

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

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Township Deputy Manager Opsommer, Fire Chief Hamel, IT Director Gebes, Human Resources Director Tithoff, Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski, Communications Manager Diehl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the October 7, 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

Clerk Demas called the roll of the Board. Five Board members present at 6:01 pm.

Trustee Wilson present at 6:10 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Firefighter/Paramedic

Chief Hamel introduced Jonathan Sturm.

B. Green Burial Committee

Sarah Allen, Bruce Peffers, and Kim Peters presented information about green burials.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:30 pm.

Monica Schaffer, Ingham County Commissioner, spoke about MSU-Extension.

Beth Bechtel spoke about the 2026 Budget and property taxes.

Jade Shi, Dianna Cavalier, and Yidi Du spoke about the Central Park Proposal.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:44 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Summary from listening session will be posted on the Township Website by October 15th.
- Thanked retired Battalion Chief Rudy Gonzales for his service to the Township.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas attended Fire Department swearing in ceremony and the Heritage Festival. She announced that the next Democracy class will be held on October 20th.

Trustee Lentz attended the Heritage Festival, Environmental Commission meeting and Tri County Regional Planning Commission meeting. He mentioned the deer management program began.

Trustee Wilson and Trustee Sundland attended Hulett Road neighborhood meeting.

Trustee Sundland attended the Michigan Municipal League conference.

Supervisor Hendrickson noted that all Board Members attended the September 30th listening session. He also noted that the mentioned actions taken on the Eyde Continental property were not permitted and Code Enforcement team has issued violations on those actions. He announced the Central Park Proposal will go before the Planning Commission meeting on October 13th.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. ACTION ITEMS

- A. 2026 Budget

Manager Dempsy gave an overview of changes and updates made since the previous discussion.

Board members asked about the increase in healthcare expenditures, federal match funds, municipal revenue sharing, and using the fund balance to support other expenditures.

Board members commented that this is a constrained budget with no large projects budgeted, and appreciated the early involvement of the Board.

Trustee Trezise moved to accept the 2026 Budget as presented, always subject to amendments as necessary in the future. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Treasurer Appointment

Supervisor Hendrickson gave an overview of the interview process.

Board members expressed their support for candidate Linda Burghardt.

Trustee Trezise moved to suspend rules and bring this item for consideration. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Wilson moved appoint Linda Burghardt to the position of Township Treasurer effective October 7, 2025, to serve through the November 2026 election cycle. Supported by Clerk Demas.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Meridian Senior Center Operations Agreement

Trustee Trezise requested that he be allowed to recuse himself from this item.

Trustee Wilson moved to allow Trustee Trezise to recuse himself from action on the Meridian Senior Center Operations Agreement. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Trezise recused himself at 7:17 pm

Manager Dempsey and Director Wisinski gave an overview of the discussion item, noting that this agreement is only for the existing Meridian Senior Center.

Board members asked about the supervision of staff, to whom members address their concerns and questions, which entity is responsible for programming, and feedback from Okemos School District. Staff answered questions.

Trustee Trezise returned at 7:31 pm

B. Appointment to Ingham County Materials Management Planning Committee

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the discussion item.

Board members asked about the meeting schedule as well as the duties and responsibilities of the position.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 7:35 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 7:35 pm.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

14. CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Trezise moved to enter closed session under MCL 15.268(1)(h) to consult with the Township attorney regarding a confidential written legal opinion. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 7:36 pm, the Board entered into closed session.

At 8:43 pm, the Board returned to open session.

Trustee Trezise moved to instruct the Township Manager to move forward with labor and employment counsel. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

15. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk