

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, January 20, 2026, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, IT Director Gebes, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Communications Manager Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the January 20, 2026, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Demas called the roll of the Board. Six Board members present at 6:02 pm.

Trustee Wilson was present at 6:11pm.

4. PRESENTATION

None

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:02 pm.

Marilyn Jonshon, Anne Fitzgerald, Helen LeBlanc, Lisa Nowak, Al LeBlanc, Kent Cassella, Teresa DeLisle, Mark Polsdofer, Ashley Latiner, Linda Dufelmeier, Michelle Baumgart, and Sonja Fritzsche spoke about the proposed ITC Electrical Transmission line in Ingham County, in opposition to a proposed route.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:29 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Continental's Authentix Project did not appear on the agenda.
- ITC will be holding listening sessions regarding their proposed project beginning next week at Okemos Events Center. Staff will attend to collect information. Residents are

encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

- Dash and Splash event has been postponed due to anticipated severe weather. It will likely be rescheduled for February.
- Thanked DPW, Parks and Rec, and Public Safety staff for their service through the extreme temperatures.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas attended Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) meeting and announced upcoming Joint Board & Commission meeting.

Trustee Sundland attended Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting.

Trustee Lentz attended Ingham County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association (MTA) meeting along with Manager Dempsey.

Trustee Wilson attended Community Resources Commission (CRC) meeting and announced that 640 family meals were provided to residents in need over the holidays.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the consent agenda items.

Treasurer Burghardt moved to approve the consent agenda. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. HEARING

A. 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalks Special Assessment District #21 Public Hearing

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the Special Assessment District process.

Supervisor Hendrickson opened the public hearing at 6:40pm.

Fred Parcels asked about the estimate letter compared to the total cost, highlighting changes.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed the public hearing at 6:42.

11. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Patricia Herring Jackson Tribute

Supervisor Hendrickson presented an honorary proclamation for Former Supervisor Jackson and announced the upcoming celebration of life.

The Board provided statements of support and remembrance.

Trustee Trezise moved to pass and adopt the proclamation. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

B. 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalks Special Assessment District #21 – Resolution #5

Deputy Manager Opsommer added to his remarks made before the public hearing.

Board discussion was held which included noting this is a process that has been utilized for many years and a request for staff to follow up on the resident query from the public hearing.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #21 Resolution #5, which adopts the Special Assessment Roll; designates the project as “2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District # 21; adopts the Assessment Roll as the “2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 21 Special Assessment Roll”; adopts the District as the “2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #21”; adopts the amount of \$35,877.02 as the final amount for the Assessment Roll; and orders and directs the Assessment Roll to be paid and collected. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

At 6:51pm, Supervisor Hendrickson took a moment of privilege to announce that the ITC lines are not on this meeting's agenda. Discussion may be taken up on a future agenda.

C. Resolution of Support for the 2026 Reimagining Okemos Road BUILD Grant Application

Deputy Manager Opsommer presented the need for the grant funds and items proposed in the application.

Board discussion was held which included questions about the proposed split of finances, useful life of current opticom system, safety of proposed traffic pattern, current condition of Hamilton Road, potential for County participation and funding, coordination between the Township and County departments, funding for drains, estimate of tax capture, potential for use of brownfield incentives, additional details about the grant award, underground storage tanks, and right of way for road expansion.

The Board indicated support for the resolution and grant.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the resolution of support for the 2026 Reimagining Okemos Road BUILD Grant Application. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

At 7:31pm, Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The Board reconvened at 7:41pm.

D. Recycling Center Facility

Deputy Manage Opsommer gave an overview of the two proposed options and potential for grant funds.

Board discussion was held which included a question about previous attempts at this grant. Comments were made about improving the existing recycling center, other ways to recycle items, and comparing the options adding that option 1 of creating a second facility would be costly compared to option 2 to improve the existing facility.

The Board indicated their support for option 2.

12. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Chicken Ordinance Update

Director Schmitt updated the Board.

Board discussion was held which included questions about the number of animals permitted, restrictions on breeding, RB lot size, and setback requirements for coops and

hutches. Comments were made about speaking with neighbors, not including RB and RX zoning codes because of small lot size, and that this topic was asked about in listening sessions.

The Board indicated support for taking action on this item.

Trustee Trezise moved to refer Section 86-368(8) Raising and Keeping of Chickens and Rabbits as Nonagricultural Use, to the Planning Commission for review of expanding the areas in which backyard chickens and rabbits are permitted. Supported by Clerk Demas.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 8:07 pm.

Lisa Nowak spoke about the proposed ITC Electrical Transmission line, in opposition to a proposed route.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 8:10 pm.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Lentz moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk