

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, September 2, 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, Fire Chief Hamel, Finance Director Blonde, IT Director Gebes, Community Development and Planning Director Schmitt, Communications Manager Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the September 2, 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 6:0~~2~~1 pm.

Trustee Sundland was absent.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Firefighter – Caitlin Thomas

Chief Hamel introduced Caitlin Thomas.

B. Consumers Energy – Renewable Energy Program

Deputy Manager Opsommer introduced Dave Patterson, Consumers Energy Senior Energy Solutions Manager, who presented about the new Renewable Energy Program. Board members asked questions that were addressed by both Mr. Patterson and Deputy Manager Opsommer.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:38 pm.

Paulette Grace, Raman S, and Vincent Tomanica spoke about Central Park Estates Development.

Michael Inga spoke about a FOIA appeal.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:50 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.
- Farmer's Market concert series continues through September 24th.
- Upcoming Firefighter and Boy Scout Pancake Fundraiser.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas recognized former Deputy Clerk Emily Gordon for her work and announced there is an opening for the Deputy Clerk position.

Trustee Lentz spoke about the Tihart Road paving project and noted the next Environmental Commission meeting has been cancelled.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda. 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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson noted a typographical error in the draft minutes.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the 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. Planned Unit Development 25-012 – 3560 Hulett Road

Supervisor Hendrickson opened the public hearing at 6:57pm.

Director Schmitt briefly outlined the development request.

Public comment opened at 6:57pm.

Public comment closed at 6:57pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed the public hearing at 6:57pm.

11. ACTION ITEMS

A. Ordinance 2025-07 Parking Lot Landscaping Standards Updates-Introduction

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

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Text Amendment #2025-07 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-758 to update the standards for parking lot landscaping in the Township. 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 2025-06 Rooster Regulations-Adoption

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

Trustee Lentz moved to adopt the resolution approving Text Amendment #2025-06 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-368 to update the regulations for the keeping of roosters in the Township. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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. Planned Unit Development 25-012 – 3560 Hulett Road

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the development request.

Board members discussed the process this property has been through previously.

Board members asked about a nearby pathway and Road Department approval.

Board members expressed support.

At 7:10 pm, Supervisor Hendrickson called for a recess. At 7:17 pm the Board reconvened.

B. 2026 Budget Introduction

Manager Dempsey gave an overview of the budget process and outlined the proposed 2026 Budget document.

Board members discussed and asked about revenue sharing projection, replenishing Capital Projects Fund, Pension Stabilization Fund, allocation for cricket field, decreases in expenditures, reallocation of accounting staff, ARPA funds, and fund balance for the fire station debt.

C. Treasurer Appointment Process

Supervisor Hendrickson gave an overview of the timeline and the process.

Board members expressed support for opening the application process to the public.

Trustee Trezise moved to suspend the rules to take action 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

Trustee Trezise moved that the Township Board adopts the “Process for Appointing a New Township Treasurer” including the appointment of Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, and Trustee Wilson as the application review committee and adopts the “Application for Meridian Township Treasurer Candidate Questionnaire.” 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

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 7:52 pm.

Josh Nahum spoke in appreciation of Treasurer Deschaine.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 7:53 pm.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine commented about the Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program presentation.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Lentz moved to adjourn. Seconded 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 7:55 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk