



Meridian Township Millage Renewals

July 7, 2026



Current Township Millages & Revenue

Millage (Original Enactment)	Last Approval	Expiration Data	Rate When Last Enacted	2026 ⁽¹⁾	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	FY 2026 Estimated Revenue
Township Operating (1959)	Dec-1959	N/A	5.0000	4.0996	4.0996	4.0996	4.0996	4.0996	4.0996	4.0996	\$9,604,000
Police Protection (1998)	Nov-2020	Dec-2035	0.6016	0.5930	0.5930	0.5930	0.5930	0.5930	0.5930	0.5930	\$1,389,000
Fire Protection (1998)	Nov-2020	Dec-2035	0.6339	0.6248	0.6248	0.6248	0.6248	0.6248	0.6248	0.6248	\$1,464,000
Community Services (2002)	Aug-2022	Dec-2031	0.1483	0.1460	0.1460	0.1460	0.1460	0.1460	0.1460		\$342,000
Land Preservation (2000)	Nov-2020	Dec-2029	0.1000	0.0984	0.0984	0.0984	0.0984				\$231,000
Pathways (1974)	Aug-2016	Dec-2028	0.3333	0.3260	0.326	0.326					\$764,000
Local Roads Debt (2019)	Aug-2019	Dec-2027 ⁽²⁾	1.9429	1.9429	1.0625						\$4,494,000
Police and Fire (2017)	Aug-2017	Dec-2026	1.4830	1.4563							\$3,412,000
Park (1984)	Aug-2014	Dec-2025	0.6667	0.6503 ⁽³⁾							\$1,524,000
Total Twp. Millage Rate			11.1097	9.9373	6.9503	5.8878	5.5618	5.4634	5.4634	5.3174	\$23,224,000
Total TWP. Millage Rate Less Debt			8.9668	7.3441	5.8878	5.8878	5.5618	5.4634	5.4634	5.3174	

(1) Tentative rates; 2027 and beyond are pending Headlee rollback calculations

(2) Current estimate of final year

(3) Expired 2025, rate if approved by voters



Millage Highlights

- Parks Millage expired in 2025 (0.6522 mill)
 - Generates \$1.5 million annually
 - Used to fund park improvements, operations, and maintenance
- Public Safety Millage expires in 2026 (1.4563 mills)
 - Generates \$3.4 million annually
 - Used to fund police and fire staff and needed equipment
 - Significant additional pension contributions to reduce the Township's long-term pension liability. The Township's funded status for the pension system has increased from 56% to 80% since 2017 as a result.
- Both millages also support the Motor Pool for respective departments



Police Department

- Where were we in 2017?
 - 38 Sworn Officers
 - 17,926 Calls for Service
 - 2,188 Citations Issued





Police Department

- Where are we today?
 - 41 Sworn Officers
 - 21,173 Calls for Service
 - 3,559 Citations





Police Department

- Current Staffing
 - 2 School Resource Officers
 - 2 Officers assigned to traffic safety
 - 4 Officers and one Sergeant assigned to every shift





Police Department

- Why is this important?
 - Patrol vehicles are cycled out after 3 years (approximately 90,000 miles)
 - High standards for hiring and retaining employees
 - Proactive policing and community policing
 - Better response times
 - State mandated training requirements





Fire Department

- Calls for service increase since 2017
 - 2017: 5169
 - 2025: 6805
 - 32% increase in 8 years
- Supported multiple large equipment purchases since 2019 to meet OSHA and NFPA standards:
 - Two fire engines and a ladder truck
 - Three ambulances





Fire Department



- Staffing adjustments:
 - 2017: 30 firefighters/EMS
 - 2025: 36 firefighters/EMS
 - Two additional firefighters hired in 2018 with millage resources
 - Supports hiring quality firefighters
- Support national best practices (NFPA 1710) for staffing levels and response times:
 - Four minutes for initial arriving fire engine at fire
 - Eight minutes for full complement of 16 firefighters minimum at structure fire



Fire Department

- Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating that assigns a public protection classification to jurisdictions base on fire department services.
- Meridian Twp. is a Class 3 ratings (1 being the best, 10 the lowest)
- A higher community protection factor helps reduce insurance rates
- Evaluation factors:
 - Staffing
 - Response times
 - Annual training
 - Equipment, including ladder trucks and engines
 - Water supply, including public system



Parks Department

- Thirty parks, recreational facilities, and extensive programming requires significant staffing, 13 full-time and multiple part-time staff, including:
 - Director and Administrative Assistant
 - Parks and Land Stewardship Superintendent
 - 6 Full-time Utility Workers (maintenance) and
 - 5 Part-time Seasonal Maintenance Workers
 - 2 Recreation Specialists
 - Market Manager and Assistant Manager
 - Stewardship Coordinator and 4 Part-time Stewardship Assistants
 - 1 Senior Naturalists
 - 7 Part-time Assistant Naturalists
 - 1 Recreation and Policy intern



Harris Nature Center Crew



Park Maintenance Crew



Stewardship Crew



Parks Department

- **Park Improvements from 2022-2026**

- Installed 5 floating islands and wetland buffer in Central Park South
- Upgraded bathrooms with heat at Marketplace on the Green
- Building maintenance survey and repairs to the Historical Village
 - New roofs on farmhouse, Barne's house, and barn; upgraded electrical system at the Barne's house; upgraded to LED lights throughout; new paint on schoolhouse and chapel
- Installed shade structure at Towner Rd Park pickleball courts
- Added a permanent POD to farmers market for food assistance programs and installed windscreens at the Marketplace
- Central Park pavilion remodel with new siding, roof, barn doors, ceiling, lights, bathrooms, Farmers' Market murals, and additional handicap parking
- Upgrades to Harris Nature Center including split rail fence, railings on overlook deck, indoor classroom, new features in the nature exploration area.
- New play structures at Marshall Park, Ottawa Hills Park and Towner Rd. Park
- Added wind screens at the pickleball courts





Parks Department

Park Improvements from 2022-2026

- New play structures at Marshall Park, Ottawa Hills Park and Towner Road Park
- Native species plantings in Indian Hills, Forest Hills, Marshall Park and Central Park South
- State Designation of the Red Cedar Watertrail
- Accessible floating dock at Harris Nature Center

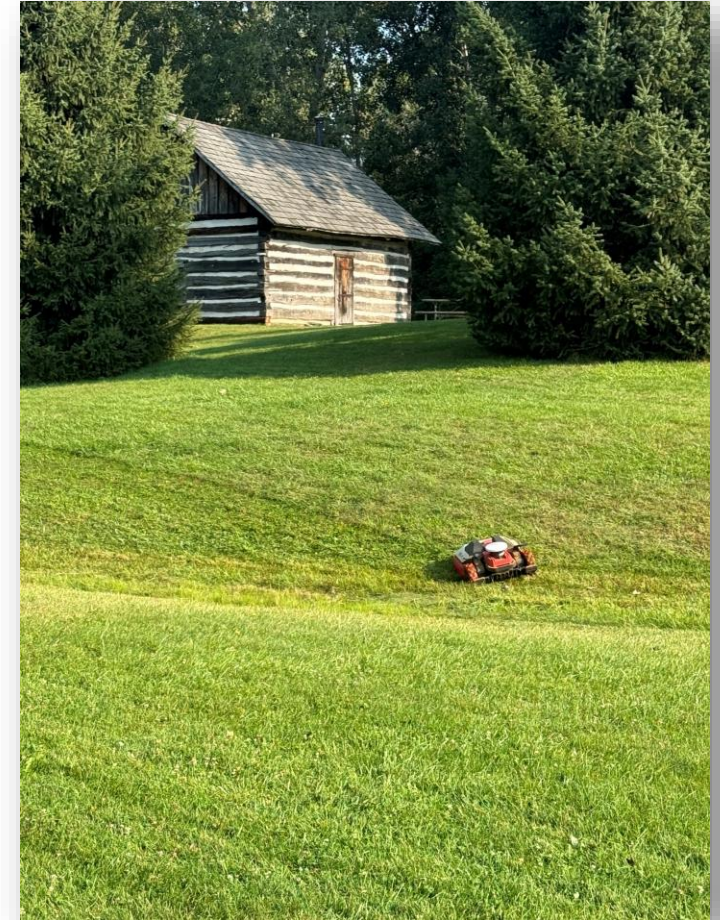




Parks Department

Maintenance Activities

- Resurfaced parking lots at Ferguson Park, Ted Black Woods, North Meridian Road, and Harris Nature Center
- Built a sled library and snowshoe racks, ice skating closet, upgraded baseball fields and backstops, installed AEDs and provided preventative maintenance on pickleball courts
- Replenished volleyball courts with Michigan beach sand
- Upgraded parking lot lights at Harris Nature Center to make them Dark Sky friendly
- Mow 215 acres per year; purchased three robot mowers to maintain lawn
- Snowplow 90 miles of pathway per year
- Installed new picnic tables throughout parks
- Upgrades to playground equipment at Ferguson, Hillbrook, Orlando, Cedar Bend Heights, North Meridian Rd, Nancy Moore, Hartrick, Wonch, and Towar Parks
- And MUCH more





Parks Department

Proposed Future Improvements

- Develop the Central Meridian Trailhead at Nancy Moore Park
- Nancy Moore Park play structure replacement and installation of loop trail
- Preventative maintenance on pickleball courts
- Upgrade Nancy Moore Park pavilion and restrooms
- Install shelter at the Small Dog Park
- Clean and seal roof and paint the Tollgate House at the Village
- Continued maintenance of the Red Cedar Watertrail
- Marketplace electrical upgrades
- Parking lot expansions at Hartrick, North Meridian, and Harris Nature Center Parks



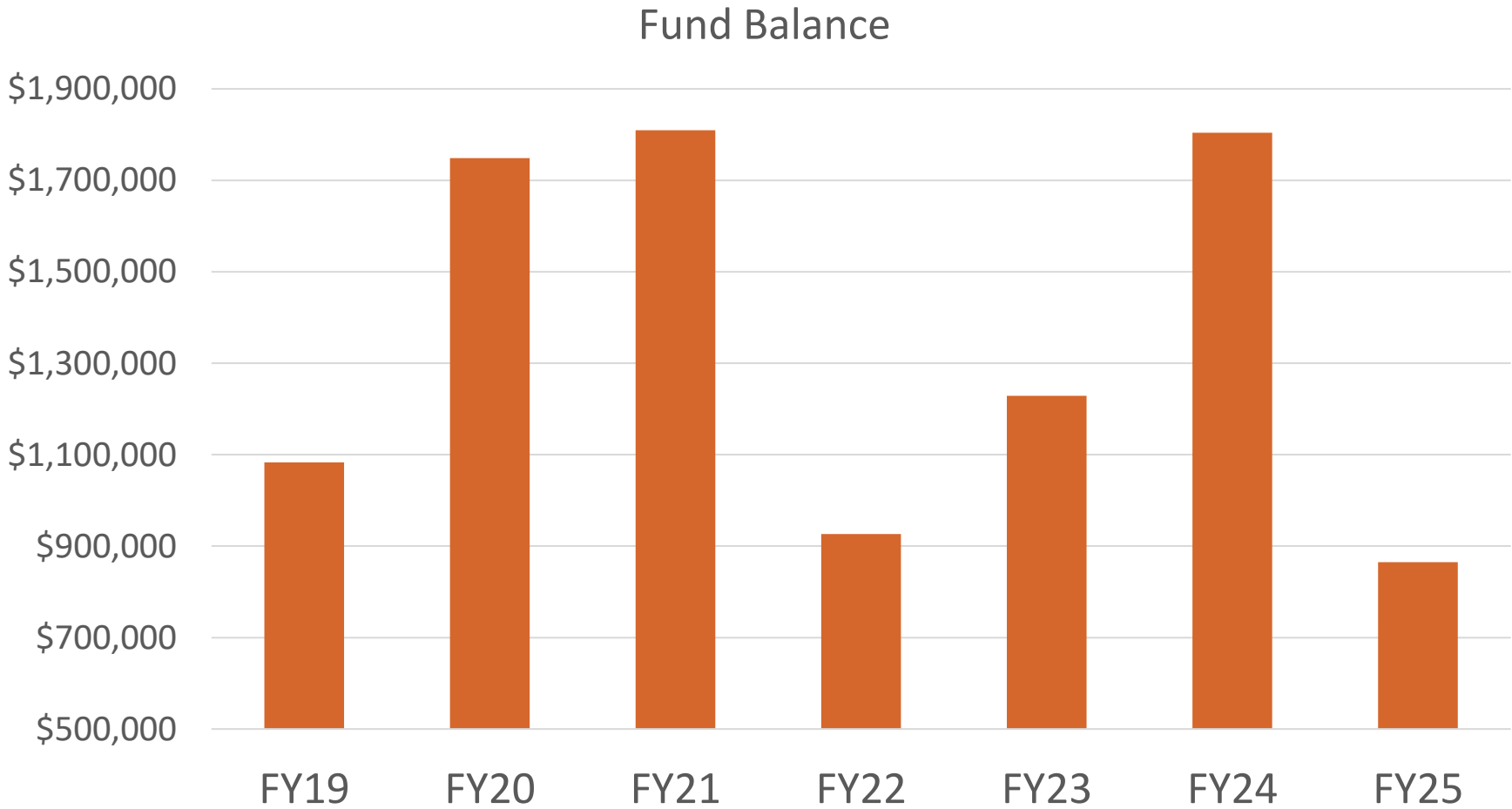


Ongoing Needs - Pension Funding

Year	Total Obligation	Assets	Unfunded	% Funded
2024	\$98,061,937	\$73,547,981	\$24,513,956	75%
2023	\$93,588,566	\$69,492,356	\$24,096,210	74%
2022	\$87,580,156	\$64,528,517	\$23,051,639	74%
2021	\$84,252,364	\$60,838,360	\$23,414,004	72%
2020	\$79,103,874	\$50,849,504	\$28,254,370	64%
2019	\$74,014,966	\$46,002,599	\$28,012,367	62%
2018	\$68,549,666	\$43,010,072	\$25,539,594	63%
2017	\$65,850,156	\$40,461,002	\$25,389,154	61%
2016	\$64,160,503	\$37,221,865	\$26,938,638	58%
2015	\$61,743,003	\$34,930,549	\$26,812,454	57%



Ongoing Needs - Motor Pool





Cost to Taxpayers*

Market Value	Taxable Value	Park Millage	Police & Fire Millage	Total
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$65	\$146	\$211
\$250,000	\$125,000	\$82	\$183	\$264
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$98	\$219	\$317
\$350,000	\$175,000	\$114	\$256	\$370
\$400,000	\$200,000	\$130	\$292	\$423
\$500,000	\$250,000	\$163	\$365	\$528

**Property taxes based on market value of home, may be less due to below market taxable values resulting from Proposal A (1994) inflationary limits*



Questions and Discussion