

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED -**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.349.1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021; 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: Treasurer Deschaine

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark, Communications Manager Yates; incoming Community Planning and Development Director Tim Schmitt

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

The Board took a moment of silence in remembrance for Treasurer Deschaine's daughter, Marianne Deschaine.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation – Chief Plaga stated the Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation's offers autism awareness activities, proposes and supports state legislation to assist law enforcement with the driver's with autism issues. Xavier DeGroat, CEO, summarized the fundraising event on June 8 at the Meridian Mall.
- B. Capital Area District Libraries – Tom Warner, Head Librarian at the Haslett Branch and Betsy Hull, Head Librarian at the Okemos Branch offered their 2020 Annual Report and summarized upcoming open branch hours and activities.
- C. Tribute to Mark Kieselbach – Supervisor Styka read the resolution offering a Tribute to retiring Community Planning and Development Director Mark Kieselbach and designated May 25, 2021 as MARK KIESELBACH DAY.

Director Kieselbach thanked the Board for the tribute and stated he learned a great deal at the Township and worked with wonderful staff, board and commission members and residents.

**Trustee Jackson moved to make the tribute an official resolution of the Township Board. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:29 pm.

Jody Bond, 1502 Jolly Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Special Use Permit #18091 (Newton Pointe LLC).

Will Randle, 4409 Dobie Road, Okemos, spoke in support of Special Use Permit #18091 (Newton Pointe LLC).

Bill Fahey, 6149 Cottage Drive, stated he has offices at 4151 Okemos Road, is currently the Township's attorney and the legal contract is due to expire. His law firm has enjoyed work with the Township, would like to continue the relation and is available for a meeting to discuss renewing the contract.

Sharon and Jerry Morrisett 3531 Indiana Road, spoke in opposition to the change and has concerns with the current development.

Jay Murthy, 2483 Robins Way, spoke in opposition to the Sparrow rezoning proposal.

Shereen Tabrizi, 3566 Kansas Road and 3917 Sheldrake Avenue, spoke in opposition to Rezoning #21020.

John Faichney, MD, 3917 Sheldrake Avenue, spoke in opposition to Rezoning #21020.

Peter Lupa, 3575 Kansas Road, spoke in opposition to rezoning residential parcels to commercial uses.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:51 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported: all rezoning request notifications follow State law; thanked Mark Kieselbach for his 40 years of service; continuing the building operations contract negotiations with the City of Mason; with the termination of the 11-year agreement to share assessing services with the City of East Lansing, the Township is searching for a Level 4 Assessor; staff attended meeting with Indian Hills Neighborhood Association; will be meeting with Consumers Energy regarding tree clearing; staff is working on the challenging issues at Lakeview Apartments and on the Georgetown sewer payback issues that date back to 2013; Chief Plaga is working with Ingham County on a speed limit issue on Mt. Hope Road; HOMTV interns will be returning to the Township Building on May 24; reviewed the agenda items for the June 1 Township Board meeting; received the payroll Public Health Public Safety Reimbursement payment from the federal government program for \$915,000; congratulated Supervisor Styka and his wife Georgia on their 50th year anniversary; introduced the new Community Planning and Development Director Tim Schmitt; invited everyone to the celebration for Mark Kieselbach on Tuesday, May 25 in the Central Park Pavilion

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Guthrie:

- Announced the Glendale Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 31 at 11 am

Trustee Opsommer:

- Land Preservation Advisory Board received a presentation on the proposed updates to the Pathway Master Plan from Deputy Manager Perry and the LPAB offered input on the Plan
- Transportation Commission will be meeting Thursday and will also be discussing the Pathway Master Plan

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Styka recommended moving Action Item #12C Community Survey Draft to Discussion Item #13E

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the agenda with the recommendation by Supervisor Styka to move item #12C to item #13E. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Opsommer, Wisinski, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustee Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

A. Communications

**Trustee Opsommer moved that the 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: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**B. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the April 20, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka,  
Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**C. Bills**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

<b>Common Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>177,249.68</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,954.09</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>121.36</u></b>
<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>210,325.13</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,878.57</b>
<b>04.15.2021 – 04.29.2021</b>		
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>221,203.70</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>877,807.85</u></b>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka,  
Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**D. DNR Acquisition Grant for Property on Okemos Road**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to request that the Township Board enter into a Project Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of acquiring a 1.85-acre parcel (Parcel #33-02-02-1-200-011) located at 5280 Okemos Road, Haslett, in the amount of \$170,000 with 75% of the costs (\$127,500) funded by the MNRTF Grant and committing \$42,500 or 25% of costs from the Township’s Park Millage Fund. This site, when acquired, will host a dedicated entrance to Nancy Moore Park and serve as a trailhead area for users of the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway System. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Opsommer, Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka,  
Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. **Powell Road Public Road Improvement SAD #43**

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the 63 feet of the proposed improvements to grade, gravel and pave Powell Road and to have the owner of Silverstone Subdivision construct the improvements and to defray the cost by special assessment and to partially reimburse the owner of the Silverstone Subdivision

The public hearing was opened at 7:06 pm.

Kathy spoke on behalf of Helen Hong, 4714 Powell Road, spoke in opposition to the amount of her special assessment.

The public hearing was closed at 7:10 pm

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Powell Road Public Road Improvement SAD #43 – Resolution #5**

Deputy Manager Perry summarized the road costs, special assessment calculations, payment period of the special assessment, and the Ingham County Road Department will maintain future road maintenance because it will be a public road.

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Powell Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District No. 43 – Resolution 5, which approves the special assessment roll; designates the project as “Powell Road Improvements Special Assessment District No. 43, the assessment roll as the “Powell Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District No. 43 Special Assessment Roll”, and the district as the “Powell Road Public Road Improvements Special Assessment District No. 43”; adopts the amount of \$504,269.71 as the final amount for the assessment roll; and the amount of \$223,253.46 to be collected and reimbursed to the owner of the Silverstone Subdivision; and orders and directs the assessed parcels of the assessment roll to be paid and collected. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson, Supervisor Styka,  
Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**B. Special Use Permit #18091 (Newton Pointe, LLC) request for an extension of the special use permit for the square footage of buildings at Newton Place, 6276 Newton Road**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution to grant a one year (12 months) extension of Special Use Permit #18091 for Newton Place from April 9, 2021 to April 9, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**C. Community Survey Draft**

This item was moved to Discussion Item #13C

**D. Preliminary Plat #03012 Sierra Ridge Estates Extension**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution extending preliminary plat approval for the remaining 27 lots in Sierra Ridge to July 1, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**E. 2020 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report**

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the 2020 Annual Report and to submit to the State of Michigan, post on the Township Website and make available for the members of the public. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

The Board took a ten minutes break

**13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Rezoning #21020 (Martin Investment Properties, Inc.) rezone approximately six acres on the north side of Jolly Road and east of Kansas Road from I (Industrial) and RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional Office)**

Director Kieselbach outlined the proposed rezoning request and surrounding existing property uses

Thomas Bres, Chief Administrative Officer for Sparrow Hospital, Dr. Karen Kent VanGorder, Chief Medical Officer, Stacy Bakkegard, Director of Facilities and John Shaski, Government Relations Officer, gave an overview of the project, the feedback received, the changes made to the facility from the feedback, and conditions being offered since the public hearing and hearing the Planning Commission's recommendation for denial.

Manager Walsh stated he will provide the requested property assessment information.

Board consensus to place this item on the next Board meeting agenda.

**B. Okemos Drain**

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the Grand River Avenue drain and road improvement projects and the partnership with the Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office, the Michigan Department of Transportation and Ingham County Road Department.

Deputy Drain Commissioner Carla Clos, Consulting Engineer Alan Boyer, and Drain Commissioner Douglas Kelly offered an update on the drain study of the Grettenberger, Okemos and Meijer Drains and their recommendation to combine the three drains into a single "Okemos Consolidated Drain".

Board consensus to place this item on the next Board meeting agenda.

**C. SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority**

Director Clark stated LEAP and members of the Lansing SmartZone approached the Township in 2020 as a potential community to increase the financial strength of the SmartZone. City of Lansing and City of East Lansing created the "SmartZone" district as the LDFA, a collaborative tax authority to create incentive to development industrial zoned parcels. The purpose of the authority is to connect university and community with innovation, commercialization, good high tech jobs and entrepreneurship. The LDPA focuses on assisting with startup and a recent success is High Caliber Karting. Staff is recommending adding properties along Dawn Avenue and Towner Avenues to the LDFA.

Public Sector Consultant Tim Dempsey outlined the process to join the Lansing Regional SmartZone and how the tax increment-financing plan will work for the Township.

Board consensus to place this item for discussion on the next Board meeting agenda

**Trustee Opsommer moved to proceed with board discussion on agenda items #13D and #13E this evening. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Trustee Sundland, Clerk Guthrie, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**D. Legal Counsel Contract & Continuing Legal Services**

Supervisor Styka summarized the expiration of the current contract with the legal counsel and asked if the members would like to renew the contract for another three years or send out an RFP.

Board consensus to place this item on the next Board meeting agenda.

**E. Community Survey**

It was the consensus of the board members to send their questions and concerns to Director Clark and Deputy Manager Perry and then present a revised survey that will be presented at the June 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 10:34 pm.

Jay Murthy, 2438 Robins Way, voiced concerns with the rezoning request.

Shereen Tabrizi, co-owner of 3566 Kansas Road, spoke in opposition

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:39 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS -NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 10:40 pm.**

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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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DEBORAH GUTHRIE,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK