

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-DRAFT-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, December 06, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: None

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, IT Director Gebes, Finance Director Garber, Assessor Winstead, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Director of Operation Massie, Communications Manager Diehl, Assessor Winstead

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All board members are present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Pancake Breakfast Check Presentation

Fire Lieutenant Jason Everest presented two checks to Assistant Scout Master Ted Farris, Gabe, and Xander Coles of Chief Okemos Boy Scout Troop 125. One in the amount of \$300 towards Muscular Dystrophy, the other for \$968 towards the Meridian Scouts Scholarship Fund. This money was raised through a pancake breakfast fundraiser event hosted by the Meridian Township Fire Department.

The board thanked the troop for their contribution to the community.

B. Samantha Weber Check Presentation

Police Lieutenant Samantha Weber presented a check of \$1,000 to Melinda Barr 1867 Lake Lansing, Haslett, MI President of "It's a Breast Thing" to contribute to their charity.

President Barr spoke about fund raising activities they have completed, and charity works they have taken part in.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:15 PM.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 6:16 PM.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported that the Public Safety Building solar project is complete, the Okemos Library's new roof is complete, the Meridian sign project is moving forward, five new police officers are graduating from the academy on Friday, the Police Department is up for reaccreditation this month, Lake Lansing to MSU pathway starting on January 1st, the Fahey MTA township workshop is tomorrow, he will be meeting with CATA to discuss the waiver of the one year contribution, the Local Road project is finished for 2022, the Town Hall project is going well, 2/42 church members will be honored next week for work on the Police Department. Grand River Ave. and Okemos Rd. intersection should be opened in the next 24 to 48 hours. The Okemos Bridge will be open in 4-6 weeks.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Tax bills have been mailed out, residents should have received them December 1st

Clerk Guthrie

- Volunteered with Friends of Okemos Library book sale where over \$5400 worth of books were sold.

Supervisor Jackson

- Attended last Regional Tri-County Planning Commission meeting on December 1st

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Trustee Hendrickson offered a friendly amendment to swap items 12.B and 12.C.

The Friendly amendment has been accepted by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes-

- 1) November 15, 2022 Joint Township Board and Commission Meeting
- 2) November 17, 2022 Township Board and Okemos Schools Meeting
- 3) November 29, 2022 Special Township Board Meeting

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15th, 2022 and the Special Meetings of November 17, 2022 and November 29, 2022 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	74,773.34
Public Works	\$	486,207.03
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total Checks	\$	560,980.37

Credit Card Transactions 11/23/22 to 11/30/2022	\$	5,728.55
Total Purchases	\$	<u>566,708.92</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>99,364.61</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule Resolution Amendment

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the amended 2023 township board meeting schedule. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

The Schedule has been changed to include board meetings on April 4th, April 25th, May 2nd, and May 16th.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Ratification of New Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic

Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Andrew Zaleski to Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Redi-Ride Expansion of Services

Treasurer Deschaine moved to request that CATA expand the Meridian Redi-Ride service area to include the new McLaren Hospital located at 3520 Forest Rd, Lansing, MI 48910. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Report. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY –NONE

11. HEARINGS – NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board and Commission Reappointments

Supervisor Jackson outlined the Boards and Commission Reappointments.

Supervisor Jackson moved to reappoint Xavier Durand-Hollis, Deborah Federau, Sonya Pentecost, Lanny Brunette, Michael Nussdorfer, Christopher Silker and Terrance Warren (alternate) to the Building Board of Review for a 2 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Supervisor Jackson moved to reappoint Jeff Theuer and Frank Walsh to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2025. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Supervisor Jackson moved to reappoint Kimberly Maingu and Georgia Styka to the Community Resource Commission for a 2 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Supervisor Jackson moved to reappoint Anna Colby and William McConnell to the Environmental Commission for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2025. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Supervisor Jackson moved to confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Alisande Shrewsbury to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2025. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Ordinance 2022-18 – RRA Properties Rezoning – Final Adoption

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-18 – RRA Properties Rezoning – Final Adoption for action.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the resolution approving Ordinance 2022-18, an ordinance to rezone the following seven parcels from RRA, One-Family, Suburban Estate Residential District, to RA, One-Family, Medium Density Residential:

1. 1250 Ethel Street – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-23-377-011
2. 4544 Van Atta Road – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-24-377-004
3. 4536 Van Atta Road – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-24-377-005
4. 4558 Van Atta Road – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-24-377-012
5. 4552 Van Atta Road – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-24-377-013
6. 4564 Van Atta Road – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-24-377-017
7. Unaddressed Van Atta Road – Parcel ID# 33-02-02-24-377-018

Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item as it moves towards zoning conformance with these properties.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Ordinance 2022-14 – RRA District Deletion – Final Adoption

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-14 – RRA District Deletion – Final Adoption for action.

Trustee Wisinski moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Zoning Amendment 2022-14 to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian at multiple sections to delete the RRA, One-Family, Suburban Estate, Residential District from the Zoning Ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. 2022 Township Manager Performance Review

Supervisor Jackson outlined the 2022 Township Manager Performance Review.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 2022 Township Manager's Performance Review as presented. The review document shall be forwarded to the Human Resource Office for proper filing. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item and stated of his six years evaluating Manager Walsh this has been the best evaluation yet.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item and noted the boards never hears complaints about Manager Walsh, or the staff.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item and noted his communication with her throughout the year.

Supervisor Jackson spoke in support of this item and detailed the criteria Manager Walsh was evaluated on.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. 2023 Township Manager Employment Contract

Supervisor Jackson outlined the 2023 Township Manager Employment Contract.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve extending the Township Manager's contract as presented tonight. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. 2023 Township Goals & Action Plan

Manager Walsh outlined the 2023 Township Goals & Action Plan for Action. He detailed goals related to the Senior Center, DEI, and Citizen Engagement.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the attached 2023 Meridian Township action plan. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of these goals and spoke further about improvements to the Senior Center and communicating to residents.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of these goals and spoke further on a new Tax Increment Financing Plan in the Grand River Corridor.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of these goals.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of these goals and how they focus on including all of the township's residents.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of these goals and spoke further on Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Grant Application for Nancy Moore Park through the Federal SPARK Grant Program

Director Maisner outlined the Grant Application for Nancy Moore Park through the Federal SPARK Grant Program for action. She explained the grant will not require any township money for local match.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the pathway was already paved.

Director Maisner replied there is a paved pathway from the pavilion. She explained this is for a section further down the pathway.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the sidewalk would reach the playground.

Director Maisner replied it would.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the resolution to authorize a grant application for accessibility improvements in Nancy Moore Park through the Michigan Department of

Natural Resources SPARK grant Program in the amount of \$ 400,000. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Director Maisner noted as this is federal money the paths will be widened to 10 ft. wide as that is federal standard.

Trustee Wilson asked if this could be accomplished with \$400,000.

Director Maisner replied that it could.

Trustee Sundland asked if there would be lighting around the sidewalk area.

Director Maisner replied there would not be lighting added, and that the local parks close at dusk.

Trustee Sundland suggested adding some lighting to the area.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about a hazardous trail that leads into the CN railroad.

Director Maisner noted the trail is part of an easement used by the Department of Public Works.

Supervisor Jackson asked for the total length of the loop.

Director Maisner replied she would have that number from township engineering tomorrow.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

H. Board of Review Compensation

Assessor Winstead outlined Board of Review Compensation for action.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve compensation for each Board of Review Member as \$75 per required training, \$50 for organizational, July, and December Board of Review meetings, and \$25 per hour for March Board of Review meetings. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

I. Poverty Exemption Guidelines

Assessor Winstead outlined the Poverty Exemption Guidelines for action.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the income and asset limits for 100% and 50% poverty exemptions as follows: households with income and assets at or below 1.35 times the federal guidelines are eligible for a 100% exemption; households with income or assets above 1.35 times the federal guidelines, but with income and assets at or below 1.85 times the federal guidelines are eligible for 50% exemptions. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the township's current guidelines are keeping people from applying for exemption, and if this change would increase the amount of applicants.

Assessor Winstead replied more people would qualify but did not know if more would apply.

Treasurer Deschaine asked Assessor Winstead to track those who apply and qualify for these exemptions.

Trustee Hendrickson noted six applicants were approved and asked how many owner-occupied homes are in the township.

Assessor Winstead replied about 11,000 current owner-occupied homes in the township.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The Board Recessed at 7:34 pm.

The Board Reconvened at 7:44 pm.

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SUP 22-091 – Grand Reserve – Buildings greater than 25,000 sq. ft.

Director Schmitt outlined SUP 22-091 – Grand Reserve – Buildings greater than 25,000 sq. ft. for discussion. He explained this property was rezoned by the board for this development in 2021. There will be 55 single family homes and 60 duplex units as well as a clubhouse. He noted this will have no wetland impact but will have a wetland buffer impact.

Applicants representative Joe Locricchio 316 Birchwood Ave., Traverse City, MI further outlined SUP 22-091 for discussion. He listed amenities provided to residents of the development.

Applicant Raji Uppal Dewitt, MI further outlined SUP 22-091 for discussion.

Trustee Wilson asked which portion of Powell Rd. will be paved.

Matt Diffin replied Powell Rd. will be paved down to Silverstone Rd. He noted the road was previously paved and will be widened.

Trustee Wilson asked about parking in the development and noted there could not be street parking.

Mr. Diffin replied 28 ft. of clear pavement should be available to be compliant with the Fire Marshall. He noted he will widen the road if necessary to be compliant with the Fire Marshall.

Trustee Wisinski thanked the applicant for lowering the density. She asked about trees that were removed for the paving of Powell Rd. and if there could be a tree assessment.

Mr. Diffin replied there is a tree assessment included in the submission packet and they intend to plant new trees to replace ones that have been removed.

Trustee Wisinski asked if residential areas near the development would have a buffer.

Mr. Diffin replied there are various buffers, and more being added that aren't on this plan.

Trustee Wisinski asked if there is a filter for water that runs off from the asphalt.

Mr. Diffin replied this water will be drained with storm water and will not drain into the wetlands.

Clerk Guthrie commended the developers for the changes they have made to this plan. She asked if wetland permits would be required for the community trails.

Mr. Locricchio replied the trails will be located in the grading setback, and will not affect the surrounding wetlands.

Supervisor Jackson asked why the multi dwelling units were no longer in place.

Mr. Uppal replied restrictions from the Drain Commissioner and the increasing popularity of these types of single and two family homes have become popular.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about the typical rental stay.

Mr. Uppal noted 60-70% of renters renew leases.

B. Ordinance 2022-16 – Sign Ordinance Update

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-16 – Sign Ordinance Update for discussion. He noted that every part of this Ordinance has been altered in some way. He noted this will be up for final adoption in February.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if outdoor advertising and definitions were content neutral.

Director Schmitt replied outdoor advertising has its own rules.

Supervisor Jackson asked if other communities have updated their sign ordinances.

Director Schmitt replied that some have and none have been sued so far.

C. Capital Projects Fund – American Rescue Plan Funding – Federal Policies and Procedures

Manager Walsh asked if he could address 13.C 13.D and 13.E together.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to amend the agenda to combine items 13.C, 13.D, and 13.E 13.F. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Manager Walsh outlined the Capital Projects Fund, American Rescue Plan Funding, and Pension Stabilization Fund for discussion.

On Pension Stabilization he noted a fund of \$3,000,000 could be set aside as a stabilization fund for the MERS Pension.

On the Capital Project Fund he explained \$900,000 could be set aside for the Municipal Building, the Public Safety Building, and the Service Center. He also stated \$300,000 can be set aside for control access to the Police Department.

On ARPA Spending he brought up spending for the Digital Building and Fire Plan, Windscreens for Marketplace, Police Department locker rooms, the Local Road Program, revamping the Senior Center, an Affordable Housing initiative, and the Meridian Historic Village.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of the strategy of this spending. He saw the Police Department locker room as falling into the Capital Projects Fund.

Manager Walsh noted other township managers are trying to accomplish DEI project with ARPA funds and views the locker room enhancement as a DEI issue.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item. He asked if the money allotted to the roads program will allow the Department of Public Works to complete the road program on time.

Director of Public Works and Assistant Township Manager Opsommer replied this will push each road up one mile ahead of schedule.

Treasurer Deschaine asked how much the price of road repair has increased from inflation.

Director of Public Works and Assistant Township Manager Opsommer replied about 50%.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if cost of roads will drop.

Director of Public Works and Assistant Township Manager Opsommer replied that he expects more of a leveling off in price instead of a drop.

Trustee Wilson noted she also believes the \$130,000 for the Police Locker rooms should be coming from the Capital Projects Fund.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this plan, and noted she believes the locker rooms should be paid for with ARPA funding.

Clerk Guthrie asked how Manager Walsh came up with \$500,000 for Senior Center feasibility and \$350,000 for affordable housing.

Manager Walsh replied that he came up with \$500,000 by speaking to Portage about their seed money for their own Senior Center, and the \$350,000 for affordable housing was a number that seemed meaningful to him. He noted he doesn't know exactly what will happen with either project and these numbers could go up or down depending on the boards wishes.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the Capital Project Fund will see an annual deposit into the fund or if it's a one-time deal.

Manager Walsh replied this fund will be funded every year with revenue over expenditures.

Supervisor Jackson noted these funds should be defined and should have parameters established for each fund.

Manager Walsh replied that may not need to be done as ARPA funding discussions are done next week, The Capital Project Fund will eventually run out, and the Pension Stabilization fund will be discussed further at regular meetings.

Supervisor Jackson asked if there is any value in extending budgeting outlooks.

Manager Walsh replied some people see it that way, but too him there are too many unknowns in the long run.

Manager Walsh stated next week the board will need to approve the ARPA funding as presented, the creation of a Capital Project Fund, and the creation of the Pension Stabilization Fund.

~~D. American Rescue Plan Funding~~

E. Federal Policies and Procedures

Director Garber outlined Federal Policies and Procedures for Discussion. She read the federal guidelines to the board as they apply to ARPA grants.

Trustee Wilson asked if the manual has been presented to the auditors.

Director Garber replied that she would.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if current township procedures are in conflict or complementary to federal procedures.

Director Garber replied these policies are already in place in the township just not written down, so they do not appear to the auditors.

~~F. Pension Stabilization Fund~~

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 9:11 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 9:11 pm.

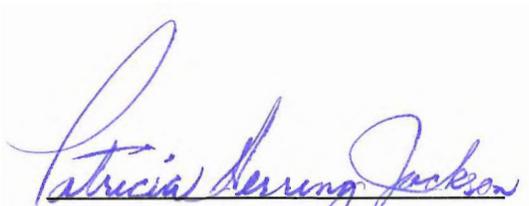
15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

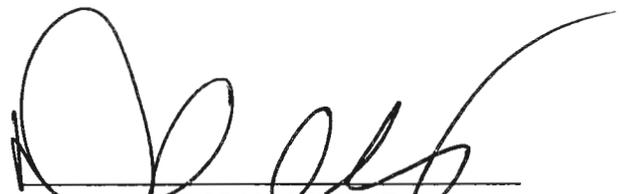
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK