

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Interim Manager Schmitt, Deputy Manager Dan Opsommer, Deputy Clerk Gordon, Police Chief Grillo, Fire Chief Hamel, Land Stewardship Coordinator Emma Campbell, Parks and Recreation Direct Courtney Wisinski, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Information Technology Director Stephen Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the November 26, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Sundland and Trustee Trezise present at 6:01pm

4. PRESENTATION

AED Heart Safe Community Program

Chief Hamel gave a presentation about AED defibrillators and distributing to different businesses in the community. Director Clark spoke on how the EDC will be assisting as a fiduciary because it has already been established for the purpose of investing in businesses in the community.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:09 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:09 pm

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Farmers Market murals were dedicated on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Police and Fire departments have been under staff retention programs for a year, Chief Grillo will be reporting to the Board at the next meeting.
- Pet waste bags will be added along MSU to Lake Lansing trail, per community request.
- Police Department is working on implicit bias training.
- Wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine announced that property tax bills are arriving next week in mailboxes, including an informational sheet regarding what is in the tax bill. Taxes are due February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Wilson thanked Director Wisinski for Farmer’s Market dedication ceremony

Supervisor Hendrickson echoed Trustee Wilson’s words about Farmer’s market and spoke about the retreat on Saturday. He met with Interim Manager Schmitt, Deputy Manager Opsommer, and Ingham County Commissioners Polsdofer and Schafer regarding intergovernmental cooperation for local and County roads. Task force met for senior and community center on 19<sup>th</sup> with Progressive AE and there will be a second session on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, in the townhall room.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Trustee Sundland.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Trezise asked Director Clark for clarity regarding the approval of liquor licenses. Director Clark stated that they are included for the Board to review and approval as indicated in the recent ordinance update, and they must be approved by the State.

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

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

NONE

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit #24-18-Okemos Gateway LLC-1614 West Grand River Avenue-  
Recreational Marijuana Retailer

Interim Manager Schmitt gave an overview on the process and the changes that were made from when this was presented at a prior meeting. Interim Manager Schmitt outlined the process for Recreational Marijuana applications for the new board members.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if a new application fee was required from the applicants. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that the Board's feedback was accepted, and the applicant was asked to make the corrections but that no action to reject the application was taken. Supervisor Hendrickson clarified that a motion to deny the application would have started the process over.

Board members thanked the applicants for their updates to the application. Trustee Lentz and Trustee Trezise noted that they would be inclined to support a resolution. Interim Manager Schmitt noted that it would be brought back at the next meeting.

B. Cost Recovery Policy

Interim Manager Schmitt spoke on the need to have a formal policy. Chief Grillo and Chief Hamel gave background information on how cost recovery money is spent to assist with unexpected items that need to be replaced. Chief Hamel asked for a formal plan to be more transparent on how the money is spent.

Trustee Wilson asked approximately how much this is at the end of the year. Fire Department generally has between \$40,000-\$60,000, Police Department is expected to be around \$30,000. Board members asked questions of how determination was made for spending.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there is a current cost recovery policy for the Township. Chief Hamel explained how the process goes currently and that this is the final step in implementing the Cost Recovery Ordinance adopted in 2023.

C. Flowage Easement for the Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve

Deputy Manager Opsommer presented background information on the need for the easement at the Haslett Village development. He expressed that there were concerns from the Drain Commissioner's office about the original plan presented to them, and that Township Staff is concerned that the developer may lose interest if they cannot make progress. He outlined some benefits the neighboring Land Preserve and trails will receive from the proposed easement.

Treasurer Deschaine indicated that time is running on a tax abatement offered for this property.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend rules and take action. Supported by Clerk Demas.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

Trustee Trezise asked for more information about the function of the flowage easement. Deputy Manager Opsommer indicated that land preservation staff have inventoried the species in the area and that some would benefit, but that there would be some drawbacks. He also noted that stormscepters and existing wetland will capture sediments and that the system will help to keep contaminants out of groundwater. Any costs associated with failure of the drainage system will be assessed to the developer.

Trustee Lenz asked for more information regarding the clear-cutting area. Deputy Manager Opsommer stated that the County Drain Commissioner will create a conservation easement and there will be around 0.6 acres that will need to be cleared if the developer chooses to install a basin.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the flowage easement between the Charter Township of Meridian and the Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office for the Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign and execute the easement. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

- D. Agreement to add South Branch to the Haslett Village Square Branch of the Pine Lake Outlet Drain

Deputy Manager Opsommer spoke about the relationship between this Agreement and the previous agenda item regarding the flowage easement; that this agreement creates a public drain where there is not one.

**Trustee Trezise moved to suspend rules and take action. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

Treasurer Deschaine asked for clarity regarding the portion of the drain on Township property. Deputy Manager Opsommer clarified that there is no buried drain, just land on which the stormwater will flow; the Township is granting an easement to the developer to discharge water onto Township property and allowing the flow path of the water to be a County Drain.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked about what the County is permitted to do on Township property. Deputy Manager Opsommer clarified that anything the County Drain Office wants to do would have to be approved by the Township.

**Trustee Trezise moved to approve the agreement to add the south branch to the Haslett Village Square branch of the Pine Lake Outlet Drain pursuant to sections 425 and 433 of public act 40 of 1956, as amended, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign and execute the agreement. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 6:58 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 6:58 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. CLOSED SESSION- Review of employment applications for Township Manager – MCL 15.268(1)(f)

**At 6:59 pm, Trustee Wilson moved to enter closed session to review employment applications for Township Manager under MCL 15.268(1)(f). Supported by Trustee Trezise.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

The Board re-entered open session at 7:59 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson thanked all of the candidates who applied.

**Trustee Trezise moved to instruct Amy Cell Talent to contact and arrange for interviews for the top three candidates beginning at 1:30 on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Supported by Trustee Wilson**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm**



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Scott Hendrickson  
Township Supervisor



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Angela Demas  
Township Clerk

# 11- November 26 2024 Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-12-06

Created:	2024-12-05
By:	Angela Demas (demas@meridian.mi.us)
Status:	Signed
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## "11- November 26 2024 Approved Regular Meeting Minutes" History

-  Document created by Angela Demas (demas@meridian.mi.us)  
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-  Document emailed to hendrickson@meridian.mi.us for signature  
2024-12-05 - 8:10:15 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by hendrickson@meridian.mi.us  
2024-12-06 - 2:13:56 AM GMT
-  Signer hendrickson@meridian.mi.us entered name at signing as Scott Hendrickson  
2024-12-06 - 2:14:25 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Scott Hendrickson (hendrickson@meridian.mi.us)  
Signature Date: 2024-12-06 - 2:14:27 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
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