

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 -Approved-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, October 4th, 2022 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: Treasurer Deschaine

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, Director of Economic Development Clark, Director of  
Finances, Director of Projects and Operations Massie, IT Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. Treasurer Deschaine is absent all others  
present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Community Sign Project

Assistant Manager Opsommer and Director Massie gave a presentation on the Community  
Sign Project. They presented renderings of each new sign, their placement within the  
township and the cost of the project overall.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this project.

Supervisor Jackson asked if this would be completed by the end of the year.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied the deadline of the project is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Director Massie noted the planting boxes on the signs will not be added until next spring.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:14 pm.

Marc Santucci, 5909 Blythefield Dr. East Lansing, MI spoke in support of adult use Marijuana.

Jamie Garmo, 400 S. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham, MI spoke in support of adult use marijuana.

Gino Baldino, 1812 N. College Rd., Mason MI, spoke in support of adult use marijuana.

John Hood, 4406 N. Okemos Rd., Okemos MI spoke about the Okemos School Bond Proposal on the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. For more information visit [www.Okemosbond.net](http://www.Okemosbond.net).

Marcus Baldori, 2267 Mt. Hope Rd. Okemos MI spoke in support of adult use marijuana.

Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Rd, Okemos MI spoke in support of adult use marijuana.

Josh Hovey, 1817 Prexel Rd. Lansing MI, spoke in support of adult use marijuana.

Robert Baldori, 2719 Mt. Hope Rd. Okemos, MI spoke in support of adult use marijuana.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public remarks at 6:38 pm.

#### 6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the third quarter budget amendments will be before the board soon. The Lake Lansing Road diet will be discussed with Ingham County on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He is working with 2/42 Community Church on a community project. The IT Brightline project is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. There were two meetings regarding the Senior Center. There will be a meeting this week to discuss Consumers power lines in regards to the Village of Okemos project. The Township Credit Card Policy update will be before the board on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Garden club will meet on October 17<sup>th</sup> in the town hall room. Fire Chief Hamel has been in Florida to inspect a new ladder truck to be purchased by the township. Paramedic calls are expected to generate \$1.64 million in revenue. The roads project has been slowed down by inflation. To reach the township's PASER rating goal it would need to be 5.446 by the end of the year. Currently the PASER rating is 5.7.

#### 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Guthrie

- Congratulated Director Winstead on reaching level four assessor and Director Clark for the 10 over 10 award, and Director Garber for being selected to serve on the State Finance Board
- Over 10,000 absentee ballots have been mailed out, more will be mailed out as applications are received
- People are receiving multiple applications to vote absentee, only one is from the township the others are a third party
- Notices are being mailed out as precinct nine has been moved and a new voter ID will come with it
- Attended voter registration drive at Haslett High School
- Attended Nothing Bundt Cake ribbon cutting
- Attended Techsmith ribbon cutting

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as Presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

A. Communications

**Trustee Hendrickson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Bills

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

<b>Common Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>411,285.34</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>51,230.69</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>30,979.64</u></b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>493,495.67</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,777.85</b>

09/15/22 to 09/28/2022

Total Purchases \$ 505,273.52

ACH Payments \$ 544,978.65

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Village of Okemos – Brownfield Plan – Set Public Hearing for October 18, 2022

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to set the Public Hearing for the Village of Okemos redevelopment Brownfield Plan for the October 18, 2022 Township Board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recreational Marijuana – Refer to Planning Commission

Director Schmitt outlined the referring recreational Marijuana to the Planning Commission. He explained this is a two-part process and recommended splitting it up. The Zoning part is smaller while the licensing is more complicated. Staff recommends the zoning piece be referred to the Planning Commission. He noted that would like to recreate the licensing process. Staff plans to start work with the township attorney’s office. HE expects by the beginning of 2023 this will come back to the board.

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to refer the topic of recreational marijuana to the Planning Commission for input and public hearing on a draft zoning ordinance amendment permitting recreational marijuana uses in the Township. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item. He noted the Park Lake overlay could be altered. He spoke against using election result data to determine the locations of these facilities.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item and doing away with the lottery system.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item and concurred with adjusting the overlay districts and doing away with the lottery system.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

#### B. Community Resources Commission Appointments

Supervisor Jackson outlined the Community Resources Commission Appointments.

**Supervisor Jackson moved to appoint Yvette Robinson to the Community Resources Commission for a 2 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Jackson of Marna Wilson to replace Deborah Guthrie, as Board Liaison, to the Community Resources Commission for a term ending 11/20/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

### 13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. General Health Policy (Menstrual Equity)

Director Massie outlined the adopting a General Health Policy on menstrual equity for discussion. She explained the expected cost is \$150 annually per pantry.

Clerk Guthrie noted this policy clarifies the types of products that will be provided in township public restroom facilities.

Trustee Wilson noted this will assist township employees and the public.

**Trustee Wilson move to adopt the resolution amending the Board Policy Manual of the Charter Township of Meridian to adopt a general health policy. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

**Trustee Wilson withdrew the motion.**

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to suspend the rules to take action on this item tonight. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**Trustee Wilson move to adopt the resolution amending the Board Policy Manual of the Charter Township of Meridian to adopt a general health policy. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

#### B. American Rescue Plan Funding

Manager Walsh outlined the American Rescue Plan Funding for Discussion.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if priorities have changed significantly since the first tranche of spending came in.

Manager Walsh replied that some will be the same and some will change.

Trustee Hendrickson stated he would like to hear from the department heads but would like to see an estimated cost of their projects.

#### 14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson Opened Public Remarks at 7:45 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public Remarks at 7:45 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Hendrickson noted the board retreat is coming up on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

16. CLOSED SESSION-Motion to go into a closed session to discuss ongoing litigation under MCL 15.268(1)(c). Successful entry into closed session will require a simple majority approval, though we still recommend a roll call vote. MCL 15.267(1).

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to go into a closed session to discuss ongoing litigation under MCL 15.268(1)(c). Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**The Board entered Closed Session at 7:48.**

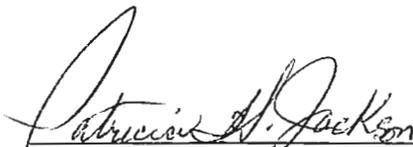
**The Board returned to open session at 8:22.**

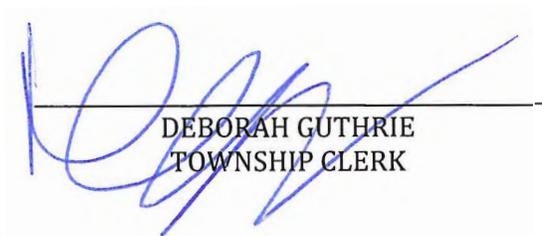
17. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

**Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.**

  
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PATRICIA H. JACKSON,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

  
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DEBORAH GUTHRIE  
TOWNSHIP CLERK