

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVE-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517-349-1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark, Communications Manager Yates

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Dreyfus called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS-NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:02 pm.

None

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:03 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh welcomed Amber Clark as new Economic Development & Neighborhoods Director, Marketplace on the Green Ribbon Cutting on October 7 at 4 pm, Township given approval by court to demolish buildings at Walnut Hills, 16 miles of road repairs completed this week, updated on other road improvements. Solar roof to be installed on Marketplace and on South Fire Station, HVAC repairs to be completed by end of October, Township received \$70,000 hazard pay reimbursement by Federal Government, Township reached 77% participation in Census.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended Township Police Community Policing Forum Sept 24
- Attended Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Special meeting Sept 24
- Volunteered at the Regional Electronics Recycle Day at Chippewa Middle School
- Attended Waste Water Recovery Facility announcement of \$100,000,000 in federal grants for the State of Michigan
- Volunteered at the tree planting day on October 3, \$10,000 grant from Environmental Commission for trees; 60 volunteers planted 40 large trees by Kinawa & Okemos Roads

Trustee Wisinski:

- September 26 recycling event handled almost 90,000 pounds of electronics, 1,000+ vehicles
- The Marketplace on Green ribbon cutting is invitation but also a virtual event; Township Board and staff along with a member from each entity who contributed to the project were invited, will be observing social distancing; anticipate 40-50 will attend

Trustee Jackson:

- Attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Board meeting; approved the proposed 2021 budget and work plan
- Attended 2020 Michigan Municipal League Virtual Convention; participated in discussions on diversity, equity and inclusion with perspective from the State Civil Rights Department, community policing operations from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, COVID impacts on municipal level by Mt. Pleasant
- Attended October 4 DDA meeting
- Learned about how the Township operates its community policing policies

Attorney Fahey reported the following on virtual meetings: on Friday, Michigan Supreme Court issued an opinion on the Governor's executive orders, a Federal Judge asked the Michigan Supreme Court two questions regarding the 1985 Emergency Management Act and the 1945 Powers of Governor's Act. There is uncertainty of when it will take effect but at a minimum will not take effect for 21 days. After 21 days, the Governor can request for a re-hearing and we expect that request to take place, then the final decision from Supreme Court may not come out until after the November 3 election, or it may not happen until after the change of personnel in the Court after January 1.

For the Township to hold future meetings in a virtual format, Mr. Fahey believes there is nothing in the Open Meetings Act to prevent the Township from holding virtual meetings whether there is a pandemic or not. He stated that many attorneys and some organizations do not agree with his legal opinion about the right to hold virtual meetings even without a pandemic. Hopes the Legislature will adopt language to clarify this issue. Until there is additional clarification from the Court or legislature or Department of Public Health, it is his opinion if Township wants to continue in virtual format, it may.

Supervisor Styka reported the Township Association is stating the Township cannot hold virtual meetings but the Municipal League is stating the Township can hold virtual meetings.

Attorney Fahey stated there are many groups who disagree with each other on this topic but MTA wants its members to be healthy and safe.

Supervisor Styka:

- Attended the MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Resource forum on September 23
- Attended Township Police Forum on September 24
- Attended the EDC meeting on October 1
- Attended the DDA on meeting on October 5
- Attended several meetings on Walnut Hills site

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Styka removed agenda item #12D and placed it on the next meeting agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

Clerk Dreyfus moved that the communications be received and placed on file and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2020 Virtual Regular Meeting and September 22, 2020 Virtual Special Meeting

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Virtual Regular Meeting and the September 22, 2020 Virtual Special Meeting of the Township Board, as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Jackson

Common Cash	\$	1,239,349.45
Public Works	\$	319,888.50
Trust & Agency	\$	10,720,592.61
Total Checks	\$	12,279,830.56
Credit Card Transactions	\$	10,890.71
9/11/2020-9/30/2020		
Total Purchases	\$	<u>12,290,721.27</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>995,049.23</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Addition of streetlight – Hagadorn and Mt. Hope

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the attached resolution, which authorizes the Deputy Township Manager and the Township Clerk to execute the Authorization for Change in the Consumers Energy Standard Street Light Contract for adding 1 LED streetlight at the northeast corner of the Hagadorn and Mt. Hope Intersection. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Ratification of New Part-Time Paramedic Appointment

Clerk Dreyfus moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Kristy Virgin to Part-Time Paramedic. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Planned Unit Development #20014 (Okemos Land Investment, LLC) Silverleaf

Director Kieselbach outlined the Planned Unit Development #20014 proposal.

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approved Planned Unit Development #20014 to develop 150 detached single-family residential lots on approximately 94 acres located on the north side of Bennett Road, west of Hulett Road. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer

Discussion:

Township identified conditions on rezoning of this property; conditions include access from Bennett Road; how the layout will relate to other developments in the area.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Enhanced Deer Management Plan

Trustee Opsommer move to support implementation of the enhanced Deer Management Program for the DNR 2020 Archery Season beginning October 1 through January 1, 2021, with inclusion of additional staffing and support, as well as, the addition of a supplemental firearms program staffed by our Police Department from January 1, 2021 through March 15, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Parks Director outlined the program including the purchase of an outdoor freezer, 20 deer harvested to date; are assisting the hunters on transporting the deer to the processor in Jackson, Sports Against Hunger are paying for the processing and the meat will be distributed to foods banks in Okemos and Haslett; 17 private properties are participating in the program.

Board Discussion:

Program begun with a great harvest; if additional costs are required for expanding the program, bring to Board to review it; no Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) cases in the last three years and testing will not begin until firearm season, deer pose a public hazard and health risk; too many deer in residential neighborhoods; expressed gratitude to hunters.

Resident had expressed concern about using the word “nuisance” as a way to promote Deer Management Program and does not believe the Board sees this as a public safety issue. Chief Plaga reported car/deer accidents along Grand River and Powell Roads are the highest rated area. Parks Director reported during CWD, it was the hunter’s responsibility for testing and processing the meat, not a good motivator for hunters. Now Township is transporting deer for processing; hunters required to harvest a deer before they can take a deer for their own.

Harvesting the deer is only part of program, it is unwise to feed deer, encourage educational program on decreasing deer population in the community.

This year’s goal is 300 harvested deer; 75 hunters are participating; hunt is occurring on both public and private lands, the time is typically at dawn and dusk, period is from October 1 to January 1; Chief Plaga will run a program similar to the one the DNR has in previous years using sharpshooters on designated public and private properties; will be working with homeowners association; going out late at night, will be completed with best and safe practices; will be done humanely; hunters have placards in cars that they are in program; properties adjacent to participating properties were sent letters and signs have been posted at all the properties.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. 2020 3rd Quarter Budge Amendments

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 3rd Quarter 2020 Budget Amendments with a decrease in the Budgeted Fund Balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$29,510 which projects a use of Fund Balance of \$2,223,690. Based on 2019 results, the Projected Fund Balance at December 31, 2020 will be \$8,270,729. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

Finance Director Mattison outlined the proposed third quarter budgets for 2020.

Board discussion on amendments.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Board and Commission Appointments

This item was removed from the agenda

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Walnut Hills

Supervisor Styka reported the Township is working to encourage the owner on taking the buildings down and now there is a request to table the removal of the buildings until the next board meeting.

Manager Walsh reported there is a demolition order to remove the buildings by October 5. Demolition order upheld by Judge Jamo, discussions with a local family who want to save the clubhouse. Family is serious on purchasing the property and have 30 days to perform their due diligence on the site. He is recommending the Township hold off on demolishing the clubhouse and allow the family two weeks to perform their due diligence or direct staff to proceed with the demolition decision with Michigan Demolition for \$300,000.

Board Discussion:

The local family want to purchase of property to build a few single-family homes on property and want to use existing clubhouse and other structures for their development, support staff in delaying the enforcement of the demolition order for the clubhouse and pool to allow for the due diligence, delay to October 20 meeting and support potential owners on what they want to do on property, \$300,000 is a large cost for demolishing.

Board consensus to place this item on the next Board meeting agenda.

B. Halloween Options

Manger Walsh recommend to follow the safety guidelines of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Executive Orders but staff is working on creative ideas.

Director Maisner outlined the creative virtual and in-person activities contained in staff's memo.

Board Discussion:

Appreciate staff's suggestions and support virtual activities for this year, Board cannot call off scheduled non-municipal Halloween events, the Board can recommend following public health guidelines, suggest Marketplace on the Green having pre-stuffed bags for children to pick up.

Consensus to follow options suggested by staff.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:33 pm.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:34 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Parks Director stated the Marketplace on the Green ribbon cutting invitations include Park Commissioners and Township Board members. The Wednesday Market will be occurring and the Communications Department Team will be creating video of the creation of the Marketplace. The Township wants to commemorate this opening and next year will be hosting a larger celebration.

Wednesday Market day will be moved into the facility but are cautiously looking at moving the Saturday Market day in because of social distancing and may want to stay at current location. They are reconsidering moving the Market into the Meridian Mall over the winter months; maybe stay outdoors through December and close down during January-March and reopen on new site in April.

16. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK