

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
SPECIAL MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Central Fire Station #91
TUESDAY, November 29, 2022 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Finance Director Garber, Director of Economic Development Clark, Assessor Winstead, Human Resources Director Tithof, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Director of Operation Massie, Communications Manager Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All board members are present.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:00.

Battalion Chief Vroman thanked the board and the M-Team as he announced his retirement will begin on December 17th, he served the township for 25 years.

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 6:00.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

7. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion and Direction on 2023 ARP Funding

Manager Walsh requested the board enter a closed session for his performance review before the end of this meeting.

Manager Walsh outlined Discussion and Direction on 2023 ARP Funding. He explained there are roughly \$3.219 million in requests from the Directors with \$2.3 million available for disbursement.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about the self-contained breathing apparatus.

Chief Hamel replied this is a low priority request and explained the reason for the replacement.

Supervisor Jackson asked how the Meridian Historical Village is maintained.

Director Maisner replied it was maintained by the general fund, however anything newly created for the village would come from the park millage.

Supervisor Jackson noted ARP funding is meant for projects of great impact that were harmed by COVID. She asked if maintenance and repair of the Historical Village has been delayed by COVID.

Director Maisner replied that it has, and it has suffered a loss of revenue as well.

Trustee Wilson asked about the CN railroad quiet zone as the cost has raised to \$750,000.

Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer replied the township reevaluated and found that proper quiet zone circuitry hadn't been installed in three out of four crossings. The cost for new circuitry is roughly \$250,000 per crossing.

Manager Walsh explained this was brought up because of a few citizen complaints.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about how much road could be repaired for about \$750,000.

Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer replied about one mile. He noted his department would rather put this money into roads instead of the quiet zone.

Treasurer Deschaine stated he has no interest in the railroad quiet zone at this price.

Trustee Wisinski asked about digital building and fire plan review.

Director Schmitt replied it makes providing information to the public easier, will expedite the review process, and cuts down on human error during review.

Trustee Wisinski asked about the access control system.

Chief Plaga replied this will update the security system allowing custom room access, as well as an auditing system to see who has accessed certain rooms and at what time.

Supervisor Jackson asked if this is part of accreditation of the department.

Chief Plaga replied it is however the current system will pass.

Supervisor Jackson asked about the digitization plan for Community Planning and Development.

Director Schmitt replied digitization would greatly improve efficiency in his department and save on physical storage space.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about locker room space for female police officers.

Chief Plaga replied if another female officer is hired, he may not have the space to accommodate them. Meaning that the goal of 30% female police force is currently impossible.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about proposed Capital Outlay Fund to maintain Township property.

Manager Walsh replied he believes this ARP money could be spent on maintaining current township facilities. However this Capital Outlay Fund is money that could be set aside each year purely to fund township projects.

Trustee Wisinski asked about new windscreens at the marketplace.

Director Maisner replied the new screens would be remote controlled, retractable windscreens.

Manager Walsh noted the marketplace project has cost about \$2,000,000 from the general fund so far.

Trustee Wilson noted the digitalization of Community and Planning, and windscreens as good projects. While SCBA and building upgrades should come from a Capital Outlay Fund.

Manager Walsh noted the whole ARP funding does not need to be spent tonight.

Clerk Guthrie asked if Chief Hamel would be requesting a grant for the SCBA gear.

Chief Hamel replied that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie asked if money had been budgeted in the past for the Historical Village.

Director Maisner replied a small amount is given to them every year.

Clerk Guthrie asked what the plan for these buildings would be.

Director Maisner explained this was an exciting program many years ago, and the Historic Village do intend to reopen but COVID has hurt their Revenue.

Clerk Guthrie asked about digital building and fire planning being a part of general funding.

Director Schmitt replied he would ask for this project to be budgeted if it's not granted through the ARP funding.

Clerk Guthrie spoke about putting money into the township's buildings and storage facilities through a Capital Outlay Fund.

Trustee Wisinski spoke about supporting items that are a public benefit, like police door access, Digital Building and Fire Plan. She also spoke about affordable housing.

Trustee Sundland spoke in support of funding the Historic Village.

Trustee Wilson stated she would like to use ARP money for public facing projects, and the rest with Capital Outlay Fund.

Manager Walsh spoke about spending money on township buildings to create a better environment for staff.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about putting one-time money into the municipal building when it could be budgeted for in the future.

Manager Walsh noted he could plan a Capital Outlay Fund to be brought before the board soon.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke about continuing to fund the Senior Center.

Treasurer Deschaine stated a large amount of the ARP fund should be put into the Senior Center.

Clerk Guthrie spoke about yearly building maintenance, storage issues and its effect on recruitment and retention of township staff.

Manager Walsh stated a capital project fund will be created and a plan should be set by December.

B. Review of 2022 Township Board Goals and Action Plan

Trustee Hendrickson noted the PASER rating did not include the reevaluation on roads that had not been worked on.

Assistant Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer replied the updated PASER rating should be in front of the board by February.

C. Review of 2023 Township Board Goals and Action Plan

Manager Walsh noted the Board Goals and Action Plan have been given to the board in the same format as last year.

Supervisor Jackson noted the administrative beginning for Senior Center Programming and Operations, and to increase affordable housing in the township has been included in the goals and action plan.

D. Review Top Three 2023 Goals

Manager Walsh explained and reviewed the top three 2023 goals.

Supervisor Jackson spoke about communication efforts across the township.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about continuing communication and outreach with the public.

Trustee Hendrickson thanked Manager Walsh for the list of goals. He suggested as next year's goals are planned; they could be discussed at the same time as the budget. He also suggested removing "expend remaining \$4,500,000 ARP funds". He noted a concern with

DEI goals as he doesn't know how to measure those goals. He asked for consideration of exploration of a Tax Increment Finance district in the Grand River Corridor.

Trustee Wisinski agreed DEI must be measurable.

Supervisor Jackson explained the Corridor Improvement Authority does exist and could contribute to creating a Tax Increment Financing district.

Clerk Guthrie asked about a possible Art Commission.

Director Schmitt noted he's had some experience with an Art Commission, and it can be quite cumbersome until it has proper funding.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 7:55 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 7:55 pm.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

10. CLOSED SESSION - TOWNSHIP MANAGER 2022 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Trustee Wilson Moved to enter a closed session for the purpose of the Township Manager's 2022 Performance Review. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The Board entered a Closed session 7:57 pm.

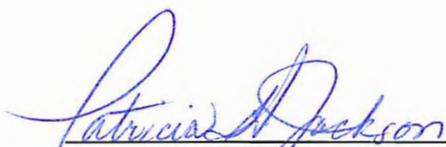
The Board resumed its open session at 8:59 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

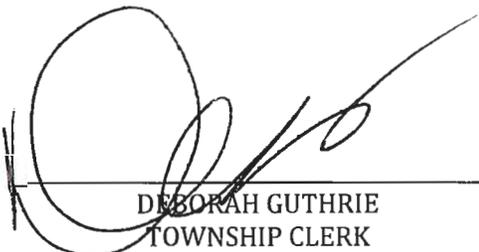
Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK