

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, April 14, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Jackson, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: Treasurer Deschaine (arrived 6:15pm, access issues)
Trustee Opsommer (arrived 7:16pm)

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, Economic Development
Director Lane, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Marx, Parks
and Recreation Director Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Township Clerk Dreyfus called the roll of the Board.

A. Remote Meeting Policy and Guidelines

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction of New Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter.
Kelsey Gemalsky introduced and gave thanks.

B. Coronavirus Task Force Update
Fire Chief Hamel provided information, citizens can call Township Hotline
for assistance 853-4040

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:12 pm.

No public comments.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:13 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT: Videoconference technical issue.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Sundland .

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

A. Communications

Trustee Jackson 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 Wisinski .

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

B. Approval of Minutes – March 31, 2020 Virtual Board Meeting

Trustee Jackson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Virtual Board Meeting of March 31, 2020 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski .

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 – 0

C. Bills

Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Trustee Wisinski :

Common Cash		\$	241,877.73
Public Works		\$	55,581.31
Trust & Agency		\$	60.00
	Total Checks	\$	297,519.04
Credit Card Transactions		\$	6,543.91
Mar 26, 2020 – Apr 6, 2020			
	Total Purchases	\$	304,062.95
ACH Payments		\$	720,951.32

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6-0

D. Lake Lansing Advisory Committee Reappointments

Serve until April 30, 2021: Susan Andrews, Ronald Rowe, Larry Wagenknecht
 Serve until April 30, 2022: Timothy McCarthy, Curtis Armbruster, Steven Culling

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 – 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS – NONE

Clerk Dreyfus called Point of Order and requested the Board follow the agenda and discuss Item 3A: Remote Meeting Policy and Guidelines.

Clerk Dreyfus moved that the Board adopt the Remote Meeting Policy and Guidelines. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

Board discussion: technological challenges of using video conferencing, Treasurer late due to access issues, impact of voting while Board member present but unable to connect, contacting Board members during meeting to report technical issue.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit #19131 (The W. Investment Holdings)

Planning Director Kieselbach and Planner Menser provided an overview of a request to construct a Medical Marijuana Provisioning Center at 1614 Grand River Avenue.

Board discussion: Planning Commission voted for approval, appropriateness of location, compliance with ordinance, new construction meets fill-in criteria and adds to commercial core.

Clerk Dreyfus moved to adopt the resolution approving the Special Use Permit #19131 to construct a medical marijuana provisioning center at 1614 Grand River Avenue, seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

B. Zoning Amendment #20020 (Township Board) – Multiple Family Zoning Districts

Planning Director Kieselbach provided overview of proposed Amendment, which would permit up to 50% single family housing in multiple family zoning districts.

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving the Zoning Amendment #20020 to allow a mix of single family detached and multiple family dwellings in the RDD, RD, RC, and RCC Multiple Family zoning districts.

Board discussion: more diversity in housing choices is positive for community, increased flexibility with density, reflects newer trend of renting single family houses.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 - 0

C. Prevailing Wages Policy

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Prevailing Wage Policy for the Charter Township of Meridian, as amended.

Board discussion: aspects of prevailing wage, benefits for community.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 – 0

D. COVID-19 Compensation and Benefits

Manager Walsh provided overview of federal laws regarding paid leave entitlements for reasons related to COVID-19.

Treasurer Deschaine moved that we authorize the Township Manager to instruct payroll to maintain 100% compensation of all full-time township employees, through the COVID-19 pandemic, as per the Stay-at-Home Executive Order.

Board discussion: Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order, Township budget has revenue available to pay everyone’s compensation, alternative is employee layoff, this approach is humane and team-oriented, commitment to employees, budget is in place through end of year and have resources to deal with budget cuts.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 – 0

E. Local Roads Bid Approval

Public Works Director Perry provided an overview of road improvement project, bidding process and stages of construction. Construction firm wants to begin in May and needs approval. Phase I currently: milling and repaving about 25 roads, 4 bids. Michigan Paving & Materials of Lansing is low bid at \$2,131,586.15

Trustee Sundland moved to approve the low bid for Michigan Paving & materials of Lansing in the amount of \$2,131,586.15 authorize Deputy Manager Perry to proceed with the project. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: competitive bid, going with lowest bidder, prevailing wages apply to project, Michigan Paving had some union issues in the past, bids were lower than expected, spread between low and high bids were relatively small.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 6 – 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Medical Marijuana Ordinance Amendment

Planner Menser provided overview and changes since last meeting. Revisions include timing and process of applications, renewals, and how to get applicants to move as quickly as possible through the process. Attorney from Township firm Fahey Schultz available to answer questions.

Board discussion: applications for same property that has operations permit, beginning operations within one year of SUP, start of construction dates, permit forfeiture based on lack of operations within a year, permit renewals in various scenarios/timelines, lottery guidelines.

Board consensus to place this item on for Action at the next meeting.

B. Special Use Permit #19141 (The Cured Leaf TC, Inc.)

Planning Director Kieselbach provided an overview, Special Use Permit (SUP) needed for 2,282 square foot medical marijuana provisioning center located in a 12,990 square foot multi-tenant commercial building, 3520 Okemos Road. Planning Commission voted to approve.

Board discussion: lease considerations and timing of project, 2 suites used in southern portion of building, other tenants remain, question about tutoring office in northern side of building, not protected educational facility, tutor students located adjacent to provisioning center may concern some residents, tenants have not registered concerns.

Board consensus to place this item on for Action at the next meeting.

C. Celebrate Meridian

Parks & Recreation Director Maisner discussed impact of COVID-19 on event for scheduled date of June 27, 2020.

Board discussion: State of Michigan guidance, postponing event, concerns about sanitation and safety, risk to citizens, risk mitigation and management, Stay-at-Home order and 6 foot social distancing guidelines impact on event, benefits of postponing until late summer/early fall – most prudent approach, unknowns regarding pandemic end, citizen’s feelings about crowds at that time, potential budget shortfall, unknown budget gap,

Trustee Opsommer joined the meeting (7:16pm).

2019 fundraising and permit fees, Market on the Green construction suspended, Farmers Market considered essential, grocers and some other businesses doing well – can approach them for assistance, possibility of uptick in virus in Fall, fireworks for Labor Day.

D. Hazard Pay

Township Manager Walsh discussed \$100,000 in incentive pay budgeted for collective bargaining 312 Arbitrations, all Township frontline police are paramedics, \$1,000 hazard pay for public safety workers on front line first responders.

Board discussion: numerous unknowns when dealing with virus, first responders face unknown risks, hazard pay demonstrates their hard work and dedication is valued, other communities also offering hazard pay, amounts/types of hazard pay, payment offered in June.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:33 pm.

No public comments.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:36 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - NONE

Supervisor Styka:

- Next Board meeting, agreement for Virtual Meeting on May 5.

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Announced the Annual Township Memorial Day Service at Glendale Cemetery is cancelled due to the coronavirus. Impossible to maintain social distancing, first time cancelled in 25 years.

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Kiwanis and Rotary Club are meeting again, ready to help the community. Rotary Club gave Township Manager Walsh Club Hero recognition for his leadership, support of club projects, and his response to the coronavirus situation.

Township Manager reported 57 calls on variety of topics to COVID-19 Hotline: 853-4040

Supervisor Styka lost access to videoconference.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6 – 0

Clerk Dreyfus adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK