

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, December 13, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: None

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, IT Director Gebes, Finance Director Garber, Communications Manager Diehl, Assessor Winstead, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All board members are present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. 242 Community Church Recognition

Chief Plaga and Supervisor Jackson gave a presentation recognizing members of 24/2 church for the Big Give in which 100 volunteers came and repainted the Police Department commons area and replacing their refrigerator.

Pastor Chad Cronin spoke about their love for serving their community through "The Big Give" program.

Pastor Cronin was given a plaque in recognition for his contribution.

B. Introduction of New Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic

Chief Hamel introduced new full time Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew to the board.

Andrew Zaleski thanked the board for this opportunity to serve the community.

C. Introduction of Five New Police Officers

Chief Plaga introduced five new Police Officers Danny Mora, Jacob Gonzales, Natalie Tyndall, Brent Spence, and Sarah Hubbard.

Each new officer thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the community.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:13 PM.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 6:13 PM.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported there are currently only two open positions in Meridian Township. The Sign Project is moving forward and should be completed in February. Meeting MSU President Woodruff with Jackson. Meeting with Portage Township Manager Pat McGinnis on working with local malls. Township offices will be closing on Friday, December 16th at noon for holiday appreciation party. The Okemos Rd. Bridge is moving forward and should be completed in January. The intersection of Grand River Ave. and Okemos Rd. should reopen any day. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is meeting in January to create an action plan. The Police Department reaccreditation assessment has been completed and the results will be in soon. Met with Okemos Board of Education and will soon meet with the Haslett Public School board in January.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Thanked Manager Walsh, Chief Hamel, and Chief Plaga for meeting staffing goals

Trustee Wisinski

- Environmental Commission has been working on its Climate Sustainability Plan in conjunction with the Master Plan
- Meeting with Groundwater Management Board tomorrow for ground water sampling

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with one Amendment to the minutes. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes- December 6, 2022 Regular Township Board Minutes

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 6th, 2022 as amended. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Hendrickson noted during the meeting of December 6th items 13.C, 13.D, and 13.F were combined, not items 13.C, 13.D, and 13.E as were noted in the minutes of December 6th 2022.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Common Cash	\$	208,012.85
Public Works	\$	104,737.73

Trust & Agency		\$	0.00
	Total Checks	\$	312,750.58
Credit Card Transactions		\$	4,327.91
12/01/22 to 12/05/2022	Total Purchases	\$	317,078.49
ACH Payments		\$	505,039.51

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY –NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. 1673 Haslett Road Brownfield Plan Amendment

Director Schmitt outlined 1673 Haslett Road Brownfield Plan Amendment for public hearing.

Supervisor Jackson opened the public hearing at 6:26 pm.

No public commented during this public hearing.

Supervisor Jackson closed the public hearing at 6:27 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. SUP 22-091 – Grand Reserve – Buildings Greater than 25,000 sq. ft.

Director Schmitt outlined SUP 22-091 – Grand Reserve – Buildings Greater than 25,000 sq. ft. for action. He noted this case will be heard at Zoning Board of Appeals next week.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving the request from Newman Equities, LLC to build 86 structures, totaling more than 25,000 square feet on the properties between Central Park Drive and Powell Road. The property is zoned RD, Multiple Family Residential, subject to a conditional rezoning agreement. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson asked what would happen if the ZBA denied the variance request.

Director Schmitt replied if the development requires a major redesign it will come back to the board.

Trustee Wilson noted the Fire Marshall concern of no street parking should be looked at during site plan review.

Supervisor Jackson noted street parking was a condition of rezoning and would not be covered as part of the Special Use Permit.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Capital Projects Fund

Manager Walsh outlined the Capital Projects Fund for action. He explained this money will be using for the Municipal Building improvements and Public Safety Building improvements.

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the creation of the meridian township capital projects fund effective 1/1/23 in the amount of \$3,500,000 and appropriating \$1,200,000 as outlined in the December 9, 2022 memorandum. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item and noted it may be easy to overspend during this period of inflation.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. American Rescue Plan Funding

Manager Walsh outlined the American Rescue Plan Funding for Action.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to \$18,509 in ARP funds to the senior and community center feasibility to the line item. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the appropriation of \$1,988,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds as outlined in the Township Manager's December 9, 2022 memorandum. As indicated, ARP fund not dispersed by June 30, 2025 shall automatically rollover to fund Meridian Township local roads. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Pension Stabilization Fund

Manager Walsh outlined the Pension Stabilization Fund for action. He noted this fund is to be set aside to make pension payments should the township find itself struggling to make these payments in the future.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Township Manager's recommendation to create a pension stabilization fund on 1/1/23 in the amount of \$2,000,000. The funds are earmarked to support the township's efforts to meet our MERS Pension Annual Required Contribution (ARC) with a 5% estimated rate of return. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item. He noted the market has been down this year. He asked if this and capital project fund should have interest follow this fund or roll into the general fund. He recommended it stay with the current fund.

Manager Walsh noted he would like to hear input from the Finance Director on that question.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Federal Policies and Procedures

Director Garber outlined Federal Policies and Procedures for action. She overviewed the guidelines and procedures in the manual

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the Meridian Township Federal Policies and Procedures Manual. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. 4th Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Garber outlined the 4th Quarter Budget Amendments for action. She listed the line items found in the budget amendments as noted in the packet.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 4th Quarter 2022 Budget Amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,313,215 which projects an addition to fund balance of \$847,812. Based on 2021 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2022 will be \$14,013,328. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item and noted the current fund balance is over 50% of expenditures.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine noted an extra quarter million in ambulance revenue.

Chief Hamel noted Medicare has increased their rates, and the department has revamped its reporting process.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Resolution to Call the Central Fire Station Unlimited Tax General Obligations Bonds

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Resolution to Call the Central Fire Station Unlimited Tax General Obligations Bonds for action. He noted due to unforeseen revenues the township should pay down 2027, 2028 and partial 2026 tonight.

Trustee Wilson move to adopt the Resolution authorizing partial redemption of Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds, series 2013. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there is a prepayment penalty.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied there is not.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 1673 Haslett Road Brownfield Plan Amendment

Director Schmitt outlined 1673 Haslett Road Brownfield Plan Amendment for discussion. He explained the breakdown of tax capturing.

Trustee Wisinski asked if taking the portion out will require a brownfield plan for the remainder.

Director Schmitt replied that section was approved as a brownfield previously.

Trustee Wisinski asked if contamination had moved to the new location.

Director Schmitt replied they are two separate issues.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if this would begin in 2023.

Director Schmitt replied it would.

B. Ordinance 2022-15 Daycare Regulation Update

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-15 Daycare Regulation Update for discussion. The only change in this ordinance is the law has changed from between 6 and 14.

Treasurer Deschaine asked how many child care facilities exist in the township.

Director Schmitt replied there are 12 child care homes in the township and 6 group child care homes in the township.

Trustee Wilson noted this brings us into state law and must be done.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the township could enforce this.

Director Schmitt replied the township could enforce this through Special Use Permits.

Trustee Wisinski noted it's currently difficult to find good childcare and is in support of this Ordinance.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item but noted the adult to child ratio change isn't necessarily a good thing.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 7:19 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 7:19 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Santa's First responder takes place this Saturday, led by Captain Rick Grillo. The Rotary Club contributed \$3,000 to this event.

Clerk Guthrie

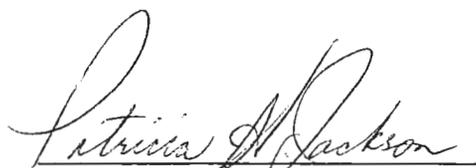
- This meeting's packet will be updated with the new memo from Manager Walsh

Trustee Hendrickson

- Wished all happy holidays

16. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.


PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR


DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK