

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, December 7, 2021 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka(Arrived 6:05), Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

ABSENT: Trustee Jackson

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Deputy Manager Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Chief of Police Plaga, Communications Manager Yates, Multimedia Staff Samantha Diehl, Marketing and Public Relations staff Andrea Smiley

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Guthrie called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to have Trustee Opsommer serve as Supervisor Pro-Tem for the meeting. Supported by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE/HAND VOTE Motion Passed 5-0

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Opsommer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in honor of the members of Oxford community.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Styka is attending remotely from his home in Meridian Township due to health issues.

Supervisor Styka asked to remove item 16 from the agenda tonight.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of HOMTV National Awards

Clerk Guthrie spoke about the history of HOMTV and congratulated Communications staff on their awards.

Manager Yates presented the awards received by HOMTV.

B. Montessori Radmoor School Green Grant-Davis Coye

Davis Coye gave a presentation on the Green Grant awarded to Montessori Radmoor School. He described how the money has been used to improve the school environment. He thanked the board for the opportunity given to the school.

Trustee Wisinski and Clerk Guthrie discussed the presentation with Davis Coye

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:22 pm

NONE

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:22 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the Lake Lansing to MSU Pathway Project received a \$300,000 grant through the MDR trust fund. With all grants the total cost of the project to the township is about \$300,000. The deer cull archery season continues until December 31st. The Township Board and staff will be in a goal setting meeting on Saturday, December 11th. The local road program for 2021 has been completed. The streets not worked on at this point will be worked on in 2022. A list of the roads to be worked on in 2022 will be provided to the board December 14th.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland

- Attended Economic Development Corporation meeting on December 2nd where the focus was setting the meeting calendar for 2022 and a joint meeting with Meridian Area Business Association.

Trustee Wisinski

- Attended Environmental Commission meeting last Wednesday. The focus being on 2022 goals and presenting those goals to the Township Board.
- The Groundwater Management Board 2022 goal setting is tomorrow December 8th.

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended Downtown Development Authority meeting yesterday December 6th
- Attending swearing in of Police Sergeant Curtis Squires
- Attended LEAP art grant unveiling November 19th
- Attended ribbon cutting for the new ice rink at the market place
- As of last week Michigan has more cases per capita than any other state
- Thanked HOMTV intern Courtland Jenkins for his work

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda with an amendment removing item 16. Manager Evaluation. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2021

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve and ratify the minutes of November 16, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Bills

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Common Cash	\$	543,643.20
Public Works	\$	494,378.92
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>9,120.34</u>
Total Checks	\$	1,047,142.46
Credit Card Transactions	\$	12,478.81
11/12/2021 to 12/01/2021		
Total Purchases	\$	<u>1,059,621.27</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>1,008,794.88</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Ratification of New Police Officer Appointment

Trustee Wisinski moved to ratify the appointment of Joshua Lakey to the position of Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Trustee Sundland

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Silverstone Estates Public Streetlighting Improvement Resolution #5

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the Silverstone Estates Public Streetlighting Improvements Special Assessment District #427 - Resolution #5, which approves the final special assessment roll, adopts the amount of \$2, 211.36 (\$100.52/lot) as the first year assessment and the amount of \$687 .12 (\$31.24/lot) (subject to adjustment) as the annual assessment thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #21-070-5114 Jo Don Drive-Rezone north half of property from RCC, Multiple Family-Maximum 34 dwelling units per acre, to RB, Single-Family, High Density-**Final Adoption**

Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Rezoning #21070, an ordinance to rezone the north half of an approximately 0.42-acre parcel located at 5114 Jo Don Drive from RCC (Multiple Family-maximum 34 dwelling units per acre) to RB (Single Family-High Density). Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Opsommer, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

- B. Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance Update-**Final Adoption**

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Ordinance 2021-07, a zoning ordinance amendment to Article 4, District Regulations, of the Charter Township of Meridian Zoning Code to update the Zoning Ordinance to update the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) regulations. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Treasurer Deschaine asked what feedback Director Schmitt has received on this Ordinance.

Director Schmitt replied that initial feedback has been positive.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

- C. Boards and Commissions Reappointment

Supervisor Styka outlined the Boards and Commissions Reappointment.

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the reappointments as provided in the Township Board Packet. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint Peter Potterpin, David Premoe, and Charles Wallin to the Building Board of appeals for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint John Matuszak and Joyce Van Coevering to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint Suzanne Brouse, Kathleen Langhals, and Angie Wilson to the Community Resource Commission for a 2 year term ending 12/31/2023. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint Eric Foster to the corridor improvement authority for a 4 year term ending 12/31/2025. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint Bill Cawood and Peter Campbell to the Downtown Development Authority for a 4 year term ending 2/1/2025. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint Frank Walsh to the Economic Development Corporation for a 6 year term ending 12/31/2027. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint tom Frazier, Kendra Grasseschi, and Luca Wisinski (student alternate) to the Environmental Commission for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint James Ecklund to the East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to confirm the Supervisory's reappointment of David Premoe, Gerald Richards, and Mark Blumer to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Joshua Robertson, Tim Potter, and Bob Lovell to the Transportation Commission for a 2 year term ending 12/31/23. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Opsommer Move to reappoint Alexia Mansour to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term ending 12/31/2024. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wisinski asked how the terms are decided for each individual board and commission.

Supervisor Styka stated some are decided by state law, and some are decided by the board.

Treasurer Deschaine asked Clerk Guthrie how many positions on the boards and commissions were currently vacant.

Clerk Guthrie replied that she would get that number to him later.

The board members each thanked the members of the township boards and commissions for their service to the community.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Williamstown Township Police Contract

Chief Plaga outlined the Williamstown Township Police Contract for discussion.

Trustee Wisinski asked about the difference between 40 and 80 patrol hours and what services are provided in those hours.

Chief Plaga explained the township dedicates an officer to patrolling the streets, traffic enforcement, neighborhood policing and vacation property checks and other day to day non dispatch services. He further explained that billing Williamstown for 80 hours is equivalent to providing two full time officers, while billing for 40 is only providing one.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the hourly rate is higher than previous years.

Chief Plaga stated he worked with Director Mattison on coming up with the cost to Williamstown Township. He explained the new rate is reflective of costs to the township incurred by the recruitment of new officers and detailed services that would be provided and removed. Overall the per hour rate is higher than previous years.

B. Poverty Exemption Guidelines

Supervisor Styka outlined Poverty Exemption Guidelines.

Trustee Opsommer further outlined Poverty Exemption Guidelines for discussion. He stated he would like to increase the 100% poverty exemption multiplier from 1.35 to 1.85, while increasing the multiplier on asset limit from 1.35 to 2.25. He would also like to see a category for a 50% poverty exemption for households that fall above a 1.85 multiplier but below a 2, and an asset multiplier of 2.5.

Treasurer Deschaine stated the current numbers are out of date. He stated he would like to see an exact number for what this is going to cost the township and the schools. He asked if the state would reimburse the township for the cost it would incur.

Trustee Opsommer replied the state would not.

Trustee Opsommer stated Williamstown Township has eligibility for up to two times the federal guidelines. He asked how many homes qualify there and found that four households had applied this year. He expects 26-34 households to apply in Meridian. In Pittsfield 13 households have applied for poverty exemption this year. He further stated this item would predominately help people who received their home through inheritance and have very little income.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if purchasing a home under land contract would qualify.

Trustee Opsommer was no able to give a full answer at this time.

Trustee Wisinski asked why Scio had a 14 multiplier.

Trustee Opsommer replied he believes they wanted people to pass the threshold for assets.

Trustee Wisinski asked what his thoughts were to not include a 25% bracket when others did.

Trustee Opsommer stated he wanted the exemption to be more impactful to the households that qualify.

Trustee Wisinski asked if the exemption would be renewed annually.

Trustee Opsommer replied yes.

Trustee Opsommer asked if Manager Walsh had anything to add.

Manager Walsh stated he had a lot of discussion with staff, and if the board's goal is to make this exemption applicable to more people then this item is moving in the right direction.

C. Special Use Permit #21-00-011-2763 Grand River Avenue – Consumers Credit Union – Modification of Special Use Permit for Buildings Greater than 25,000 Square Feet

Director Schmitt outlined Special Use Permit #21-00-011-2763 for discussion.

Trustee Opsommer asked if this is a land lease agreement.

Nick Lutes representative of Bosch Architecture stated it will be a purchase.

Trustee Opsommer asked how to implement this with the service drives parallel to Grand River Rd.

Director Schmitt stated form-based codes and service drives are in opposition to each other and this would be something to look at going forward.

Clerk Guthrie thanked the applicant for working with the township's planners. She asked if one more accessible parking space could be added. She further asked how going forward with form-based code would affect current developers.

Director Schmitt replied that current developers are still adhering to existing codes.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if the Planning Commission took into account that form based code would go against with the township's goals for this area.

Director Schmitt replied they had.

Supervisor Styka asked if form based code drafts have been shown to applicants.

Director Schmitt replied no but there have been discussions on the topic.

Trustee Wisinski asked what components the Planning Commission took into account when meeting with the applicant.

Director Schmitt replied that parking was on the forefront of the Planning Commission's mind as well as keeping traffic in the back and side of the building.

Trustee Wisinski asked what would go against form-based code.

Director Schmitt replied having a frontage road for vehicle traffic.

Trustee Wisinski asked the applicant why they didn't put the drive through all the way to the front of the property.

Applicant's representative replied it was due to the drive through and access around the back of the building.

Trustee Opsommer stated he would like to keep the service drive consistent across Grand River Rd. He asked the dimensions of the front patio.

Applicant replied it's about 10 ft. from the front door to the curb, and about 20-25 ft. as it goes west.

Clerk Guthrie asked where the sign is going to be located.

The applicant was not able to give a complete answer at this time, but stated he would have an answer at the next meeting.

Clerk Guthrie asked what the traffic count is expected to be.

Applicant guessed about 50 cars a day.

Clerk Guthrie asked Director Perry if MDOT is looking at the traffic signal in that area.

Deputy Manager Perry stated if they are he is not aware of it.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:45 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:45 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine stated Tax bills were mailed last week. If you have not received your bill please call the Treasurer's office at 517.853.4140.

16. ~~CLOSED SESSION- Township Manager 2021 Performance Review- Motion to go into a closed session to discuss the Township Manager's annual performance review under MCL 15.268(a), based on the Township Manager's request for a closed meeting. (This motion requires a simple majority roll call vote.)~~

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK