

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, January 7, 2025, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Interim Manager Schmitt, Chief Grillo, Chief Hamel, Director Gebes, Director Clark, Director Tithof, Sergeant Strouse, Lieutenant Besonen, Officer Gordon

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the January 7, 2025, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Former President Carter

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Demas called the roll of the Board.

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

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Police Officer- Abbey Gordon

Chief Grillo introduced Officer Abbey Gordon.

B. Police Department Promotions

Chief Grillo presented Lieutenant Ed Besonen and Sergeant Doug Strouse who were recently promoted to their new positions.

C. Senior/Community Center

Steve Vagnozzi, Senior/Community Center Task Force Member, gave an overview of the Needs Assessment presentation given in the previous Task Force meeting, and community feedback that has been received in the past two Task Force meetings. He summarized that a ballpark figure of \$25 per square foot, per year was given for operational costs, and estimated construction costs would be \$400 per square foot was

given based on revamping an existing structure. He invited people to provide input at upcoming Task Force meetings.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:11 pm.

Mark Clouse, representative of Eyde Development, spoke in support of El Camino's Garage in the Eyde Development.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:16 pm.

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- The first of two new fire trucks has been delivered and training for its use is occurring. Inspection for the second truck is due later this month with delivery in February. A community ceremony will be held when the weather is warmer.
- Building Official interviews will be held next week.
- Plan to schedule Finance Director positions early in February.
- Deer cull is on track and shortly will be turned over to the Police Department to complete. All meat is donated to charity.

Treasurer Deschaine asked to be updated on the Utility Billing Supervisor position. Interim Manager Schmitt stated that the search is underway. Treasurer Deschaine suggested increasing the salary. Interim Manager Schmitt indicated that the pay offered was consistent with existing union contracts.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas congratulated the new Police officer, promoted Lieutenant, and promoted Sergeant. She attended the Communications Commission meeting.

Supervisor Hendrickson highlighted the work that was done to create the Township Manager Contract.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Trustee Lentz

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the Consent Agenda and noted that a name on agenda item 9.F needs correction.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda with correction to the Building Board of Appeals appointee name. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Text Amendment 2024-19-RN-Village of Nemoka Update-Final Adoption

Interim Manager Schmitt outlined the process that has occurred to date.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Text Amendment #2024-09 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter township of Meridian at Section 86-377 to update the standards for the RN, Village of Nemoka zoning district. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

B. I Heart Mac N Cheese Class C Liquor License

Director Clark reviewed the discussion that has occurred to date. She stated that she has received no additional information since the last meeting.

Treasurer Deschaine noted that the Board did not show support for issuing the license at the previous meeting.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked about the number of escrowed Liquor Licenses available in Ingham County. Director Clark indicated that while she did not know the number available in the County, there are at least six for Meridian Township that they hold and are escrowed.

Trustee Wilson asked about the year 2030 timeline. Director Clark clarified that the available licenses have no deadline to be issued and that the State will not review population data until 2030 to determine if there will be more licenses available to Meridian

Township.

Trustee Wilson indicated that she would not support issuing this license to this applicant.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to deny the Local Governmental Approval resolution to recommend and approve the issuance of a, for quota CLASS C ON-PREMISE with Sunday AM and PM sales liquor license, to Paul Hamby of I Hear Mac and Cheese East Lansing at 4790 S. Hagadorn Road Sute #158. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Ordinance 2025-02-Youth Commission Establishment-Introduction

Director Clark reviewed the discussion that has occurred to date and explained the process to establish a Commission.

Supervisor Hendrickson noted that a sunset has been set for December 2026 for this Commission and he thanked Suchir Nagisetty for bringing this idea forward.

Clerk Demas moved to adopt the resolution establishing a Youth Commission in and for the Charter Township of Meridian. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Clerk Demas moved to introduce Ordinance # 2025-02 Establishment of the Meridian Charter Township Youth Commission. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Board 2025 Goals

Interim Manager Schmitt reviewed the work that has been done so far.

Treasurer Deschaine recommended the first goal be moved to the bottom of the list.

Clerk Demas asked if this format is the way the goals will be presented to the public. Interim Manager Schmitt displayed the public format of the 2024 goals and stated that the 2025 goals will be presented similarly.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the 2025 Meridian Township Goals. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Township Manager Contract

Supervisor Hendrickson outlined the contents of the contract.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the rules to take action at this meeting. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Employment Agreement between the Charter Township of Meridian and Timothy Dempsey for Township Manager for a term of January 27, 2025 to December 31, 2027. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. El Camino Liquor License

Director Clark outlined the application and gave information about the conversations she has had with the applicant.

Stacey Wesolek, applicant, presented details regarding her application and her goals for the proposed business.

Trustee Lentz stated that he appreciates the applicant's vision for her proposed business. Trustee Wilson concurred.

Trustee Wilson stated that she would not support issuing this license because of the location of the proposed businesses, and that she would prefer the licenses to be reserved for the areas the Board has identified for development. Trustee Trezise, Treasurer Deschaine, and Clerk Demas concurred.

Supervisor Hendrickson acknowledged that this business is a good fit for a Liquor License, but stated the location is not.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comments at 7:06 pm

Mark Clouse, representative of Eyde Development, spoke in support of El Camino's Garage in the Eyde Development.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comments at 7:10 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Lentz noted that the April 1st date on the Board schedule will overlap with the Michigan Townships Association conference and asked if it would be appropriate to move the meeting. Supervisor Hendrickson noted that it could be moved to April 3rd and asked Interim Manager Schmitt if he could draft a change to the schedule to be presented at the next Board Meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

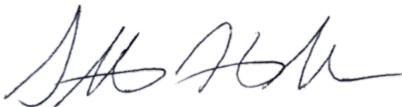
Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Lentz

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk