

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, July 12th, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: Trustee Hendrickson

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, Director of Parks and Recreation Maisner, Director of Economic Development Clark, IT Director Gebes, Clerk's Assistant Zachary Lemaster, Multimedia Staff Samantha Diehl, Attorney Cullen Harkness

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk's Assistant Lemaster called the roll of the Board. Trustee Hendrickson is absent. All others present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Police Officer of the Year – Chrissy Scaccia

Chief Plaga announced Chrissy Scaccia has been awarded Meridian Township's Police Officer of the year.

Chrissy Scaccia thanked her department for nominating her and spoke about how happy and proud she is to work for this Police Department.

B. Township Semi-Annual Report

Township Manager Walsh presented his semi-annual report on what's happened in the township so far in 2022.

C. Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) 2021 Actuarial Report

Manager Walsh gave a presentation on the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) 2021 Actuarial Report. He explained the MERS fund is 72% funded at this time. He explained

the township is paying off the pension fund faster than expected and is using a 5% rate of return and explained why he is recommending paying the amounts that he is. He also gave numbers on the funding rate of each of the groups and their benefits from the MERS program. Retiree Health care is 99% funded, the Township Pension Program is over 100% funded.

Treasurer Deschaine noted the importance of this report and what it means for the future of this community in the face of a market. He noted that pension benefit funding is likely the most important decision this board makes.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:36 pm.

John Covell, 6156 E. Lake Dr., Haslett spoke against the Haslett Village Square Project.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public remarks at 6:41 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported that he's said enough.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Taxes have been mailed out, if you haven't received one, please call his office
- Spoke about the Cole twins who are new police officers

Trustee Wilson

- Attended Celebrate Meridian and spoke about how good it was to attend.
- Attended a town hall on cyber security with Supervisor Jackson

Clerk Guthrie

- Received about 9000 absentee ballot applications and the first two bulk mailings have been sent out and from here on out ballots will be mailed on a daily basis

Trustee Sundland

- Attended Meridian Transportation Committee on June 16th

Supervisor Jackson asked for clarification on the recent water emergency.

Assistant Manager Opsommer explained the Ingham County Road Department was working at the corner of Haslett and Park Lake Rd. and removed a thrust block that broke the largest water main in the township's water system. The main was isolated and shut off in less than 30 minutes. Water Pressure was restored in under an hour. The boil water advisory lasted about 55 hours. Residents will receive information to subscribe to the township emergency alerts on their water bills.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there were tests for contaminated water.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied there was testing for contaminated water, two rounds of twelve tests all came back negative.

Supervisor Jackson asked what the best way to get emergency information from the township is.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied subscribing to Everbridge at www.meridian.mi.us/getconnected.

Trustee Wilson asked if this would extend the time the intersection is closed.

Opsommer replied it will extend closure time on Park Lake Rd. north of Haslett Rd.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Sundland moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Approval of Minutes – June 21st, 2022 Regular Meeting

Trustee Sundland moved to approve and ratify the minutes of June 21st, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Bills

Trustee Sundland moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Common Cash	\$	289,670.25
Public Works	\$	150,452.18
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>28,694.54</u>
Total Checks	\$	468,816.97
Credit Card Transactions	\$	20,661.63
06/16/22 to 07/06/2022		
Total Purchases	\$	<u>489,478.60</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>1,061,634.95</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Ratification of New EMT/Firefighter Appointment

Trustee Sundland moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Nicholas Irving to Full-Time EMT/Firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

12. HEARINGS

A. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #22-014-1621 & 1625 Haslett Road-Haslett Village Square

Director Schmitt outlined the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #22-014-1621 & 1625 Haslett Road-Haslett Village Square for Public Hearing.

Supervisor Jackson opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm

No public spoke during this hearing.

Supervisor Jackson closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm

Trustee Wilson asked if additional parking can be provided by the developer who makes the decision to install the parking, the developer or the township and does one take precedence over the other.

Director Schmitt said that when people are seen parking illegally it would begin to trigger the process for adding additional parking.

Treasurer Deschaine asked what the market analysis says the housing needs in Haslett are.

Mike Bosgraff, 873 South Shore Dr., Holland, MI stated he has completed a market study and feels very comfortable with the additional housing created by this project.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Ordinance 2022-10 – Decks in Planned Unit Developments-Final Adoption

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-10 for action.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Zoning Amendment 2022-10 to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-439 to amend the standards for enlarging decks in Planned Unit Developments. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item as it will give homeowners more freedom.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Ordinance 2022-11 – Municipal Signage-Introduction

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-11 -Municipal Signage for introduction.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Zoning Amendment 2022-11 to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-696 to amend the standards for Municipal signs. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Planned Unit Development #22-014 – 3560 Hulett Road – Giguere Homes – **Set Public Hearing**

Director Schmitt outlined Planned Unit Development #22-014 – 3560 Hulett Road – Giguere Homes.

Trustee Wilson moved to set the public hearing for PUD 22-014, 3560 Hulett Road, Giguere Homes, for the August 4, 2022 Township Board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Police Department Ordinance Amendments and Additions-**Introduction**

Chief Plaga outlined Police Department Ordinance Amendments and Additions for Introduction.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the introduction of the Amendments to Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances to amend trespass, and disturbing the peace and add defrauding an innkeeper, breaking and entering, receiving and concealing stolen property and inhalation or consumption of chemical agent. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item as it puts the township in line with state law.

Treasurer Deschaine explained it also allows for expedited prosecution.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Resolution to Authorize Issuance of General Obligation Unlimited Tax Bonds

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Resolution to Authorize Issuance of General Obligation Unlimited Tax Bonds.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the township can only bond for expenditures for the next three years.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that is correct.

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the resolution to authorize issuance of general obligation unlimited tax bonds, series 22, in the amount of \$12,000,000. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Wisinski asked if this is in preparation of increased cost of supplies and contractors.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that is correct.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 1442 Haslett Road Boundary Correction Proposal

Director Maisner outlined 1442 Haslett Road Boundary Correction Proposal for discussion.

Trustee Wisinski stated this proposal makes sense.

B. Ordinance 2022-08 – Traffic Impact Study Standards

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-08 Traffic Impact Study Standards for discussion.

Clerk Guthrie asked for a summary of the Planning Commission's insight on this.

Director Schmitt replied the Planning Commission caught a typo, and conversed about section 3 paragraph A and B on what makes someone a qualified traffic engineer.

Trustee Wilson asked if anything projected to have less than 250 trips a day would be assessed by a nonprofessional.

Director Schmitt replied the assessment would still be completed by a Certified Traffic Engineer but assessment would be less extensive.

Treasurer Deschaine asked what the difference in cost is between the two studies.

Director Schmitt replied it's substantial in time and money.

Supervisor Jackson asked if a Traffic Study reviews the level of service and tools available at an intersection and asked if you get that same data from a traffic assessment.

Director Schmitt replied you wouldn't get that data from an assessment, but you would from a Traffic Impact Study.

C. Ordinance 2022-12 – Refuse/Storage Container Regulations

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-12 – Refuse/Storage Container Regulations for discussion.

Treasurer Deschaine asked for the time limits that are proposed for pods to be allowed in a driveway.

Director Schmitt replied if there is an active building permit there is no time limit. If there is not an active building permit you are permitted to hold the pod on your property for 30 days.

Trustee Wisinski asked how director Schmitt came to the 30 day window.

Director Schmitt replied Senior Planner Shorkey reviewed the ordinances from surrounding communities and felt 30 days was a reasonable amount.

Treasurer Deschaine asked what action would be taken if a resident had a pod for over 30 days without a building permit.

Director Schmitt replied code enforcement would meet the owner and ask the resident to remove the pod.

Supervisor Jackson asked why trash and recycling bins wouldn't fall under the Ordinance.

Director Schmitt explained building materials was included in the language to rule out a 96 gallon trash receptacle.

Clerk Guthrie asked where you would put a pod if you live in condo unit that doesn't have a yard.

Director Schmitt replied they would have to go look at it if there is only a driveway to be used.

Clerk Guthrie asked if someone is moving would they have to get approval from the Planning Department to use a pod.

Director Schmitt replied no, they only need to let the Planning Department know they are using a pod for timekeeping purposes.

D. Prospective resolution to the Legislature and Governor regarding local control under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act

Assistant Manager Opsommer, Treasurer Deschaine and Supervisor Jackson outlined the Prospective resolution to the Legislature and Governor regarding local control under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act.

Trustee Wilson asked why you would want there to be a prospective resolution, as she only is aware of two complaints.

Treasurer Deschaine stated so that local control could be requested.

Trustee Wilson asked if this should be taken up with the Michigan Township Association.

Treasurer Deschaine replied that's a great idea.

Clerk Guthrie asked if residents must be allowed legally to use fireworks for 12-13 days out of the year.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie asked how difficult it is to follow up on firework calls.

Chief Plaga replied it depends on the volume of the fireworks.

Clerk Guthrie asked if there are a lot of calls on firework usage outside of these days.

Chief Plaga replied on occasion.

Supervisor Jackson agreed that Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Township Association are great sources to go to, and that a local community should be able to manage themselves.

Treasurer Deschaine suggested inviting Judy Allen to a board meeting.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated he could call Ms. Allen.

Clerk Guthrie stated her issue is that we have a large multicultural community and other communities' holidays should be included and celebrated.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson Opened Public Remarks at 8:15 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public Remarks at 8:15 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

16. CLOSED SESSION - Motion to go into closed session to discuss a proposed settlement agreement regarding the Winslow Mobile Home Park

Treasurer Deschaine moved to go into closed session to discuss a proposed settlement agreement regarding the Winslow Mobile Home Park. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

At 8:16 pm the board went into closed session.

At 8:40 the Board resumed its regular meeting.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the settlement agreement between Meridian Township and Defendants Mike Duffy and Ventures, LLC and allow Manager Walsh and Supervisor Jackson to sign off on any minor changes to the agreement. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

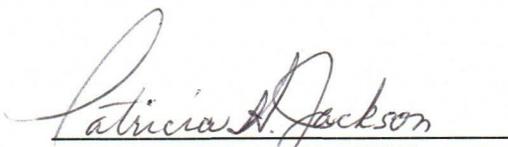
Motion carried: 6-0

17. ADJOURNMENT

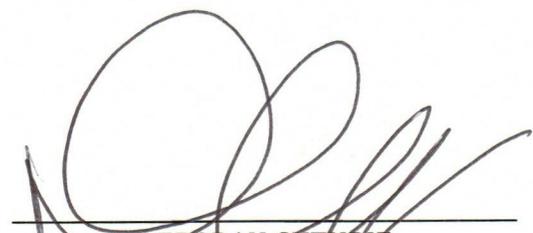
Trustee Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK