

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, March 03, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland left the meeting at 7:12 pm.

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Police Chief Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Principal Planner Peter Menser, Human Resource Director Marx, Information Technology Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Chief Plaga presented a certificate of appreciation from the Meridian Township Police Department to Manager Walsh for rendering aid to a citizen who fell on ice and struck her head.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:09 pm.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:09 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh discussed HVAC bid due Thursday, March 05, 2020. Road bids due March 27, 2020, Pine Village Project postponed to the March 17, 2020 Board Meeting, 5 Economic Development Director finalists, proposed ordinance amendments on medical marihuana on March 17, 2020.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended the Michigan Township Association’s (MTA) annual meeting covering updates on legislative matters and practical training including implementation of the recreational marihuana laws and flooding issues.
- Attended the Lansing Chamber of Congress annual dinner on Thursday, February 25, 2020 at the Kellogg Center, Meridian Township is not mentioned in Annual Report “Creating A Stronger Region,” Trustee Opsommer is on the back page. Discussed redevelopment of Haslett and Okemos downtown areas.
- General Manager of the University club Karen Grannemann will receive the national 2019 ATHENA Leadership Award on March 24, 2020.

Trustee Jackson

- Attended the MTA conference in which Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist spoke on State Preemption of Local Control and Roads, discussed water erosion around coastal areas of Michigan and inland problems, discussed reforming how roads are funded.
- Attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission orientation for new members.

Trustee Opsommer

- Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm regarding the land preservation millage.

Supervisor Styka

- Tourism, hotel occupancy is up in Mid-Michigan according to the Greater Lansing Visitor and Convention Bureau. Julie Pingston will replace President/CEO Jack Schripsema who is retiring.

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Presidential Primary held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.
- Clerk’s Office holding extended hours on Thursday, March 05, 2020 until 7 pm, and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Will be issuing ballots, processing voter registrations, issuing absentee ballots that citizens can take with them and engage in early voting through Saturday.
- On Monday, March 09, 2020 citizens can come into the Township building and vote but not take the ballot with them.
- All absentee ballots must be turned into the Clerk’s Office by 8 pm Tuesday.
- Can register to vote by 8 pm on Tuesday.
- Any voters who voted for a Presidential candidate nominee no longer running can spoil their ballot up through 4 pm on Monday, 09, 2020. A written statement needs to be provided to the Clerk’s Office that says if they wish to have a new Absentee Voter Ballot or not, and if they wish to vote at the polls. “Spoil” is the legal term meaning to cancel the old ballot and issue a new ballot.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 7 – 0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to add a Discussion Item (13A) on Election Commission Procedures. Supported by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 7 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine requested to remove the February 18, 2020 minutes from the Consent Agenda and place them under Action Items as Action Item (12F).

Trustee Opsommer moved to remove a Communications Item (February 28, 2020 letter). Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Opsommer comments that communications are to be transparent, that the communications to the board are incoming communications to the board, recommended removal of the February 29, 2020 letter from the Township Clerk to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, because the letter was not addressed to the Board.

Clerk Dreyfus responded that other communications in the packet – which had not been addressed to the board – have been placed in the packet numerous times in the past, including a previous CATA audit, which the Board voted 6-1 to place in in the packet despite objections by the Township Clerk. The February 28, 2020 letter from the Township Clerk communicated his concerns regarding inaccurate and inflammatory comments by Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum in her letter to the Township Board, as well as her failure to provide programming to allow testing of ballots 40 days before the election.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 1 (Clerk Dreyfus)

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 – 0

A. Communications

Treasurer Deschaine moved that the communications be received and placed on file and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 – 0

B. Minutes

- 1) February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting (moved to Action Item 12F)
- 2) February 22, 2020 Board Retreat

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 22, 2020 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski

NAYS:

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 Wisinski.

Common Cash		\$ 184,316.07
Public Works		\$ 425,512.45
Trust & Agency		\$ 4,088,896.36
	Total Checks	\$ 4,698,724.88
Credit Card Transactions		\$ 10,294.95
Feb 13th – Feb 26th		
	Total Purchases	\$ <u>4,709,019.83</u>
ACH Payments		\$ <u>762,322.17</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 – 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS (CANARY) – NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)

A. Jolly Road Proposed Conversion from 4 to 3 Lanes from Hagadorn to Dobie Road

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the resolution for the Ingham County Road Department conversion of Jolly Road from 4 lanes to 3 lanes for the east segment, Alaeidon Parkway to Dobie

Road, and for the west segment, Kansas Street to Hagadorn Road, as described in the resolution. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: pros and cons of reducing two lanes of traffic in each direction to one lane in each direction with a center turn lane. Citizen viewpoints on road diets, research studies, Transportation Commission approval, concerns about gaps in traffic, past experiences locally.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland, Jackson, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: Clerk Dreyfus

Motion carried: 6 – 1 (Clerk Dreyfus)

B. Special use Permit #19151 (Haslett Gallery)

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving Special Use Permit #19151 (Haslett Gallery, Inc.) to establish a commercial medical marihuana provisioning center at 2119 Haslett Road. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.

Board discussion: board member support, application thorough and complete, staff flagged no issues.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus, Supervisor Styka

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 – 0

C. Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Appointment

Trustee Jackson moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka of Erin Schroeder, as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term ending 12/31/2021. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Board discussion: legal background, involved in various land issues.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 7 – 0

D. Environmental Commission Appointment

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka of Courtney Boersema to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2020. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Board discussion: Environmental Studies and Sustainability major at MSU, Environmental Commission to provide a green infrastructure map.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 7 – 0

E. Possible Action to Remove from the Table Rezoning #19100 (Durow) 1259 Grand River Avenue RR and RRA to C-2

Trustee Opsommer moved to take from the table Rezoning #19100 for the purpose of discussion and possible action. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Mr. Menser presented an overview of the request to rezone 1.487 acres at 1259 Grand River Avenue from RR (Rural Residential) and RRA (Single Family-Suburban Estates) to C-2 (Commercial) with conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant for publication and subsequent adoption.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 7 – 0

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve Rezoning #19100 (Durow) at 1259 Grand River Avenue RR and RRA to C-2 with the conditions offered. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Board member requested the rationale of the exclusion of Item 1C “bars, taverns, lounges and brew pubs as those terms are used in Ordinance Section 86-404(d)(1),” noted that citizens have requested these kinds of establishments in our Township.

Staff response noted conditions were offered by applicant, and there is a provision in the zoning ordinance that requires a significant setback between residential zoning for the specific category of the ordinance, and that a bar or lounge would need a larger setback. Staff noted the setback was about 100 feet.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried: 7 – 0

F. February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Deschaine moved to substitute the changed minutes proposed by the Treasurer for Pages 3 and 8 of the original February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Treasurer Deschaine belief that the February 18, 2020 minutes were not concise, accurate and balanced as they could have been. Noted changes made on Page 3 regarding the inclusion of the letter by Ingham County Clerk Byrum, and the second change on Page 8 regarding Form-Base Code (FBC).

Clerk Dreyfus response that the changes made by Treasurer Deschaine were made from his perspective and his proposed minutes do not appear balanced, accurate nor concise. Noted that the Treasurer’s changes to the minutes are always approved by the Board, without any vetting or changes made. Township Clerk is statutorily responsible for the minutes. Balance is needed when there is a minority viewpoint, public needs to see both sides of the issue. Board member belief that the revision contains 60% Clerk, 40% Board comments. Treasurer Deschaine stated that the minutes give majority of the comments to the Clerk to explain why the letter by Ingham County Clerk Byrum should be left out. Board packet is for the benefit of the Board and should reflect all Board member views, not over-represent the minority view.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 1 (Clerk Dreyfus)

Supervisor Styka moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2020 as amended.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 1 (Clerk Dreyfus)

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)

A. Election Commission Procedures

Board discussion: Treasurer Deschaine ~~mentioned location of meeting, requested more public venue,~~ IN HIS ROLE AS AN ELECTION COMMISSIONER, PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION MEETING HELD AT 5:45PM. HE STATED THE COMMISSION DID NOT VOTE TO APPROVE THE LIST OF ELECTION INSPECTORS OVER CONCERNS STATE LAW REQUIRING ELECTION INSPECTORS BE APPOINTED 21 TO 40 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION HAD BEEN VIOLATED. Clerk DREYFUS STATED THIS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE THE PREVIOUS NINE YEARS, NO ONE HAS BEEN CONCERNED BEFORE, AND THE ONLY POTENTIAL ISSUE IS THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE LESS TIME TO VET INDIVIDUALS. ~~agreement for meetings in Administrative Conference room, current meeting held there. Notification in lobby,~~ TREASURER STATED THE public notification process including newspaper publication, historical lack of interest in Election Commission by public and by Board members appointed to Commission, mainly administrative tasks such as approving list of precinct workers and receiving board ~~public not interested. Concern that certain laws have not been properly followed, new Deputy Clerk on board for 2 months and deadline for Commission~~ NOTICE DID NOT APPEAR IN THE TOWN COURIER AND QUESTIONED THE meeting ~~was missed~~ BEING HELD ONLY A WEEK BEFORE THE ELECTION. CLERK RESPONDED THIS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE FOR 8 YEARS. TREASURER STATED THAT SINCE ELECTION COMMISSIONER SUNDLAND, HIMSELF, AND THE PUBLIC WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE TESTING OF TABULATORS, AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW, THE TESTING HAS TO BE REDONE. CLERK RESPONDED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE TESTING PREVIOUSLY, BUT HE WOULD REDO THE RESTING. new master calendar implemented will ensure future meeting dates and notifications planned well in advance of deadlines.

~~Opinion that past trends and actions by Election Commission before 2016 can be “thrown out” due to new heightened concerns about elections, timeframe of appointing election workers, AV Counting Board members, and Receiving Board members as it relates to state deadlines, notification to local political parties of precinct workers and AVCB for input, historically no input from local political parties including this election, importance to provide list of precinct workers to Election Commission in advance of meeting.~~

Trustee Sundland left the Board Meeting at 7:12pm.

~~Analysis of people & process involved in serving as Election workers, TRUSTEE OPSOMMER STATED HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK OF THE Election Commission role involves routine approval of list of workers, no previous Board member had ever expressed concerns about selection of precinct workers, last minute Precinct worker or AVCB member changes are always allowed and these happen without Election Commission knowledge or approval. Discussion on Public Accuracy test, test was always delegated from Election Commission to~~ TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T HAVE VIOLATIONS OF STATE LAW. HE ASKED WHY TESTING OF THE TABULATORS DIDN'T BEGIN WHEN SOFTWARE WAS RECEIVED ON FEBRUARY 12, AND Clerk staff, ~~delegation not given in 2016, Public Accuracy test will be repeated so Election Commission can participate~~ STATED BALLOTS HAD BEEN MAILED, SO IMMEDIATE TESTING WASN'T NECESSARY. TRUSTEE OPSOMMER STATED THERE ARE PROCEDURES TO DRAW BAD BALLOTS BACK AND REPLACE THEM. TRUSTEE WISINSKI STATED IMPROPER NOTICE OF THE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND HOLDING THEM IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE GIVES THE IMPRESSION THE PUBLIC IS NOT INVITED TO ATTEND AND EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING STATE DEADLINES NOT BEING MET. CLERK STATED NEXT TIME WE WILL FOLLOW STATE LAW AND FUTURE MEETINGS HELD IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM. SUPERVISOR STYKA SUMMARIZED THE DISCUSSION, NOTING CERTAIN LAWS WERE NOT FOLLOWED, THEY NEED TO BE IN THE FUTURE, AND THERE IS A HEIGHTENED CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF OUR ELECTIONS.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:21 pm.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:21 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – NONE.

16. CLOSED SESSION

Clerk Dreyfus moved to enter into closed session for strategy session connected with the negotiation of the collective bargaining agreements with the police and fire unions under Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to return to Open Session. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wisinski, Jackson, Opsommer, Supervisor Styka, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Dreyfus

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

Board returned to Open Session at 8:07pm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS,
TOWNSHIP CLERK