

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025, 6:00PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Deputy Manager Opsommer, Fire Chief Hamel, Communications Manager Diehl, Deputy Clerk Gordon, Human Services Specialist Love, Human Resources Director Tithof

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the June 17, 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

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Demas, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson present at 6:01 pm.

All board members present

4. Presentation

A. Introduction of new firefighters – Owen VanDerBos and Zoe Hedrick

Chief Hamel introduced the new firefighter paramedics.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:05 pm.

Beth Hubbell spoke about the listening session and senior center.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:13 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Human Services Specialist Love gave an update for Meridian Cares regarding the Dobie Road apartment fire.

Fire Chief Hamel gave updates to the Board about the Dobie Road apartment fire.

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave updates on:

- Acknowledged and thanked neighboring jurisdictions for their mutual aid for the Dobie Road fire.
- Noted how residents can donate to help families impacted by the fire.
- Township offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19.
- Juneteenth Celebration is Friday, June 20.
- Celebrate Meridian is June 26-28.
- 14 miles of roads will receive asphalt rejuvenator treatment and more information available on website.
- Senior and Community Center FAQ document updated and available on website.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas noted that absent voter ballots will be available beginning June 26 and absent voter ballots will be sent to Uniformed Military and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters June 21 for the August 5, 2025 Special Election. She attended the MAMC summer conference and Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) meeting and will be holding a democracy class on July 3 for the community.

Treasurer Deschaine noted that tax bills go out July 1, thanked residents for attending the listening session.

Trustee Lentz attended the Environmental Commission meeting, noted that the Commission awarded Green Grants.

Supervisor Hendrickson attended the Push-In ceremony with several Board members for the new fire engines.

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 Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

9. CONSENT AGENDA

**Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Supported by Clerk Demas.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

10. HEARINGS

A. 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #21

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave background information about the Order to Maintain.

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:29 pm.

Rx Harrington spoke about sidewalk maintenance and possible ways to reduce to reduce cost.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:31 pm.

11. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2025 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #21 - Resolution #3

Board members asked about the average cost estimates and circumstances under which property owners can refuse sidewalk work.

Deputy Manager Opsommer provided clarity to Board questions.

**Clerk Demas moved to suspend the rules. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.**

**VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

**Trustee Trezise moved TO APPROVE THE 2025 ORDER TO MAINTAIN SIDEWALK SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #21, RESOLUTION #3, WHICH APPROVES REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALK IN PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS: BIRD STRAWBERRY FARM ESTATES, BIRD STRAWBERRY FARM ESTATES #2, BIRD STRAWBERRY FARM ESTATES #3, CHIPPEWA WOODS, COUNTRY GREEN, COUNTRY PLACE, COUNTRY PLACE #2, COUNTRY PLACE #3, GEORGETOWN, GEORGETOWN #2, TRAILS AT LAKE LANSING #3, WOOD VALLEY #3, WILKSHIRE, WILKSHIRE #1, WILKSHIRE #2, WOOD VALLEY, WOOD VALLEY #2, WOOD VALLEY #3, WOOD VALLEY #4, WOODSIDE ESTATES, WOODSIDE ESTATES #2, WOODSIDE ESTATES #4, WOODSIDE ESTATES #5, AND WOODSIDE ESTATES #6, WHICH ARE LOCATED IN SECTIONS 2, 11, 12, AND 14, AND TO DEFRAY THE COST BY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT; APPROVES THE COST ESTIMATE OF \$31,911.24; DETERMINES THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT; DIRECTS THE MAKING OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND DIRECTS NOTICES BE SENT TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS INDICATING THEY HAVE 20 DAYS TO REPLACE OR MAKE SAFE THE DEFECTIVE SIDEWALK. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

12. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. DDA Task Force Appointment

Supervisor Hendrickson provided information about the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) task force created regarding the development of the Village of Okemos.

Treasurer Deschaine offered to serve on the task force with consensus from the Board.

Trustee Sundland offered to serve as an alternate on the task force with consensus from the Board.

B. Board Retreat Follow Up Discussion

Treasurer Deschaine provided information about the April 12 Board Retreat and the report from Larry Merrill.

Board members discussed the retreat and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The Board discussed strategic planning and the timeline for developing a Board annual plan.

C. Board Goals

Board members discussed Board goals and values from the June 3 Township Board Special Meeting.

The Board discussed rearranging the order Board goals will be displayed.

The Board discussed limitations of housing as a Board goal and instead having this be included in the welcoming community value. The Board discussed defining the value of a welcoming community.

The Board discussed the timeline for establishing annual Board goals along with the annual budget.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 7:31 pm.

Ben Miller spoke on behalf of Comcast regarding the Comcast Local Franchise Agreement Renewal.

Rx Harrington spoke in support of culture and arts as a Board goal.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 7:35 pm.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine welcomed Trustee Lentz to the East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority (ELMWSA) Board of Trustees.

Trustee Lentz brought peaches from the Georgia Peach Truck for the public.

Clerk Demas spoke about culture and arts as a Board value.

Deputy Manager Opsommer informed the Board the June 10 Township Board Listening Session summary is being drafted.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOICE VOTE**

**YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas,  
Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Lentz,  
Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 5-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm**



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Scott Hendrickson  
Township Supervisor



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Angela Demas  
Township Clerk