

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,  
Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, September 16, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Township Deputy Manager Opsommer, Police Chief Grillo, Fire Chief Hamel, Finance Director Blonde, IT Director Gebes, Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski, Community Development and Planning Director Schmitt, Communications Manager Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the September 16, 2025, 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

Clerk Demas called the roll of the Board. Six Board members present at 6:01 pm.

Trustee Sundland was absent.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Treasurer Deschaine Recognition

Representative Brixie presented a certificate of Special Tribute from the State of Michigan to Treasurer Deschaine for his service to Meridian Township.

Supervisor Hendrickson presented a plaque with a proclamation from the Township Board to Treasurer Deschaine to recognize his service to Meridian Township.

Treasurer Deschaine extended his thanks to the Board, staff and residents of the Township, and individuals who helped him.

B. 2026 Township Budget

Manager Dempsey presented an overview of the 2026 recommended budget.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:42 pm.

Charles Malesko spoke about Township Fire Department staffing.

Steve Vagnozzi recognized Treasurer Deschaine's service to the Township.

Vincent Tomanica spoke about Central Park Estates Development.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:49 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Upcoming listening session on September 30 at St. Luke Lutheran Church on Van Atta Road at 6 pm.
- Thanked Kim Graham, Accounts Payable Specialist, for her service.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson attended the Community Resource Commission (CRC) meeting and mentioned Grand River at North Meridian Road will be completely closed on September 29.

Clerk Demas announced today is National Voter Registration Day and shared details on the series of voter registration drives held by the Clerk's office. She also attended the Bureau of Elections (BOE) conference.

Trustee Lentz attended Meridian Conservation Corps Stewardship Saturday workday and recognized Treasurer Deschaine.

Supervisor Hendrickson and Clerk Demas attended the Youth Commission meeting.

Treasurer Deschaine recognized the Youth Commission.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Clerk Demas.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 6-0**

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson noted amended minutes provided by the Clerk's office and closed session minutes provided to the Board members.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda with friendly amendment to the minutes. Supported by Clerk Demas.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 6-0**

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2026 Township Budget

Supervisor Hendrickson opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm.

Public comment opened at 7:00 pm

Public comment closed at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed the public hearing at 7:00 pm.

**At 7:00 pm, Supervisor Hendrickson called for a recess. At 7:07 pm the Board reconvened.**

11. ACTION ITEMS

A. Planned Unit Development #25-012 – 3560 Hulett Rd

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the discussion that has occurred to date.

**Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving the Planned Unit Development request from Jim Giguere, for the redevelopment of the property at 3560 Hulett Road. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 6-0**

B. Ordinance 2025-07 Parking Lot Landscaping Standards Updates – Final Adoption

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the discussion that has occurred to date.

**Trustee Lentz moved to adopt the resolution approving Text Amendment #2025-07 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-752 to update the standards for parking lot landscaping in the Township. Supported by Trustee Trezise.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 6-0**

12. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2026 Township Budget

Manager Dempsey and Director Blonde outlined information and changes made in the 2026 budget document. Updates that were highlighted were to the format; personnel summaries; increase to mechanical, electrical, plumbing fee; inclusion of community needs fund grant; CHILL grant expenses; and inclusion of watermain replacement project to the budget.

Board members asked about water rate changes, health care plan, Okemos Consolidated Drain commitment, cost of elections, State funding affecting revenue sharing, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and Utility Billing job posting changes.

Deputy Manager Opsommer answered questions about Okemos Consolidated Drain commitment and AMI.

B. Township Board Listening Session

Manager Dempsey offered some suggestions for structuring the meeting, noting that it might help to involve more community members.

Board members mentioned this session was advertised to residents in the Northern part of the Township.

Board members suggested discussing updates on developments in the community including Haslett Village project, Village of Okemos, and Senior Center as well as roads, water and sewer rate changes, pathways, and for these topics to be communicated to residents before the session.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 8:00 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 8:00 pm.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Hendrickson announced that the Treasurer vacancy application is open until 4pm tomorrow, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOICE VOTE**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 6-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.**



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Scott Hendrickson  
Township Supervisor



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Angela Demas  
Township Clerk