

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Thursday, August 8, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Interim Manager Schmitt, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Gebes, Manager Diehl, Director Tithof, Chief Hamel, Chief Grillo, Director Wisinski, Director Clark, Sergeant Slavick

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the August 8, 2024, 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

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of Sergeant Adam Slavick

Chief Grillo introduced Sergeant Slavick, recently promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Slavick thanked Chief Grillo and the Board.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:04 pm.

Michael Cui, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Bob Baldori, Township resident, spoke in support of marijuana dispensaries.

Jean McDonald, Senior Center Advisory Board Member, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal.

Peg Frisch, Senior Center Advisory Board President, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal.

Barbara O'Kelly, Township resident, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal.

Sonya Boruszewski, Township resident, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal.

Ellen Portnoy, Township resident, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal.

Jamie Garmo, representative for SANDDS Meridian, spoke in support of proposed marijuana dispensary.

Jinal Patel, owner of Subway, spoke in support of proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Debora Dantus, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana dispensaries.

Jordan Munsters, High Caliber Karting owner, let community members know that his business offers meeting space.

Philip Dwyer, Township resident, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal.

Wei Liao, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Tongtong Li, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Jian Ren spoke in opposition to marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Zachary Huang, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Ginjie Wong, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Rhonda Bueche, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana and concern that Board Members are being influenced by sources of funding.

Luigi Baldino, property owner 2119 Haslett Rd, spoke in support of proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Barbara Curtis, Township resident, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal and in opposition to marijuana dispensaries.

David Pawsat, Township resident, told the board that they are not listening to the will of the voters.

Siva Nadimpalli, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Vinod Singh, Township resident, spoke in opposition to opiates and marijuana.

Venkata Brnam, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana.

Sandeep Jain, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana in the Township.

Venkata Aluru, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Tannu Aroura, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Bhanu Singh, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana in the Township.

Neera Tweari-Singh, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Marlene Stover, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Sanjay Ojha, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Sunita Ojha, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Milton Scales, Township resident, spoke in opposition to senior and community center proposal and asked for more information from the task force to be provided to the public.

Monal Shroff, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Graham Goble, Mathnasium owner, moved his business because of proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

John Jiang, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensaries in Okemos.

Qiaoqin Jiang, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Jay Meyer, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Prashanti Thakore, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Kalyani Vangala, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Julie Lawton-Essa, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads and asked to have access to the SUP.

S Shenoy, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Chandra Innuganti, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:41 pm.

At 7:41 pm Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The board reconvened at 7:52 pm.

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Interim Manager Schmitt gave updates about the following:

- Emergency sirens have been installed; Consumers Energy has been contacted to have power connected to them. Thank you to Project Manager Massie who headed the project during Chief Hamel's leave.
- US Board of Geographic Names has responded to an online petition to change the name of Lake Lansing and is asking for local municipal input
- Upcoming pancake breakfast at 2|42 Church
- Parks Director Wisinski and Red Cedar Waterway Project has asked for help from the County to remove logjams from the river.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland attended the EDC meeting. They met to discuss Economic Development training and association membership.

Treasurer Deschaine thanked voters for their participation in the recent election.

Trustee Trezise gave an update about the Environmental Commission. They met to discuss money available for sustainability grants. They want to bring information to the Board regarding green burial. He reminded residents about the upcoming Pride event.

Clerk Guthrie recognized and thanked interns who have worked for the Township and recognized Alma Cooper, an Okemos graduate who was recently named Miss USA. She is working on creating a cemetery Ordinance and thanked voters for their participation in the election. There was a 37% turnout over 9,000 absent and early voters, 379 early voters, around 2,100 voters at the polls.

Supervisor Hendrickson attended the second Community and Senior Center public discussions and thanked the people who provided comments. He met with Suchir Nagisetty who would like to create a Youth Commission in Meridian Township. Thanked Clerk Guthrie, Deputy Clerk Gordon, and all election workers for running a smooth election.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee McCurtis proposed moving items 12.C and 12.F to items 12.A and 12.B and shifting the remaining items down the agenda.

Trustee McCurtis moved to approve the amended Agenda. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Whitehills Lakes South #1 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #428 – Public Hearing

Supervisor Hendrickson opened the hearing at 8:10 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed the hearing at 8:10 pm

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit #24-09 – SANDDS Meridian LLC – 3520 Okemos Road – Recreational Marijuana Retailer

Interim Manager Schmitt reviewed the discussion that has occurred thus far regarding this SUP application. He noted that staff and the Planning Commission have recommended approval and staff strongly recommends that the Board articulate their reasons for their decision to approve or deny the permit if there are any beyond what appears in the resolution. He stated that the Township Attorney is present to answer questions as well.

Clerk Guthrie would like to see a traffic study done for a recreational facility, versus a medical facility. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that the ITE (Institute for Traffic Engineers) does not differentiate between medical and recreational facilities because their studies are based on both types of dispensaries.

Clerk Guthrie wanted to know if the building permit was originally a medical permit that was converted to a recreational permit. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that the building permit was granted based on medical approval in 2020, and they have been doing work under that permit, and that the permit translates to recreational approval.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the empty storefronts in the strip mall at 3520 Okemos Rd could be attributed to detrimental effect of the recreational marijuana facility moving in. Schmitt reported that the owner of the strip mall stated the tenants were paying under-market rents before and rents have been raised at closer to market rate, and that the majority of tenants chose to stay.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the SUP template is the same template for all SUP permits. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that all SUPs follow the same standards for review unless there are specific conditions in the Ordinance that have been attached to that use. That there are a limited number of uses that have additional criteria they have to meet. SUP permits are land use decisions. Clerk Guthrie then clarified that this SUP is not the Board being asked to weigh in on social issues, that the Board is being asked to weigh in on a set of criteria in the SUP and the SUP does not address social issues. Interim Manager Schmitt concurred.

Clerk Guthrie asked for a recap of a timeline of the process for recreational marijuana dispensaries, expressing her concern that it was not done correctly. Interim Manager Schmitt spoke: In 2018 decision made by Board to accept only medical marijuana applications. A random lottery was conducted to determine who the applicant would be for the seven districts that existed at that time. One district had no applicant, and a second district did not receive a viable applicant due to an easement issue with another township. This left five districts, with one approved licensee in each. Late 2019- early 2020 – each went through the SUP process and were approved. Two applicants, one of them the applicant currently being discussed, chose to move forward with building permits and have kept their permits viable by doing work and requesting inspections. They renewed their licenses annually through 2022 which is when the Board began discussions about recreational marijuana. In 2023 The Board adopted an Ordinance for recreational marijuana, dropping the two districts that were not filled through the medical marijuana licensing and shrunk this district and one other. In January 2024, the Board opened the application window consistent with the Ordinance. Each application was submitted to the subcommittee as authorized by the Board. After the issuance of the license, the applicant was required to submit SUP applications for review. The applicant submitted the SUP application in accordance with the Ordinance and it is now at the point where it must be reviewed by the Board.

Clerk Guthrie wanted to know if armed guards are a requirement of the security plan. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that the Ordinance does not require anything because staff believe that the State Licensing Process is sufficient and if the facility does not pass State Licensing, it will not be sufficient to meet Township Licensing requirements. Staff would not recommend a plan that requires additional Police presence because it is not an effective use of resources. Clerk Guthrie then asked Chief Grillo to speak about the efforts made to increase the Township Police force and how that increase handles the needs of the community. Chief Grillo stated that there are currently 39 officers, up from 30 in December 2023, and expects to be fully staffed with 42 officers by the end of year. The Police receive approximately 20,000 calls for service per year and the increase in staffing has improved response time and ability to do investigations.

Trustee McCurtis wanted to know the year of the voter referendum. Interim Manager Schmitt and Board Members clarified that it was August of 2022.

Trustee McCurtis asked if the SUP criteria for this permit is the same criteria used for all SUPs and wanted more specifics about the basis for the 4th and 5th criteria. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that the criteria are the same for all applicants, however there are exceptions such as car dealerships and self-storage facilities that have additional criteria. Staff bring forward any application regardless of staff feelings about the application. Regarding criteria 4, when an adverse or hazardous use is identified that will affect neighboring properties, staff either work with the applicant to determine mitigation strategies or they recommend denial of use. Regarding criteria 5, there must be demonstrable data that shows a negative economic impact. Because this specific property is commercial property that will be amongst other established commercial properties, it is generally acceptable, however in this case one of the tenants has chosen to move out. When reviewing SUPs they are trying to find direct impacts, not anecdotal impacts.

Trustee McCurtis wanted more clarification on expansion. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that this property would not meet the ordinance to expand. He apologized for misspeaking at a previous meeting – the church itself does not exist within the 1000-foot zone; it is the school that is within the church that meets that qualification. He noted, also, that he would discourage any applicant from applying for an expansion because it would require board approval, and it is apparent that the board would not approve an expansion.

Trustee Wilson asked if the property was subject to rezoning to make it C-2 zoning. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that the property has always been zoned C-2, Commercial for as far back as there are records.

Trustee Wilson asked for more information about the August 2022 referendum. Interim Manager Schmitt clarified that the referendum was to opt out of recreational marijuana in 2022, and when it failed, the Board took subsequent action to allow recreational marijuana. Trustee Wilson asked about the application process. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that this specific applicant was the only application received in this recreational marijuana overpay district. He clarified that after the applicant applied for the license it was reviewed to ensure completeness and subsequently went to the Board where they issued a conditional license. At this time the applicant had 60 days to apply for the SUP, which they did, then the SUP was presented to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission sent the SUP, as it is presented today, to the Board. At no point in the process has there been a denial.

Trustee Wilson asked what the likely scenario would be if the Board were to deny the SUP. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that most likely litigation would occur and deferred to

Attorney Kuschel to answer the question of whether such a case would be defensible. Attorney Kuschel stated that the review is on substantial, competent, and material evidence on the whole record, which is why the approval or denial should be clearly on record. That discussion determines the difficulty of defending the Board's decision. In general, local decisions are defensible, but they all come back to the evidence on record. Specifically, this is a difficult question to answer without the full body of facts.

Treasurer Deschaine asked Attorney Kuschel if research about the societal effects of marijuana use would be enough to deny the SUP and if it would stand up in court. Attorney Kuschel provided detail that information from the public can provide a data point to come back to the criteria – the criteria look at the character of the general vicinity with regards to neighboring uses and promotion of the intent and purpose of the comprehensive development plan. Information from the public can be used in deliberating land use decisions but said that it would not be advised to make it the basis of a denial for land use. He stated that he would not recommend denying an application simply because the Township might be sued. Treasure Deschaine then asked for clarification that if demonstrable data were provided that supported denial of the SUP based on criteria 5, it would stand up in court. The legal test is substantial material evidence on the whole record, some of which looks at what in the record supports the decision to deny.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked Attorney Kuschel if the Township could be sued if the SUP were to be denied for reasons outside of the SUP criteria. Attorney Kuschel replied that it would likely be denied. Supervisor Hendrickson then asked what the result would be if the Township lost such a lawsuit. Attorney Kuschel replied that the court would order that the SUP be issued consistent with the Ordinance. Supervisor Hendrickson summarized that the ramifications of denial would likely be a potential lawsuit that could likely lead to the township losing the lawsuit which would lead to the SUP being approved – the same outcome as could happen tonight but after a costly process.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked Interim Manager Schmitt for more information about the hazardous to existing neighboring uses. He asked if the subcommittee that reviewed the application materials for the license considered the possibility of hazardous externalities from the facility approved. Interim Manager Schmitt replied that externalities in general are considered, not just hazardous ones, and the license was recommended for approval by subcommittee and staff after consideration of externalities, amongst the other criteria.

Supervisor Hendrickson summarized that the SUP process is not a referendum on adult use marijuana in the township, noting that the referendum occurred in August 2022. Interim Manager Schmitt added that the Township followed the specific process in State Law (MRTMA) to bring the referendum, and the public can bring it for referendum again. Supervisor Hendrickson asked Attorney Kuschel to address the ballot petition that was circulated in regards to the SUP. There is no legal mechanism by which such a referendum can proceed because there is no authorization that applies and no legal foundation for it to be put on the ballot. Attorney Kuschel clarified that this does not mean that the public cannot circulate a petition that complies with MRTMA for referendum.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked if the decision to allow a recreational marijuana facility was made when the zoning map with the overlay districts was created. Attorney Kuschel clarified that the general zoning yes, but since it is an SUP, this use must satisfy the SUP and the marijuana zoning provisions in the ordinance. He also noted that if this application were denied, a different applicant could come forward with an application that addresses the concerns that led to the denial, that application could be approved without any zoning change.

Supervisor Hendrickson expressed his concerns about the rent costs for the other occupants of the building and asked if the concern is a question of their business operations as a landlord and not related to their operation of a recreational marijuana facility. Attorney Kushel stated that as a landlord they can establish rents which is unrelated to their application.

Treasurer Deschaine asked the Board to table the discussion until September 17th in order to conduct two study sessions to answer the question of how the presence of this facility would impact youth in the surrounding community. Supervisor Hendrickson expressed his concern regarding the question of data, that data has already been gathered and discussed, that the applicant followed the requirements of the Ordinance the Board unanimously approved as a result of that discussion, and that the question has not fundamentally changed in that time period.

Trustee Wilson asked Attorney Kuschel how the Board would get data to address the question of how this shop will affect the surrounding community. Attorney Kuschel stated that data would need to be relevant to the location, not the specific shop. This would start with a generalized data set relevant to the location, that may be offset by items specific to the location, and determining whether it makes an impact on the SUP.

Trustee Trezise summarized that the SUP is for land use, not an analysis of whether the recreational marijuana Ordinance should be repealed. He stated that he could understand conducting a study to determine whether the decision to approve the Ordinance was correct but that it does not impact the SUP criteria.

Clerk Guthrie asked Attorney Kuschel if he stated that the purpose of the SUP is to show how this use at this location satisfies the requirements and asked for clarity about the statement that public comment could be used as part of SUP criteria. Attorney Kuschel responded that she is correct on the purpose of the SUP and that public comment is not criteria, it is part of evidence before the board (along with studies, staff reviews, reports, documents submitted by the applicant). When the public reviews the material and provides their input, that input is relevant material and that material can inform the criteria. Public input is not part of the criteria, but Board Members can use it as basis for their vote.

Clerk Guthrie asked Interim Manager Schmitt when the license was granted, when the building permit was granted, and when Mathnasium and Juice Nation moved out of the plaza. Interim Manager Schmitt responded that the license was granted on April 16, 2024, that the building permit was granted in 2021, and that he was unsure when the tenants moved out of the plaza. Supervisor Hendrickson said he thought the tenants moved in July. Clerk Guthrie asked if the owner of Mathnasium stating that he moved because his business is incompatible with a marijuana store would be considered detrimental effect on business. Attorney Kuschel stated that is a logical flow of evidence.

Trustee Wilson stated that she is supporting the resolution because the applicant has followed the proper procedures, that their application has been through all of the processes, that the property is zoned appropriately, and for those reasons there will not be a good outcome if the Board denies the application.

Trustee McCurtis stated that even though the vote didn't necessarily go the way people wanted, the process has been followed and must be honored.

Treasurer Deschaine stated that putting the township in legal jeopardy over this process is not fiscally responsible.

Clerk Guthrie stated that she was not satisfied with how the criteria have been met and suggested the Board might want to explore creating additional criteria for recreational marijuana dispensaries.

Trustee Trezise acknowledged the importance of citizens' comments, however there is not a legal basis to change the location of a business with an SUP.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to table the decision until the September 17th meeting and hold two study sessions. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

Motion failed: 2-5

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Special Use Permit 24-09, a request to establish a recreational marijuana retailer at 3520 Okemos Road, Suites 8, 9, 10 (Parcel ID No 33-02-02-33-452-016). The subject property is zoned C-2, Commercial, and the property is located within the Marijuana Business Overlay District. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

At 9:46 pm Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The board reconvened at 9:53 pm.

Trustee Wilson moved to suspend the rules to take up the remaining issues of the agenda. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Senior and Community Center Millage

Interim Manager Schmitt reviewed the discussion that has occurred to date and outlined the information in the memo.

Supervisor Hendrickson stated that the procedural reason for bringing this topic to action on this meeting is because August 13 is the deadline for a ballot initiative for the November election, which is before the next board meeting. In order to use the feedback from all of the public meetings, the action item needed to wait until this meeting.

Trustee Sundland asked about the timing of the project and if the project could be downsized. Supervisor Hendrickson confirmed that the current Senior Center will remain open for about four more years, but it will take multiple years to create and open a new center so delay could create a gap in services. Trustee Wilson gave a detailed overview of the eighteen months of work that task force has accomplished, the reasoning for their decisions, and explained why the proposed location and features were chosen.

Treasurer Deschaine explained the financial effects of the proposal as outlined in the memo and stated that the proposal was not a recommendation from the tax force. He stated five reasons that he opposed the proposal: too expensive, lacks strong community support, is fiscally irresponsible to use a large portion of reserve funds, there is limited understanding of the costs that will be taken on by purchasing this specific property and maintaining it in perpetuity, and that the project needs to be redesigned. He stated that he thinks this is the wrong time to ask voters for a tax increase, citing recent past millage requests and recent effects on tax bills from inflation. He recognizes the need to replace the current Senior Center and stated that the project needs to be redesigned to fill the need, but the proposed community center is a desire not a need. He noted that he has heard from the residents who use the current Senior Center that they would like a new senior center, but he has not heard from residents asking for a community center. He noted, also, that this is the first opportunity residents have been given to speak about their thoughts on the cost of the project, and that there are other more pressing needs in the township that may require use of the reserve funds.

Supervisor Hendrickson commented that Meridian Township is the only municipality in the surrounding area that does not have a dedicated community center. He stressed the need to provide a new senior center in a short period of time and spoke about the recent survey supporting community desire to have a community center. He noted that this proposal is a way for community members to show their support or opposition to the idea. He indicated his support for this proposal to put this millage on the ballot.

Trustee McCurtis expressed his concern that residents like the idea but have asked many questions about the cost and until this meeting, there have been no answers to those questions. He referred to the public comment at this meeting when residents stated their concerns about this proposal while also stating their support for a senior and community center, but not with this proposal. He also noted that some of the Board Members were not supportive of a question regarding the millage being put on the recent survey. He stated that he did not think this was a fiscally responsible decision and that he would not support this proposal.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of a community and senior center but has concerns about supporting a millage when she hears residents speaking out about the amount of their tax bills. She also spoke concerning staff time that will be devoted to the project when staff are already stretched thin with current projects. She stated that she will not support this proposal at this time.

Trustee Trezise spoke in support of the project, but not in support of the proposal. He expressed his concerns that the residents did not have all of the information during the

public meetings and that residents might have a different opinion now that costs have been presented. He stated that he would not support the proposal.

Trustee Trezise moved to suspend the rules on procedure to take this motion up tonight. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Ballot Proposal for a 20-year Community and Senior Center Millage and to submit the question to the voters at an Election to be held on November 5, 2024. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise

Motion failed: 2-5

C. Ordinance 2024-05 – Liquor License Regulations Update – Final Adoption

Director Clark gave an overview of the process thus far, explained the two Ordinances and noted that passing these will lift the current moratorium on issuing licenses.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt Ordinance #2024-05 to amend the Code of Ordinances to regulate the issuance, transfer, renewal, and revocation of Liquor Licenses within the Township. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the attached Resolution establishing the Liquor License fee schedule. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

- D. Text Amendment #2024-04 – Local Prosecution of Marijuana Violations Ordinance – Introduction

Interim Manager Schmitt noted that no changes have been made since this item was up for discussion.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Ordinance 2024-04, an ordinance to allow for local prosecution of certain marijuana violations. Supported by Clerk Guthrie

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

- E. Ordinance 2024-07 – Rezone Two Parcels at 350 Haslett Road and the Adjacent Vacant Parcel from RR, Rural Residential, to RA, Single-Family Residential – Introduction

Interim Manager Schmitt summarized the process as it has occurred thus far and noted that staff would recommend approval of the Ordinance.

Treasurer Deschaine asked the applicant if he had considered adding middle housing, noting that most of the applicant’s buildings are priced higher than the middle range. The applicant answered that he has a concept he wants to incorporate into this rezoning, that there would be three price ranges of homes.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Resolution approving for introduction Ordinance 2024-07, an ordinance to rezone two parcels at 350 Haslett Road (Parcel ID# 33-02-02-12-400-003) and the adjacent parcel (Parcel ID#33-02-02-12-200-015) from RR, Rural Residential, to RA, Single-Family Residential. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

- F. Selection of Firm for Township Manager Search

Supervisor Hendrickson asked all persons in the room who are interested in applying for the Township Manager position to please leave the room during this discussion. Interim Manager Schmitt and Clerk Guthrie left the room.

Director Tithof gave an overview of the information provided for this item, noting the information included in the proposals.

Treasurer Deschaine stated that he would like to see this postponed until the next meeting to have more time to discuss the materials.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to appoint Trustee James McCurtis as temporary Clerk. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Wilson moved to table the discussion about the National Township Manager Search until August 20, 2024. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 11:15 pm, Clerk Guthrie and Interim Manger Schmitt rejoined the meeting

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

NONE

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 11:15 pm

Barbara O’Kelly Township resident, spoke in support of a Senior Center and encouraged the Board to work with the school district.

Julie Lawton-Eassa, wanted to know where to find the information about the SUP and the proposal for the senior and community center.

Chief Hamel thanked his Fire Department and Director Massie for their help while he was away and thanked the Board for their support

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 11:20 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine thanked Board members for their thoughtful discussion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 pm.

Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk