

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, October 18th, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public
Works Opsommer, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and
Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Economic Development Director
Clark, Finance Director Garber, Communications Director Diehl, Police Captain Grillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. Trustees Sundland and Wisinski are absent
all others present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Lifesaving Award

Chief Hamel overviewed the Life Saving Award.

Chief EMS Trainer TJ Booms presented the Life Saving Award to Nate Lafeyette, Arnett,
Captain Chris Johns, Battalion Chief Froman, Lt Jeff Romnick, Fire Fighter Ben Haviland for
their part in saving Thomas Kiesling during cardiac arrest. He also recognized Kiesling's
granddaughter Kate Lyon for applying early CPR until township medics arrived.

Kate Lyon spoke to the board about how important it is to learn CPR.

Manager Walsh presented Kate Kiesling with a handstitched township pillow on behalf of the
township.

Supervisor Jackson asked where Kate received her CPR training.

Kate replied ????

Kate introduced her brother Jack to the board.

B. Electronic Township Payments

Treasurer Deschaine gave a presentation on the updated Electronic Township Payments system.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:25 pm.

John Covell 6156 East Lake Dr., Haslett spoke about an article published in LSJ covering recreational marijuana.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public remarks at 6:31 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh invited Denisha Mcdow to the podium the new Multimedia

Denisha Mcdow thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the township in her new position.

Manager Walsh reported volunteering the program nominated two people to be presented on November 1st. He will visit the portage senior center next week. The Garden Club met on Monday. The Brightline project is moving forward with installation beginning to take place. 2/42 church is asking to do a project with the township one idea is painting the police department inside. The Deer cull is off to a good start and will continue until the end of the year. The building permit has been issued for the meridian retirement center in Haslett. The 19 acre development next door will be reprocessed with a CRA. The senior Center Ingress and Egress will be given attention soon. Will be meeting with Okemos Board of Education in November.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson

- Participated in the CRC last week where emergency services were a focus

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended Garden Club dedication Monday
- Attended Award ceremony for former Supervisor Styka

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda as Presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine,

Trustees Hendrickson, Wilson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

B. Minutes

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 20, 2022, and October 4, 2022, as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

C. Bills

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Common Cash | \$ | 562,237.49 |
| Public Works | \$ | 541,291.91 |
| Trust & Agency | \$ | <u>518.66</u> |
| Total Checks | \$ | 1,104,048.06 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Credit Card Transactions | \$ | 14,338.88 |
| 09/29/22 to 10/12/2022 | | |
| Total Purchases | \$ | <u>1,118,386.94</u> |
| ACH Payments | \$ | <u>936,576.91</u> |

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

D. Resolution Authorizing Defense of Former Director

Trustee Hendrickson moved to Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Defense of Former Director Mark Kieselbach. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

E. Set Special Meeting- November 29, 2022

Trustee Hendrickson moved to add a special board meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 for the purposes of discussing township goals and American Rescue Plan Funding. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Village of Okemos – Brownfield Plan

Supervisor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 pm.

Director Schmitt outlined the Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan for Public Hearing.

Dave Vanharen, 1305 S. Washington Lansing, MI of Tri-Terra further outlined the Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan for Public Hearing. He noted this project will capture 19 years of taxes. This capture will go to administration, the brownfield Authority and the rest will fall into a revolving fund.

Eric Helser of Advanced Redevelopment re-introduced the project to the board and gave a presentation outlining the project as a whole. He noted there will be a price increase from \$85 million. He also noted commercial space has shrunk by about 9,000 sq. ft. and six new residential units have been added. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2023. Taxable value increased by just over \$1 Million.

Director Schmitt noted that all taxing jurisdictions have been notified ten days prior to this public hearing.

Supervisor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Garber outlined the 3rd quarter budget amendments for action. She overviewed several major amendments including:

Roads
IT
Sewer/Water

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 3rd quarter 2022 budget amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the general fund in the amount of \$191,705 which projects a use of fund balance of \$465,403. Based on 2021 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2022 will be \$12,700,113. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Supervisor Jackson spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Village of Okemos – Brownfield Plan

Director Schmitt outlined the Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan for discussion.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there has been an analysis done on what type of commercial may move into the space.

Director Schmitt noted the commercial usage shouldn't change there is just less.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about the \$7 million increase in the project and why the parking decks are being added.

Mr. Helzer replied when Douglas J backed out of the project it freed up a lot of parking. They went with above ground parking as opposed to underground parking to address cost in dollars and in environmental costs.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about the new residential units with windows looking at the parking deck.

Mr. Helzer replied developers have addressed the issue with break walls and detached structure.

Trustee Hendrickson asked the number of residential units in each block.

Mr. Helzer replied about 103-104.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if there will be 10-15 units in each deck that do not have reserved spaces.

Mr. Helzer replied that is correct.

Trustee Hendrickson noted a concern at 6pm when parking may be hard to find.

Mr. Helzer noted there will be on street parking.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about timing of brownfield implementation.

Mr. Helzer replied parts of it have already happened as the buildings have been demolished. The next step is to work with EGLE over the winter and the MEDC.

Trustee Wilson noted a concern with a possible lack of parking due to people working from home.

Clerk Guthrie noted her concerns with a possible lack of parking and a lack of full balconies and using space on the roofs.

Director Schmitt replied there is a small use of the roofs at this time and the site plan will not come to the board.

Clerk Guthrie noted she would like to see additional greenery.

Treasurer Deschaine noted parking isn't his major concern as the community is meant to be walkable.

Trustee Wilson noted there is a single-family neighborhood immediately adjacent to this project and overnight parking in front of them would not be ideal.

B. Lake Lansing Road Transportation Improvement Project

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Lake Lansing Road Transportation Improvement Project for discussion. He noted the road will be worked on from Hagadorn Rd. to Abbot Rd. He noted the project is funded for \$1,025,000.

Supervisor Jackson noted our transportation, road staff and public utility workers have participated in this project.

Trustee Hendrickson asked when the project is due to start.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied early to mid-May.

C. Community Service Millage

Manager Walsh outlined the Community Service Millage for discussion. He noted some of the millage could be added to other tax authorities this item could change that should the board choose to adopt.

Trustee Wilson asked if ballot language would supersede a resolution.

Manager Walsh replied that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie noted the millage language states this money is used to be for seniors etc.

Manager Walsh noted the last sentence states the millage could be used for other tax authorities.

Treasurer Deschaine noted currently the township is using the millage exactly how it's meant to be.

**Treasurer Deschiane moved to su
Clerk Support**

Trustee Hendrickson noted the now therefore be it resolved is missing.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the attached resolution with the following amendments. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

D. Credit Card Policy & Elimination of Petty Cash

Manager Walsh outlined the Credit Card Policy & Elimination of Petty Cash for Discussion.

Director Garber further outlined the Credit Card Policy & Elimination of Petty Cash for Discussion.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Supervisor Jackson noted several audits have recommended the Township make these changes in the past.

E. RRA, One Family Suburban Estate District Deletion

Director Schmitt outlined the RRA, One Family Suburban Estate District Deletion for discussion. He noted seven parcels are currently zoned in this category and recommended rezoning those parcels.

Trustee Wilson asked if the owners of the seven parcels have been notified.

Director Schmitt most of them have been contacted at this point.

Supervisor Jackson asked if there are other zoning districts will be eliminated.

Director Schmitt replied there is a chance but it's not a priority.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 8:06 pm.

Joan Wierzba, 1268 Harper Cut, Okemos MI spoke about an article in Lansing State Journal about recreational marijuana in Meridian Township and the advertising of marijuana facilities.

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 8:12 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

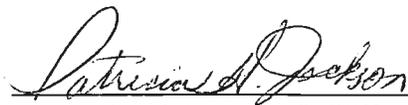
Treasurer Deschaine noted this Saturday is the Annual Board Member retreat at 9 am at the central fire station from 9 am. – 3pm. He also thanked the manager for the awesome boss gift.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 5-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK