

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 19, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser, Economic Development Director Lane, Human Services Specialist Jackson, Human Resources Director Marx

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 Dreyfus called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Coronavirus Task Force Update: Chief Hamel provided information

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:05pm.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:07pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported: retail store changes, new Farmers Market, new police candidate, local roads, building reopening, 2019 audit, Township revenue sharing losses lower than expected, adjust for revenue loss.

Public Works Director Perry reported on HVAC progress in Municipal Building.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended May 7 EDC mtg. Mall rep present, 50 trees given out at Farmers Market, will attend East Lansing-Meridian Roundtable and upcoming Brownfield Rehabilitation Authority mtg.

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Election management right now is like moving through rapids on a river, lots of changes happening almost daily.
- Absent Voter Ballot Applications being mailed statewide to all voters.
- Challenges on recruiting election workers for August Primary due to summer vacation and Covid-19, pandemic concerns at polling locations.
- Question by Clerk about letter of complaint Township Board received from Religious Freedom Foundation; ~~group has concerns about Township hosting fundraising for Boy Scouts due to Boy Scout religious policies, municipal use of Church for fundraiser, and firefighters wearing uniforms during this event.~~ Manager and Supervisor responded.
- Clerk appreciative of local churches that allow Township to use facilities as a polling location for elections.

Supervisor Styka:

- Attended Wolverine Caucus on Covid-19
- Attended Virtual EDC mtg
- Congresswoman Slotkin teleconference on federal relief legislation

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

A. Communications

**Treasurer Deschaine moved that the communications be received and placed on file and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

B. Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2020 Virtual Board Meeting

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Virtual Board Meeting of May 5, 2020 as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

C. Bills

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows, seconded by Clerk Dreyfus:**

<b>Common Cash</b>		\$	227,296.06
<b>Public Works</b>		\$	582,726.49
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>		\$	
	<b>Total Checks</b>	\$	810,022.55
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>		\$	
April 30 - May 13, 2020			
	<b>Total Purchases</b>	\$	<u>5,895.89</u>
<b>ACH Payments</b>		\$	<u>708,409.33</u>

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

D. Annual School Tax Collection Agreements

**Treasurer Deschaine moved that the Township Board approve the “2020 Tax Collection Requests and Agreements” for East Lansing, Okemos, Williamston, Haslett and Ingham Intermediate School Districts. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS: None

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Medical Marihuana Ordinance Amendment – **Final Adoption**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving the amendment to Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances, Commercial Medical Marihuana Facilities. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Board discussion: Extensively discussed previously.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

B. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #19034

Planning Director Kieselbach provided an overview of the MUPUD. Senior housing apartments for 133 units, 7,000 square feet of commercial. Special Use Permit also needed for projects exceeding 25,000 square feet.

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #19034 to construct a 133 unit senior housing apartment building at 1673 Haslett Rd. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

Board discussion: revisions to plan, building elevation, orientation of the building, balconies, hallways, connecting to retail, size of café, senior tenants only, no medical care provided to residents, market-rate lease for tenants, ~~no specificity provided on rent amounts, occupancy changes in future (different tenant mix) would require Board approval, question as to why limit residency to seniors rather than have diverse tenant mix, response that developer builds senior facilities, Hudson Senior Living (developer) AND has oversight of leasing and management~~

company, ~~unknown issues with Haslett Village Square property owners in the past with getting property developed, question if seniors in apartment building will be able to support the commercial component, residential appears much more important than commercial in these Mixed Use projects, redevelopment plans for remainder of site is vague, diverse tenant mix contributes to economic success of 4 corners, belief project fits the socio-economic composition of Haslett.~~

**Trustee Opsommer moved to table this item until our next Board meeting. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

C. Special Use Permit #19181 (Hudson Senior Living) Pine Village

This item was also tabled until the next meeting.

D. 2020 Local Road Program

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the low bid from Michigan Paving and Materials of Lansing, Michigan in the amount of \$827,153.74 for Phase 2 of the local road program, and also approve the low bid from Lopez Concrete in the amount of \$522,777.00 for the 2020 concrete contract, and authorize Deputy Township Manager Perry to proceed with the projects. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Board discussion: nature of reconstruction, crush and shape for approximately 2.0 miles, favorable bids, timetable, union conflicts.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

E. Meridian Township Covid-19 EDC Small Business Relief Grant Program

Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation Director Lane provided overview. Suspended Board rules and had item on for action instead of discussion first due to timeliness of issue. Goal of providing short term financial assistance to Township brick and mortar businesses. Covered application, scoring, allocation of \$148,000 to program, 37 grants of \$4,000 each, \$100,000 comes from Meridian Redevelopment Fund. Help businesses hurting due to Covid-19.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation Small Business Relief Grant Program, as attached. Seconded by Wisinski.**

Board discussion: applications to LEAP grants from MT businesses, 165 applied and 3 awarded, economic impact of pandemic, business eligibility, conflict of interest must be disclosed, bottom-up approach uses small taxpayer funding and high leveraging, benefits of providing smaller sized grants, need to help small local businesses, retain families when businesses are supported, Meridian Redevelopment Fund, importance of business history with Meridian, \$4,000 is in the range of monthly rent and/or an employee or two.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to amend the original motion to add 8 more grants in the amount of \$4,000 that totals an additional \$32,000 from the Redevelopment Fund. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

MAIN MOTION: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

Board Discussion: Supervisor Styka should serve on EDC on application review panel.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to appoint Supervisor Styka to serve on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Trustee Opsommer moved to add Trustee Patricia Jackson to serve on the Board as well. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 – 0

F. Police Academy Sponsorship Program

Police Chief Plaga provided overview. Identification of good police officer candidate through personal contacts, recent MSU graduate. Previous candidate selected has been working out well. Candidate lives in Township.

**Trustee Jackson moved to sponsor candidate Sierra Alvarado to the Mid-Michigan Police Academy fall semester at Lansing Community College. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

Board discussion: success in the past with a candidate, how candidate is selected, four officers comprise recruitment team, they go to campuses and recruitment events, identify candidates who want to work in law enforcement and stay in our community, helps with diversity efforts.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski  
Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS:

Motion carried 7 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Meridian Cares – Assistance Update

Darla Jackson, Meridian Human Services, provided an overview. Meridian Cares has been around for 40 years, to typically help citizens with evictions and utility assistance. Unemployment concerns, economic forecasts are all over the board, women hit harder by layoffs and worsens single mother situation, people may need assistance more than once. Raised about \$14,500 during stay-at-home order. Rents will come due in mid-June, could be large back rent owed.

Board discussion: Current fund balance is approximately \$35,000. Broadband/internet access is important, health insurance and health costs, probation period for new employees, promotion of Meridian Cares, mental health assistance services available, choice to not use taxpayer funds in the past to provide money directly to residents – unsure about legality.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:20 pm.

Phyllis Vaughn, 6100 Balog Court, Haslett; Spoke on issue of residents on a fixed income – Meridian Care should not be paying their rent, everyone received \$1,200 (federal) subsidy and most received \$100/month more on their Bridge cards. Food trucks not fair to businesses, such as Taco truck which opens whenever it wants, they should not receive small business grants.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:26 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Opsommer:

- \$3.3 million in state revenue sharing is constitutionally mandated and based on sales tax revenue, only \$140,000 is discretionary via State legislature. Budget reconciliation will require federal bailout, wait and see.

Trustee Wisinski:

- Appreciation to first responders in Township, safety importance in our community. Stay home if you have symptoms, wear a mask, wash your hands. Think of others.

Supervisor Styka:

- Congresswoman Slotkin reported on status of legislation that passed House of Representatives that would assist smaller municipalities, bill sitting in Senate.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

VOICE VOTE:                      Motion carried              7 – 0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.**

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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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BRETT DREYFUS,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK