

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, January 6, 2026, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: Treasurer Burghardt

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Chief Hamel, Director Gebes, Director Wisinski, Manager Diehl, Deputy Manager Opsommer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the January 6, 2026, 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. Six Board members present at 6:01 pm.

Treasurer Burghardt was absent.

4. PRESENTATION

None

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:01 pm.

Beth Bechtel spoke about fiscal responsibility.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:05 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Continental's Authentix Project will likely be on January 20 agenda.
- Reminded residents to keep storm drains clear when possible
- Winter tax bills are due on February 17<sup>th</sup>
- Family events coming up at Harris Nature Center, see Township website for details
- Township offices will be closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Day

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas announced there will be a May 5<sup>th</sup> election for Ingham Intermediate School District Bond Proposal, introduced new Deputy Clerk, and noted that the Election Commission approved a resolution to combine precincts. Supervisor Hendrickson asked if voters will be notified of the precinct boundary changes which Clerk Demas confirmed.

Trustee Lentz reminded residents about the ongoing Meridian Conservation Corps program.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Agenda. Supported by Clerk Demas.**

**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

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the consent agenda items. He also asked staff about item 9.F Contract with All City Management Services for Crossing Guards and 9.I Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan RFP/Contract Award

**Trustee Trezise moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16 and Closed Session of December 16 2025 as submitted and to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda as proposed. 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. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Senior Center Update

Township Manager Dempsey gave the quarterly Senior Center update.

Board discussion occurred which included questions about the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center, potential relocation of the center, grant money and expending funds.

B. 2026 Township Board Goals

Township Manager Dempsey gave an overview of the goals.

Board discussion occurred which included amending the language for the Community and Senior Center goal to solely focus on the senior center. Concern was raised about meeting

the Village of Okemos portion of the Economic Redevelopment goal in 2026. And a question was asked about the Board's role in the Financial Planning goal.

C. Board Rules and Procedures

Township Manager Dempsey gave an overview of the two-step, discussion-then-action practice in need of clarity in relation to the Board's Rules and Procedures.

Board discussion occurred regarding current Board rules and procedures, including the two-step agenda item process and statutory requirements. Concern was raised about the frequency of suspending Board rules to take action on discussion items, the size of the consent agenda by adding more items, and procedural restrictions. Questions were asked regarding the outlined duties of elected Department Heads. Suggestions were made which included placing more items on the consent agenda, placing agenda items on both the discussion and action item sections, continuing the current two-step process, notifying the Manager about making changes to the agenda, and updating language to the rules and procedures.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 7:06 pm.

Barb O'Kelly spoke about the senior center.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 7:07 pm.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

13. CLOSED SESSION

**Trustee Lentz moved to enter closed session pursuant to 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 7:08 pm, the Board entered closed session.

At 9:25 pm, the Board returned to open session.

14. 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 9:26 pm.**



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Scott Hendrickson  
Township Supervisor



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Angela Demas  
Township Clerk