



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
Community Resources Commission
November 8th, 2023

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. CONSENT AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 2023
4. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Thanksgiving/Holiday Food Baskets
 - B. Halloween Extravaganza at the Okemos Library
 - C. 2024 Commission appointments.
 - D. Marketing
 - i. Prime Meridian Magazine 2024
 - E. Fundraisers
 - i. Dusty's
 - ii. Baby Bottle Boomerang
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - A: Grant Approval
 - B: Okemos Community Food Pantry
6. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT
7. BOARD LIAISON REPORT
8. OPEN FORUM
9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: December 13th, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

**Meridian Township Community Resources Commission
Needs Fund Report
October 2023**

Starting Cash Balance	\$ 44,506.72
Donations	
Redi-Ride Sales	\$150.00
Employee Payroll Donation	\$38.48
Water Bill Roundup Gift	\$322.48
Resident Donation	\$1000.00
Okemos Parade Donation	\$37.00
Grant	\$15,000.00
Cash Balance after Donations	\$61,054.68
Emergency Funds used in October	\$3261.77
Ending Cash Balance	\$57,792.91
Committed Funds	
TC Grant: Food	\$15,000.00
Knob Hill Fire	\$5236.00
Okemos Pres. Food	\$1855.00
Cash Balance after Committed Funds	\$35,701.91
Emergency Funds used in 2023	\$33,523.63
PayPal Balance as of 10/31/23	\$967.93
Redi-Ride Passes sold in October	24
Redi-Ride Passes YTD	168

Date	Household	Assistance	Amount	Leverage	Authorization
10/04/23	K.F.	Utilities	257.50	0.00	Styka
10/04/23	A.L.	Rent	431.90	431.90	Styka
10/09/23	N.K.	Utilities	487.37	0.00	Styka
10/17/23	P.J.	Rent	433.00	0.00	Styka
10/17/23	K.B.	Rent	500.00	1450.00	Styka
10/24/23	V.S.	Rent	470.00	470.00	Styka
10/24/23	A.W.	Utilities	182.00	0.00	Styka

10/24/23	C.G.	Rent	500.00	3100.00	Styka
			3261.77	5451.90	

Other October Notes

- The \$15,000 grant money from TC Energy was received and put in the restricted Food Basket fund in the Community Needs fund.
- Katie signed up to take a Mental Health First Aid training class in November.
- Continued to receive resident names for Thanksgiving and Holiday food requests.
- Began assigning names to organizations to sponsor, getting organizations names and coordinating how, when and what they will deliver.
- Meridian Cares will be sponsoring Marsh Point residents. Calls to Marsh point to see if residents want a food only Meijer gift card or a food basket.
- Meijer food only gift cards were purchased for Okemos Presbyterian Church to be reimbursed.
- Had a meeting with the leaders at the Okemos Food Pantry to see how Meridian Township could partner to raise awareness, funds etc.
- Brainstorming ways to have a resource share day for local organizations supporting those in need.
- Signed up for training in the Michigan Address Confidentiality Program.
- Held a MiHAF day with the Treasury dept. to assist eligible residents in applying for the program.
- Commissioner Webster participated in the Trunk or Treat event at the Okemos Library on 10/26/23.

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
OCTOBER 11, 2023
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Chair Styka, Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Langhals, Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Maingu, Commissioner Webster

ABSENT:

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love, Dante Ianni Finance Director

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

PUBLIC:

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A: Add baby bottle boomerang to old business G

B: Add Dusty's to old business H

C: Add new fundraising under new business E

D: Add Media Coverage to new business F

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Commissioner Langhals moves to approve the September 13, 2023, minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Webster
Motion Carried 6-0.**

4. PRESENTATION FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR IANNI- See PowerPoint Handout

- Milage funds are available to spend on salaries and administrative expenses related to human services so that funds raised are fully available to spend on residents in need. This might include milage, overhead, marketing materials etc.
- Funds raised are restricted based on the intent of the donor. Often when writing a check people will designate something on the memo line like "holiday baskets" or "backpacks". If there is no designation, it goes in the general emergency needs fund.
- Funds that are raised from donors are carried over from year to year until it is spent. They do not lapse into the general township fund.
- Every year the Township Board will set a budget to authorize a limit to spending. It is essentially an estimate of what they see as the fund receiving in donations as well as

spending on community needs. You are not required to spend the total budgeted amount. We can ask the Township board to raise our budget with a budget amendment throughout the year based upon donations received and expenses.

- For example, we had only budgeted to spend \$600.00 to purchase redi-ride passes in 2023. However, we have sold so many that we needed to purchase another 100 passes, so we amended the budget to allow spending of another \$600.00. Original budget \$600, amended budget \$1200.00.
- If the 272 Fund (the restricted fund that houses our donation money) runs out of money, we can petition the Township board for money to be transferred out of the Township general fund (this happened during Covid) or fundraise. Without one of these things the 272 funds will be empty and there would be no money to spend on emergency community needs.
- The Township Board sees our fund sits at \$95,000 they don't want us to spend this all-in-one year so they authorize us for a budgeted amount (this year 50,000 next year 40,000).
- The Township Board does not generally give us any money. They are just authorizing us to spend the money that we have in our 272 restricted fund.
- Any fundraising we do increases the 272 restricted fund.
- We have policies and procedures and ordinances that help determine how to spend the committed funds.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A: Sparrow Mobile Health Clinic

- Commissioner Webster stopped over on 9/26 and met Marisa. Webster had a tour of the clinic. The event went well, and we will facilitate this again starting next Spring.

B: Update on Operation Gratitude

- Commissioner Webster is working with Cheri from the Senior Center. There are 26 veterans at the center, and they will receive the boxes. The boxes will be shipped to the Township in December.

C: Thanksgiving/Holiday Food Baskets

- We are still collecting food basket request forms. So far, we have 146 households signed up. When the 15,000-grant money comes from TC Energy it will be placed in the 272 committed food basket fund.

D: BASTAS Check

- The \$4135.08 check was sent to Home Instead for the BASTAS program.

E: Halloween Extravaganza at the Okemos Library: October 26th 4-6 P.M.

- Commissioner Webster is going and is decorating her trunk. The library will provide candy. Please contact Karen if you are able to come help.

F: St. Lukes Coat Drive

- Great success. Connecting it to the recycling events was a huge success. We had 4 van loads of coats. The senior center will be holding another drive in November/December.

G: Baby Bottle Boomerang

- Still on hold, haven't heard from Target with an answer.

H: Dusty's Fundraiser

- Board Liaison Wilson will continue to try and connect Dusty's.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A: Blondies Barn

- Blondies barn will be offering the Free Thanksgiving meal again this year. Our communication department will be helping with the press release.

B: Free Redi-Ride Passes

- We now have 50 redi-ride passes to give to residents for FREE.

C: Grant Approval

- In 4-8 weeks, we will receive our \$15,000 grant from TC Energy.

D: 2024 Commission Appointments

- Commissioner Langhals term is up, and she has graciously agreed to stay on for another term. Thank you, Commissioner Langhals, for your 12 years of service.
- Our board can have up to 9 members. If you know of anyone interested in joining the CRC, please have them contact Katie Love.
- Commissioner Styka gave us the name of a possible interested person. Katie Love will reach out to check on her interest.

E: New Fundraising Ideas

- Gift card sales? Stocking Stuffer sales? Old Chicago? Culvers? If you have an idea please bring your ideas to the next meeting.

F: Media Coverage

- Mikayla Temple is a great resource for marketing. 517-290-9018, Mikayla.temple@fox47news.com
- We can possibly get information in the Meridian Township booklet.

7. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT

We made a \$5,270 transfer from PayPal to our Community Needs Fund. We spent a little under \$4,000 in September. We have used about 60% of the funding for the year. Specialist Love is going to make some changes to the Report to make the financial part a little easier to understand.

8. BOARD LIASON REPORT- Board Liaison Wilson

The Township Board has approved budgets.

The Senior/Community center is progressing slowly. RFP's are out now to get design ideas. Many items are still up in the air but there is forward movement. Lots of fundraising to do. Community Listening sessions are ongoing and have been productive.

School traffic safety has been an ongoing issue. Work is being done to create alternative solutions for safety.

8. OPEN FORUM

9. ADJOURNEMENT

Chair Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:35 P.M. with no opposition.