

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Director Schmitt, Director Gebes, Chief Grillo, Chief Hamel, Manager Diehl, Director
Clark, Director Ianni, Manager Walsh, Director Tihoff

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the January 23, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board. All board members present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New EMT/Firefighter

Chief Hamel introduced Firefighter Josh Hengesbach. Firefighter Hengesbach thanked the Board and Chief Hamel

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:06 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:06 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh Talked about the following
o Thanked Director Clark for filling in while Manager Walsh was out

- Acknowledged work anniversaries for Director Gebes, Chief Grillo, Captain Rommeck, Investigator Slavek
- Welcomed Trustee Trezise
- Deer management – 272 deer
- Police and Fire staffing are increasing
- Accounting position is opened.
- Admin assistant position is available in Engineering.
- Emergency Siren program – last 4 sirens are going up in March or April
- Marshall park playground improvements moving forward with the Parks Commission.
- Thanked Director Clark on work for CIA
- Acknowledged Culvers owners for their 20th anniversary
- Prime Meridian magazine will be coming out
- Flooring Project in the police department continues

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine welcomed Trustee Trezise, thanked the new Firefighter Joshua, and thanked Chief Hamel for his work on recruiting.

Clerk Guthrie echoed Treasurer Deschaine’s comments welcoming Trustee Trezise. Thanked the Township Manager for the information about Culvers and for the changes made to enhance the security of elections. Clerk Guthrie addressed changes to the agenda that have been made prior to the meeting.

Trustee Wilson reported that the task force for the Senior Center has reconvened and will be meeting with the vendor, Progressive AE. A food pantry in Lansing received 700 pounds of venison last week from the deer cull. Thanked Mike Ellis, parks employee who helped deliver the venison.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 7 - 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 7 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2024 Board & Commission Appointments

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Adam Hodges to the Corridor Improvement Authority for a term ending 2/1/2027. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Director Clark clarified that the commission members do not need to be residents but must be property owners.

VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the reappointment of Chris Nugent and Chris Rigterink to the Corridor Improvement Authority for a term ending 2/1/2027. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Lisa Whiting Dobson to the Community Resources Commission for a term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Anthony Bennett to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending 12/31/2026. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Ronald Sdao to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending 12/31/2027. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Andrea Paul to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Yu Man Lee to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2026. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of James Windsand to the Local Officials Compensation Commission for a term ending 12/31/2028. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Supervisor Jackson moved to approve the appointment of David Lick and an Alternate to the Board of Review for a term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

B. Supervisor Pro Tem

Supervisor Jackson moved that the board appoint through December 31, 2024, Trustee Scott Hendrickson to act as Supervisor Pro Tem at any meeting of the Township Board where in the Supervisor is absent. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson thanked the Supervisor for being selected for this position.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

C. 2024 Initial Budget Amendments

Director Ianni updated the Board on the changes that have been made to the budget. Trustee Hendrickson thanked Director Ianni and asked about the amended Police and Fire budget. Trustee Wilson concurred with Trustee Hendrickson

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the initial 2024 budget amendments with a decrease in budgeted fund balance for the general fund in the amount of \$655,804 which projects a use of fund balance of \$541,434. Based on 2024 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2024 will be \$9,356,394. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

D. Ordinance 2024-01 – Rezone 4660 Marsh Road from PO, Professional and Office, to C-1, Commercial-Introduction.

Director Schmitt reviewed the resolution and the changes that would be made. Trustee Trezise gave background information from the Planning Commission. Board Members thanked Director Schmitt for his work on this rezoning. Trustee Deschaine asked Director Schmitt about different zoning requests.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Ordinance 2024-01, an ordinance to rezone the property at 4660 Marsh Rd (Parcel ID number 33-02-02-21-428-002) from PO, Professional Office, to C-1, Commercial. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

E. Set a Date for Joint Board and Commission Meeting

Manager Walsh spoke about the joint meeting. Board Members reiterated the importance of the meeting and thanked Manager Walsh. Treasurer Deschaine suggested the meeting take place in March. Trustee Hendrickson noted that the April date would take place during a conference.

Trustee Wilson moved to set the following date of March 26th as the Annual Meridian Township Board & Commission Meeting. The meeting shall begin at 6:00 PM. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2023 Master Plan Update

Director Schmitt spoke about the updates to the Master Plan that we made based off of Board suggestions at the January 9, 2024 Board meeting. Trustee Deschaine spoke about the name mixed intensity and the Urban Services Funds. Supervisor Jackson clarified what the next steps will be. Trustee Wilson asked about 8 parcels on Powell Road. The Master Plan Draft update will return to the agenda for further review from the Board. SH Made comments about western edge of the boundary regarding small area plans and asked for information about 425 agreements. Clerk Guthrie expressed concern about the clarity of the language in the document.

B. Liquor License Process-120 Day Moratorium

Director Clark gave background on the liquor license process. After reviewing the process, Director Clark is recommending a moratorium to allow time to train departments, update the Township's process and standards.

Trustee Wilson asked when the Moratorium would Commence and what the Class C Value of liquor Licenses are. Treasurer Deschaine asked about the pending liquor license. Supervisor Jackson asked if we would be able to stop the process for the pending liquor license. Clerk Guthrie thanked Director Clark for following up and setting up a process for the Liquor Licenses. Trustee Hendrickson asked when we were informed about the four new licenses and clarifying questions about the remaining license.

Treasurer Deschaine made a motion to suspend rules and act on the liquor license process of resolution for a moratorium of liquor license approval for 120 days. Supported by Clerk Guthrie

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the attached resolution for a 120-Day moratorium of liquor license application approvals in Meridian Township. During the 120 days, commencing on January 24, 2024, no new applications for liquor licenses will be accepted or approved by the Township Board. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 - 0

C. Support Emergency Operations Plan Annual Update

Chief Hamel spoke about the changes make to the Emergency Operations Plan. Trustee suggested a change on Page 6 to change LuAnn Maisner to Courtney Wisinski and Mary McGinnis to Katie Love. Clerk Guthrie asked that Communications Manager Sam Diehl be added to Page 6, 29 and 30. Chief Hamel clarified that the Communications Manager is the Township Manger in this instance.

Chief Hamel will bring final version back to the next meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 7:36 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 7:36 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Jackson would like Board photographs to take place at the next meeting at 5:30 pm.

Treasurer Deschaine shared with the Board that Fifth Third Bank has been selected and a contract has been created as a result of the RFP for a new banking partner regarding the attempted fraud attack.

16. ADJOURNMENT

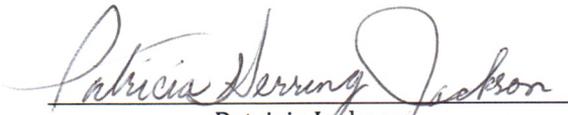
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Sundland

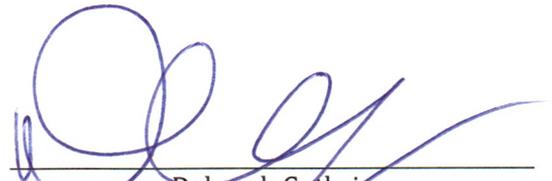
VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Trezise and Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM


Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor


Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk