

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 *APPROVED*
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, October 19th, 2021 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski,
Sundland

ABSENT: Clerk Guthrie

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt,
IT Director Gebes, Deputy Manager Perry

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. ROLLCALL

Treasurer Deschaine moved to appoint Trustee Wisinski as temporary Clerk for tonight's meeting. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson,
Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Wisinski called the roll of the board.

Supervisor Styka is attending via Zoom from Meridian Township due to health reasons.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Environmental Commission Green Grant Update-Haslett Middle School

Bridgett Booth gave a presentation on the Environmental Commission Green Grant Update to the board.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:15 pm.

Richard Harrington 820 Piper Road Haslett spoke against the Township's stance on his butterfly garden.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:20 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the township is scheduled to meet with the mall in November. The state audit on ARPA funding is completed and the township is cleared to receive the funding in 2022. The Tri-County managers group will meet with Julie Brixie and Trustee Opsommer on October 20th. Prime Meridian magazine is coming out mid-January, it will focus on township goals. October is volunteer appreciation month. The IT assessment group is having its first meeting October 20th. The upgrades to technology in Town Hall room proposal will be on the next meeting. There was a meeting on the road project and the problems on Lagoon Dr. A few streets may not be worked on in 2021 due to the amount of rain. The prevailing wage appeal for the Township is to be submitted next week.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland

- Attended Economic Development Corporation meeting on October 7th the focus of the meeting was the village of Okemos. The project should be moving forward soon.

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended Economic Development Corporation meeting on October 7th
- Attended Meridian Area Business Association meeting on October 7th
- Attending Takoma Hills meeting on October 13th
- Attended Capital Area Treasurers association on October 14th
- Deane Mulliet has been promoted to Deputy Treasurer

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Wisinski moved to remove item 13.D from the agenda with the intent of bringing the item back at a later date. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

Trustee Jackson asked about over 100 reimbursements for Tax overpayments.

Treasurer Deschaine explained the reimbursements were due to a misinterpretation of a letter sent out by the Treasurer Department.

Treasurer Deschaine explained why investment income is half of the normal rate.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Styka asked if it should be expected for the rates to go back up.

Treasurer Deschaine explained that it's speculative.

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2021

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of October 5, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	690,609.39
Public Works	\$	541,920.27
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>188,187.58</u>
Total Checks	\$	1,420,717.24
Credit Card Transactions	\$	8,104.40
09/16/2021 to 09/29/2021		
Total Purchases	\$	<u><u>1,428,821.64</u></u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u><u>634,999.16</u></u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Silverstone Estates Public Streetlighting Improvement SAD #427 – Resolution #2

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve Silverstone Estates Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #427- Resolution #4, which sets a public hearing for November 16, 2021, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing objections to the special assessment roll. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Resolution of Declaration and Notice – MNRTF Grant Meridian Riverfront Park Pavilion Project

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the attached resolution of declaration and notice for the Meridian Riverfront Park Accessible Pavilion Project at Harris Nature Center as a grant requirement for funds received from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

F. Resolution of Declaration and Notice – LWCF Grant Meridian Riverfront Park Restroom Project

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the attached resolution of declaration and notice for the Meridian Riverside Accessible waterless restroom at Harris Nature Center as a grant requirement for funds received from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

G. Third Quarter 2021 Investment Report

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS-NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Set a Date for Township Board Study Session

Supervisor Styka outlined setting a date for the Township Board Study Session.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve a Township Board Study Session on Saturday, December 11th at a time to be determined for the purpose of setting 2022 goals and working out the strategy for spending American Rescue Plan grant money in Township Municipal Building in the Town Hall room. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland, Supervisor Styka,

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. 2021 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments

Manager Walsh outlined 2021 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the 3rd quarter 2021 budget amendments with a decrease in budgeted fund balance for the general Fund in the amount of \$96,100 which projects a use of fund balance of \$1,108,085. Based on 2020 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2021 will be \$9,155,700. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD #21 Resolution #2

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD #21 Resolution #2.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement Special Assessment District No. 21 Resolution No.2; filing the plans showing the proposed special assessment district, and estimate of cost with the Clerk's Office; tentatively declaring intention to make the public drain improvements special assessment roll and defray 50% of the Township's share of the cost for the improvement; tentatively designates a special assessment district; and setting a public hearing for November 16, 2021. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Supervisor Styka asked who decides when a drain is a chapter 20 drain.

Deputy Manager Perry stated he assumes the township petitioned the drain office to make the drain and implemented it through the Chapter 20 process.

Max Cleaver representing Spicer Group spoke about Spicer Group's part in the maintenance of Daniels Drain and how they came up with the different costs to residents.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about the expected completion date for dredging the pond.

Deputy Manager Perry was not able to give a complete answer at this time.

Trustee Jackson asked how many chapter 20 drains are in Meridian Township.

Deputy Manager Perry stated he believes there are 7, but his goal is to convert all drains to public drain.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer,

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Tentative Preliminary Plat #19-012 – Sanctuary III – Extension

Director of Community and Planning Schmitt outlined the Tentative Preliminary Plat #19-012 -Sanctuary III – Extension.

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution extending tentative preliminary plat approval for Sanctuary III to October 15, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski, Sundland, Opsommer, Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Georgetown Sewer Payback District Resolution

Manager Walsh outlined the Georgetown Sewer Payback District Resolution.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Georgetown sewer payback district resolution. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance Update

Director Schmitt outlined the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance Update for discussion.

Trustee Opsommer stated that 4 electric car charging stations is roughly 2% of parking in current projects. He discussed the amenity system with Director Schmitt.

Trustee Jackson stated she liked the development agreement. She also asked if the Planning Commission has seen the MUPUD update.

Director Schmitt stated they had not seen this version as the version they have seen is not much different from the current.

Treasurer Deschaine stated he would like to see feedback from the Planning Commission.

Trustee Opsommer asked if the township still allows applicants to use adjacent, existing commercial structures or projects towards the commercial requirement of an MUPUD project.

Director Schmitt did not have an answer at this time but stated he would likely not recommend the idea to this body.

Manager Walsh explained that he did not think it was a part of the Ordinance.

Director Schmitt stated he would review the Ordinance.

- B. Rezoning #21-070 – 5114 Jo Don Drive – Rezone north half of property from RCC, Multiple Family – Maximum 34 dwelling units per acre, to RB, Single-Family, High Density

Director Schmitt outlined Rezoning #21-070 – 5114 Jo Don Drive for discussion.

The board discussed Rezoning #21-070 – 5114 Jo Don Drive.

- C. City of Mason Building Contract

Director Schmitt outlined the City of Mason Building Contract for discussion.

Supervisor Styka asked how this is financially working out for the township.

Manager Walsh stated this is financially good for the township.

Trustee Wisinski asked if the staff could serve both Meridian and Mason effectively.

Director Schmitt stated they could.

Trustee Opsommer asked manager Walsh what the extra costs are.

Manager Walsh stated they take into account all forms of payment to staff on an hourly basis and then charge more.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the rules an act on this tonight. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the City of Mason contract that is brought to the board tonight and further the Township Manager Walsh sign the agreement. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

~~D. Appreciation Pay~~

E. CN Railroad Quiet Zone

Deputy Manager Perry outlined and discussed the CN Railroad Quiet Zone.

Supervisor Styka asked to clarify what a Railroad Quiet Zone is.

Deputy Manager Perry explained that there is a process that allows trains not to sound their horns when crossing certain tracks.

Trustee Jackson stated the estimates of the cost of both tracks are dated for 2019 and asked how realistic those numbers would be now.

Deputy Manager Perry stated they should be mostly accurate.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:17 pm.

Christina Canfield, 1351 Hickory Island Drive, Haslett spoke in support of the CN Railroad Quiet Zone.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:20 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Opsommer

- States Fiscal Year stated October 1st, the township should receive a \$250,000 grant for a firetruck in 3-5 weeks.
- Stated the township cannot go below the federal guideline for poverty exemptions on affordable housing, but it can go above it. Currently the Township is 1.35 times the federal guideline.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.



RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK