

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
JOINT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS MEETING -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, April 29, 2025, 6:00PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland,
Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: Trustee Lentz

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Chief Hamel, Captain Crane, Director
Wisinski, Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the April 29, 2025, 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 Demas called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, and Trustee Trezise present at 6:02 pm.

Trustee Lentz absent.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Opened public comment at 6:02 pm.

Closed public comment at 6:02 pm.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

6. INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS PRESENT

The following people introduced themselves and participated in the Joint Local Governments and School Districts Meeting:

Brad Funkhouser, CATA CEO

Andrew Brieshke, CATA Deputy CEO

Tanya Pratt, Ingham County Commissioner

Kelly Jones, Ingham County Road Department

Tom Moore, CADL Head Librarian

Jenny Marr, CADL Executive Director

John Hood, Okemos Public Schools Superintendent

Tom Buffett, President Okemos School Board

Katie Cavanaugh, Okemos School Board Trustee

Dori Leyko, East Lansing Schools Superintendent

Estrella Torrez, East Lansing School Board

Greg Bird, Haslett School Board President

Ryan Fewins-Bliss, Bath Township Supervisor

Brenda Butler, Bath Township Clerk

Christopher Mumby, City of Lansing Deputy Mayor

Deborah Stuart, City of Mason Manager

Mark Steinberg, Williamstown Township Trustee

7. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES OF JOINT INTEREST

A. Major Road Projects

Discussion about local roads and major road projects in Meridian Township and other areas in Ingham County took place.

B. Red Cedar Cleanup Project

Director Wisinski gave a presentation about the Red Cedar Multi-Jurisdictional

Waterway Program.

Discussion about the Red Cedar Cleanup Project took place.

C. MSU-Lake Lansing Trail

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave a presentation about the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail.

Discussion about phases I, II, and III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail took place.

D. Opportunities for New/Additional Intergovernmental Cooperation

Discussion took place about recreational space opportunities, support of regional projects, inquiries about Village of Okemos and Haslett Village Square development plans, and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and affordable housing options.

E. Affordable and Workforce Housing/Housing Tax Increment Financing

Discussion took place about single family affordable housing opportunities, current and past projects, funding incentives, and challenges with securing affordable housing opportunities.

F. Economic Redevelopment in Distressed Areas

Discussion took place about economic development in local areas, Brownfield Redevelopment plans, and gaining state funding opportunities.

G. Artificial Intelligence in Local Government/Schools

Discussion took place about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) internally, regulation of AI in schools, and the appropriate use of AI.

At 7:52 pm Supervisor Hendrickson called a 10-minute recess. The Board reconvened at 8:04 pm.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Opened public comment at 8:04 pm.

Closed public comment at 8:04 pm.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

10. CLOSED SESSION

At 8:05 pm the Board entered closed session.

Trustee Wilson moved to enter closed session under MCL 15.268(1)(h) to consult with the Township attorney regarding a confidential written legal opinion. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The Board returned to open session at 8:54 pm.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize Manager to retain labor and employment counsel. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk