

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
SPECIAL MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, June 3, 2025, 5:00PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Deputy Clerk Gordon, Communications Manager Diehl, Director Blonde

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the June 3 2025, Township Board Special meeting to order at 5:00 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, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson present at 5:01 pm.

Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine absent.

Trustee Lentz present at 5:02 pm.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Opened public comment at 5:01 pm.

Beth Bechtel spoke about the use of surveys when it comes to setting goals

Closed public comment at 5:03 pm.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

6. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Goals and Action Plan

Manager Dempsey presented the establishment of values as core principals for Meridian Township government to work alongside the Board goals. Discussion of the draft values and Board goals took place.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked that Clerk Demas's and Treasurer Deschaine's written comments be added to the meeting packet.

Board members discussed goals vs values and how specific to make the goals broad yet actionable enough. There was discussion that values should remain the same across time and that goals would change as needed.

Trustee Lentz inquired about including staff as a core value. Trustee Trezise mentioned that it could be included under Superior, Citizen Driven Services. Trustee Wilson asked if they could be included under Stakeholder engagement. Trustee Lentz stated that it would be buried under that. Supervisor Hendrickson agreed on making a separate core value regarding staff

Supervisor Hendrickson requested a draft of values be made for the next meeting.

Manager Dempsey spoke about the current 2025 Township Goals. Goal #1 regarding Superior, Citizen-Driven Services has been converted into a value. Trustee Trezise requested the organizational chart presented at the last meeting be posted on the website.

The Board discussed options for Goal #2 Environmental Sustainability. Deputy Manager Opsommer spoke about reliability studies conducted to review the ELMSWA plant. Trustee Trezise suggested this goal be reframed around analyzing infrastructure needs to address current and future issues and reach the Township's sustainability goals.

Manager Dempsey spoke about Goal #3 – Enhance redevelopment in key areas. Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about the DDA creating a task force for redevelopment. Supervisor Hendrickson pointed out that both Clerk Demas and Treasurer Deschaine indicated development on their list. There was concurrence around focusing on the Village of Okemos and the Meridian Mall area given the proposed project at Haslett Village Square and progress at Carriage Hills.

Manager Dempsey discussed Goal #4, the Senior/Community Center. Supervisor Hendrickson pointed out that this is intended to be a 2026 goal and the election will have already passed. Manager Dempsey suggested staff can change the wording to reflect either the project moving forward if the vote is successful or pivoting to a Senior-only project if the vote fails.

Manager Dempsey discussed Goal #5: Improve Citizen outreach and communication. Trustee Wilson spoke about the ways the Township has been working to communicate. Trustee Trezise suggested staff come up with forward focused communication goals instead of memorializing past communication practices.

Manager Dempsey introduced the notion of an additional goal around long-term financial planning. Board members discussed the importance of the Township's financial health and agreed a goal around a long-term financial forecast would be beneficial.

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about items on the Clerk and Treasurer's emails that were on their list.

Trustee Wilson reminded the Board that three millages are coming up for expiration and need to be considered going forward. Board members spoke about housing as an option for a goal but acknowledged the Township's limited resources in addressing such a broad and costly challenge.

Trustee Lentz requested a value be added about being a Welcoming Community.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Trezise

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk