

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, February 4, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Director Schmitt, Chief Grillo, Chief Hamel, Director Gebes, Director Opsommer, Director Tithof, Fire Marshal Millerov, Director Wisinski, Manager Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the February 4, 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, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Sundland and Trustee Trezise present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Township Manager Tim Dempsey

Supervisor Hendrickson gave a brief introduction to the new Township Manager. Manager Dempsey spoke about his background.

B. 2024 Township Annual Report

Manager Dempsey spoke about the annual report and touched on major 2024 accomplishments.

Supervisor Hendrickson thanked staff for all of their work that went into what was achieved in 2024.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:12 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:12 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on the following:

- MDOT Road closure on Grand River at Meridian Road
- Joint Board & Commission meeting next Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Trustee Lentz made comments regarding the road closure

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Lentz made comments regarding the road closure's effect on school bussing.

Treasurer Deschaine reminded residents taxes are due February 14<sup>th</sup> and after February 28<sup>th</sup>, the taxes will be turned over to Ingham County. He made note of information included in the Treasurer's Office portion of the Annual Report.

Clerk Demas attended the Chinese New Year Celebration with other board members, thanked former Clerk Guthrie for carrying out the 2024 elections and Clerk's Office staff for assisting with the Annual Report

Trustee Lentz attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting where they elected officers.

Supervisor Hendrickson attended the Community & Senior Center Task Force meeting and noted the date and time for the upcoming Joint Board & Commission meeting.

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

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the Consent Agenda.

Clerk Demas welcomed staff and Board Members to notify the Clerk's Office of corrections to the minutes.

Treasurer Deschaine noted that the cash balances were reclassified in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Treasurer's report from previous reports.

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

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Text Amendment 2025-01-Fire Code Update-Final Adoption

Fire Marshal Millerov reviewed the discussion that has occurred to date.

**Trustee Lentz moved to approve the resolution to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 pursuant to the 2024 International Fire Code including Appendix chapters B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, N, and O as published by the International Code Council with Meridian Township amendments. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

B. Purchasing Policy Update

Director Schmitt noted that the question asked by the Board was answered by the consulting firm and the change has been made to the proposed Purchasing Policy.

Trustee Trezise noted that the quick reference chart needs to be updated to reflect the proposed language.

Trustee Lentz asked about unsold surplus property regarding Meridian Cares. Trustee Wilson noted that nothing goes unused from Cares donations and that most of the donations to Cares are monetary.

**Trustee Trezise moved to approve the updated Meridian Township Purchasing Policy as presented with the amendment to include reference to the Finance Director approving expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Seconded by Trustee Lentz.**

**VOICE VOTE YEAS: Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise,**

**Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas,  
Treasurer Deschaine**

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

C. Rifle Purchase Program

Chief Grillo answered questions that were asked in a previous meeting.

Trustee Lentz, Clerk Demas, and Supervisor Hendrickson thanked Chief Grillo for his work and for answering their questions

Trustee Wilson clarified that the rifles are to be used in the course of duty for Meridian Township officers.

**Trustee Trezise moved to authorize an increase in the maximum amount allowed for the Rifle Purchase Program from \$2,000 to a maximum of \$3,000 on an interest free loan for up to three years with program rules set by the Township Manager and Chief of Police. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

D. Police Contract with Michigan State University

Chief Grillo spoke about the changes that MSU requested, and attorneys have reviewed.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Master Service Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between Michigan State University and Meridian Township for a period of three years and authorized the Supervisor to sign the contract. Seconded by Clerk Demas.**

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Prosecuting Attorney Contract Renewal

Chief Grillo introduced Cullen Harkness of Harkness Law firm.

Attorney Harkness introduced himself and gave background information.

Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wilson, and Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of Mr. Harkness and the proposed contract renewal.

#### B. Draft Board Policy Manual

Supervisor Hendrickson gave information about the changes to the draft board policy manual. He proceeded through each section asking for feedback for each. Attorney Kuschel provided information as needed regarding the changes made.

Trustee Trezise found a significant change from the last time the manual was up for discussion. He noted that the committee did not meet between the last Board discussion and this one. Attorney Kuschel stated that the change resulted from a need to protect the elected office; the decision voters have made.

Clerk Demas and Trustee Trezise both noted that they would like to have a more detailed definition of employment, indicating that there are temporary positions in the Township that welcome Board Members, specifically help with elections.

Trustee Wilson noted components that seemed outdated and unclear and asked to have them updated or removed. Attorney Kuschel indicated that some items were retained to reduce the number of overall changes to the document, and that other items were retained to help define policy governance. Trustee Trezise concurred, stating that he is willing to reconvene the committee to address the changes.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked about the removal of a reference to Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Attorney Kuschel stated that its applicability to Board practice was unclear. Supervisor Hendrickson noted that, even without it being explicitly stated, redacting certain things is a good idea.

Trustee Lentz asked about retention of video recordings of meetings. Director Gebes and Manager Deihl explained the process, noting that nothing has been deleted to date. Trustee Lentz said that he appreciated the video work that is done for the meetings and wants no change to the policies.

Clerk Demas asked for clarification about the removal of language regarding the review of closed session minutes. Attorney Kuschel explained that closed session minutes cannot properly be approved in open session.

Trustee Wilson asked for clarification regarding the Supervisor appointing Chairs to Committees, noting that the Committee generally appoints their own chair. Mr. Kuschel stated that this does not preclude that action.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked that the definition of task forces be returned to the Policy Manual. Trustees discussed the applicability of the term Task Force. Supervisor Hendrickson agreed that the term can be struck in the interest of efficiency.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked that the third point under Board Policy Procedures be struck because it seems to invite filibuster action. Treasurer Deschaine concurred, noting that it could be used as a stalling tactic.

Director Tithof returned to the podium to ask for a meeting with Manager Dempsey and the Board to discuss the hiring process and clear up some confusion.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 7:55 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 7:55 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**NAYS: NONE**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm**



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Scott Hendrickson  
Township Supervisor



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Angela Demas  
Township Clerk