

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, April 15, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Schmitt, Chief Hamel, Director Wisinski, Director Tithof, Director Clark, Director Blonde, Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the April 15, 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

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Wilson, and Trustee Trezise present at 6:01 pm.

Trustee Sundland absent

4. PRESENTATION

NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Opened Public Comment at 6:02 pm

Michael Osborn spoke about representation.

Todd Schultz spoke in opposition to a senior/community center and senior center.

Janelle Kraig spoke in support of a senior center, opposed a senior/community center.

Steve Vagnozzi spoke in support of a senior center, opposed a senior/community center.

Neil Bowlby spoke in support of a senior center, opposed a senior/community center.

Beth Bechtel spoke in support of a senior center, opposed a senior/community center.

Donna Carrion spoke about the senior center.

Bonnie Jordan spoke in support of a senior center.

Barbara O'Kelly spoke in support of a senior center.

Mark Linetta spoke in support of a senior center.

Closed public comment at 6:30pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Prescribed burn at Red Cedar Glen preserve, neighboring property owners have been notified.
- Lake Lansing boat launch is open this week, but will be closed next week for final paving
- Ingham County Health Department issued a notice about local measles exposure, details can be found on their website.
- Township offices will close at noon on Good Friday.
- Upcoming Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday.
- Current fundraiser for Celebrate Meridian Fundraiser occurring at Culvers.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas attended the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting.

Trustee Trezise attended Lansing Area Economic Partnership (LEAP) meeting.

Treasurer Deschaine attended the Board retreat and thanked Board members.

Trustee Wilson attended the Community Resource Commission meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda with the addendum of moving 13B up to 13A. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Demas provided information regarding the amended minutes.

Treasurer Deschaine addressed the Treasurer's report.

Supervisor Hendrickson addressed the Planning Commission appointment.

Clerk Demas moved to amend the minutes. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended with the changes to the Minutes. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Special Use Permit #25-03 – Okemos Land Investments– 4360 South Hagadorn Road Recreational Marijuana Retailer

Director Schmitt outlined the process as it has occurred to date. He clarified the timeline he provided at the previous meeting. Staff recommended approval.

Board members concluded that the proposed Special Use Permit meets the criteria.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Special Use Permit 25-03, a request to establish a recreational marijuana retailer at 4360 South Hagadorn Road (Parcel ID 33-02-02-29-151-003). The subject property is zoned RP, Research and Office Park, and the property is located within the Marijuana Business Overlay District #4. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motioned Carried: 6-0

- B. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Blonde gave an overview of the requested amendments.

Board members asked follow up questions regarding the amendments requested. Director Blonde provided clarity. Board members did not ask for any changes to the proposed amendments.

Trustee Wilson moved to suspend the rules for the purposes of discussion. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motioned Carried: 6-0

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 1st Quarter 2025 Budget Amendments with a decrease in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$264,422 which projects a use of fund balance of \$224,168. Based on 2024 results, the projected fund balance at December 31,2025 will be \$13,251,425.36. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: 0

Motioned Carried: 6-0

At 6:58 pm Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The Board reconvened at 7:04 pm.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Senior/Community Center

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the discussion that has occurred to date.

Deputy Manager Opsommer presented an overview of the millage and what is needed cover the cost of the project and continuing operations.

Treasurer Deschaine gave a presentation about costs, taxes, community, and consensus regarding the senior/community center.

Board members asked questions about how cost per hour was determined, revenue projections, and the possibility of millage reduction.

Board members expressed concerns about the potential for operating under a deficit, asking the taxpayers to support an amenity that will not be provided for the entire community, and asking for a project to be phased in over two separate millage requests.

Board members suggested ideas for a reduced project that could accommodate the community including a scaled-back plan or looking into the inclusion of a community space into the senior center proposal.

Board members discussed with staff about ways to afford a senior center outside of a millage. Staff explained that the alternative would be to use the general fund.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked staff to return with a financial outlook for a roughly 30% reduced size senior/community center and to give each plan a name to make it easier to follow discussion.

At 8:51 Supervisor Hendrickson called a 5-minute recess. The Board reconvened at 8:57.

B. Joint Board and Local Government/Schools Meeting Topics

Manager Dempsey briefed the Board on the topics suggested for discussion and asked Board members for the topics they would like to add to the discussion.

Board members suggested asking Ingham County about affordable housing projects, brownfield projects, and methods other communities are using to encourage redevelopment.

C. Personnel Policy Update

Director Tithof gave a brief introduction. Supervisor Hendrickson indicated that discussion would focus upon pages 43-69. Attorney Mills noted that updates were made to the Unlawful Harassment Policy based on updates from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and clarifies the complaint process. She also clarified questions about the Social Media Policy.

Staff will provide a final draft and resolution for the May 20 Township Board meeting.

D. Brownfield/Housing TIF Program and Procedures Amendment

Director Clark gave an overview of the updates staff has made since the previous discussion and answered Board questions about properties covered by this program.

Board members expressed concerns about determining affordability, tracking residents who qualify and their qualifications, sales of property that qualifies for this program, and ability for owners of qualified properties to leverage the property.

Board members made suggestions about use of and percentage of tax recapture.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Opened public comment at 9:49 pm.

Barbara O'Kelly spoke in support of a senior center and senior/community center.

Josh Nahum thanked the Board for their support.

Closed public comment at 9:53 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk