

#### **Rating of Emergency and Non-Emergency Dispatch Service (Ingham 911 Dispatch)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Rating of Excellent/Good</b>
Helpfulness	75%
Friendliness	68%
Knowledge	71%
Quality of Service	72%
Professional Conduct	73%

*\*Not all questions generated a response.*

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

In conjunction with the Township Manager, the Department establishes goals to help in the delivery of law enforcement services. Many of our goal accomplishments and other activities are listed as follows.

### **Receive and maintain accreditation through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission.**

On February 6th the Police Department received accreditation from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. The Department has received new standards issued by the Commission and is working toward compliance with the new standards. The ongoing maintenance of accreditation is a priority and ensures compliance with all previously met standards set by the Commission.

### **Select and train a new canine handler and obtain a new canine for the Department.**

On February 14th, the Department selected Officer Blaine Anderson as the next canine handler. Blaine and canine Ares have been on patrol and responded to several calls for canine assistance and have successfully recovered narcotics from a vehicle search. The K9 Team completed 72 hours of continued training beyond the K9 handler school in 2020.

### **Work diligently toward full staffing (41).**

On December 14th, two new officers were sworn into service with Meridian Township. The Township has also offered a sponsorship to Maggie and Megan Cole to the Mid-Michigan Police Academy at LCC. They will begin training in January of 2021.

This past year we have had four officers resign from the Department and leave the law enforcement profession. The Department currently is staffed with 36 sworn officers.

### **Continue collective efforts to foster an environment that is welcoming, diverse and inclusive.**

Governor Whitmer has called for diversity and implicit bias training, comprehensive reporting on the use of force, duty to intervene policy, and training for de-escalation. Our Department had completed those trainings before being called on by Governor Whitmer, and we continue to train in those areas. The Department continues to participate in the Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT) meetings. We are also seeking to recruit diverse applicants to the Department. Recruiting officers have visited police academies around the state seeking diverse applicants.

The Department is participating in the Township Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work group to assist in promoting a more welcoming and inclusive Township. On September 24th, the Township held a Community Forum on Policing to seek township resident input on how we can better serve the community.

### **Update the existing Axon in-car and body worn camera system.**

The body worn camera and in-car camera systems have been upgraded by the vendor to ensure reliable recordings of citizen contacts by officers. New body worn cameras have been issued to all officers.

### **Update the Nelson Room with new tables, chairs and audiovisual equipment to foster training and enhance meeting capabilities.**

The Nelson room upgrades have been completed. The room has been used for several meetings including interviews for a new Human Resources Director and the Department hosted a legal update class for multiple law enforcement agencies. Hosting training reduces costs for the Department and allows more officers to attend training. The Nelson Room also serves the Clerk's office and provides a location for the Absent Voter Counting Board (AVCB) during elections.

### **Better prepare staff for succession due to retirements or promotions through training and mentoring.**

Sgt. Chris Lofton is currently enrolled in the Michigan State University School of Staff and Command and will graduate January 2021.

**Assist the Parks Department with the deer management efforts.**

The Department has taken an active role in assisting with deer management within the Township. We are currently purchasing equipment to allow officers to harvest deer within the township. This program is designed to remove deer from problem areas where vehicle accidents are frequent and foliage damage is occurring. The Department is developing best practices through collaboration with the experienced US Department of Agriculture sharpshooters.

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE SERVICES**

The Meridian Township Police Department provides law enforcement services to Williamstown Township. The 2019-2021 contract arranges for Williamstown Township to compensate Meridian Township \$229,721.00 for calendar year 2020 and \$58.41 per hour outside of the 80 hours of weekly patrol for emergency and non-emergency responses.

<b>Williamstown Township Statistics</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Written Reports	381	384	323	285
Calls for Service	1616	1769	1451	1304
Calls for Service (excluding traffic stops)	1226	1239	1038	1043
Arrests	12	20	17	8
Citations Issued	73	101	170	115
Total Number of Charges	89	120	204	132

<b>Written Reports</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Alarms	66	61	52	31
Traffic Crashes	115	116	107	102
All Other	200	207	164	152
<b>Total</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>285</b>

## MTPD TEAM MEMBERS

### **CHIEF**

Ken Plaga

### **ASSISTANT CHIEF**

Brad Bach

### **LIEUTENANT**

Richard Grillo

### **SERGEANTS**

Edward Besonen  
Bart Crane  
Andrew McCready  
Andrew Tobias

Chris Lofton  
Jason Clements  
Brian Canen

### **OFFICERS BY SENIORITY**

Paul Rambo\*\*  
Dave Metts\*\*  
Christina Scaccia  
Jeff Adams  
Curt Squires  
Erin Linn\*\*\*  
Kyle Royston  
Rebecca Payne  
Kevin Harvey  
Mark Divney\*\*\*  
Michael Hagbom  
Bryan LeRoy  
Doug Strouse  
Aaron McConaughy  
Dan King  
Adam Slavick  
Stephanie Lewis\*\*\*

Ian Mandernack  
Kolby Casaday  
Lerico White  
Megan Klein  
Austin Dietz  
Blaine Anderson  
Lorenzo Velasquez  
Antonio Trevino  
Kyle Cornell\*\*\*  
Jaelyn Allen  
Davie Reinke  
Wes Talbot  
Jordan Kuhn\*  
Sierra Alvarado\*  
Megan Heinemann\*  
Travis Quimby\* \*\*\*

### **CIVILIAN PERSONNEL**

Kristi Schaeding, Administrative Assistant  
Lynne Bach, Records Supervisor  
Lori Hagan, Records Technician

Marcie Barnum, Records Technician\*\*\*  
Jennifer Ramsey, Records Technician\*\*\*  
Heidi LaFargue, Records Technician\*

### **CADETS**

Cody Lefler\*\*\*  
Danielle Huetner\*\*\*  
Maryam Masood  
Baylie Kaiser  
Elicia Giachino\*  
Ryan Tunkl\*\*\*  
Megan Heinemann\*  
Maxwell Bland  
Natalie Tyndall\*

Alexander Black\*  
Maggie Cole\*  
Megan Cole\*  
Lucas Parker\*  
Sierra Alvarado\*  
Jonathan Kendrick\*\*\*

\*Hired in 2020

\*\*Retired in 2020

\*\*\*Resigned in 2020

# PUBLIC WORKS



**Raise The Flags**  
Before You Dig  
1-800-482-7171

Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances: Chapter 2, Article 1

A Department of Public Works shall be created and the department shall be headed by the Director of Public Works and Engineering. The department shall be responsible for all matters relating to the management, maintenance, and operation of all the physical properties of the Township. This department shall have exclusive control of the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Township sewers and water mains, the operation of Township dumps and landfills, the operation and maintenance of the cemetery, and the maintenance of all Township facilities.

## 2020 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

**Complete the Haslett Road water main replacement project, the Target plaza fire hydrant line replacement project, and the Dobie Road Booster improvements and begin our meter replacement project analysis in conjunction with the City of East Lansing.**

The Haslett Road water main replacement project is complete. This project replaced a water main that was subject to frequent breaks over the past several years. The section was located on the south side of the road near the YMCA facility.

The water main replacement project at the Target shopping center was completed earlier this spring. This line serviced several fire hydrants in the parking lot that were prone to breaks over the past few

years.

The Dobie Road Booster improvements are currently in design and require coordination with our ELMWSA and Lansing BWL partners. We anticipate construction and implementation of this project to occur in 2021.

We anticipate starting the meter replacement analysis in early 2021 in partnership with the City of East Lansing.

**Complete the Lake Lansing area sewer rehabilitation project, the Towar Garden meter replacement project and the installation of the Shoal Lift Station Standby generator.**

The Sewer rehabilitation project for the Lake Lansing area sewer rehabilitation project was delayed until 2021.

The City of East Lansing is currently reviewing our design for the Towar Garden meter replacement project. That project is expected to occur in early 2021.

The Shoal Lift Station standby generator project was postponed this year. The project will occur in conjunction with the 2021-planned Whitehills Lake generator project.

**Continue to actively participate and represent the Township with the ongoing and proposed improvements at the East Lansing Water Reclamation and Reuse Facility (WRRF).**

Since 2014, we have continued to collaborate with the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University on improvements to the WRRF. The first two phases, UV disinfection and overhaul of the headworks system at a cost of \$45 million have resulted in significant operational, safety and environmental improvements.

The third phase, which is currently under construction, involves the solid handling portion of the plant at a cost of \$32 million. This phase includes a solid waste digester and a gas recovery system that reduces energy costs of the plant by powering some of the systems.

Phase 4 of the WRRF improvements are currently in their design phase, and will include replacing the aeration system. Construction of the \$35 million phase four and is anticipated to be completed by 2023.

**Complete the replacement of the south Fire Station front access drive, complete renovations to the Municipal Building upstairs breakroom and downstairs kitchenette, replace the first floor Municipal Building exterior windows, and perform preventative maintenance and new pavement markings to the parking lots at the north Fire Station (front), South Fire (rear), Central (HMA) and the Okemos Public Library.**

The south Fire Station access drive was replaced this fall.

No work, beyond a preliminary concept and identifying contractors for the work has occurred on the Municipal breakroom or kitchenettes. Work will commence in January of 2021.

The first floor Municipal Building exterior windows were replaced.

Parking lot maintenance activities will postponed until the spring of 2021.

**Complete a sidewalk Order to Maintain project in the Heritage Hills and Briarwood West neighborhoods.**

This project will occur in 2021 in recognition of the COVID19 pandemic and the potential hardship that a special assessment district may place on the residents as part of the program.

**Develop and implement a community tree-planting program.**

Our Environmental Programs Coordinator, in conjunction with the Environmental Commission,

community volunteers and the Okemos Public Schools, held a Community Tree Planting Day on October 3, 2020 and planted 40 trees at the Chippewa Middle School.

Over 500 saplings were also distributed at the Farmers' Market this year as part of the Township tree-planting project.

### **Environmental Programs and Services**

The Meridian Recycling Center accepted 798,000 lbs. of material, including paper, plastic, cardboard, foam, metal, and glass. They also took in over 4,200 cubic yards of yard waste.

A separate recycling event was held at the Chippewa Middle School this fall and collected 90,000 lbs. of electronics from over 1,000 households in the region.

A coal-tar sealant ban, green infrastructure map and audit, wetland brochure were also developed and implemented in 2020 by our team and volunteers.

In 2020, our storm water program was audited by the Michigan EGLE for compliance with our existing MS4 permit.

### **Lake Lansing Watershed Management**

The special assessment district (SAD) to fund the management was administered for year three of the ten-year SAD in 2020. Water quality monitoring, nuisance aquatic plant control and education activities were conducted by the Advisory Board and our team.

### **Continue the Implementation and Enhancement of the DPW Cartegraph Operations Management Software system (OMS).**

Our Team continues to utilize the OMS program features to track and record work performed on assets of the Township developing a life-cost for each individual item.

Ongoing work includes the collection and integration of GIS points for all of our water curb stop locations in the Township. We are currently 60% completed with this collection project. We have also started to track dead deer carcass removal using Cartegraph to assist with data collection for the Meridian Deer Management program.

We have also began investigating the potential to incorporate our utility locates with Cartegraph to reduce the use of several unique software platforms.

### **Convert existing paper utility, sidewalk and SESC permits to electronic forms and place on Township DPW webpage.**

This project was completed this spring as part of our COVID-19 building closure response. All DPW permits are now fillable and available on our webpage.

### **Reorganize and redevelop the Old Haslett Library building into a modern Township records and equipment storage facility.**

First phase of this project has commenced with the proper disposal of several boxes of items no longer needed to be stored by the Township. The next phase has started, and involves cleaning and designating areas to each Department for storage.

### **MDOT- Grand River Resurfacing Project**

We continue to meet with our partners at the Michigan Department of Transportation, the County Drain Commissioner's office and the County Road Department on a plan to resurface, add appropriate mid-block crossings, eliminate the majority of flooding and repair the pathway across from Playmakers. Design is under way and the current schedule has the work to commence in 2022.

### **Costigan Drain Project**

The Costigan Drain services the area along Newton Road north of Lake Lansing and a portion of Saginaw Highway. With the existing and planned commercial developments (New Hope Church, Newton Place, etc.) along Saginaw Highway, additional storm water improvements are required. Design is currently underway and we are actively participating in the planning to make sure the necessary infrastructure is in place to support the development.

### **Nemoka Drain Project**

The Nemoka Drain project affects the Shaw, Potter, Edson and Hillbrook residents. Installation of the new storm sewer infrastructure began this summer, and will be completed in the spring of 2021. Most of the roads in the project area will be resurfaced as part of the local road program. Improvements to the trail in Hillbrook Park were also part of the project.

### **Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan**

On October 23, 2018, America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed into law. AWIA Section 2013 requires community (drinking) water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk and resilience assessments (RRA) and emergency response plans (ERPs).

The law specifies the components that the risk assessments and ERPs must address, and establishes deadlines by which water systems must certify to EPA completion of the risk assessment and ERP.

In order to meet our mandated obligations, we are collaborating with the East-Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA) and the City of East Lansing on the development of our RRA and ERP.

The RRA was completed, and submitted to the Michigan EGLE ahead of the July 1, 2021 deadline.

### **Water System Reliability Study and Plan**

The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act requires that type 1 community water suppliers conduct a water system reliability study. State rules require the completion of a reliability study that evaluates the water system's ability to meet both present and future demands every five years. Both ELMWSA, the City of East Lansing and Meridian Township need to complete an update this year. In a similar manner as the RRA, we are collaborating with each other and developing the 5-year reliability plan as required by the Michigan EGLE. The plan was submitted to EGLE by the end of the year for their review.

### **Operation and Maintenance Highlights in 2020**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Task(s) completed</b>
MISS DIG (811) utility locate requests	5,688
Water service installs	5
Water service repairs	32
Water main repairs	15
Hydrant repairs	6
Hydrants flushed	319
Meter installations	427
Sewer incident responses	61
Lift station wet-well cleanings completed	14
Sanitary sewer main jetted-cleaned	71,086 feet
Sanitary sewer main televising and inspection	24,338 feet
Glendale Cemetery burials	39
Vehicle and Equipment repair requests	740
Facility maintenance requests	292
Soil Erosion permit inspections	251
Utility permits inspections	333
Development plan reviews	141
Pathway and sidewalk permit inspections	33

New water main added to system	8,031 feet
New sanitary sewer added to system	7,562 feet

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

John Sarver, Chair  
 William McConnell  
 J. James Kielbaso  
 Luca Wisinski, Student

Rose Vadnais, Vice-Chair  
 James E. Jackson  
 Tom Frazier  
 Susan Masten

### TEAM MEMBERS

#### **Administration**

Derek N. Perry

Deputy Township Manager  
 Director of Public Works & Engineering  
 Administrative Assistant II

Denise Green

#### **Engineering**

Younes Ishraidi, P.E., C.F.M.

Nyal Nunn, C.F.M.

Jay Graham

David Liviskie

Tom Westerfield

Jonah Boot

Michael Hayward

Chief Engineer  
 Senior Project Engineer  
 Records Manager  
 Engineering Technician (resigned 11.2020)  
 Engineering Technician  
 Engineering Technician  
 Engineering Intern (PT)

#### **Geographic Information Systems**

Cara Maney

GIS Specialist

#### **Environmental Programs**

LeRoy Harvey

Environmental Programs Coordinator (PT)

#### **Public Works Superintendent**

Rob MacKenzie

#### **Water Utility**

Chad Houck

Mike Ellis

David Lester

Dan Palacios

D'Destin Kaufmann

Derrick Bobb

Ben McCann

James Arnett

Lead Utility Worker  
 Utility Worker

#### **Sewer Utility**

Robert Stacy

Kyle Fogg

Jacob Flannery

Christopher Risner

Lead Utility Worker  
 Utility Worker  
 Utility Worker  
 Utility Worker

**Buildings, Grounds and Cemetery**

Tyler Kennel  
Keith Hewitt

Lead Utility Worker  
Utility Worker

**Motor Pool**

Todd Frank  
Jim Hansen

Lead Mechanic  
Mechanic

# TREASURER'S OFFICE



This past year of 2020 was a challenging year for virtually everyone in our community due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the Treasurer's office, we worked to be accommodating to all of our tax and utility payments. To that end, there were no water shut-offs after March 1st and for all residents we provided safe alternatives to coming inside Town Hall to make payments.

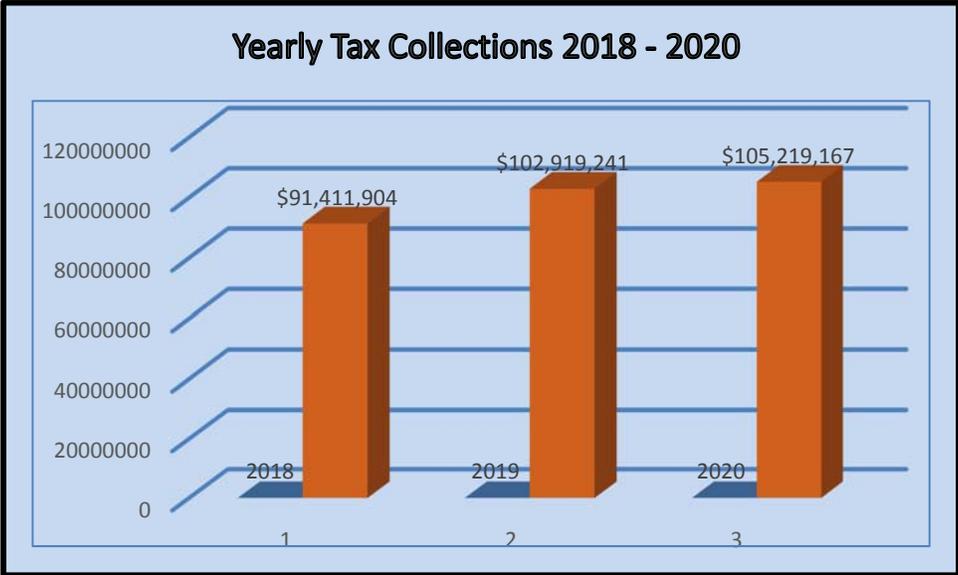
In June, we opened two outdoor customer service pods. The Treasurer's pod provided our residents with access to many services without having to set foot in our buildings. With the cooperation of our residents, we reduced traffic at the Treasurer counter by 90%, creating a safer environment for everyone. In November, we moved the Treasurer's service counter into the Town Hall room where we can continue the safe practices.

The Treasurer's Office is required by law to receive and take charge of all funds belonging to the Township and those funds to be distributed to other taxing authorities. These collections are primarily real estate and personal property taxes, but also include fines, licenses, permits, deposits, bonds, and fees.

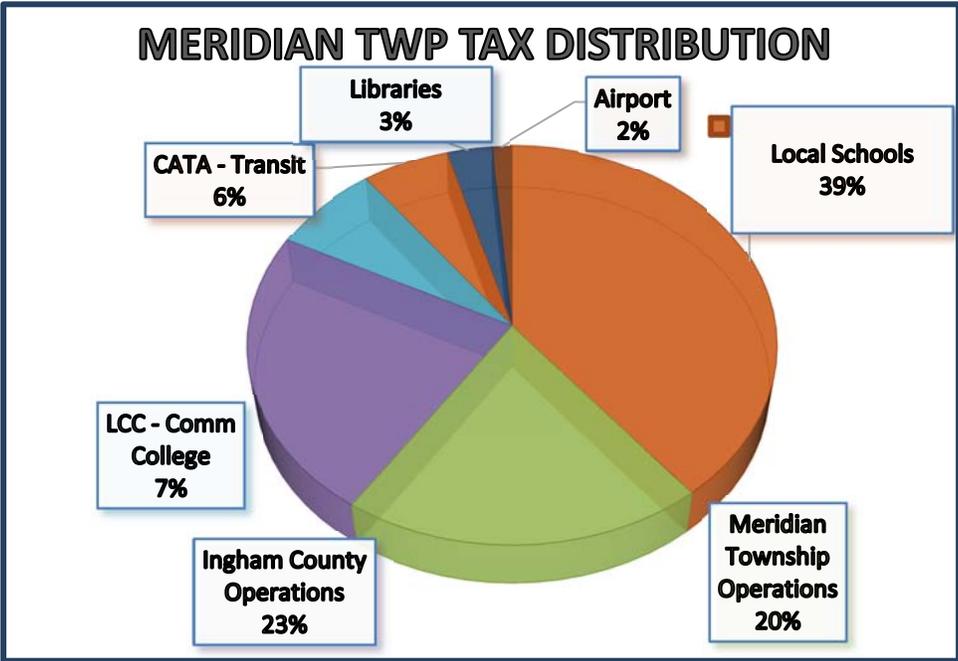
The Treasurer is required to pay out funds to local school districts. In Meridian Township, these include the Okemos, Haslett, East Lansing, Williamston school districts, Ingham Intermediate Schools, and Lansing Community College. Other governmental units also receive tax money from Meridian Township according to each taxing authority's millage. Temporary surplus funds are invested prudently with the emphasis on the safety of the principal as required by state law.

During the calendar year 2020, the Treasurer's Office reported:

- Total property taxes collected and processed in 2020 were \$105,219,167, up from \$102,919,241 in 2019, and \$95,411,904 in 2018.



These receipts were distributed to our local school districts, Ingham County, Lansing Community College (LCC), Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA), Capital Area District Library (CADL) and the Capital Region Airport Authority (CRAA), and Meridian Township operations.



Non-tax receipts in 2020 totaled \$13,436,310.79. These receipts include grants and revenue sharing from the State of Michigan, along with other permits, and fees.

- Total delinquent personal property taxes collected in 2020 was \$38,215.68.
- Investment income for 2020 was \$492,180 in earnings from all investments. This is down for the \$733,404 in investment income in 2019, and similar to the \$476,679.01 earned in 2018. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in February, rates on investments dropped precipitously. In April of 2020 dividend rates fell to .15% where they remain.
- There were ten new bankruptcies/receiverships filed by businesses in Meridian Township in 2020, up from three bankruptcies in 2019. At the end of 2020, \$37,198.27 in delinquent personal

property taxes due to bankruptcies were owed, compared to \$5,658.39 in 2019.

- The Treasurer’s staff worked with the Finance Director to continue to implement our new on-line payment system, Invoice Cloud. The Invoice Cloud on-line payments portal provides more options for electronic payments for our residents, without any additional costs to our tax and utility payers. In the past year, the move to Invoice Cloud in 2019 saved Meridian Township over \$50,000 in bank fees and other costs associated with the previous on-line payment system.
- The Treasurer invested the 2019 Meridian Road Bond proceeds of \$10,804,047 in 12 certificates of deposit with maturity dates matching the expected payouts for road work over the first three years of the Meridian Township road improvement plan.
- The Treasurer served as a Township Board member and attended semi-monthly meetings, and presented quarterly and special reports to the Township Board on investments, collections and expenditures.
- In 2020 the Treasurer’s staff worked closely with other Township departments and organizations:
  - Assisted the assessor with various Tax Tribunal property tax appeal cases.
  - Assisted the Finance Director with approval of paperwork for audit purposes.
  - Served on the Meridian Township Pension Board.
  - Assisted the Meridian Brownfield Reinvestment Authority (BRA).
  - Served as the Treasurer of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC).
  - Member of the Meridian Township Transportation Commission.
  - Member of the two service clubs: Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Haslett & Okemos.
  - Member of the Capital Area Treasurers Association (CAT).

Residents can receive free tax information on their own property by using the Township website ([www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)) or calling the Treasurer’s Office at (517) 853-4140

### **TEAM MEMBERS**

Phil Deschaine, Treasurer  
Mary Ann Groop, Deputy/Assistant to the Treasurer  
Stephaney Guild, Bookkeeper



9A

**CONSENT AGENDA  
BOARD  
COMMUNICATIONS  
February 2, 2021**

January 16, 2021

Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk  
Meridian Township

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

In a few days, a new President will be sworn in in Washington, D.C. Contrary to the malicious statements that the election was rigged, etc., etc., it is clear that this was the most honest election in U.S. history. Thanks to the rants of the outgoing President, who began attacking the election processes of our country five years ago, the men and women who had to ensure the validity of the vote worked especially hard to make sure the ballots were counted correctly. And, with more than SIXTY REJECTED LAWSUITS alleging fraud, courts across the country have verified the election results.

So, mucho congratulations for completing this amazing task of counting the outrageous number of mail-in ballots that were received by your office as a result of COVID, and being the largest election turn out in U.S. history. (I have a couple of married friends who began volunteering many years ago counting votes for a district in another state. Their description of the many hours over numerous days spent working with the mail-in ballots was quite impressive, to say the least.)

And then, after putting in all of the time and effort to bring this off, the thanks you get is to be viciously attacked by some of the highest-ranking members of our government, and even by people you considered friends, and sometimes, family. Day after day you faced, and are still confronted with, allegations of malfeasance, incompetence, and outright fraud. We can only imagine how tough that was, and is, to deal with.

And, for all you have done on behalf of our country, we thank you and everyone who contributed their time and efforts on behalf of Meridian Township to complete historic process. What you did was amazing, and it should be remembered, and celebrated, as the great achievement it was.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron and Sunny Newman'.

Ron and Sunny Newman  
1460 Oscoda Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864



January 21, 2020

Ms. Brandie Yates, Communications Manager  
Meridian Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Yates:

We are committed to keeping you and our customers informed about changes to Xfinity TV services.

Some customers currently have access to Travel HD even though this channel is not included in their TV service. Effective March 23, 2021, they will no longer have access to this channel. If they would like access after March 23, they will need to upgrade to Preferred TV service.

We are notifying impacted customers of these changes through a bill message.

Please feel free to contact me at 734-359-2077 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner  
Director, External Affairs  
Comcast, Heartland Region  
1401 E. Miller Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911

**From:** [Charles Kotz](#)  
**To:** [Township Board](#)  
**Subject:** Last tree standing  
**Date:** Saturday, January 23, 2021 12:02:02 PM

---

Dear Township Board-

The large, mature lake tree, at the corner of Grand River and Powell Road should be closely examined by a certified Arborist before it is taken down. Surely, this one tree can be allowed to remain, with minimal remediation. Please take this step before paving begins on Powell Road. Saving this one tree doesn't begin to remedy the obscene destruction that already occurred along Grand River.

Sincerely,

Charles Kotz  
1282 Silverwood Dr.  
Sent from my iPhone



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 25, 2021

**Media Contact:** Brandie Yates  
Executive Producer  
[yates@meridian.mi.us](mailto:yates@meridian.mi.us)  
517.853.4208

**HOMTV Aims Meet Your Elected Officials Series**  
*New Series Focuses on Elected Candidates in Local Government*

**OKEMOS, MI** – HOMTV introduced a new post-election series, Meet Your Elected Officials, designed to allow residents the chance to get to know the people serving them in their local government. The program features interviews led by Reporting Intern Katie Schroeder.

The new series began airing on December 28, 2020. The first three episodes feature interviews from Township Supervisor Ron Styka, Township Treasurer Phil Deschaine and Township Clerk Deborah Guthrie, and can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/MeetYourElectedOfficials>.

“After the long election season, I wanted to create a series that was more casual and gave the community a chance to get to know their officials beyond their title,” said Reporting Intern Katie Schroeder. “The Meet Your Elected Officials series is a great way for residents to learn about the lives of Meridian officials and why they love serving Meridian Township.”

All elected officials from the Meridian Township Board and the Meridian Township Park Commission are invited to participate. Additional episodes will air as more interviews are completed.

“We wanted to provide a more personal connection between the Township’s Elected Officials and the residents,” stated Executive Producer Brandie Yates. “We assigned the project to one of our Reporting Interns Katie Schroeder and she scheduled and hosted the interviews, as well as produced the episodes.”

Comcast Cable subscribers in East Lansing, Haslett and Okemos can view the series on Channel 21 and Channel 30. These programs will also be available on demand on HOMTV’s website at [www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net).

###

---

HOMTV is Meridian Township’s award-winning Government Access Channel televising exclusive gavel-to-gavel coverage of Township meetings, community news and original programming.



**From:** [Frank Walsh](#)  
**To:** [kathy speer](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sidewalk  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 6:57:34 PM

---

Good evening,

I appreciate your concern for the condition of our pathway system. I understand that Deputy Manager Derek Perry responded to you on Friday.

First, let me share with you I'm an avid walker. I typically log 3 miles per day and personal safety is always paramount. I live next to a pathway and also have a sidewalk in front of my house. I'm responsible for maintaining and clearing my own sidewalk.

We have 76 miles of pathways. As much as we would love to have ice and snow free pathways and sidewalks, it's simply not practical. It takes us 5-6 hours to plow nearly 80 miles of pathways. We do not have, nor do we plan to have, a plan to salt the pathways. How would it be possible to salt 80 miles of pathways.

Tonight's walk was miserable. The sidewalks and pathways are treacherous. I spoke with several neighbors tonight regarding the pathway. None of them want us to slap miles of salt on the pathways. There are days in Michigan that require us to find an alternative means to walk outside.

I realize this is not the response you are searching for. My only suggestion is to salt the pathway near your home in the same manner that other residents do living adjacent to a public sidewalk.

Most of the concerns I hear from residents is the inequity in clearing sidewalks/pathways. 90% of our residents live adjacent to a sidewalk. They are 100% responsible for the clearing and maintenance of the sidewalk. While 10% of our residents live adjacent to a pathway. The township assumes responsibility to plow the pathways. The only difference is the width of the sidewalk/path. The residents living next to a pathway rely on the township. The other 90% are on our own. Many residents question the policy.

Again, please know I very much understand and appreciate your concerns.

Have a good evening.

Frank Walsh  
Township Manager

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 25, 2021, at 6:24 PM, kathy speer <kathyspeer2014@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> This is what our sidewalks look like at 6pm on Monday night. It is supposed to snow overnight, tomorrow this will be covered with snow and will be a disaster to walk on. We need help, please....





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 25, 2021**

**CONTACT:** Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager  
517.853.4450 | [perry@meridian.mi.us](mailto:perry@meridian.mi.us)

---

**Protect Your Pipes During the Winter Season**  
*Extreme Cold Could Mean Water Issues in Your Home*

**Meridian Township, MI** – As the temperature begins to fall, learn how you can prevent your pipes from freezing.

**Avoid Frozen Pipes at Home**

- Check around the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic and garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of reach of children.
- When the weather is extremely cold outside, let the cold-water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. While running water through the pipe will increase your water bill, a trickle helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

**To Thaw Frozen Pipes**

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include exterior walls or the location where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials) or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove or other open flame device. When in doubt, call a licensed plumber.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

For all water or sewer emergencies, please call 517.349.0010, on-call 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.



Meridian Township

Phil Deschaine, Meridian Township Treasurer,

5151 Marsh Rd,

Okemos, Rd 48864

January 24, 2021

To the Meridian Township Board of Trustees,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding "pot shops" in Meridian Township. I've been a township resident since 1962 and have seen a lot of changes. I'm not opposed to responsible development.

I grew up in South Lansing and can remember when it was a safe place. Now when I drive out to Cedar and Pennsylvania streets I see "pot shops" all over and their clientele hanging around. Often, they walk right into traffic.

I am not opposed to medical marijuana, however, I don't understand why there is a need for establishments in Meridian when stores are located just a short distance away in East Lansing and Lansing. Furthermore, if an existing pot business can't make it here on medical marijuana alone, tough! Perhaps they can't make a profit because the market is saturated? It's not the township's responsibility to help a private business. While these stores may bring in tax dollars, I fear the cost of crime, decreased property values, higher auto insurance rates, and a general decline in the township's image, will outweigh any benefits.

The closer one is to drugs, the more likely one is to be impacted by them and I fear for our residents. People live here because of the excellent schools and quality of life. These establishments are a direct threat making Meridian less appealing than other communities.

I urge the Township Board to deny these businesses any permits to operate in the township.

Sincerely,

Caroline Reynnet



2560 GRAND RIVER AVE.  
OKEMOS, MI  
48864-3104



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2021

CONTACT: Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager  
517.853.4440 | [perry@meridian.mi.us](mailto:perry@meridian.mi.us)

## Winter Snow Removal Guidelines & Responsibilities

*Snow Removal Information for Meridian Township Residents and Property Owners*

**Meridian Township, MI** – The Meridian Township Department of Public Works would like to remind residents and property owners of the importance of keeping sidewalks clear of snow for the next few months. The Township is fortunate to have hundreds of miles of sidewalk for residents to enjoy, and Township officials request assistance from the community in maintaining to be usable by everyone this winter season. Please note:

- Property owners and occupants are responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks abutting their property.
- Snow should be removed within 24 hours after it stops snowing. If the snow remains on the public sidewalk for more than 24 hours, Meridian Township may clear the sidewalk and bill the expenses related to the removal to the owner or occupant.
- Snow should not be piled in a manner that results in obstruction of vision between a car and users of the sidewalks or another car. No person shall place snow or ice upon a street right of way that will impair vehicular or pedestrian non-motorized traffic.

A walkable community is a priority for Township residents, who have supported an extensive pathway system since the 1970's. This pathway system is comprised of over 70 miles of at least 7-foot wide sidewalk dispersed throughout the 32 square mile Township. The pathway system map can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/MTPathwayMap>.

To promote its year-round use, the Township provides snow removal on the designated public pathways when snow accumulates more than 2 inches on the walkway. Each route takes approximately six hours and costs \$1,500 to complete, but is very dependent of the intensity and duration of the snow event. The Township uses specialized plowing equipment to accomplish the job. The Township's goal is to complete snow removal on the entire pathway prior to the start of the school day.

To view the full Snow Removal Ordinance on the Township website: <http://bit.ly/TwpSnowRemoval>. For additional information, contact the Meridian Township Department of Public Works at 517.853.4440 or by email at [dpw@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dpw@meridian.mi.us).

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 28, 2021

CONTACT: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager  
517.853.4254 | [walsh@meridian.mi.us](mailto:walsh@meridian.mi.us)

**Michigan Municipal Executives Recognize “Best of the Best”**  
*Deputy Township Manager Recipient of the “Top Assistant Manager” Award*

**Meridian Township, MI** – The Michigan Municipal Executives (MME) held its annual conference to recognize and honor this year’s recipients for the “Best of the Best” in Michigan awards on Thursday, January 28. Meridian Township’s Deputy Township Manager Derek Perry was selected for the Best of the Best – Top Assistant Manager award this year.



The MME works to provide members’ professional development, support their personal growth and promote the municipal executive profession in Michigan. The MME seeks to enhance management excellence, continuous improvement, and high ethical standards by recognizing top executives across Michigan through the “Best of the Best” awards. The “Top Assistant Manager” award recognizes a deputy or assistant that has demonstrated outstanding performance, particularly with a special project or during a period of unique conditions and circumstances.

“I am very honored to receive an award that recognizes my passion for improving communities through public service,” stated Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager. “I want to thank Township Manager Frank Walsh and Sturgis City Manager Mike Hughes for the nomination. I am fortunate to have them as professional mentors, and personally blessed to have them as close friends.”

Deputy Township Manager Perry was nominated for the award because he cares about the communities and the best way to serve them. In Meridian Township, one of the projects he is directly responsible for is the Local Street Improvement Plan, which began in 2020 with reconstructing and preserving 26.94 miles of local roads.

“Derek Perry’s commitment to unparalleled customer service was recognized today by his peers. We are fortunate to have Derek serving Meridian Township. I am proud to have the opportunity to work with Derek,” said Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.





**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**  
**LEGAL AD NOTICE: STUDY SESSION FOR RECREATIONAL**  
**MARIHUANA – FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

---

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**

**STUDY SESSION FOR RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

At their January 19, 2021 regular meeting, the Township Board voted to approve holding a Virtual Board Study Session for Recreational Marihuana on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The meeting agenda, packet and virtual meeting credentials will be posted on the Township webpage at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

**Publish:** Towne Courier  
January 31, 2021

**Deborah Guthrie**  
Township Clerk

1 Affidavit, please



## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

### SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE: MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

---

Due to the presence of coronavirus in the community, the Charter Township of Meridian March Board of Review sessions will occur electronically. Sessions will be available to the public for live viewing and participation online via the Zoom video communications platform. The Board of Review will conduct its organizational session on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.:

Link to Join Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84028690654>

Webinar ID: 840 2869 0654

Telephone Access: 312-626-6799

The Board of Review will meet for assessment appeals as follows:

- Monday, March 8, 2021: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
Links to Join Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89679760439> (Committee 1)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87348049573> (Committee 2)  
Webinar IDs: 896 7976 0439 (Committee 1)  
873 4804 9573 (Committee 2)  
Telephone Access: 312-626-6799 (Committee 1 and Committee 2)
- Tuesday, March 9, 2021: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
Links to Join Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89055836208> (Committee 1)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81823701248> (Committee 2)  
Webinar IDs: 890 5583 6208 (Committee 1)  
818 2370 1248 (Committee 2)  
Telephone Access: 312-626-6799 (Committee 1 and Committee 2)
- Thursday, March 11, 2021: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
Links to Join Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84072374572> (Committee 1)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89302500201> (Committee 2)  
Webinar IDs: 840 7237 4572 (Committee 1)  
893 0250 0201 (Committee 2)  
Telephone Access: 312-626-6799 (Committee 1 and Committee 2)

(To unmute microphone from a cell phone, dial \*6. To raise your hand from a cell phone, dial \*9.)

For an appointment to appear before the Board of Review, call 517-853-4400 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Written appeals will be accepted if received by 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Posted: January 29, 2021



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**  
**LEGAL AD NOTICE: LOCAL OFFICIALS COMMENSATION**  
**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

---

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**LOCAL OFFICIALS COMMENSATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

The LOCC will be meeting via Zoom at 6:00 pm on Friday, February 5. The meeting agenda, packet and/or virtual meeting credentials will be posted on the Township webpage at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)

**Publish:** **Towne Courier**  
**January 31, 2021**

**Deborah Guthrie**  
**Township Clerk**

**1 Affidavit, please**



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2021

---

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LEGAL NOTICE

SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2021

At their January 19, 2021 regular meeting, the Township Board voted to approve to change their regularly scheduled February 16 meeting to a Virtual Special Township Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm in order to conduct a study session on recreational marihuana on February 16. The meeting agenda, packet and virtual meeting credentials will be posted on the Township webpage at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)

**Publish:** Towne Courier  
February 7, 2021

**Deborah Guthrie**  
Township Clerk

1 Affidavit, please



**CONSENT AGENDA  
PROPOSED BOARD MINUTES  
February 2, 2021**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

- (1) Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the the Virtual Regular Meetings of January 19, 2021 and January 26, 2020 as submitted.**

**ALTERNATE MOTION:**

- (1) Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the the Virtual Regular Meetings of January 19, 2021 and January 26, 2021 with the following amendment(s):**

**[insert amendments]**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-DRAFT-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.349.1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark, Communications Manager Yates, Principal Planner Menser

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS  
Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL  
Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.
4. PRESENTATIONS
  - A. 2021 Action Plan Work Groups

Township Manager Walsh presented the proposed 2021 Action Plan Work Group Assignments. These work groups will assist staff in achieving the Township Board's goals. The plan is to have the work groups give a three-five minute report every two months at a board meeting. The plan offers transparency, communication and accountability.

Discussion:

- This is an opportunity to offer input on the Board's vision and give direction toward achieving each goal
- This is a new approach to assist the Board at their work or study sessions
- Support using work groups to work through the goals
- Work groups can assist with narrowing down the scope of work required to accomplish the Township's goals
- Work Group Additions: Group B: Sustainability Plan/Supervisor Styka; Group D: Redevelopment in Okemos and Haslett/Trustee Jackson; Group G: MSU/Lake Lansing Pathway/Trustee Opsommer; Group J: Pension Payments/Clerk Guthrie

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:16 pm

David Pierson, 1142 S Washington, Lansing, spoke in support of applicant's request and conditions offered for Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC).

David Straub, 1650 Tendale Blvd., East Lansing, representing Mayberry Homes, stated he was available to answer questions on agenda item #12B Powell Road Paving Public Road Improvement SAD- Resolutions 1 and 2.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:20 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported

- Congratulated Sergeant Chris Lofton on graduating from Staff and Command School at MSU
- Chief Plaga is overseeing the first night of the enhanced DNR approved deer cull
- The Joint Board and Commissions Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, at 6 pm and will be held virtually
- The annual report will be available on January 29
- Work on the Village of Okemos project is progressing with demolition of buildings
- The Winter Farmers Market is being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, 11 am – 2 pm and staff is considering expanding to the first and third Saturdays of the month
- Congratulations of 41 years of service to Mark Kieselbach

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended December 7<sup>th</sup> Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting with Trustee Sundland
- Attended December 8<sup>th</sup> Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) meeting
- The Grub Hub promotion the EDC had contributed to sold out right away
- The Township Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 10 am – 3 pm. It will be held virtually and the public is invited to attend. Larry Merrill, former President of the Michigan Township Association, will be leading the event
- Reviewed the Quarterly Treasurer's Report, Agenda Item #9F

Trustee Sundland:

- Attended EDC meeting on December 7. Members discussed annual goals, Meridian Township Small Business Relief Grant Program and the MABA Business Awards

Clerk Guthrie:

- This Thursday, the Clerk's Office will be conducting a Risk Limiting Audit. The State Bureau of Elections randomly selected Clerks' Offices around the State to conduct this audit as part of their post-election audit process. The audit will be conducted live through the assistance of HOMTV and is anticipated to take two-three hours
- Attended the Okemos Library Board Meeting and it was reported that half of the residents in the Township have library cards and the Okemos branch has the highest circulation of all the CADL libraries
- Attended the Community Resources Commission meeting

Trustee Wisinski:

- Attended the Environmental Commission Meeting on January 6. Commissioners reviewed 2021 goals and green grants for schools. They are working to achieve the Tree City USA designation, on implementing the Climate Action Plan and on environmental justice issues and/or concerns in the Township. Commissioners attended a recycling tour and offered ideas for improvements on the Township's recycling site

Trustee Opsommer:

- Land Preservation Advisory Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings were canceled for the month
- Thanked Will Randle, Pat Smith and the Village of Okemos Development Team for their clean-up efforts in the downtown Okemos area. He thanked the Okemos Downtown Development Authority and Township Board for the public funding and staff for their work toward this first step on the site clean up

Supervisor Styka

- Several Board Members attended the forum on the Village of Okemos development on January 7 and it has received positive feedback

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Sundland moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Agenda Item #13A, Commercial Planned Unit Development 320-13034 (Meridian Mall Limited Partnership. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

**Treasurer Trustee Jackson communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer  
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – Virtual Regular Meeting; and December 18, 2021 Virtual Special Meeting

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 5, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer  
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

<b>Common Cash</b>	\$	<b>437,651.61</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	\$	<b>282,375.97</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	\$	<b><u>1,222,105.39</u></b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	\$	<b>1,942,132.97</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>	\$	<b>13,163.19</b>
<b>12/0224/2020-1/13/2021</b>		
<b>Total Purchases</b>	\$	<b><u>1,955,296.16</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	\$	<b><u>949,532.03</u></b>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer  
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Set a Virtual Board Study Session Date for Recreational Marihuana on February 16, 2021

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board hold a virtual Board Study Session for Recreational Marihuana on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer  
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Set a Virtual Special Board Meeting Date for February 23, 2021

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board change their regularly scheduled February 16 meeting to a virtual Special Township Board meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6 pm in order to conduct a study session on recreational marihuana on February 16, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer  
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Quarterly Treasurer's Report

**Trustee Jackson moved to accept the Quarterly Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer  
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC) rezone 31.63 acres east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre)

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve to adopt the resolution approving the introduction Rezoning #20050 to rezone approximately 31.63 acres located east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre) with conditions. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine**

Discussion:

- Applicant offered two additional conditions: a two year time limit for the approval process and the approval would remain with the current property owner
- Support this type of project and it is consistent with the Master Plan
- Attention will need to be given to the wetlands and retention areas
- Support condition that the eastern 11 acres of the site be developed as detached single family residential units
- Concerned with the density and resulting impact on the water features
- Asked staff to discuss this proposed project with the Ingham County Road Department to address the road buffer concerns along Powell Road and the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office on the wetland and drainage issues

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer

NAYS: Clerk Guthrie

Motion carried: 6-1

B. Powell Road Paving Public Road Improvement SAD-Resolutions #1 & #2

Deputy Manager Perry summarized the proposed project.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve Powell Road Public Road Improvement Special Assessment District No. 43 Resolution No. 1, accepting the petition and ordering plans and an estimate of costs to be prepared; and move to tentatively approve Powell Road Public Road Improvement District No. 43 Resolution No. 2, tentatively declaring the Township Board's intention to make the public road improvements: grade, gravel and pave Powell Road, from the northern extent of the Silverstone Estates plat southward to Grand River; and sets the Public Hearing for February 16, 2021 for the purpose of hearing objections to the petition, the improvement and the special assessment district of Powell Road Public Road Improvements District No. 43. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

Discussion:

- Requested the public hearing date be changed from February 16 to February 23. The Maker and Supporter of the motion agree with the change to the motion
- The road will have a rural road profile except near the Silverstone Estates development
- One specific tree was discussed as it pertains to the proposed road improvement and it is the goal of the Township to save as many trees as possible.
- If a hardship arises due to the special assessment and/or tax payments, there is a process in place to assist residents with payment issues with both the Township and the County

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Non-Discrimination and Fair Employment Practices Policy

**Trustee Wisinski to adopt the proposed Non-Discrimination and Fair Employment Practices Policy. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer**

Discussion:

- This will give applicants an opportunity to get through the first phase in the application process

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Meridian Township Small Business Grant Relief Program

**Trustee Sundland to adopt the Meridian Township Small Business Grant Relief Program Awardees, at attached. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

Discussion:

- The Small Business Grant Relief Program was reviewed by the EDC
- Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark summarized the grant program
- The committee reviewed each application individually and prudent decisions were made on the awards
- Thanked the committee members for their service

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC) rezone 31.63 acres east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre)

This item was removed from the agenda

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:30 pm.

None

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:31 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka stated he and his wife received the first COVID vaccine dosage today and has not received any ill effects and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated

Trustee Jackson stated her husband had received the first COVID vaccine dosage today and has not experienced any discomfort, and encourage everyone to be vaccinated.

Treasurer Deschaine reported the Township has received a national award in Newsweek Magazine naming Okemos, Michigan as the best small town in which to live.

Trustee Opsommer stated his wife is a health care worker and will be receiving her second dosage soon. He encouraged everyone to submit their request to be vaccinated.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.**

---

RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

---

DEBORAH GUTHRIE,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-DRAFT-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517-349-1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson (arrived at 6:02 pm), Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski (arrived at 6:10 pm)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark, Communications Manager Yates, Principal Planner Menser; Environmental Programs Coordinator Harvey

**BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

PRESENT: Jeff Theur, Joyce Van Coevering, David Premoe

**CATA**

PRESENT: Robin Lewis

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Brian Seipel, Leslie Charles, Mike Nevells

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Susan Brouse, Georgia Styka, Angie Wilson

**CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**

PRESENT: Jeffery Ross, Eric Foster, Brue Peffers

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

PRESENT: Renee Korrey, Susan Fulk

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

PRESENT: Kimberly Thompson, Brenda Chapman, Jade Sims

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

PRESENT: John Saver

**LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

PRESENT: Channelle Russ

**LOCAL OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Amy Holda

**PARK COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Chair; Ami Van Antwerp, Vice Chair; Mary Nardo Farris, Mike McDonald

**PENSION BOARD**

PRESENT: Joyce Van Coevering, Tanya Pratt

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Scott Hendrickson, David Premoe, Mark Blumer

**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Steve Vagnozzi, Robert Lovell, Tim Potter

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

PRESENT: Alexia Mansour, Monica Field-Foster, Scott Hendrickson, Brian Shorkey

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Trustee Wisinski was absent at roll call. She arrived at 6:10 pm.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:02 pm

None

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:03 pm

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the agenda.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

6. JOINT MEETING WITH TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. Presentation of 2020 Achievements

Manager Walsh introduced the management team and outlined the 2020 Achievements

B. Presentation of 2021 Goals

Manager Walsh outlined of the 2021 Goals

C. Presentations by Boards and Commissions of Summaries of 2020 Activities

Boards and Commissions reported 2020 activities and 2021 goals.

D. Discussion

- Board and commission members were thanked for their service
- Community volunteers were thanked for their time on Township projects, activities and events
- Board and commission members thanked the Board for the mask appreciation gift

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:00 pm.

Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Court, Haslett, stated it is great to be part of the community, thanked everyone for their service and Deputy Manager Perry for addressing issues at Grange Acres. She thanked CADL for the craft projects.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:02 pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.**

---

RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

---

DEBORAH GUTHRIE,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK



To: Board Members  
From: Miriam Mattison, Finance Director  
Date: February 2, 2021  
Re: Board Bills

---

Charter Township of Meridian  
Board Meeting  
2/2/2021

MOVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE MANAGER'S  
BILLS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMON CASH	\$	940,905.98
PUBLIC WORKS	\$	362,817.19
TRUST & AGENCY	\$	3,324.64
TOTAL CHECKS:	\$	1,307,047.81
CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS		
12/24/2020-1/13/2021	\$	18,291.16
TOTAL PURCHASES:	\$	<u>1,325,338.97</u>
ACH PAYMENTS	\$	<u>616,527.19</u>

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. AARON RUSTAD	OVERPAYMENT MECHANICAL PERMIT	50.00	
2. ACTIVE911, INC.	MERIDIAN TWP 2021 SUBSCRIPTION ACTIVE 911	546.00	
3. AFFORDABLE RENTAL MANAGEMENT	RENT FOR D. BEMAVIDES	700.00	104317
4. ALL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS	TRAFFIC CLOUD SOFTWARE SOLUTION RENEWAL 2021	3,000.00	
5. ANTHONY RANDAZZO	OVERPAYMENT ON PERMIT	10.00	
6. AT & T	AT&T SWITCHED ETHERNET DATA SERVICE - THB - FS91	1,067.42	
7. AT & T MOBILITY	MONTHLY CHARGES FOR JAN 5 2021 TO FEB 4 2021	76.45	
8. AUTO VALUE OF EAST LANSING	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2020 - UNIT #135 MEDIC	6.89	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - DIESEL CLEAN	9.99	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT 55	152.40	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT 58	20.45	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT 122	14.99	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT 71	47.69	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT #135 MEDIC 91	16.08	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT #133 MEDIC 911	24.09	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT #147	20.72	
	FLEET REPAIR PARTS 2021 - UNIT 3102	14.31	
	TOTAL	327.61	
9. AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	AXON EVIDENCE.COM STORAGE & BODY CAMS ANNUAL PAYMENT 2/15	26,172.00	
10. BARYAMES CLEANERS	POLICE UNIFORM CLEANING - JAN 1 2021 TO JAN 15 2021	207.35	
	DEC 16 2020 TO DEC 31 2020 MERIDIAN PD DRY CLEANING	344.50	
	TOTAL	551.85	
11. BECKS PROPANE	PROPANE GLENDALE CEMETARY OFFICE	171.75	
	PROPANE FOR VAN ATTA RD - DELIVERED ON 01/20/2021	468.64	
	TOTAL	640.39	
12. BEVERLY BRYNES	REFUND FOR OVRPMT OF AMBULANCE FEES ON 8/14/2020	170.55	
13. BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN	COVERAGE FROM 02-01-2021 THRU 02-28-2021	3,843.67	
14. BOBCAT OF LANSING	2021 BOBCAT TOOL CAT	59,401.00	
15. BOYNTON FIRE SAFETY SERVICE	BOYNTON FIRE SAFETY SERVICES OVRPMT	10.00	
16. BS&A SOFTWARE	BS&A ANNUAL RENEWAL FEB 1 2021 TO FEB 1 2022	6,934.00	
17. CEDAR CREEK APARTMENTS	RENT FOR N. KASHA	840.00	104318
18. CHARLIE FANTA	2019 PO 53777 - MOUNTING OF SNOWY OWL FOR HNC	550.00	
19. COMCAST	COMCAST TV + INET - FEB 1 2021 TO FEB 28 2021	402.39	
	COMCAST HNC - JAN 29 2021 TO FEB 28 2021	211.99	
	COMCAST FRANCHISE DROP PD - JAN 29 2021 TO FEB 28 2021	24.03	
	SERVICES FROM JAN 20 2021 TO FEB 19 2021	8.02	
	COMCAST SCADA INET - JAN 19 2021 TO FEB 18 2021	148.35	
	TOTAL	794.78	
20. CORBIN DESIGN	TOWNSHIP ENTRYWAY, WAYFINDING AND LOCATION SIGN DESIGN AN	5,196.68	
21. CRYSTAL FLASH	FLEET GASOLINE FUEL 2021	7,754.30	
	FLEET DIESEL FUEL 2021	1,775.80	
	TOTAL	9,530.10	
22. CUMMINS INC	GENERATOR MAINTENANCE DEC 2020	635.89	
23. CURTIS HENDERSON	OVERPMT PAID BY INS CO - ACCT #001071	904.00	

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
24. DAVID CHAPMAN AGENCY	1/1/2021 TO 1/1/2022 PROPERTY & LIABILITY INS	187,595.00	
25. DBI	OFFICE SUPPLIES	8.98	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES - PAPER	32.90	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	12.45	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	98.70	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	98.70	
	TOTAL	251.73	
26. DELL MARKETING LP	DELL 5410 LAPTOPS FOR REMOTE WORK	22,707.09	
	DELL WORKSTATION REPLACEMENT LAPTOPS	23,920.16	
	TOTAL	46,627.25	
27. DLT SOLUTIONS LLC	AUTOCAD - INCL SPECIALIZED TOOLSETS GOVT SINGLE-USER	1,276.02	
28. FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT	FIRE GEAR CERTIFICATION/CLEANING	57.00	
29. FIRST ADVANTAGE LNS OCC HEALTH	RANDOM DRUG TESTING - CLINIC COLLECTION SERVICES DEC 2020	186.97	
30. FIRST AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS	FEB 2021 EYEMED VISION EXPENSES	2,434.66	
31. FIRST COMMUNICATIONS	ANALOG TELEPHONE SERVICE DECEMBER 2020	945.19	
32. FISHBECK, THOMPSON, CARR & HUBER	MERIDIAN TWP/WDV 20-08 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED TH	1,715.15	
	MERIDIAN TWP/ WDV 20-06 - PROF SERV THRU 12/25/2020	837.70	
	MERIDIAN TWP WDV 20-07 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED TH	1,549.35	
	FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED THROUGH 1.22.21 INVOI	375.00	
	MUNICIPAL BUILDING HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECT	26,250.00	
	TOTAL	30,727.20	
33. FORESIGHT GROUP	GRAPHICS FOR 2021 POLICE VEHICLE - UNIT #683	981.68	
	GRAPHICS FOR 2021 POLICE VEHICLE - UNIT #684	981.68	
	GRAPHICS FOR 2021 POLICE VEHICLE - UNIT #685	981.68	
	TOWNSHIP ENVELOPES - POLICE DEPARTMENT	166.67	
	WATER BILLS & POSTAGE FOR 1/15/2021	527.48	
	TOTAL	3,639.19	
34. FOSSIL INDUSTRIES	INTERPRETIVE SIGNS FOR PARKS/GRANT FULFILLMENT	833.00	
35. GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC	JANUARY 2021 MONTHLY CONSULTING FEE	2,723.53	
36. H.C. BERGER COMPANY	COPIER USAGE DEC 15 2020 TO DEC 31 2020	356.35	
	COPIER USAGE - JAN 1 2021 TO JAN 14 2021	311.79	
	TOTAL	668.14	
37. HASLETT-OKEMOS ROTARY	HASLETT-OKEMOS ROTARY 1ST QTR 2021 DUES- FRANK WALSH	140.00	
38. INGHAM COUNTY TREASURER	REIMB FOR C. EMANS - INTRO TO LAKES 2021 - LAKE LANSING W	115.00	
39. JASON CLEMENTS	REIMB CARHART BIB FOR DEER MGT PROGRAM	63.59	
40. JEFFORY BROUGHTON	RADIO MAINTENANCE/PARTS/EQUIPMENT	301.00	
41. JOHN BENEICKE	OVRPMT FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES	60.00	
42. KIWANIS CLUB OF HASLETT-OKEMOS	2021 FLAGS OVER MERIDIAN FOR PARKS	480.00	
43. KUKJIN LEE	SERVICE FOR SOCCER - MOVED OUT OF AREA	85.00	
44. LANSING SANITARY SUPPLY INC	ICEAWAY TURBO ICEMELTER 105PLT	739.51	
	CLEANING SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT	314.25	
	CLEANING SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT	121.44	
	PAPER PRODUCTS & CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR PARKS	250.01	
	TOTAL	1,425.21	

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
45. LANSING UNIFORM COMPANY	POLICE UNIFORM - J. KUHN	32.95	
	UNIFORMS - A. KOHLS/S. GARELIK/T. MILLEROV/C. JOHNSON	1,374.45	
	UNIFORM ITEMS - N. LAFAYETTE	277.75	
	UNIFORM ITEMS - CARETTI/LAFAYETTE/KOZLOWSKI/EVEREST	845.25	
	TOTAL	2,530.40	
46. LARRY WAGENKNECHT	REIMB INTRO TO LAKES 2021 - LAKE LANSING WATERSHED	115.00	
47. LAWSON PRINTERS	BUSINESS CARDS - RON RAU & ROBERT STACY	130.00	
48. MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO	FEB 2021 TOWNSHIP SPONSORED TERM LIFE & LTD INSURANCE	3,068.95	
49. MANNIK AND SMITH	LOCAL ROAD PROG ENGINEERING & INSPECTION SVS - THRU DEC 2 2021 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM ENGINEERING & INSPECTION SERVICES	1,338.25 28,591.85	
	TOTAL	29,930.10	
50. MARCUS BALDORI	REFUND FOR DUPLICATE MECHANICAL PERMIT	115.00	
51. MAYBERRY HOMES	RFND BLDG PERMIT - BELVEDERE AVE - PROJECT CANCELLED	3,515.00	
52. MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL GOC	SOL EMS SUPPLIES AMBULANCE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT AMBULANCE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT AMBULANCE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT MEDICAL SUPPLIES RELATED TO COVID AMBULANCE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT	172.77 464.21 277.72 0.06 1,345.30 883.86	
	TOTAL	3,143.92	
53. MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP	2020 WINTER TAXES - E. LAKE DRIVE 2020 WINTER TAXES - W. LAKE DRIVE 2020 WINTER TAXES - MARSH ROAD 2020 WINTER TAXES - RUTHERFORD AVENUE 2020 WINTER TAXES - PORTER AVENUE 2020 WINTER TAXES - POLLARD AVENUE 2020 WINTER TAXES - SCHOOL STREET	47.65 22.72 453.49 42.67 213.36 27.77 24.45	
	TOTAL	832.11	
54. MERIDIAN COMMUNITY BAND	2021 ANNUAL STIPEND	1,700.00	
55. MERIDIAN SUN GOLF CLUB	RECREATION PROGRAM	844.15	
56. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	TRANSFER FOR FLEX CHECKING 01/29/2021 PAYROLL	370.23	
57. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BROWNFIELD	TRANSFER BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUNDS TO INDEP	329,430.15	104314
58. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP RETAINAGE	CENTRAL MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECOR PROJECT	198.08	
59. MERRILL FORD	FORD FLEET REPAIRS AND PARTS 2021 - UNIT #102 FORD FLEET REPAIRS AND PARTS 2021 - UNIT #102 FORD FLEET REPAIRS AND PARTS 2021 - UNIT #102	736.34 11.10 11.50	
	TOTAL	758.94	
60. MICHIGAN DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION	MERIDIAN TWP MEMBERSHIP 10/1/2020 TO 12/31/2020 MEMERSHIP MERIDIAN TWP 01/01/2021 TO 10/01/2021	56.25 168.75	
	TOTAL	225.00	
61. MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION	MTA COMPENSATION WEBINAR/TRAINING	50.00	
62. MIKE & SON ASPHALT	TRAIL MAINTENANCE PAVING PROJECT	11,261.45	
63. MYERS PLUMBING	OVERPAYMENT ON PERMIT	15.00	
64. NATIONAL PEN CO	REUSABLE COTTON FULL COLOR MASKS & SETUP	211.94	
65. NIESA	NFPA FIRE INSP 1 COURSE - A. ARNETT/R. LEWIS/D. CARR	2,775.00	

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
66. OAK CONSTRUCTION CORP	CENTRAL MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECOR PROJECT	64,923.92	
67. OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	SENIOR CENTER STAFF AND MATERIALS REIMBURSEMENT	48,328.63	
68. ORKIN, 551-LANSING, MI	2021 BUILDING PEST TREATMENT	78.00	
69. PLAY ENVIRONMENTS	REPLACEMENT PARTS FLOATING STEPS FERGUSON PARK PLAYGROUND	1,174.00	
70. PRINTING SYSTEMS INC	1099 MISC FORMS & EXTRA W2 ENVELOPES	74.06	
71. PRO-TECH MECHANICAL SERVICES	R & R BOILER CIRCULATION PUMP - SERVICE CENTER	828.90	
	POLICE STATION HVAC CONTROLS REPAIR	320.00	
	TOTAL	1,148.90	
72. PRO-TECH SECURITY SALES	BALLISTICS VEST WITH HI-LITE CARRIER - A MCCONAUGHY	839.00	
	2 BALLISTIC VESTS (DUTY)	1,708.00	
	TOTAL	2,547.00	
73. RAFT	2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES - REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR FF TRAINING	1,400.00	
74. RANDAZZO MECHANICAL HEATING & COOL	CANCELLATION OF PERMIT 50% REFUND	97.50	
75. RECLAIMED BY DESIGN	FEBRUARY 2021 MONTHLY OPERATION OF RECYCLING CENTER	2,000.00	
76. RICHARD BROWN	EMERGENCY PAYMENT OF RENT	440.00	104320
77. ROMAN AIR	ROMAN AIR OVRPMT 2 PERMITS \$20 EA - PM21-0081 & PM21-0080	40.00	
78. SAFETY SYSTEMS INC	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	516.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERV 2021	457.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERVICE 2021	460.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERVICE 2021	530.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERVICE 2021	460.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	720.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	612.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	1,284.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERVICE 2021	606.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	492.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	648.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM LEASE 2021	624.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM MONITORING 2021	372.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERV 2021	655.00	
	SAFETY SYSTEMS ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERVICE 2021	882.00	
	TOTAL	9,318.00	
79. SME	PROJECT 083647-06 HNC FROM OCT 26 2020 TO NOV 22 2020	1,175.80	
80. SOLDAN'S FEED & PET SUPPLIES	K9 DOG FOOD MERIDIAN TWP POLICE	31.99	
81. SPARROW OCCUPATIONAL	JAN 2021 PRE-EMPLOYMENT & FITNESS FOR DUTY PHYSICALS	186.00	
82. ST MARTHA CONFERENCE OF	REIMB PMT OF RENT FOR J. SINGLETON	900.00	104319
83. ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH	REIMBURSEMENT FOR PARTIAL EMERGENCY RENT PAYMENT	300.00	104321
84. STATE OF MICHIGAN	BOILERS INSPECTIONS MIR419318 & MIR419319	120.00	
85. SUPREME SANITATION	PORTABLE TOILETS FOR PARKS IN 2021 - TOWNER RD PARK	85.00	
	PORTABLE TOILETS FOR PARKS IN 2021 - HNC	160.00	
	PORTABLE TOILETS FOR PARKS IN 2021 - FARMERS MKT	85.00	
	PORTABLE TOILETS FOR PARKS IN 2021 - NANCY MOORE PARK	85.00	
	TOTAL	415.00	
86. SUSAN ANDREWS	REIMB LAKE LANSING WATERSHED INTRO TO LAKES 2021	115.00	
87. TARGET SOLUTIONS	2021 PREMEMBERSHIP PLATFORM & MAINTENANCE FEE	4,149.02	
88. THE HARKNESS LAW FIRM PLLC	LEGAL FEES-UTC - DIVERSION PROGRAM ADMIN	6,672.67	

01/29/2021 08:19 AM  
User: FAULKNER  
DB: Meridian

INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 02/02/2021 - 02/02/2021  
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID  
BANK CODE: GF

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
89. VARIPRO BENEFIT ADMINISTRATORS	FLEX ADMINISTRATION JAN 2021	153.00	
90. VICKI BARON	REFUND FOR SPORTIES PROGRAM	35.00	
91. ZOLL MEDICAL CORP	ZOLL HEART MONITOR YEARLY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2021	1,275.00	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		940,905.98	
BANK TOTALS:			
Bank GF COMMON CASH		940,905.98	

01/29/2021 08:16 AM  
 User: FAULKNER  
 DB: Meridian

INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
 EXP CHECK RUN DATES 02/02/2021 - 02/02/2021  
 BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID  
 BANK CODE: PWHZR

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. ANDREW OWENS	OVRPMT SEWER/WATER BILLS - HULETT RD	210.28	
2. BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN	COVERAGE FROM 02-01-2021 THRU 02-28-2021	545.37	
3. CITY OF EAST LANSING	ELMWSA OPERATING & INTERCONNECT COSTS FEB-JUNE	274,846.66	
4. CORBIN DESIGN	TOWNSHIP ENTRYWAY, WAYFINDING AND LOCATION SIGN DESIGN AN	2,598.32	
5. CUMMINS INC	GENERATOR MAINTENANCE DEC 2020	689.57	
	GENERATOR MAINTENANCE 2020	699.67	
	GENERATOR MAINTENANCE DEC 2020	582.36	
	GENERATOR MAINTENANCE DEC 2020	589.43	
	TOTAL	2,561.03	
6. DIVERSIFIED NATIONAL TITLE AGENCY	OVRPMT SEWER/WATER BILLS - BARNSBURY RD	160.12	
	OVRPMT SEWER/WATER BILLS - CREEK LANDING	10.61	
	TOTAL	170.73	
7. ELEANOR COWEN	OVRPMT SEWER BILL - WAUSAU RD	332.39	
8. FIRST AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS	JAN 2021 EYEMED VISION EXPENSES	379.49	
9. GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC	JANUARY 2021 MONTHLY CONSULTING FEE	526.47	
10. HOFFMAN BROS. INC	ICRD LAKE LANSING ROAD 2019/2020 - SANITARY SEWER TESTING	425.00	
11. INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES USA, LLC	2019 SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT	52,495.40	
12. JACKSON DIRT WORKS	REIMB CONSTRUCTION METER - NEMOKE DRAIN	953.11	
13. MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO	FEB 2021 TOWNSHIP SPONSORED TERM LIFE & LTD INSURANCE	377.47	
14. OKEMOS POINTE LLC	COMPLETION PERF GUARANTEE - JOLLY OAK	23,458.00	
15. SADHEESH KUMAR DEVADOSS	REIMB PERF GUARANTEE - KALORAMA WAY	2,000.00	
16. SME	DENSITY TESTING PERRY RD AND LAKE ROAD PROJECT 083647-01	458.25	
17. TITLE RESOURCE AGENCY	OVRPMT SEWER/WATER BILLS - WHITE OWL WAY	178.38	
18. TRANSNATION TITLE	OVRPMT SEWER/WATER BILLS - W. LAKE DR.	121.71	
19. TRI TITLE AGENCY LLC	OVRPMT SEWER/WATER BILLS - E. SUNWIND DR.	134.13	
20. VERLINDE CONSTRUCTION INC	REFUND SEWER REPAIR INSPECTION FEE - BLISS ST	45.00	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		362,817.19	
BANK TOTALS:			
Bank PWHZR PUBLIC WORKS		362,817.19	

01/29/2021 08:16 AM  
User: FAULKNER  
DB: Meridian

INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 02/02/2021 - 02/02/2021  
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID  
BANK CODE: TA

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. CAPITAL REAL ESTATE TAX SERVICE			
	OVR PMT WINTER PROP TAXES - HASLETT RD	1,402.94	13085
	OVR PMT WINTER PROPERTY TAXES - GRAND RIVER	1,921.70	13085
	TOTAL	<u>3,324.64</u>	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		3,324.64	
BANK TOTALS:			
Bank TA TRUST & AGENCY		3,324.64	

**Credit Card Report 1/14/2021 - 1/28/2021**

<b>Posting Date</b>	<b>Merchant Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Name</b>
2021/01/14	MARKS LOCK SHOP INC	\$20.00	TYLER KENNELL
2021/01/14	DUNHAMS 066	\$79.99	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/14	J & B DISCOUNT SHOE MART	\$209.99	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/14	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$1.05	BART CRANE
2021/01/14	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$0.97	BART CRANE
2021/01/14	WAL-MART #2866	\$86.36	MIKE ELLIS
2021/01/14	EATON FARM COOP MASON	\$129.00	MIKE ELLIS
2021/01/14	IN *KODIAK EMERGENCY EQUI	\$156.21	TODD FRANK
2021/01/14	IN *KODIAK EMERGENCY EQUI	\$154.49	TODD FRANK
2021/01/14	MICHIGAN WORKS! ASSOCI	\$45.00	BRANDIE YATES
2021/01/14	COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE	\$67.91	ANDREW MCCREADY
2021/01/14	JOHNSONS SPORTING GOODS	\$600.00	ANDREW MCCREADY
2021/01/15	TRACTOR SUPPLY #1149	\$63.99	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/15	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$0.75	BART CRANE
2021/01/15	AMZN MKTP US*2P2952MI3	\$710.99	KRISTI SCHAEING
2021/01/15	AMZN MKTP US*NT4LO75R3	\$147.48	KRISTI SCHAEING
2021/01/15	DUNHAMS 066	\$39.96	MIKE ELLIS
2021/01/15	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$144.82	MIKE ELLIS
2021/01/15	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPT#3379	\$23.49	ROBIN FAUST
2021/01/15	MID MICHIGAN EMERGENCY E	\$140.00	TODD FRANK
2021/01/15	SNAPON TOOLS	\$1,299.00	TODD FRANK
2021/01/15	MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	\$100.00	DEREK PERRY
2021/01/15	JOHNSONS SPORTING GOODS	\$74.99	KEN PLAGA
2021/01/15	MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	\$100.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/15	INTL ASSN ADMIN PRO	\$150.00	DENISE GREEN
2021/01/15	AMZN MKTP US*DW4LA6SM3	\$73.00	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/15	MEIJER # 025	\$32.42	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/18	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$74.66	LAWRENCE BOBB
2021/01/18	USA BLUE BOOK	\$312.07	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/18	COVERT SCOUTING	\$32.99	BART CRANE
2021/01/18	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$0.75	BART CRANE
2021/01/18	AMAZON.COM*QF75E1R33 AMZN	\$207.89	KRISTEN COLE
2021/01/18	AMZN MKTP US*2J69T7KW3	\$22.96	KRISTEN COLE
2021/01/18	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPT#3379	(\$23.49)	ROBIN FAUST
2021/01/18	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$25.98	TODD FRANK
2021/01/18	EB JANUARY 2021 BUSIN	(\$30.00)	BRANDIE YATES
2021/01/18	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	(\$220.94)	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/18	AMAZON.COM*2C0QW0943 AMZN	\$329.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/18	AMAZON.COM*TH3409XO3	\$658.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/18	GRAINGER	\$243.66	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/18	AWWA.ORG	\$83.00	DEREK PERRY
2021/01/18	WESCO - # 3255	\$32.38	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/18	WESCO - # 3255	\$32.38	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/18	AMZN MKTP US*D62OW4AQ3	\$36.69	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/18	SQ *T SHIRT GOODS, LLC	\$225.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/18	LANSING COMMUNITY COLL	\$40.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/18	AMZN MKTP US*3N2SZ4JI3 AM	\$88.94	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/18	AMZN MKTP US*7T4NE9HY3	\$152.80	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/20	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$2.10	BART CRANE
2021/01/20	ZOOM.US 888-799-9666	\$484.87	STEPHEN GEBES
2021/01/20	AMZN MKTP US*NN0HI0HR3	\$56.98	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/20	MIDWEST POWER EQUIPMENT	\$59.98	KEITH HEWITT

2021/01/20	MICHIGAN SUPPLY	\$87.40	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/20	AMZN MKTP US*CM1TK83B3	\$32.50	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/20	SMK*SURVEYMONKEY.COM	\$336.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/20	COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE	\$79.88	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/20	INGHAM COUNTY ENVIRONMEN	\$440.00	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/21	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$19.94	LAWRENCE BOBB
2021/01/21	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$9.97	LAWRENCE BOBB
2021/01/21	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$26.99	ROBERT STACY
2021/01/21	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$14.97	KYLE ROYSTON
2021/01/21	AMAZON.COM*0I5MG7UF3 AMZN	\$179.97	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/21	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$41.34	MIKE ELLIS
2021/01/21	AWWA.ORG	\$231.00	YOUNES ISHRAIDI
2021/01/21	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$79.98	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/21	AMZN MKTP US*6C4VM72X3	\$230.98	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/21	AMZN MKTP US*5E8XN2KZ3	\$47.97	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/21	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPT#3379	\$41.98	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/21	SIGNARAMA OF LANSING	\$82.82	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/22	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$236.67	TYLER KENNEL
2021/01/22	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$65.92	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/22	SQ *HASLETT/OKEMOS ROTARY	\$140.00	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/22	BOBCAT OF LANSING	\$68.49	TODD FRANK
2021/01/22	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$97.87	DAVID LESTER
2021/01/22	LANSING COMMUNITY COLL	\$68.00	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/25	BANNASCH WELDING INC	\$44.00	LAWRENCE BOBB
2021/01/25	BANNASCH WELDING INC	\$17.36	JIM HANSEN
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$255.43	TYLER KENNEL
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$32.22	TYLER KENNEL
2021/01/25	GFS STORE #1901	\$28.98	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$42.90	CHAD HOUCK
2021/01/25	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$0.52	BART CRANE
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$44.90	KYLE FOGG
2021/01/25	MEIJER # 025	\$125.90	RYAN CAMPBELL
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$3.54	TODD FRANK
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$75.96	DAVID LESTER
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT 2725	\$349.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$220.94	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$198.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$84.97	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/25	MEIJER # 025	\$29.98	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/25	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$49.97	KEITH HEWITT
2021/01/25	LANSINGSTATE JOURNAL	\$9.99	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/25	ADOBE ACROPRO SUBS	\$15.89	DENISE GREEN
2021/01/25	COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE	\$29.66	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/25	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$9.95	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/25	AMZN MKTP US*GM9PQ61B3	\$69.00	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/25	AMZN MKTP US*JW6DY1BX3	\$89.99	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/26	MIDWEST POWER EQUIPMENT	\$200.00	LAWRENCE BOBB
2021/01/26	ADMIRAL #181	\$14.91	LAWRENCE BOBB
2021/01/26	DUNHAMS 066	\$99.99	KYLE ROYSTON
2021/01/26	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$5.97	KYLE ROYSTON
2021/01/26	COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE	\$21.65	KRISTEN COLE
2021/01/26	FACEBK R6F36ZE9U2	\$15.00	ANDREA SMILEY
2021/01/26	BANNASCH WELDING INC	\$140.00	TODD FRANK
2021/01/26	USA BLUE BOOK	\$237.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/26	AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS	\$240.00	DEREK PERRY

2021/01/26	ADOBE ACROPRO SUBS	\$14.99	DEREK PERRY
2021/01/26	NITTERHOUSE MASONRY - HAR	\$398.50	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/27	MICHIGAN WATER ENVIORNMEN	\$185.00	ROBERT STACY
2021/01/27	MICHIGAN WATER ENVIORNMEN	\$185.00	ROBERT STACY
2021/01/27	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$26.12	TYLER KENNEL
2021/01/27	PAYPAL *SCENICMICH	\$50.00	DEBBIE BUDZYNSKI
2021/01/27	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$0.75	BART CRANE
2021/01/27	AMAZON.COM*WG4JK9HP3 AMZN	\$127.57	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/27	AMZN MKTP US*AT6L38QY3	\$198.00	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/27	AMAZON.COM*N42VO5QP3	\$34.99	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/27	OILWORKS CO	\$749.99	RICHARD GRILLO
2021/01/27	AMAZON.COM*9013N7Q13 AMZN	\$87.78	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/27	MICHIGAN WATER ENVIORNMEN	\$185.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/27	AMZN MKTP US*OT9GK3AH3	\$219.95	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2021/01/27	JOHNSONS SPORTING GOODS	\$790.00	KEN PLAGA
2021/01/27	AMAZON.COM*LB97F2S23 AMZN	\$26.49	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/27	AMZN MKTP US*497FX5LD3	\$26.04	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/27	SOLDANS FEEDS & PET S	\$55.97	CATHERINE ADAMS
2021/01/28	PAS*PASSPT LANSING PR	\$0.97	BART CRANE
2021/01/28	AMAZON.COM*UE30N4PH3	\$47.98	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/28	AMZN MKTP US*PU9ST6M83	\$104.64	KRISTI SCHAEDING
2021/01/28	4IMPRINT	\$393.29	ANDREA SMILEY
2021/01/28	BOBCAT OF LANSING	\$162.10	TODD FRANK
2021/01/28	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$76.05	TODD FRANK
2021/01/28	WAL-MART #2866	\$93.97	DAVID LESTER
2021/01/28	AMZN MKTP US*XJ2IZ3E33	\$24.99	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/28	AMZN MKTP US*5S9U84NZ3	\$16.01	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/28	AMZN MKTP US*4H1PF7Y63	\$32.02	MICHELLE PRINZ
2021/01/28	AED SUPERSTORE	\$846.50	WILLIAM PRIESE
2021/01/28	AMZN MKTP US*WK76N1KY3	\$85.78	CATHERINE ADAMS

---

Total	\$18,291.16
-------	-------------

---

### ACH Transactions

Date	Payee	Amount	Purpose
1/15/2021	Nationwide	\$ 6,241.96	Payroll Deductions 1/15/2021
1/15/2021	ICMA	\$ 56,355.06	Payroll Deductions 1/15/2021
1/15/2021	Various Financial Institutions	\$ 327,721.22	Direct Deposit 1/15/2021
1/15/2021	IRS	\$ 125,284.80	Payroll Taxes 1/15/2021
1/19/2021	ELAN	\$ 33,526.88	Credit Card Payment
1/20/2021	Blue Care Network	\$ 3,323.51	Employee Health Insurance
1/22/2021	MCT Utilities	\$ 557.98	Water/Sewer for MCT
1/27/2021	Blue Care Network	\$ 63,232.70	Employee Health Insurance
1/28/2021	MERS Purchase	\$ 283.08	Employee Retirement
<b>Total ACH Payments</b>		<u><u>\$ 616,527.19</u></u>	



12.A

**To:** Township Board

**From:** Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development  
Peter Menser, Principal Planner

**Date:** January 28, 2021

**Re:** Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC), rezone 31.63 acres east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre) with conditions.

---

The Township Board approved Rezoning #20050 for introduction at its last meeting on January 19, 2021. As directed by the Board the proposed ordinance was published in the form in which it was introduced.

#### **Township Board Options**

The Township Board may approve or deny the proposed rezoning from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre) with conditions. If the Board amends the proposal, the request may be referred back to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. A resolution to approve the rezoning for final adoption subject to the conditions offered by the applicant is provided.

- **Move to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Rezoning #20050 to rezone approximately 31.63 acres located east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre) with conditions.**

#### **Attachment**

1. Resolution to approve for final adoption.

G:\Community Planning & Development\Planning\REZONINGS (REZ)\2020\REZ 20050 (DTN 2013 LLC)\REZ 20050.tb4

**RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held virtually using the Zoom web conferencing application, in said Township on the 2nd day of February, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, DTN 2013 LLC requested the rezoning of 31.63 acres located on the east side of Central Park Drive, west of Powell Road, and north of Grand River Avenue, including Parcel #22-252-002, Parcel #22-276-009, and the eastern portion of Parcel #22-252-005, from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight dwelling units per acre) with conditions; and

WHEREAS , the applicant voluntarily offered the following six conditions on the rezoning: 1) the development of the Newman Equities II, LLC parcel shall be limited to no greater than 220 units, 2) the development shall include no fewer than 25 single-family detached homes, 3) the development will include no buildings greater than two stories in height, 4) an enclosed garage shall be provided for every dwelling unit, 5) the rezoning shall be conditioned on the approval within two years of a special use permit and wetland use permit, for the current owner, or the zoning shall revert to its current zoning (RA), 6) the eastern eleven (11) acres of the 31.63 acre parcel shall be developed as single-family detached homes; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request at its regular meeting on November 9, 2020 and voted to recommend denial of the request at its meeting on November 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board discussed the proposed rezoning at its meetings on December 8, 2020, January 5, 2021, and January 19, 2021 and has reviewed the staff and Planning Commission materials provided under cover memorandums dated December 2, 2020, December 21, 2020, and January 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning to RD and the conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant ensure future development of the site will be consistent with Goal A of the 2017 Master Plan to preserve and strengthen residential neighborhoods by providing diverse housing options that meet the needs of various income levels and household types; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning to RD and the conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant will result in a population that can support nearby existing commercial centers; and

**Resolution to Approve - Final Adoption**

**Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC)**

**Page 2**

WHEREAS, the condition requiring single family homes on the east 11 acres of the site ensures consistency in land use with the other single family homes located along Powell Road; and

WHEREAS, public water and sanitary sewer are available for extension to serve the subject site; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board introduced Rezoning #20050 for publication and subsequent adoption at its meeting on January 19, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2021-01, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township pursuant to Rezoning Petition #20050" from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight dwelling units per acre) subject to the following conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant:

1. The development of the Newman Equities II, LLC parcel shall be limited to no greater than 220 units.
2. The development shall include no fewer than 25 single-family detached homes.
3. The development will include no buildings greater than two stories in height.
4. An enclosed garage shall be provided for every dwelling unit.
5. The rezoning shall be conditioned on the approval within two years of a special use permit and wetland use permit, for the current owner, or the zoning shall revert to its current zoning (RA).
6. The eastern eleven (11) acres of the 31.63 acre parcel shall be developed as single-family detached homes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it was adopted.

ADOPTED: YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

) ss

COUNTY OF INGHAM )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 2nd day of February, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01**  
**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP**  
**OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP**  
**PURSUANT TO REZONING #20050**

The Charter Township of Meridian ordains:

Section 1. Amending the Zoning District Map.

A. The Zoning District Map of Meridian Township, as adopted in Section 86-312 of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, as previously amended, is hereby amended by changing the RA (Single Family-Medium Density) District symbols and indication as shown on the Zoning District Map, for Parcel #22-252-002, Parcel #22-276-009, and a portion of Parcel #22-252-005 for the land legally described as:

An area of land in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 22, T4N, R1W, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan, the limits of said parcel described as: Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 22; thence N89°59'34"W along the East-West 1/4 line of said Section 22 a distance of 1317.96 feet; thence N00°00'41"E 399.95 feet; thence N89°59'34"W parallel with said South line 331.20 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of Central Park Drive; thence Northwesterly 150.26 feet along said Easterly right-of-way and a curve to the left, said curve having a radius of 395.00 feet, a delta angle of 21°47'46", and a chord of 149.36 feet bearing N14°19'42"W; thence S89°45'12"E 209.30 feet; thence N00°00'41"E 272.45 feet; thence Northeasterly 51.24 feet along a curve to the right, said curve having a radius of 550.00 feet, a delta angle of 5°20'17", and a chord of 51.22 feet bearing N87°20'17"E; thence S89°59'34"E parallel with said South section line 107.73 feet; thence N89°55'48"E parallel with the South line of Central Park Estates Subdivision, Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 57 of Plats, Pages 29-34, Ingham County Records 109.19 feet; thence N00°43'07"E 66.01 feet; thence N89°55'48"E parallel with said South plat line 580.00 feet; thence N00°43'07"E 438.33 feet to said South plat line; thence N89°55'48"E along said South plat line 416.03 feet; thence S00°04'31"W parallel with the East line of said Section 22 a distance of 208.00 feet; thence N89°55'48"E parallel with said South plat line 208.00 feet to said East section line; thence S00°04'31"W along said East section line 647.57 feet; thence S89°25'13"W 302.00 feet; thence S00°04'31"W parallel with said East section line 353.73 feet; thence N89°25'13"E 302.00 feet to said East line; thence S00°04'31"W along said East line 115.39 feet to the point of beginning; said area containing 31.63 acres more or less; including 0.57 acre more or less presently in use as public right-of-way; said area subject to all easements and restrictions if any.

to that of RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight dwelling units per acre) with conditions.

Section 2. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective seven (7) days after its publication or upon such later date as may be required under Section 402 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3402) after filing of a notice of intent to file a petition for a referendum.

---

Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor

---

Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk

G:\Community Planning & Development\Planning\REZONINGS (REZ)\2020\REZ 20050 (DTN 2013 LLC)\resolutions\REZ 20050 Ordinance for adoption FINAL TB.docx



12. B

**To: Board Members**  
**From: Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor**  
**Date: January 29, 2021**  
**Re: Economic Development Corporation Appointment**

---

The Economic Development Corporation currently has a vacancy due to the resignation of Mikhail Murshak. His term was scheduled to end on 12/31/2026.

I am recommending Henry Kwok, small business Manager for Henry's Place and Asian Buffet, to fill the remaining term left by Mr. Murshak. Mr. Kwok has been a Township resident since 1998 and would like to use his insight into small business to contribute to the EDC.

The following motion is proposed for Board consideration:

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HENRY KWOK TO THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM ENDING 12/31/2026.**

**Attachment:**

1. Application for Public Service

## Henry Kwok

1578Maiden Ln. Okemos, MI 48864

Hnk7919@gmail.com

5174492580

12/14/2020

Amber Clark  
Neighborhood & Economic Development Director  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-853-4568  
clark@meridian.mi.us

Dear Ms. Clark,

I am very interested in the EDC chair as I can contribute greatly using my insight of small business experience as well as my corporate experience in the supply chain industry. I have lived in this township since 1998 and have grown more and more involved in the township's activities as the years passed.

One of my favorite classes from MSU was urban planning. The subject has then intrigued me to understand why certain reasons why certain spaces are used for certain purposes. Add the supply chain of my education & my experience as a small business entrepreneur, I believe this would be a fit for me.

In conclusion, thank you for the consideration of the position. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you have a happy holiday and new year.

Sincerely,  
Henry Kwok

## **Henry Kwok**

1578Maiden Ln. Okemos, MI 48864

Hnk7919@gmail.com

5174492580

### **OBJECTIVE**

To improve my community through leadership roles and decision making

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Henry's Place, Okemos, MI. 2015- Present

Partner, General Manager

Asian Buffet, Okemos, MI. 1998- Present

Partner, General Manager

Henkel Chemical Division, Madison Heights, MI. 2012 - 2014

Materials Manager

Whirlpool Corporation, Benton Harbor, MI. 2010-2012

Logistics, warehouse management

Steelcase Inc. Grand Rapids, MI 2009-2010

Production Planner

### **EDUCATION**

Western Michigan University 2007- 2009

Major: Integrated Supply Management, B.B.A. Minor: General Business

Administration. Graduated: April 2009

Michigan State University 2004- 2006

Unfinished, transferred

Lansing Community College 2002-2004, 2007

Associates in Biology 2007

### **Skills & Certifications**

Restaurant Manager Safe Serve Certified

Speak Spanish, Cantonese Chinese, Fujianese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese

Experience in lease negotiation, procurement, & logistics management

Self motivated and enjoys working in fast pace environments

Passionate about learning, growing, and seeking new challenges

Proficient in SAP, Restaurant Point of Sale Software & Microsoft Office

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Ronald J. Styka  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



Phil Deschaine  
Patricia Herring Jackson  
Dan Opsommer  
Kathy Ann Sundland

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

## APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

- |                                     |   |                          |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Assessing Board of Review*  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Elected Officials Compensation Commission* |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Board of Water and Light Representative*                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Commission                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Brownfield Redevelopment Authority*                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee* |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Building and/or Fire Board of Appeals and<br>Building Hearing Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Land Preservation Advisory Board           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Capital Area Transportation Authority (C.A.T.A.)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Park Commission (elected/appointed)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Communications Commission*  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pension Trustees                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Community Resources Commission  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Planning Commission                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Corridor Improvement Authority*                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Township Board (elected/appointed)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Downtown Development Authority*                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation Commission*                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Zoning Board of Appeals                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Economic Development Corporation                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                                      |

(\*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service:

*To weigh in with my expertise in small business*  
Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed. (Attach resume if available)

Name: Henry Kwok  
Occupation: Self employed Place of Employment: Asian Buffet  
Home Address: 1578 Maiden Ln, Okemos, MI 48864  
Phone: (days) 5174492580 (evenings) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature [Signature] Date 12/21/20

Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board and the Economic Development Corporation, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commissions must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office. Excessive absences may be cause for review of appointment.

(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

The policy for appointment of candidates to the various public service positions is based on the following criteria: desire to serve, experience, expertise, availability of time to serve, and maintenance of equitable geographic representation. In most instances it will be desirable to develop further information through a personal interview. This application will be retained in township files for two years. Please return this form to the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Meridian.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
Date Received		Distro:	Application #	
Registered Voter:	Y / N			
Date Appointed:				



**To: Board Members**  
**From: Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor**  
**Date: January 29, 2021**  
**Re: Resolution Commemorating Black History Month**

---

Black history month is an annual observance in the United States during the month of February. The attached document has been drafted by staff members for Township Board approval. Our diversity is something we welcome, embrace and celebrate in Meridian Township.

A motion is prepared for Board consideration:

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH.**

**Attachment:**

1. Resolution Commemorating Black History Month

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, Meridian Township acknowledges the contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States and that all people of the United States benefit from the inclusion of African American contributions to US history; and

**WHEREAS**, In February, Meridian Township recognizes Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of black history to Township history, Michigan history and US history; and

**WHEREAS**, Meridian Township encourages learning from the past in order to understand and improve the experiences that shape the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans engage and serve the United States at all levels of American life including government, military, academia, and industry; and

**WHEREAS**, During Black History Month Meridian Township acknowledges and commemorates the importance of African American citizenship, engagement and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, In Meridian Township, Gilbert Sherman was the first African American to serve on the Township Board, appointed Township Treasurer in 1999. In 2000, Gilbert Sherman was the first African American to run for the office of Treasurer and thus for a Township Board seat; and

**WHEREAS**, Milton L. Scales was the first African American elected to the Township Board in 2012. He served from 2012-2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 2015, the Meridian Township Board has adopted a recurring commitment to increased diversity in all aspects of Township function, and specifically in it's "Board Goals and Objectives"; and

**WHEREAS**, In November 2016, Patricia Herring Jackson, became the first African American female elected to the Township Board, as a Trustee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**, that Meridian Township commemorates Black History Month to pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity and to celebrate the accomplishments, contributions, and history of African Americans.

ADOPTED: YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MICHIGAN        )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM        )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Guthrie  
Meridian Township Clerk



**To: Township Board**  
**From: Phil Deschaine, Treasurer**  
**Darla Jackson, Human Services Specialist**  
**Date: January 27, 2021**  
**Re: Extension of Poverty Exemption to Qualified Households**

---

The Poverty Exemption Program allows low-income resident households with limited assets to have their property taxes fully waived. The Human Services Specialist and the Assessing Department review applications. Final determinations are completed by the assessing Board of Review at their March, July, or December meeting, and if granted, the resident receives an exemption from that tax year's property taxes.

Until now, the poverty exemption has been granted by Board of Review for the current year only. Property owners had to apply each year to get an exemption for that year. Michigan Public Act 253 of 2020 made changes to the statute governing poverty exemptions. Local municipalities can now adopt a resolution that allows an exemption granted in 2019 or 2020 to carry forward to 2021, 2022 and 2023 for those persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases (Federal Supplemental Security Income, Social Security disability, or retirement benefits). Local units can also adopt a resolution\_for any new exemptions in 2021, 2022 or 2023 to remain exempt for up to 3 years for persons who receive a fixed income (MCL 211.7u(6)).

Local units can carry a poverty exemption forward that was granted in 2019 or 2020 for the 2021 tax year, without an application or protest to the Board of Review. If the Township Board adopts the proposed poverty exemption resolution by February 15, applicable households could receive an exemption for 2021 and 2022.

The following motion is proposed:

**MOVE THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE POVERTY EXEMPTION TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS**

Attachments:

1. Resolution Extending the Poverty Exemption to Qualified Households
2. Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty
3. Summary of the Poverty Exemption Changes
4. Community Resources Commission Letter

**RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE POVERTY EXEMPTION TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS**

At a meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 2nd day of February 2021, at 6:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, Act 253 of 2020 permits a local assessing unit such as Meridian Township to resolve to permit a principal residence exempt from the collection of taxes pursuant to poverty rules in 2019 or 2020 to receive continued exemption for up to three years without the necessity of reapplication, subject to the conditions provided in the Act and any requirements of the local assessing unit; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Board wishes to permit such extension of poverty tax exemptions without the need for reapplication or hearing for the tax years 2021, 2022 and/or 2023, so long as the taxpayer/property owner has submitted an affidavit or statement to the township assessing officer indicating that ownership and poverty status has not changed, and that he/she or they continue to be eligible for a poverty exemption.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Township Board of Meridian Township hereby permits a three-year extension for the tax years 2021, 2022 and 2023 to owners of principal residences that were exempt from property taxes due to poverty in the tax years 2019 or 2020, subject to the submittal by the owner thereof of a statement or affidavit attesting that conditions have not changed; which statement/affidavit is attached hereto and approved herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the owner of a poverty-exempt property that submits the attached affidavit or statement to the Township Assessor will be granted up to a three-year extension of poverty exemption for the tax years 2021, 2022 and/or 2023 without the necessity of reapplication or a hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a person submitting such statement or affidavit must notify the assessing officer in writing that conditions have changed if they are no longer owner or occupant of the principal residence for which the exemption is extended; and failing to provide such information on change in conditions, will subject such person to the payment of back taxes, penalties and interest, as provided in PA 253 of 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if property is determined to be ineligible for exemption as a result of an audit, the person who filed for the exemption is subject to repayment of additional taxes including interest to be paid as provided in PA 253 of 2020.

ADOPTED: YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

)ss

COUNTY OF INGHAM )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk for the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board held on the 2nd day of February 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Guthrie  
Clerk, Charter Township of Meridian

## Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be used to affirm ownership, occupancy, and income status. MCL 211.7u(2) provides that, to be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsection (6) and (8), annually affirm that the applicant owns and occupies, as a principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.

<b>PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION</b> — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.			
Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION</b> (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION</b> — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		County	
Name of Local School District			
Parcel Identification Number		Year(s) Exemption Previously Granted by Board of Review	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS</b> (Check all boxes that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> The property in which the exemption is being claimed is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.			
<input type="checkbox"/> After establishing initial eligibility for the exemption, my income and asset status has remained unchanged and/or I receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits.			
<b>PART 5: CERTIFICATION</b>			
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided on this form is true and I am eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes by reason of poverty pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.			
Owner or Legal Designee Name (print)		Signature of Owner or Legal Designee	Date
<b>Designee must attach a letter of authority.</b>			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)		Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll	
<b>CERTIFICATION</b> — I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.			
Assessor Signature		Date Certified by Assessor	

## Summary of Changes to MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption in Public Act 253 of 2020

Public Act 253 of 2020 was signed into law on December 23, 2020. The Act made several changes to the poverty exemption statute (MCL 211.7u) that will impact how local units, assessors, and boards of review handle the exemption starting with the 2021 tax year:

- Removes the word “supervisor” from statute, making it clear that only the Board of Review can grant/deny poverty exemption
- Clarifies that the federal income levels used are those adopted in the *prior* tax year (2020 federal levels are used for 2021 exemptions)
- Requires the local unit to make the policy, guidelines and application form available on their website
- Removes the ability for Boards of Review to deviate from the adopted policy/guidelines for “substantial and compelling reasons”
- Local units can adopt a resolution that allows an exemption granted in 2019 or 2020 to carry forward to 2021, 2022 and 2023 for those persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases (Federal Supplemental Security Income, Social Security disability or retirement benefits). Local units can also adopt a resolution for any new exemptions in 2021, 2022 or 2023 to remain exempt for up to 3 years for persons who receive a fixed income (MCL 211.7u(6))
- Local units can carry a poverty exemption forward that was granted in 2019 or 2020 for the 2021 tax year, without an application or protest to the Board of Review. **Local units must adopt a resolution by February 15, 2021 to carry the exemption forward** (MCL211.7u(8))
- If a person meets all eligibility requirements in statute, the Board of Review must grant a full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value OR a partial exemption equal to a 25% or 50% reduction in taxable value OR any other percentage reduction in taxable value approved by the STC

A person receiving the extended exemption in MCL 211.7u(6) for up to 3 years due to receiving a fixed income is required to file an affidavit rescinding the exemption within 45 days of no longer being eligible for the exemption.

Local units that adopt a resolution to extend the poverty exemption for up to 3 years for those persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance **or** local units that carry the 2019/2020 granted poverty exemptions forward to 2021 must implement an audit program and if found ineligible, the person is subject to repayment of the taxes plus interest.

Local units may need to revise their guidelines, policies, etc to implement the changes in statute. This includes revised guidelines that remove any other calculation of the taxable value for approved poverty exemptions, i.e. formulas that take into consideration the homestead tax credit to calculate the property tax liability and revised TV based on that calculated tax liability. The guidelines may only provide for a full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value (TV of 0) or a partial exemption equal to a 25% reduction or 50% reduction in taxable value, or any other percentage reduction approved by the State Tax Commission.

PA 253 requires the State Tax Commission to issue a bulletin on how to develop and implement the audit program for the extended poverty exemption provisions in MCL 211.7u(6) and (8). The State Tax Commission will also be working to create the statutorily required poverty application form and other necessary forms and guidance.



**Meridian Township**  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000  
F 517.853.4096

**Township Board:**

**Ronald J. Styka**  
*Township Supervisor*

**Deborah Guthrie**  
*Township Clerk*

**Phil Deschaine**  
*Township Treasurer*

**Patricia Herring  
Jackson**  
*Township Trustee*

**Dan Opsommer**  
*Township Trustee*

**Kathy Ann Sundland**  
*Township Trustee*

**Courtney Wisinski**  
*Township Trustee*

**Frank L. Walsh**  
*Township Manager*

January 27, 2021

Dear Township Board members:

The Community Resources Commission supports the proposed resolution regarding the Meridian Township Poverty Exemption Program.

Historically, the Poverty Exemption Program allows low-income resident households with limited assets to have their property taxes waived or reduced. The Human Services Specialist and the Assessing Department review applications. Final determinations are completed by the Assessing Board of Review at their March, July, or December meeting, and if granted, the resident receives an exemption from that tax year's property taxes. The proposed changes would allow low-income residents that rely solely on public assistance, whose income and assets change very little from one year to the next, to have their property taxes waived or reduced for up to three years.

Several poverty exemption applicants, mostly older adults, have a fixed income that is solely public assistance, and the applicants struggle to complete the form and fulfill the documentation requirements. Sometimes their applications are rejected due to having incomplete documentation. The proposed changes would reduce the instances in which those applications are rejected, allowing some of our most vulnerable residents to stay in their housing and potentially reduce instances of property tax foreclosure.

The Meridian Township Community Resources Commission views the proposed changes as one of several tools that could be successful in meeting the basic needs of struggling households. We fully endorse the proposed changes to the Poverty Exemption Program, and urge the Board to approve the resolution prior to February 15, to enact the policy as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Brouse  
Chair  
Community Resources Commission



**To: Board Members**  
**From: Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor**  
**Date: January 29, 2021**  
**Re: Pension Board Appointment**

---

The Pension Board currently has a vacancy due to the resignation of Joseph Bonsall. His term was scheduled to end on 12/31/2022.

I am recommending Amy Holda, Department Human Resources Director for Michigan State University, to fill the remaining term left by Mr. Bonsall. Ms. Holda has knowledge and experience with the Pension Board having been the Pension Administrator of the plan and staff to the Board during her time serving as the Human Resources Director for Meridian Township. Also, she currently serves on the Local Officials Compensation Commission.

The following motion is proposed for Board consideration:

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF AMY HOLDA TO THE PENSION BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING 12/31/2022.**



13. A.

**To: Township Board Members**  
**From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager**  
**Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager**  
**Director of Public Works & Engineering**  
**Date: January 28, 2021**  
**Re: 2021 Citizen Survey**

---

In 2003 the Township contracted with the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado to conduct a Citizen Survey. Since that time, additional surveys have been conducted in 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018 using the same survey methodology and questionnaire.

The 2018 price for the survey was just under \$15,000 and included the traditional three-part mailing to 1,600 households, and a community-wide, opt-in online survey. As in prior years, the survey allowed several customizable questions to be asked by the Township on items of specific interest.

If the Township Board wishes to continue the Citizen Survey on a three (3) year cycle, we would request direction on whether to utilize the same survey instrument, or as discussed in the past, design our own survey document.

Attachments: 2018 Citizen Survey

**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

# Meridian Charter Township, MI

Community Livability Report

2018



**NRC**  
National Research Center Inc.

2955 Valmont Road Suite 300  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863



*Leaders at the Core of Better Communities*

777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002  
icma.org • 800-745-8780

# Contents

About..... 1

Quality of Life in Meridian Charter Township..... 2

Community Characteristics ..... 3

Governance ..... 5

Participation ..... 7

Special Topics..... 9

Conclusions ..... 12



The National Citizen Survey™  
© 2001-2018 National Research Center, Inc.

The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

NRC is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

# About

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) report is about the “livability” of Meridian Charter Township. The phrase “livable community” is used here to evoke a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement).

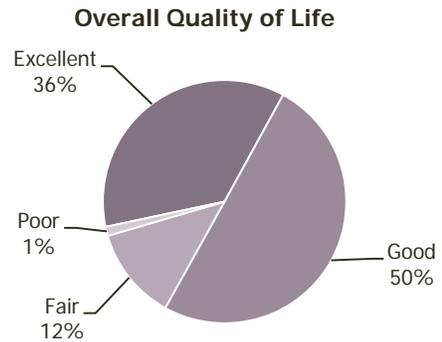
The Community Livability Report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 345 residents of Meridian Charter Township. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents. The full description of methods used to garner these opinions can be found in the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover.



# Quality of Life in Meridian Charter Township

Most residents rated the quality of life in Meridian Charter Township as excellent or good. This rating was similar to the national comparison (see Appendix B of the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover).

Shown below are the eight facets of community. The color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated it across the three sections of the survey that represent the pillars of a community – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings across the three pillars were higher than the benchmark, the color for that facet is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.



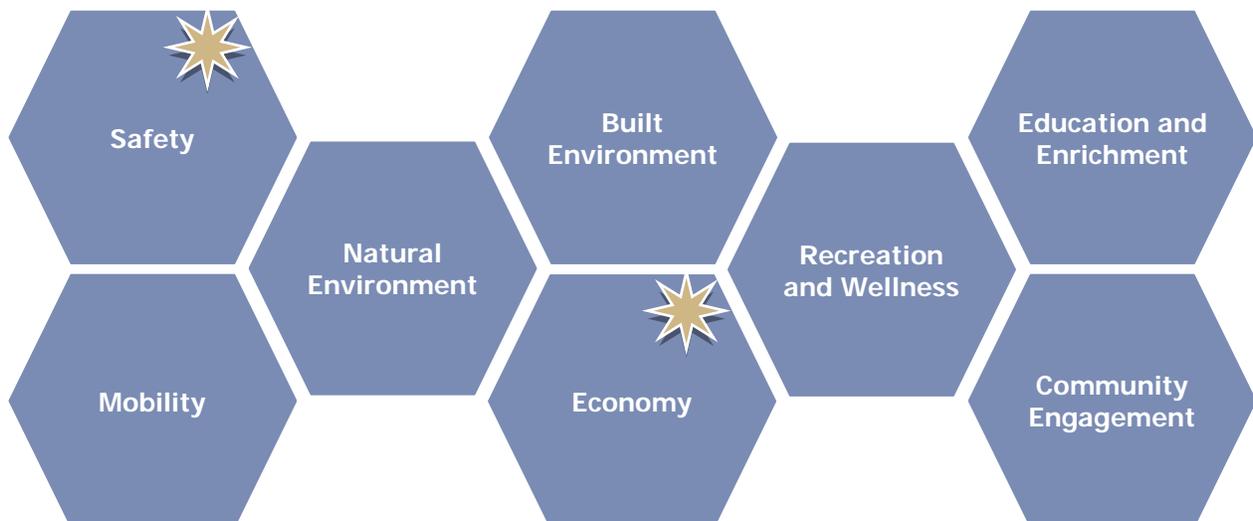
In addition to a summary of ratings, the image below includes one or more stars to indicate which community facets were the most important focus areas for the community. As in 2015, residents identified Safety and Economy as priorities for the Meridian Charter Township community in the coming two years. Ratings for these facets, as well as all other facets of community livability, were positive and similar to the national benchmarks. This overview of the key aspects of community quality provides a quick summary of where residents see exceptionally strong performance and where performance offers the greatest opportunity for improvement. Linking quality to importance offers community members and leaders a view into the characteristics of the community that matter most and that seem to be working best.

Details that support these findings are contained in the remainder of this Livability Report, starting with the ratings for Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation and ending with results for Meridian Charter Township’s unique questions.

## Legend

- Higher than national benchmark
- Similar to national benchmark
- Lower than national benchmark

- \* Most important



# Community Characteristics

*What makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be?*

Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. How residents rate their overall quality of life is an indicator of the overall health of a community. In the case of Meridian Charter Township, 90% rated the Township as an excellent or good place to live. Respondents' ratings of Meridian Charter Township as a place to live were similar to those observed in other communities across the nation.

In addition to rating the Township as a place to live, respondents rated several aspects of community quality including Meridian Charter Township as a place to raise children and to retire, their neighborhood as a place to live, the overall image or reputation of the Township and its overall appearance. Nine in 10 residents rated Meridian Charter Township positively as a place to raise children, a rating which was higher than the national average. About 7 in 10 gave favorable marks to Meridian Charter Township as a place to retire and its overall appearance, and more than 8 in 10 were pleased with the overall image or reputation of Meridian Charter Township and their neighborhood as a place to live. However, ratings for the overall image and reputation of the Township declined from 2015 to 2018 (for more information see the *Trends over Time* report under separate cover).

Delving deeper into Community Characteristics, survey respondents rated over 40 features of the community within the eight facets of Community Livability. All aspects of Recreation and Wellness and Community Engagement received ratings on par with other communities and were rated positively by a majority of residents. Residents gave ratings higher than the national averages for several aspects of Mobility, including overall ease of travel, ease of travel by public transportation, ease of travel by car and public parking. However, ratings for public parking and traffic flow decreased from 2015 to 2018.

Marks for Education and Enrichment were strong, with residents giving education and enrichment opportunities, K-12 education and child care/preschool higher evaluations than other communities in the nation.

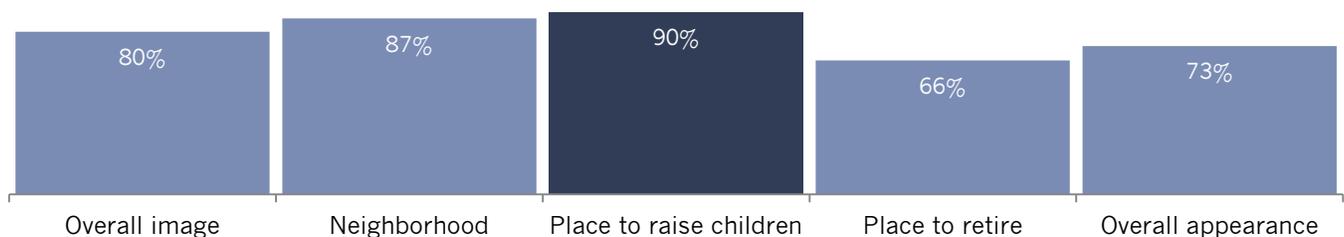


In items related to Economy and affordability, Meridian Charter Township residents rated affordable quality housing, variety of housing options and employment and shopping opportunities higher than the national benchmarks. Ratings for employment opportunities have been on the rise since 2009. However, residents gave ratings lower than the national average to vibrant downtown/commercial area, and evaluations for shopping opportunities and overall quality of business and service establishments decreased from 2015 to 2018.

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar ■ Lower



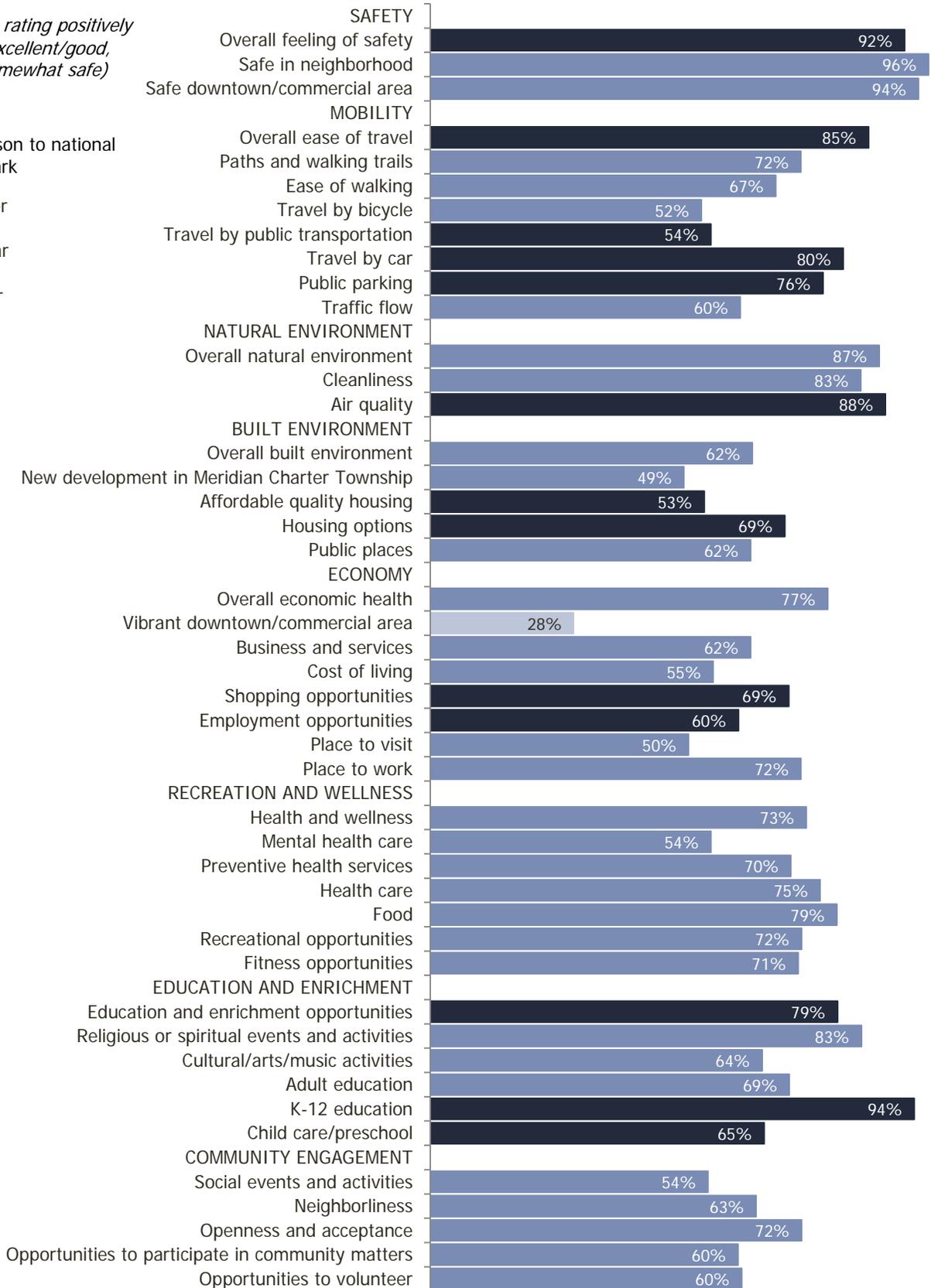
# The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 1: Aspects of Community Characteristics

*Percent rating positively  
(e.g., excellent/good,  
very/somewhat safe)*

Comparison to national  
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower



# Governance

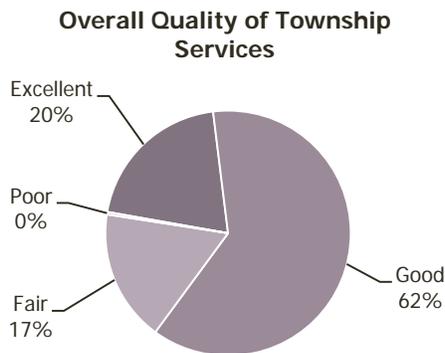
*How well does the government of Meridian Charter Township meet the needs and expectations of its residents?*

The overall quality of the services provided by Meridian Charter Township as well as the manner in which these services are provided is a key component of how residents rate their quality of life. Over three-quarters of respondents gave excellent or good ratings to the overall quality of Township services, while 45% gave excellent or good ratings to the Federal Government. Ratings for both levels of government were similar to the national benchmarks.

Survey respondents also rated various aspects of Meridian Charter Township’s leadership and governance. About 6 in 10 respondents or more gave positive ratings to all of these items and these ratings were similar to other communities across the nation. The overall quality of customer service provided by Meridian Charter Township employees received the highest ratings; 82% of respondents rated this aspect as excellent or good.

Respondents evaluated over 30 individual services and amenities available in Meridian Charter Township. All aspects of Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement were positive and similar to national averages.

At least 6 in 10 residents rated aspects of Safety positively, with crime prevention receiving ratings higher than the national average. Evaluations of fire prevention increased from 2015 to 2018.



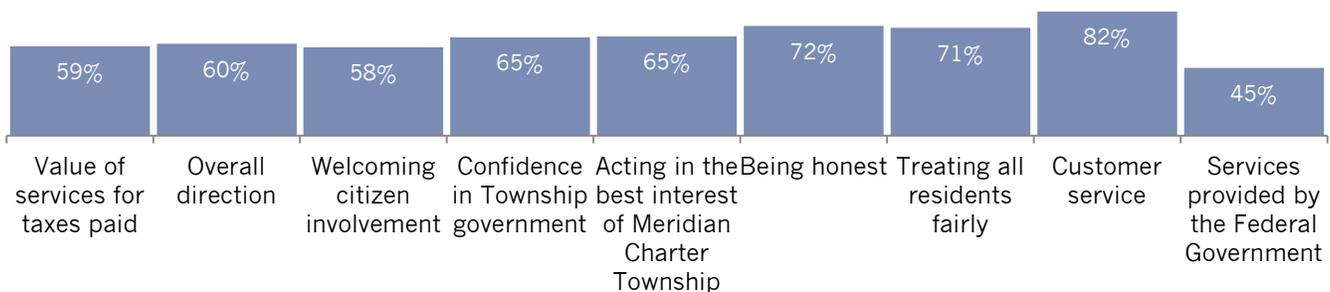
Evaluations of Mobility were mixed, with bus or transit services receiving marks higher than comparison communities, and street repair receiving marks lower than other communities.

Ratings for Natural Environment were also a mix, with natural areas preservation and open space ratings being strong and higher than national benchmarks, while the rating for yard waste pick-up was lower than the national benchmark.

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar ■ Lower



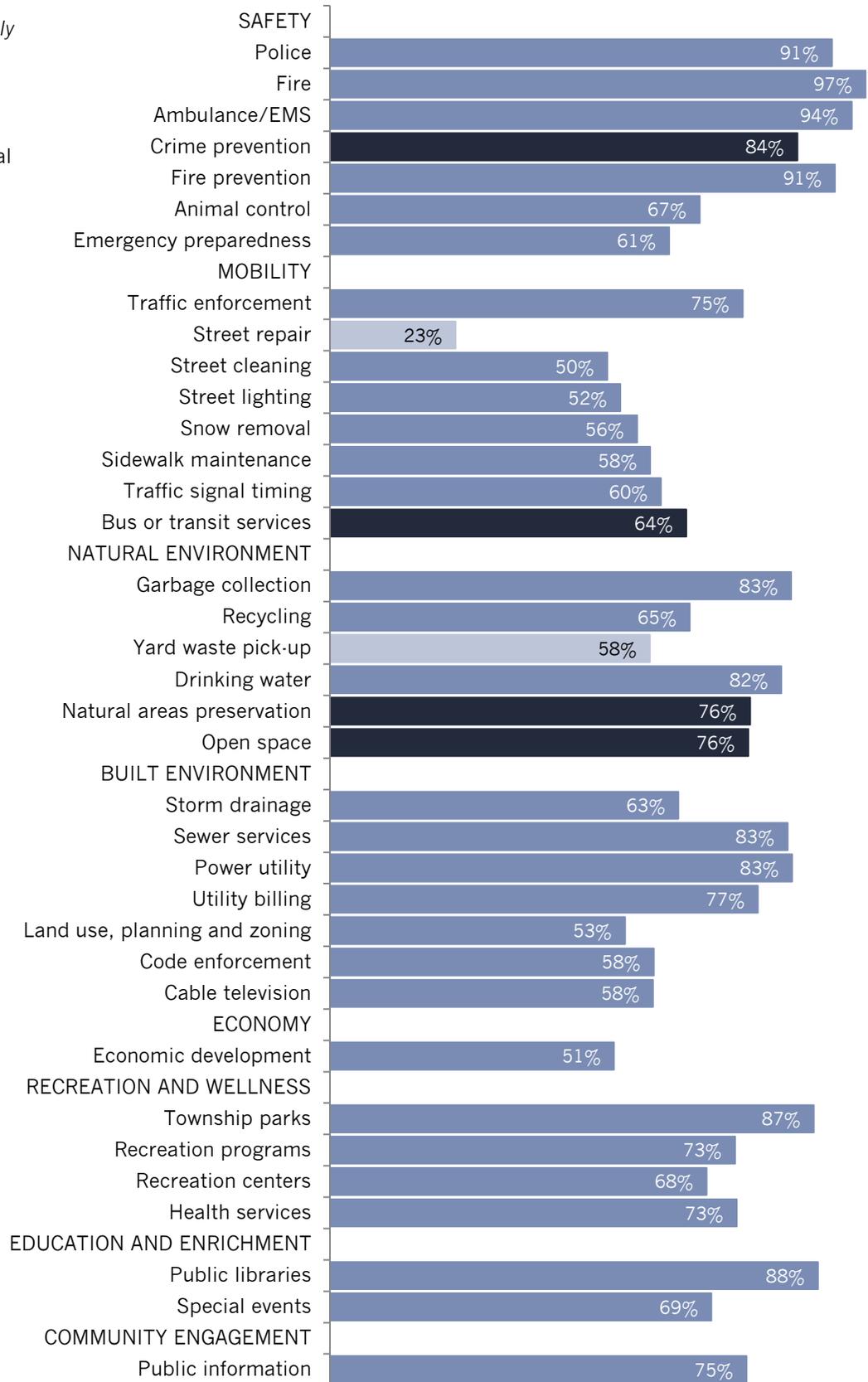
## The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 2: Aspects of Governance

Percent rating positively  
(e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national  
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower



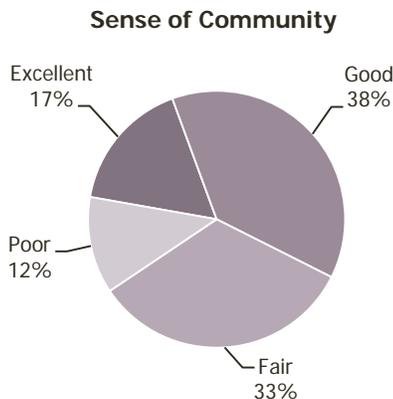
# Participation

*Are the residents of Meridian Charter Township connected to the community and each other?*

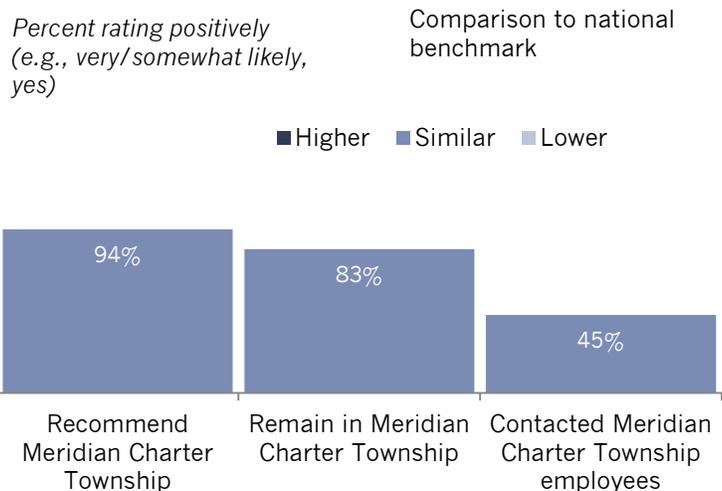
An engaged community harnesses its most valuable resource, its residents. The connections and trust among residents, government, businesses and other organizations help to create a sense of community, a shared sense of membership, belonging and history. Over half of residents rated the sense of community in the Township as excellent or good. This rating was similar to other communities in the nation. Over 9 in 10 residents recommended living in Meridian Charter Township and 8 in 10 residents planned to remain in Meridian Charter Township for the next five years. Almost half of residents had contacted Township employees in the last 12 months.

The survey included over 30 activities and behaviors for which respondents indicated how often they participated in or performed each, if at all. All aspects of Mobility, Natural Environment and Recreation and Wellness were on par with comparison communities. While at least 8 in 10 residents did not report a crime or were not a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, only one-quarter of residents had stocked supplies for an emergency, which was lower than the national average.

Virtually all residents had purchased goods or services in the Township. About one-third of residents reported that they thought the economy would have a positive impact on their income (which was similar to the benchmark) and that they worked in Meridian Charter Township (which was lower).



Levels of participation within Community Engagement were mixed. Over 8 in 10 residents had talked to or visited with neighbors and voted in local elections. Around 2 in 10 residents had campaigned for an issue, cause, or candidate, contacted Meridian Charter Township elected officials, participated in a club or attended or watched a local public meeting; these levels were all on par with national averages. However, reported levels of residents that had volunteered, done a favor for a neighbor or read or watched local news were lower than in comparison communities.



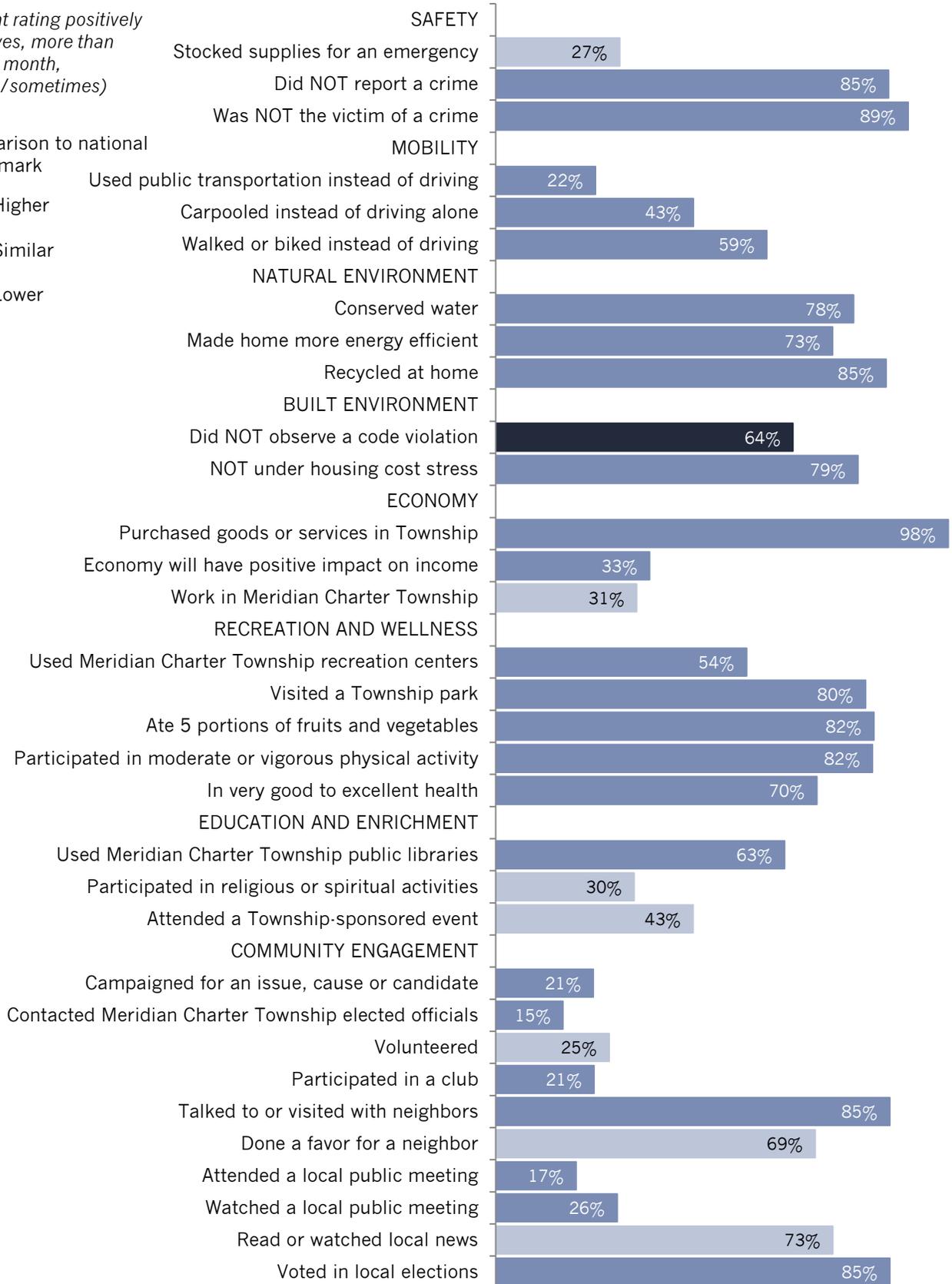
# The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 3: Aspects of Participation

Percent rating positively  
(e.g., yes, more than  
once a month,  
always/sometimes)

Comparison to national  
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower



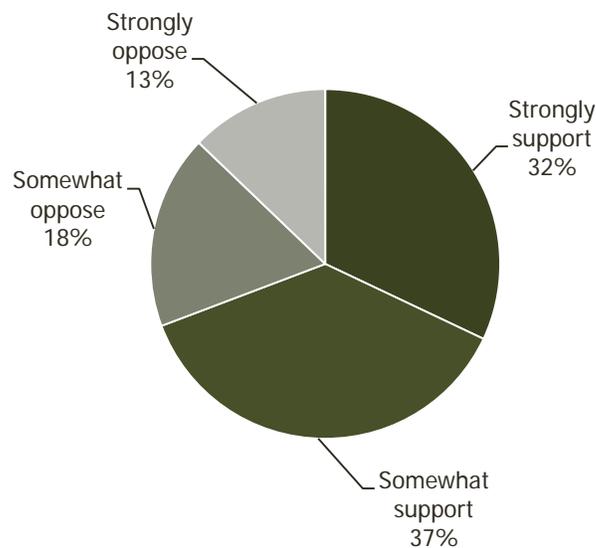
# Special Topics

Meridian Charter Township included three questions of special interest on The NCS. Meridian Charter Township residents rated their support for increased millage to fix and maintain local roads, their support for actions regarding the Township's dedicated land preservation millage and Township sources of information.

Respondents indicated their support for or opposition to increased taxes to fix and maintain local roads in Meridian Charter Township. Over 6 in 10 residents said they strongly or somewhat support increased taxes, while 13% said they strongly or somewhat oppose the increase.

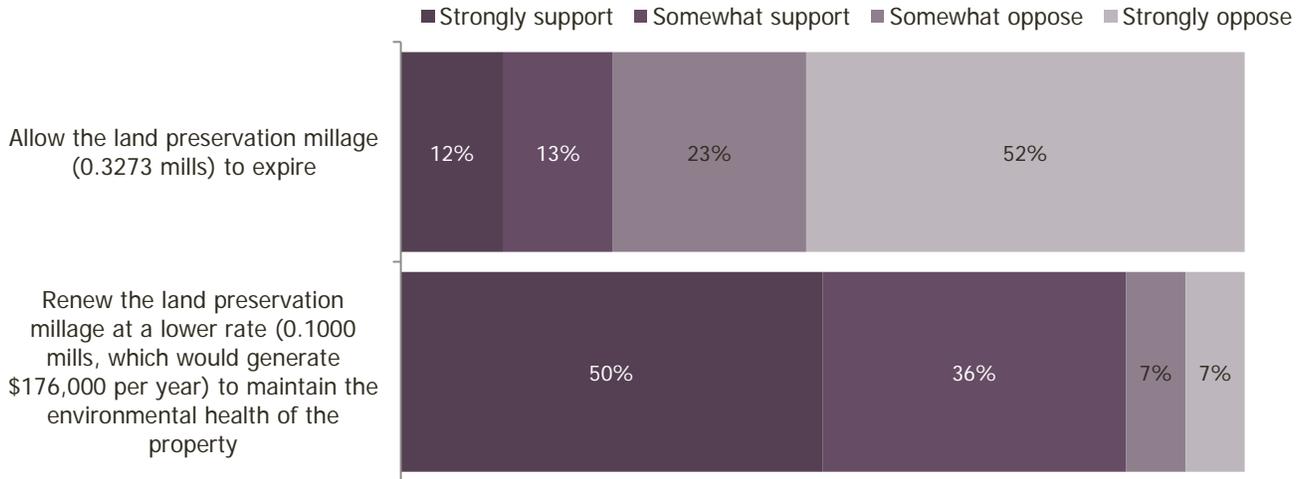
Figure 4: Support for Increased Millage to Fix and Maintain Local Roads

*The Township currently has a local (neighborhood) road millage (tax) that generates an annual budget of \$424,000. Of the 147 miles of local roads, only 26% are rated good to excellent. Engineers have determined that the existing budget needs to be increased to \$3.5 million dollars per year in order to fix and maintain the local roads. This would require increasing the existing millage from 0.2479 to 2.00 mills per year (resulting in a cost of \$200 per year to the owner of a home valued at \$200,000). How much do you support or oppose this increased millage to fix and maintain the local roads?*



Survey respondents also rated their support for two actions regarding the Township’s dedicated land preservation millage. One-quarter of residents support the action to allow the land preservation millage to expire; however, about one-quarter somewhat oppose this action and half strongly oppose this action. Over 8 in 10 residents support the action to renew the land preservation millage at a lower rate to maintain the environmental health of property.

Figure 5: Support for Actions Regarding Township’s Dedicated Land Preservation Millage  
*The Township’s dedicated land preservation millage (tax), which generates an annual budget of \$559,200 per year, is set to expire in 2019. Over the past 18 years, at a cost of over \$9.4 million, 968 acres have been acquired and preserved. The original goal of the tax was to acquire 600 acres. In addition to the land preservation properties, we currently also have over 900 acres of parks. How much do you support or oppose each of the following actions regarding the Township’s dedicated land preservation millage:*

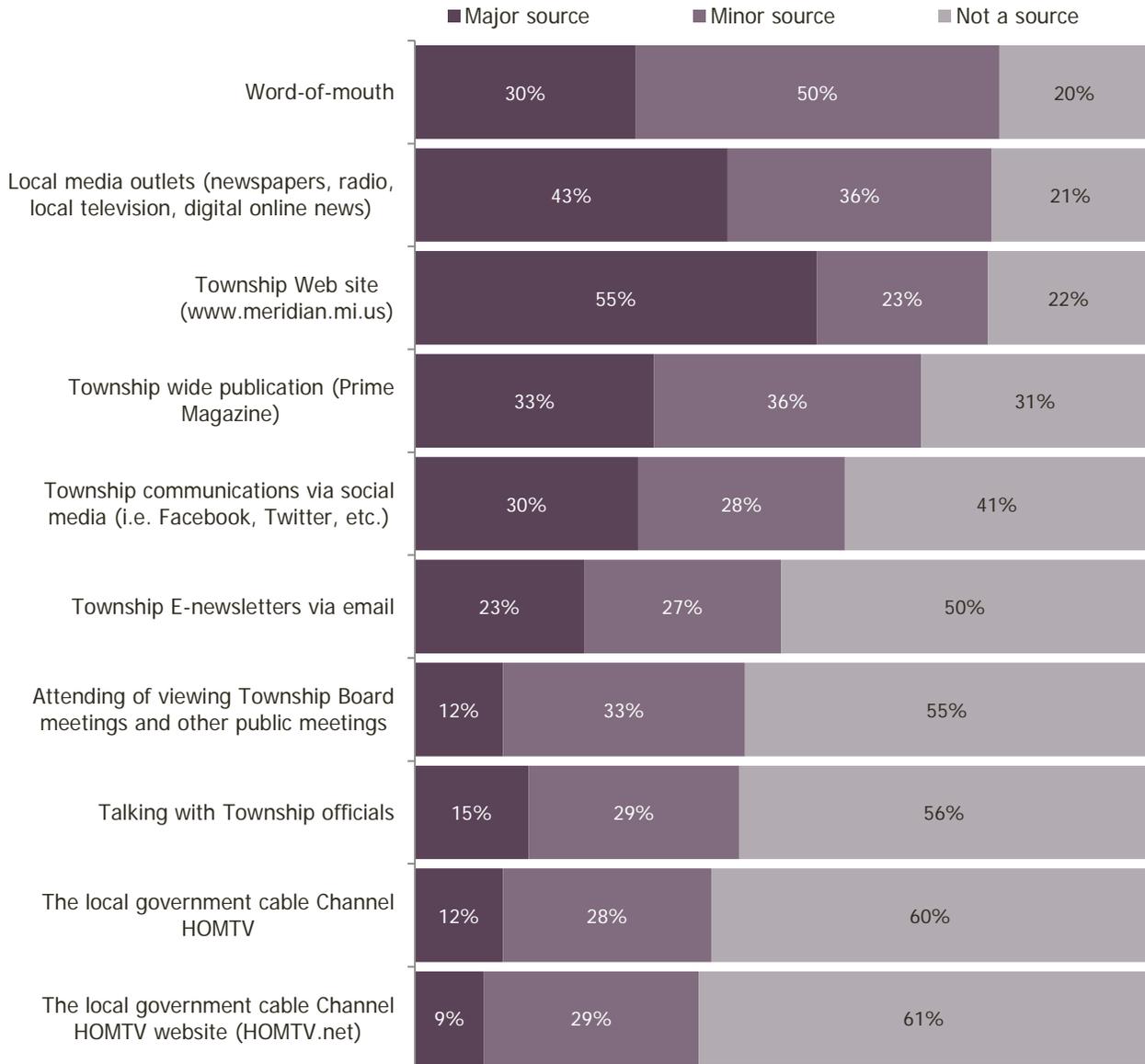


The National Citizen Survey™

When asked about sources used for obtaining information about Meridian Charter Township, at least 4 in 10 residents said they used each source as a major or minor source of information. Word-of-mouth, local media outlets and the Township website received the highest ratings, while the local government cable Channel HOMTV and the local government cable Channel HOMTV website received the lowest ratings.

Figure 6: Township Sources of Information

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:



# Conclusions

## Residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life, with safety as an important feature that makes Meridian Charter Township a livable community.

A majority of residents rated their overall quality of life as excellent or good, with 9 in 10 residents recommending living in Meridian Charter Township and 8 in 10 likely to remain in the Township for the next five years. About 9 in 10 residents positively viewed the Township as a place to live, their neighborhood as a place to live and as a place to raise children, the latter rating being exceptionally strong and higher than the national average. Safety was a top priority for residents and impacts the quality of life in Meridian Charter Township. Nine in 10 residents evaluated the overall feeling of safety in the community positively and 8 in 10 residents evaluated crime prevention positively; both of these ratings were higher than those given in other communities across the nation.

## Economic health and affordability contribute to quality of life in Meridian Charter Township.

Economy was also identified as a continued priority for the community in the coming two years. Similarly to 2015, 7 in 10 residents rated the overall economic health of Meridian Charter Township positively. Ratings for employment opportunities have been on the rise since 2009 and were higher than the national average, and 7 in 10 residents considered the Township a positive place to work. Further, Meridian Charter Township residents rated affordable quality housing, variety of housing options and shopping opportunities higher than the national benchmarks.

## Residents are pleased with Mobility and transportation services.

About 8 in 10 residents positively assessed the overall ease of travel, ease of travel by car and public parking in Meridian Charter Township; all of these ratings were higher than the national benchmarks. Two of these evaluations were notably strong, with overall ease of travel ranking 25th in the nation and public parking ranking 13th in the nation. Three-quarters of residents gave traffic enforcement high marks. Ratings for street repair were lower than national averages, with 23% of residents giving high marks. However, 68% of residents expressed support for increased taxes to fix and maintain local roads in Meridian Charter Township.

Marks for ease of travel by public transportation and bus or transit services were strong and outpaced comparison communities. More than 2 in 10 residents had used public transportation instead of driving in the past 12 months, a number on par with other communities in the nation.

## The Natural Environment is appreciated by residents.

Most residents rated the overall natural environment, cleanliness and air quality as excellent or good, with air quality positioning higher than national averages. Additional aspects that outpaced comparison communities included natural areas and open space, which were positively evaluated by more than three-quarters of residents. Residents further showed their appreciation of the natural environment with three-quarters of residents opposing the expiration of the land preservation millage, and 86% of residents supporting the renewal of the land preservation millage at a lower rate to maintain the environmental health of the property.



**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

# Meridian Charter Township, MI

Dashboard Summary of Findings

2018



2955 Valmont Road Suite 300  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863



777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002  
icma.org • 800-745-8780

# Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report summarizes Meridian Charter Township’s performance in the eight facets of community livability with the “General” rating as a summary of results from the overarching questions not shown within any of the eight facets. The “Overall” represents the community pillar in its entirety (the eight facets and general).

By summarizing resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community, a picture of Meridian Charter Township’s community livability emerges. Below, the color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated each of the pillars that support it – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings were higher than the benchmark, the color is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

Within the pillar of Community Characteristics, ratings for the facets of Mobility and Education and Enrichment were higher than the national average. In Governance, ratings for all facets tended to be positive and similar to comparison communities. Levels of participation within Built Environment tended to be higher than the national benchmarks, while those within Education and Enrichment tended to be lower. Ratings across all other facets tended to be positive and similar to the national averages. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas that merit more attention.

Table 1: Dashboard Summary

	Community Characteristics			Governance			Participation		
	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower
Overall	14	37	1	4	40	2	1	28	7
General	1	6	0	0	3	0	0	3	0
Safety	1	2	0	1	6	0	0	2	1
Mobility	4	4	0	1	6	1	0	3	0
Natural Environment	1	2	0	2	3	1	0	3	0
Built Environment	2	3	0	0	7	0	1	1	0
Economy	2	5	1	0	1	0	0	2	1
Recreation and Wellness	0	7	0	0	4	0	0	5	0
Education and Enrichment	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	2
Community Engagement	0	5	0	0	8	0	0	8	3

National Benchmark	
	Higher
	Similar
	Lower

# The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 1: Detailed Dashboard

	Community Characteristics	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive
General	Overall appearance	↓	↔	73%	Customer service	↔	↔	82%	Recommend Meridian Charter Township	↔	↔	94%
	Overall quality of life	↔	↔	86%	Services provided by Meridian Charter Township	↔	↔	82%	Remain in Meridian Charter Township	↔	↔	83%
	Place to retire	↔	↔	66%	Services provided by the Federal Government	↔	↔	45%	Contacted Meridian Charter Township employees	↔	↔	45%
	Place to raise children	↔	↑	90%								
	Place to live	↔	↔	90%								
	Neighborhood	↔	↔	87%								
	Overall image	↓	↔	80%								
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	↔	↑	92%	Police	↔	↔	91%	Was NOT the victim of a crime	↔	↔	89%
	Safe in neighborhood	↔	↔	96%	Crime prevention	↔	↑	84%	Did NOT report a crime	↔	↔	85%
	Safe downtown/commercial area	↔	↔	94%	Fire	↔	↔	97%	Stocked supplies for an emergency	↔	↓	27%
					Fire prevention	↑	↔	91%				
					Ambulance/EMS	↔	↔	94%				
					Emergency preparedness	↔	↔	61%				
Mobility	Traffic flow	↓	↔	60%	Traffic enforcement	↔	↔	75%	Carpooled instead of driving alone	↔	↔	43%
	Travel by car	↔	↑	80%	Street repair	↔	↓	23%	Walked or biked instead of driving	↔	↔	59%
	Travel by bicycle	↔	↔	52%	Street cleaning	↔	↔	50%	Used public transportation instead of driving	↔	↔	22%
	Ease of walking	↔	↔	67%	Street lighting	↔	↔	52%				
	Travel by public transportation	↔	↑	54%	Snow removal	↔	↔	56%				
	Overall ease travel	↔	↑	85%	Sidewalk maintenance	↔	↔	58%				
	Public parking	↓	↑	76%	Traffic signal timing	↔	↔	60%				
	Paths and walking trails	↔	↔	72%	Bus or transit services	↔	↑	64%				
Natural Environment	Overall natural environment	↔	↔	87%	Garbage collection	↔	↔	83%	Recycled at home	↔	↔	85%
	Air quality	↔	↑	88%	Recycling	↔	↔	65%	Conserved water	↔	↔	78%
	Cleanliness	↔	↔	83%	Yard waste pick-up	↔	↓	58%	Made home more energy efficient	↔	↔	73%
					Drinking water	↔	↔	82%				
					Open space	↔	↑	76%				
Built Environment	New development in Meridian Charter Township	↔	↔	49%	Sewer services	↔	↔	83%	NOT experiencing housing cost stress	↔	↔	79%
	Affordable quality housing	↔	↑	53%	Storm drainage	↔	↔	63%	Did NOT observe a code violation	↔	↑	64%
	Housing options	↔	↑	69%	Power utility	↔	↔	83%				
	Overall built environment	↔	↔	62%	Utility billing	↔	↔	77%				
	Public places	↔	↔	62%	Land use, planning and zoning	↔	↔	53%				
					Code enforcement	↔	↔	58%				
					Cable television	↔	↔	58%				

**Legend**

↑↑ Much higher    ↑ Higher    ↔ Similar    ↓ Lower    ↓↓ Much lower    \* Not available

# The National Citizen Survey™

	Community Characteristics	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive
Economy	Overall economic health	↔	↔	77%	Economic development	↔	↔	51%	Economy will have positive impact on income	↔	↔	33%
	Shopping opportunities	↓	↑	69%					Purchased goods or services in Meridian Charter Township	↔	↔	98%
	Employment opportunities	↑	↑	60%					Work in Meridian Charter Township	↔	↓	31%
	Place to visit	↔	↔	50%								
	Cost of living	↔	↔	55%								
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	↔	↓	28%								
	Place to work	↔	↔	72%								
Recreation and Wellness	Business and services	↓	↔	62%								
	Fitness opportunities	↓	↔	71%	Township parks	↔	↔	87%	In very good to excellent health	↔	↔	70%
	Recreational opportunities	↔	↔	72%	Recreation centers	↔	↔	68%	Used Meridian Charter Township recreation centers	↔	↔	54%
	Health care	↔	↔	75%	Recreation programs	↔	↔	73%	Visited a Township park	↔	↔	80%
	Food	↔	↔	79%	Health services	↔	↔	73%	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	↔	↔	82%
	Mental health care	↔	↔	54%					Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	↔	↔	82%
	Health and wellness	↔	↔	73%								
Education and Enrichment	Preventive health services	↔	↔	70%								
	K-12 education	↔	↑↑	94%	Public libraries	↔	↔	88%	Used Meridian Charter Township public libraries	↔	↔	63%
	Cultural/arts/music activities	↑	↔	64%	Special events	↑	↔	69%	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	↔	↓	30%
	Child care/preschool	↔	↑	65%					Attended a Township-sponsored event	↔	↓	43%
	Religious or spiritual events and activities	↔	↔	83%								
	Adult education	↔	↔	69%								
Community Engagement	Overall education and enrichment	↔	↑	79%								
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	↔	↔	60%	Public information	↑	↔	75%	Sense of community	↔	↔	55%
	Opportunities to volunteer	↔	↔	60%	Overall direction	↔	↔	60%	Voted in local elections	↔	↔	85%
	Openness and acceptance	↔	↔	72%	Value of services for taxes paid	↔	↔	59%	Talked to or visited with neighbors	↔	↔	85%
	Social events and activities	↔	↔	54%	Welcoming citizen involvement	↑	↔	58%	Attended a local public meeting	↔	↔	17%
	Neighborliness	↔	↔	63%	Confidence in Township government	↑	↔	65%	Watched a local public meeting	↔	↔	26%
					Acting in the best interest of Meridian Charter Township	↑	↔	65%	Volunteered	↔	↓	25%
					Being honest	↔	↔	72%	Participated in a club	↔	↔	21%
					Treating all residents fairly	↑	↔	71%	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	↔	↔	21%
									Contacted Meridian Charter Township elected officials	↔	↔	15%
								Read or watched local news	↔	↓	73%	
								Done a favor for a neighbor	↔	↓	69%	

**Legend**

↑↑ Much higher    ↑ Higher    ↔ Similar    ↓ Lower    ↓↓ Much lower    \* Not available

# The National Citizen Survey™

## Legend

↑↑ Much higher    ↑ Higher    ↔ Similar    ↓ Lower    ↓↓ Much lower    \* Not available



**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

# Meridian Charter Township, MI

Trends over Time

2018



2955 Valmont Road Suite 300  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863



777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002  
icma.org • 800-745-8780

# Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report discusses trends over time, comparing the 2018 ratings for Meridian Charter Township to its previous survey results in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. Additional reports and technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Trend data for Meridian Charter Township represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially, represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Meaningful differences between survey years have been noted within the following tables as being "higher" or "lower" if the differences are greater than eight percentage points between the 2015 and 2018 surveys, otherwise the comparisons between 2015 and 2018 are noted as being "similar." Additionally, benchmark comparisons for all survey years are presented for reference. Changes in the benchmark comparison over time can be impacted by various trends, including varying survey cycles for the individual communities that comprise the benchmarks, regional and national economic or other events, as well as emerging survey methodologies.

Overall, ratings in Meridian Charter Township for 2018 generally remained stable. Of the 134 items for which comparisons were available, 118 items were rated similarly in 2015 and 2018, seven items showed a decrease in ratings and nine showed an increase in ratings. Notable trends over time included the following:

- Within the pillar of Community Characteristics, ratings for employment opportunities and cultural/arts/music activities increased from 2015 to 2018. There were seven aspects that decreased from 2015 to 2018, including traffic flow on major streets, public parking, shopping opportunities, overall quality of business and service establishments, fitness opportunities, overall appearance and the overall image of Meridian Charter Township.
- In Governance, there were seven aspects that increased from 2015 to 2018. The highest numbers of improved ratings were concentrated in the facet of Community Engagement. Among some of the ratings that increased in this facet were public information, welcoming citizen involvement, confidence in Township government, acting in the best interest of Meridian Charter Township and treating all residents fairly. Ratings for fire prevention and Township-sponsored special events also received more positive ratings in 2018.
- From 2015 to 2018, levels of participation for all items remained stable in Meridian Charter Township.

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 1: Community Characteristics General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Overall quality of life	89%	90%	88%	87%	87%	86%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
Overall image	NA	NA	76%	79%	91%	80%	Lower	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher	Higher	Similar
Place to live	91%	92%	90%	93%	93%	90%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
Neighborhood	88%	87%	88%	84%	89%	87%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Place to raise children	89%	94%	90%	91%	93%	90%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher
Place to retire	56%	58%	58%	65%	66%	66%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Overall appearance	80%	75%	72%	76%	82%	73%	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar

Table 2: Community Characteristics by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	NA	NA	NA	NA	92%	92%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
	Safe in neighborhood	97%	97%	99%	95%	98%	96%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Safe downtown/commercial area	94%	93%	96%	94%	96%	94%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Overall ease of travel	NA	NA	NA	NA	88%	85%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
	Paths and walking trails	NA	NA	63%	69%	78%	72%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Ease of walking	NA	63%	65%	68%	70%	67%	Similar	NA	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Travel by bicycle	54%	53%	53%	59%	54%	52%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Travel by public transportation	NA	NA	NA	NA	57%	54%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
	Travel by car	64%	65%	64%	74%	81%	80%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher
Mobility	Public parking	NA	NA	NA	NA	86%	76%	Lower	NA	NA	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher
	Traffic flow	50%	54%	55%	61%	70%	60%	Lower	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
Natural Environment	Overall natural environment	NA	NA	72%	77%	88%	87%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar
	Cleanliness	NA	NA	78%	80%	87%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher	Higher	Similar
	Air quality	NA	NA	NA	NA	91%	88%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
Built Environment	Overall built environment	NA	NA	NA	NA	67%	62%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	New development in Meridian Charter Township	NA	NA	53%	56%	47%	49%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Affordable quality housing	40%	42%	50%	61%	56%	53%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher
	Housing options	NA	NA	63%	70%	75%	69%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher

The National Citizen Survey™

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark						
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018	
Economy	Public places	NA	NA	NA	NA	68%	62%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Overall economic health	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	77%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	NA	NA	NA	NA	30%	28%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower	Lower
	Business and services	NA	NA	69%	69%	71%	62%	Lower	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Cost of living	NA	NA	NA	NA	55%	55%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Shopping opportunities	83%	81%	71%	69%	79%	69%	Lower	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher
	Employment opportunities	NA	NA	22%	40%	51%	60%	Higher	NA	NA	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
	Place to visit	NA	NA	NA	NA	58%	50%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Place to work	NA	70%	66%	67%	76%	72%	Similar	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Recreation and Wellness	Health and wellness	NA	NA	NA	NA	78%	73%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar
Mental health care		NA	NA	NA	NA	58%	54%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Similar
Preventive health services		NA	NA	NA	NA	76%	70%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Health care		NA	NA	NA	NA	75%	75%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Similar
Food		NA	NA	NA	NA	81%	79%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Similar
Recreational opportunities		64%	66%	65%	70%	68%	72%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
Fitness opportunities		NA	NA	NA	NA	80%	71%	Lower	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Education and enrichment opportunities		NA	NA	NA	NA	82%	79%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
Religious or spiritual events and activities		NA	NA	NA	76%	76%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
Cultural/arts/music activities		NA	54%	50%	56%	55%	64%	Higher	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Adult education	NA	NA	NA	NA	72%	69%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	K-12 education	NA	NA	NA	NA	95%	94%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher
	Child care/preschool	NA	NA	NA	NA	71%	65%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
	Social events and activities	NA	NA	61%	61%	52%	54%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Neighborhoodness	NA	NA	NA	NA	69%	63%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Openness and acceptance	69%	68%	73%	76%	70%	72%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Community Engagement	Opportunities to participate in community matters	NA	NA	59%	66%	59%	60%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Opportunities to volunteer	NA	NA	63%	73%	64%	60%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Similar	Similar	Similar

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 3: Governance General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Services provided by Meridian Charter Township	81%	77%	73%	74%	85%	82%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Customer service	83%	84%	82%	80%	83%	82%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Value of services for taxes paid	NA	57%	47%	57%	54%	59%	Similar	NA	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar	Similar
Overall direction	47%	48%	48%	57%	59%	60%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar	Similar
Welcoming citizen involvement	57%	56%	47%	49%	48%	58%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Much lower	Similar	Similar	Similar
Confidence in Township government	NA	NA	NA	NA	50%	65%	Higher	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Acting in the best interest of Meridian Charter Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	55%	65%	Higher	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Being honest	NA	NA	NA	NA	66%	72%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	NA	NA	NA	NA	61%	71%	Higher	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government	49%	30%	39%	45%	42%	45%	Similar	Similar	Lower	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar

Table 4: Governance by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Safety	Police	89%	87%	91%	84%	90%	91%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Fire	96%	96%	96%	90%	97%	97%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Ambulance/EMS	96%	94%	97%	94%	96%	94%	Similar	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Crime prevention	83%	85%	82%	81%	82%	84%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
	Fire prevention	86%	82%	87%	82%	83%	91%	Higher	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Animal control	NA	NA	NA	NA	65%	67%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Emergency preparedness	NA	NA	64%	59%	62%	61%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Traffic enforcement	75%	66%	77%	72%	74%	75%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Street repair	32%	32%	9%	26%	30%	23%	Similar	Much lower	Lower	Much lower	Much lower	Lower	Lower
	Street cleaning	49%	47%	32%	49%	53%	50%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Much lower	Much lower	Similar	Similar

The National Citizen Survey™

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
	Street lighting	NA	51%	52%	55%	52%	52%	Similar	NA	Similar	Lower	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Snow removal	58%	56%	49%	49%	56%	56%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Much lower	Much lower	Similar	Similar
	Sidewalk maintenance	59%	56%	54%	55%	57%	58%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Traffic signal timing	57%	58%	NA	54%	55%	60%	Similar	Similar	Higher	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Bus or transit services	NA	64%	69%	61%	67%	64%	Similar	NA	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Higher
	Garbage collection	NA	NA	NA	NA	89%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Natural Environment	Recycling	53%	NA	67%	67%	62%	65%	Similar	Much lower	NA	Lower	Lower	Lower	Similar
	Yard waste pick-up	NA	NA	NA	NA	51%	58%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower	Lower
	Drinking water	81%	74%	85%	86%	87%	82%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Natural areas preservation	NA	NA	67%	71%	71%	76%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
	Open space	NA	NA	NA	NA	68%	76%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
	Storm drainage	71%	63%	59%	71%	61%	63%	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Sewer services	87%	79%	85%	85%	84%	83%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Power utility	NA	NA	NA	NA	78%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Utility billing	NA	NA	NA	NA	74%	77%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Land use, planning and zoning	35%	42%	47%	51%	52%	53%	Similar	Much lower	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Built Environment	Code enforcement	64%	63%	59%	51%	55%	58%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Cable television	52%	44%	58%	58%	60%	58%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Economy	Economic development	52%	43%	34%	41%	53%	51%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	Township parks	87%	88%	89%	90%	89%	87%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Recreation programs	79%	85%	83%	79%	75%	73%	Similar	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Recreation centers	NA	NA	NA	74%	71%	68%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Health services	NA	NA	NA	NA	76%	73%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Special events	NA	NA	NA	NA	60%	69%	Higher	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Public libraries	77%	81%	84%	86%	88%	88%	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Community Engagement	Public information	NA	NA	NA	68%	63%	75%	Higher	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 5: Participation General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Sense of community	58%	59%	62%	66%	60%	55%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Recommend Meridian Charter Township	NA	NA	92%	94%	93%	94%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
Remain in Meridian Charter Township	NA	NA	77%	85%	81%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Similar	Similar	Similar
Contacted Meridian Charter Township employees	54%	52%	51%	46%	40%	45%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar	Similar

Table 6: Participation by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Safety	Stocked supplies for an emergency	NA	NA	NA	NA	26%	27%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower	Lower
	Did NOT report a crime	NA	NA	NA	NA	89%	85%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Similar
	Was NOT the victim of a crime	88%	92%	92%	93%	96%	89%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Used public transportation instead of driving	NA	NA	NA	NA	28%	22%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Carpooled instead of driving alone	NA	NA	NA	NA	42%	43%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Walked or biked instead of driving	NA	NA	NA	NA	58%	59%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Natural Environment	Conserved water	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	78%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Made home more energy efficient	NA	NA	NA	NA	81%	73%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Recycled at home	73%	64%	79%	77%	79%	85%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
Built Environment	Did NOT observe a code violation	NA	NA	NA	NA	68%	64%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
	NOT under housing cost stress	NA	NA	72%	73%	81%	79%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
Economy	Purchased goods or services in Meridian Charter Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	97%	98%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Economy will have positive impact on income	20%	19%	11%	20%	29%	33%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Work in Meridian Charter Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	25%	31%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower	Lower

The National Citizen Survey™

		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)						2018 rating compared to 2015	Comparison to benchmark					
		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018		2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
Recreation and Wellness	Used Meridian Charter Township recreation centers	56%	54%	NA	NA	56%	54%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Visited a Township park	90%	85%	89%	87%	82%	80%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	NA	NA	NA	NA	76%	82%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	NA	NA	NA	NA	84%	82%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	In very good to excellent health	NA	NA	NA	NA	72%	70%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Used Meridian Charter Township public libraries	62%	71%	68%	69%	68%	63%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	NA	NA	NA	NA	33%	30%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Lower	Lower
	Attended a Township-sponsored event	NA	NA	NA	NA	44%	43%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
Community Engagement	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	NA	NA	NA	NA	15%	21%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Contacted Meridian Charter Township elected officials	NA	NA	NA	NA	11%	15%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Volunteered	35%	34%	32%	32%	28%	25%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Much lower	Lower	Lower
	Participated in a club	NA	NA	NA	NA	26%	21%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Talked to or visited with neighbors	NA	NA	NA	NA	88%	85%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Done a favor for a neighbor	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	69%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
	Attended a local public meeting	24%	22%	20%	20%	16%	17%	Similar	NA	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Watched a local public meeting	51%	50%	46%	34%	24%	26%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Read or watched local news	NA	NA	NA	NA	79%	73%	Similar	NA	NA	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
	Voted in local elections	78%	66%	88%	74%	78%	85%	Similar	NA	NA	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar