

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development Director Clark, IT Director Gebes, Police Captain Grillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter and New Part-Time Paramedic

Fire Chief Hamel introduced the new part time Paramedic, Ann Marie to the board. He also welcomed Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Joseph Harrison who could not make it to the meeting.

Ann Marie thanked the board for having her on the team.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:05 pm

NONE

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:05 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the local road program is coming to an end. He stated the marketplace is a continuing success, and the police and fire departments are doing well. He stated there have been recent reports of catalytic converters being stolen from cars in the area. He stated Newsweek Magazine ranked Meridian Township as the best place to live in Michigan, and that Meridian Magazine will be continued as it's in the budget.

Trustee Opsommer asked for more info on the catalytic converter issue.

Police Captain Grillo addressed the issue to the board. He reported the police are working with detectives and scrapyards in the area to gather information on potential suspects.

## 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Trustee Opsommer

- Attended joint meeting of the City of East Lansing and Meridian Township Transportation meeting with Deputy Manager Perry and Director Schmitt. The main agenda item at the meeting was reconfiguring E. Lake Lansing Rd., Birch Row St. and Towar Ave. intersection slip lane. Citizens may contact Deputy Manager Perry or view the packet of the joint meeting for more information.

### Trustee Jackson

- Attended Michigan Municipal League Annual Conference Wednesday through Friday last week with Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Sundland and Manager Walsh
- Attending Special Meeting of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting approving the 2022 budget
- Attended Downtown Development Authority meeting this morning

### Trustee Wisinski

- Thanked Manager Walsh and Director Mattison for wetland education campaign funding

### Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended Michigan Municipal Treasurers Annual Conference meeting
- Attended this morning's Downtown Development Authority meeting
- Thursday will be the Economic Development Corporation meeting

### Clerk Guthrie

- Attended Michigan Municipal League conference where she attended equity sessions, and attended a Bus tour of Downtown Grand Rapids with Trustee Sundland
- Communications Meeting tomorrow that has expressed wanting to continue the Prime Meridian Magazine
- National Voter Registration month is completed

### Trustee Sundland

- Attended Michigan Municipal League Annual Conference where the theme of the conference was diversity and inclusion

### Supervisor Styka

- Attended Corridor Improvement Authority meeting. A main focus was the addition of crosswalks around the intersection of Marsh road and Okemos Rd. and two other crosswalks on the west side of the Township near Playmakers. The CIA and the

Transportation Committee are asking MDOT to install a traffic light to help cars making left turns to get out of Hamilton, Cedar Bend neighborhood.

- Attending a meeting with MSU's President with Trustee Jackson and Manager Walsh

#### 8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### 9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

##### 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, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

##### B. Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2021

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of September 21, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees

Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

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

<b>Common Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>546,807.20</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,298.93</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>3,161.39</u></b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>559,267.52</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,988.26</b>
<b>09/16/2021 to 09/29/2021</b>		
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>577,255.78</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>802,322.39</u></b>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS-NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. IT Assessment Proposal

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the IT Assessment Proposal.

Supervisor Styka asked if this item is time sensitive as it hadn't appeared in a previous meeting as a discussion item.

Deputy Manager Perry replied that it is.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Township Technology Assessment proposal provided by Brightline IT in the amount of \$54,000 and proceed with the project. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Trustee Wisinski asked why the township went with Brightline.

Deputy Manager Perry replied the commission was confident in the company and the package they would deliver.

Manager Walsh stated that when IT Director Gebes was satisfied with the assessment package that he was satisfied as well.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### B. 2021 Halloween Hours

Captain Grillo outlined the 2021 Halloween Hours.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to authorize Trick-or-Treating on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### C. Disbursement of 2022 Health Care/Health Savings Account

Manager Walsh outlined the disbursement of 2022 Health Care/Health Savings Account. Manager Walsh stated the item is time sensitive which is why it's up for action today.

Supervisor Styka noted the Manager's memo stated \$207,000, while Manager Walsh stated \$217,000.

Manager Walsh stated there was a typo in his memo.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to authorize 100% of health care savings be passed on to the team in the sum of \$15,000 being retained for staff turnover in the form of Health Savings Account allocation for the 2022 calendar year. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

Trustee Opsommer discussed the motion with other board members and Township Manager Walsh.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Supervisor Styka asked if the board would have to contact the unions as healthcare is a part of the collective bargaining agreement.

Manager Walsh replied that yes they would.

Trustee Wisinski asked what the deductible is.

Manager Walsh stated that a single person would have an \$800 deductible, while the maximum deductible for a family is \$2800.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to authorize the payment schedule be moved from biannually to annually in the month of January. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Trustee Opsommer discussed the new motion with other board members.

Clerk Guthrie asked where the \$4500 that is paid to employees who opt out of health insurance comes from. Manager Walsh stated that opt out pay is in the specific department's budget as a line item.

Director Mattison stated the line item is not calculated in the HSA hard cap total.

Clerk Guthrie asked if she and Treasurer Deschaine would have a conflict of interest in this item.

The board found there was not a conflict of interest in this motion or the prior motion.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

### 13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Manager Walsh outlined the American Rescue Plan Act Funding for discussion.

Trustee Wisinski asked for the timeline on appropriating ARPA funds.

Supervisor Styka stated there is a 4-5 year window and it may be wise to take some time with this money. Supervisor Styka stated this item would be returning in future meetings.

B. Appreciation Pay

Supervisor Styka introduced the appreciation pay topic.

Clerk Guthrie outlined the appreciation pay proposal.

Trustee Opsommer asked what the fiscal impact is in moving from 8.5% to 10% defined contributions. Manager Walsh was not able to give a complete answer at this time.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:01 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:01 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. CLOSED SESSION-Motion to go into closed session to discuss a written confidential legal opinion from the township attorney concerning prevailing wage

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to go into closed session to discuss a written confidential legal opinion from the township attorney concerning prevailing wage. Supported by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

**The Board entered a closed session at 8:02 pm.**

**The Board returned to open session at 8:15 pm.**

17. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.**



RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE  
TOWNSHIP CLERK