

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland,
Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: Clerk Guthrie

STAFF: Interim Manager Schmitt, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Director Gebes, Director Ianni,
Director Clark, Manager Diehl, Chief Grillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the July 9, 2024, 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

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson present at 6:01 pm.

6 Board members present, Clerk Guthrie Absent

4. PRESENTATION

A. 2024 Green Grants

Deputy Township Manager Opsommer presented on the 2024 Green Grants award.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in favor of the program

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:13 pm.

David Pawsat, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana legalization.

Jay Meyer, Township resident, spoke in opposition to proposed marijuana dispensary.

Debora Dantus, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Marcos Dantus, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana dispensary at the corner of Okemos and Jolly Roads.

Rhonda Bueche, Township resident, spoke in opposition to marijuana.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:29 pm.

6. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Interim Manager Schmitt gave updates about the following:

- Asphalt rejuvenator program will be coming this month.
- Township Manager search is on schedule.
- A suspect pleaded guilty for the vandalism at the Nokomis Center. Detective Slavik recognized for his work on this case
- Chief Hamel is recovering well

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland attended the Ron Styka Memorial Pathway ribbon cutting.

Trustee Wilson spoke regarding the success of Celebrate Meridian.

Treasurer Deschaine attended the Ron Styka Memorial Pathway ribbon cutting and spoke about the Celebrate Meridian event.

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about the two listening sessions that the Board held, attending the Ron Styka Memorial Pathway ribbon cutting, the opening of Trader Joe's, and gave an overview of Celebrate Meridian.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about the changes that had been made on the agenda.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the items on the agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the commission appointments on the consent agenda.

Trustee Trezise spoke about the environmental commission appointment and the new EMT/Firefighters.

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about the Environmental Commission and commission openings.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Community Survey

Director Clark gave a brief overview of the 2024 Community Survey Draft.

Trustee Trezise and Treasurer Deschaine thanked Director Clark for her work on the survey and spoke in favor of it,

Supervisor Hendrickson requested that Cobalt weigh in on the word “small” be added between the word “a” and “local”.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the drafted language of the 2024 Community Survey and request Cobalt Community Research to conduct 2024 Community Survey as presented with the possible amendment with the change discussed by the Board. Seconded by Trustee McCurtis.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Whitehills Lakes Subdivision #7 – Streetlight SAD #429 Resolution #3

Deputy Manager Opsommer recapped the action that has been taken so far on this item. He informed the board that he has addressed resident questions and requested feedback from the HOA. The HOA was provided with the cost for each type of streetlight pole and head.

The HOA must now determine which pole and head they would like to move forward with based on the associated costs.

Trustee Trezise moved to remove the item from the table so the Board can consider it. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Trezise approved the Whitehills Lakes South #7 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #429 – Resolution #3, which approves the construction of the public improvement, the estimate of cost and defraying the cost by Special Assessment, determines the Special Assessment District, and directs the making of an Assessment Roll. Supported by Trustee McCurtis.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

C. 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Ianni reviewed the 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments.

Trustee Hendrickson thanked Director Ianni and spoke on the Pension Stabilization fund.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the Pension Stabilization fund was included or separate in the General Fund fund balance. Director Ianni explained that it is not included in the fund balance.

Trustee McCurtis moved to approve the attached 2024 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments with a decrease in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$193,323 which projects a use of Fund Balance of \$735,397. Based on 2024 results, the projected Fund Balance at December 31, 2024, will be \$11,617,126.. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fire Truck Financing

Interim Manager Schmitt spoke about the financial implications of financing the fire truck and that the plan is to pay for the fire truck outright and not financing the truck due to interest rate levels.

Trustee Trezise asked clarifying questions regarding using the motor pool fund and spoke in favor of outright paying for the Fire Truck.

Trustee Wilson asked what the total cost of the pumper truck is. Interim Manager Schmitt indicated that it is approximately \$930,000 but that he will follow up with a final price.

Trustee McCurtis asked the date of delivery and what we will be using until this new pumper truck arrives. Interim Manager Schmitt outlined the current fire equipment and indicated that delivery is expected in the fall.

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke in favor of the changes.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 7:06 pm

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:06 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Hendrickson spoke about the Meridian Pride event on August 10, 2024.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Sundland moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee McCurtis, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk