

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.349.1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer

ABSENT: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Information Technology,  
Human Resources Director Tithof

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 Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Trustee Wisinski and Sundland were absent.

4. INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS PRESENT

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON**

PRESENT: Corey Schmidt, Manager

**EAST LANSNG SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PRESENT: Tara Chambers, President of School Board

**HASLETT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PRESENT: Tamara Lemmer, President; Steve Cook, Superintendent

**OKEMOS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PRESENT: Dean Bolton, President of School Board; John Hood, Superintendent

**CITY OF LANSING**

PRESENT: Andy Schor, Mayor

**CITY OF EAST LANSING**

PRESENT: Jessy Gress, Mayor Pro-Tem; Lisa Babcock, Councilmember

**INGHAM COUNTY**

PRESENT: Mark Polsdofer, Commissioner

**INGHAM COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT**

PRESENT: Bill Conklin, Managing Director; Kelly Jones, Director of Engineering

**CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CATA)**

PRESENT: Bradley Funkhouser, CEO; Andy Briskie, Deputy

**CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY (CADL)**

PRESENT: Scott Duimstra, Executive Director; Betsy Hull, Okemos Branch Head Librarian; Tom Moore, Haslett Branch Head Librarian

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP**

PRESENT: Robin Cleveland, Township Clerk

**WILLIAMSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PRESENT: David Indish, School Board Trustee

**BATH TOWNSHIP**

PRESENT: Marie Howe, Supervisor

5. REPORTS ON JOINT ACTIVITIES

City of Lansing: the buildings are closed to public except by appointment. Working on getting vaccinations out into the community. Development projects include housing and retail spaces. Supporting small businesses with loans. Anticipate receiving 51 million in federal funding and will use the funds to cover salaries, water and sewer projects and to replenish the economic development fund.

City of East Lansing: working on economic recovery with activating business outdoor spaces to extend their public space areas and issuing permits to assist with the expansion of these spaces. The annual Art Festival has been delayed until August but will continue to assess the situation. Opened an underground combined farmers market and art market area in the ground floor of one of the parking garages. Using community development block grant funds for business grants and assist with utility payments. The community services are being handled through the drop box. The Grand River development projects are nearing completion.

Williamstown Township: been working with limited staff but plans are underway to bring staff back into office once they have received their vaccines. Preparing for upcoming May 4 election and the Board plans to hold its first in-person meeting in April.

City of Williamston: working with Williamstown Township and the Drain Commissioner's Office on clearing the Red Cedar River up to Meridian Road. Plans underway to use the property at the west edge of downtown to create a parking lot and trailhead to become a launching point for the east side of the County's River Trail. In the north side of downtown, plan to replace a 35 year old boardwalk with a walking path.

Williamston School District: beginning March 1, students returned to in-person learning but are also using a hybrid program with children who wish to learn virtually.

Okemos School District: summarized the two ballot initiatives on the May election ballot. Summarized the diversity, equity and inclusion committee activities. There will be a number of employment opportunities

Haslett School District: started using a hybrid model of return to learn in February. Ingham County Health Department assisted with staff vaccinations and quarantines when necessary and will be offering testing for returning students after spring break. Working on a diversity,

equity and inclusion model with survey and training assistance from MSU. Working on the second year of bond initiative projects.

East Lansing School District: on March 1, started a hybrid model of return to learn. Working with Ingham County on staff vaccinations and testing for staff and students when necessary. Coming to the end of multi-year school rebuilding projects. Working on diversity, equity and inclusion goals including social justice activities.

Ingham County: will be receiving approximately 56 million in federal funding. Discussing strategies on using the funds by 2024. Working on plans to get funds out to assist businesses and resident. Considering rural health issues. Working with utilities companies and General Motors to discuss electric vehicle eco-systems for the region and how to incorporate charge stations in the community. Will be offering a point of contact sheet from the utility companies for this project.

Ingham County Road Department: Hagadorn Road between Mt. Hope to Grand River and Lake Lansing Road between Wood Street to US 27 will be resurfaced. Replacing the bridges over the Red Cedar River on Okemos Road. Crews will be striping on Van Atta Road and Cornell Road. There have been discussions with McLaren Hospital and Congresswoman Slotkin on the expansion of Bennett Road.

CATA: summarized how CATA has been addressing issues to keep services operational. Plan to use federal funding to address rider social distancing requirements. Will begin advertising on buses and potentially at shelters. Have joined with other county rider systems to provide free vaccine appointment trips. Updating the software systems and fare boxes to assist with contactless fare boxes.

CADL: summarized the curbside services and the virtual program offerings. Plan to reopen by May 3 but will continue to offer curbside services. Have partnered with the schools to offer student library cards. Have a model in place that offers access to technology, reliable broadband internet and assistance with using these items. There is a high rate of WIFI usage in the parking areas of the libraries and they will be seeking community partnerships to offer these essential services in public spaces around the community such as in parks.

6. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES OF JOINT INTEREST

- A. Regionalization of broadband: cost, access, speed, millage to build network, having a public utility, Pandemic proved it is a necessity, need a reliable source
- B. Diversity, equity and inclusion
- C. Pathways
- D. Use of federal funds
- E. Electric vehicle system
- F. Red Cedar River clearing
- G. Okemos Road bridge replacements

7. PROPOSED JOINT PROJECTS

- A. Broadband
- B. Diversity, equity and inclusion

8. RECESS

9. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 5-0.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

A. Communications

**Trustee Opsommer the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

B. Bills

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

<b>Common Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>548,934.58</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>276,761.20</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>16,593.35</u></b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>842,289.13</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,431.44</b>
<b>03.11.2021 - 03.24.2021</b>		
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>854,720.57</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>2,008,789.35</u></b>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

C. DNR Trust Fund Grant Resolution

**Trustee Opsommer moved to support and approve the attached MSU to Lake Lansing Pathway Phase III Resolution of Support. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

D. Ratification of New Full Time Paramedic/Firefighter Appointment

**Trustee Opsommer moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Gavin Ulman to full time Paramedic/Firefighter. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

E. Revised Electronic and Telephonic Meeting Procedures

**Trustee Opsommer move to adopt the revised electronic and telephonic meeting procedures, as attached. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

11. ACTION ITEMS

A. Transportation Appointment

**Trustee Opsommer move to confirm the Supervisor's appointment of Joyce Van Coevering to the Transportation Commission for a term ending 12.31.2022. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

B. Resolution in Support of our Asian and Asian American Community

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the resolution to condemn hate, reaffirm our commitment as a welcoming community, and to support our Asian and Asian-American communities. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Opsommer, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

C. Resolution to Parole Board in Opposition to Granting Parole to Don Miller

**Trustee Jackson moved that the attached resolution urging the Michigan Parole Board to deny parole to Donald Miller be adopted and forwarded to the Michigan Parole Board prior to its hearing and decision with regard to Mr. Miller's parole. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:10 pm.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:11 pm.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka asked Trustees to review railroad quiet zones information from the resident in the communication packet. He asked if this issue should be discussed at a future meeting.

Trustee Opsommer stated he shared information he received from Congresswoman Slotkin's office with Supervisor Styka, Manager Walsh and Deputy Township Manager Perry on the possibility of funds being available through the congressional budget for projects. The Township would need to submit the project by April 9 and then completed an application by April 16. During tonight's meeting, the extension of Bennett Road was mentioned. He would like to suggest reconstruction of Okemos and Hamilton Roads as a project. It is a regional truck route. It has been vetted and storm

water management work and other infrastructure updates are needed in this area. Project funding could be 50/50 or 100 percent funded. This could be joint project with community support.

Manager Walsh reported they had a zoom meeting with Ingham County Road Department on the proposed downtown Okemos area road project today. Deputy Township Manager Perry stated the Road Department will be taking the lead, applying as the applicant for the project and staff will work on obtaining supporting documentation from the developer, the developer's engineers and the Drain Office on the storm water management issues and other infrastructure projects in the area. It appears that this is the only road project the County will be submitting.

**Trustee Opsommer move to suspend the rules to take action to support applying for a grant with the Ingham County Road Department. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 5-0.

**Trustee Opsommer move to approve the Ingham County Road Department's application for one of the ten projects submission to Congresswoman Elizabeth Slotkin's office in support of the Okemos Road and Hamilton Road reconstructive work. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Trustee Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Opsommer

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 5-0.

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.**

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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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DEBORAH GUTHRIE,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK