

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, August 17, 2021 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka (Virtually Meridian Township), Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski (Virtually Meridian Township), Sundland

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Human Resources Director Tithof, Chief of Police Plaga

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. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Styka joined the meeting virtually due to health issues.

Trustee Wisinski joined the meeting virtually due to health issues.

4. PRESENTATION

A. 2021 Township Semi-Annual Report

Township Manager Walsh presented the Township Semi-Annual Report. The report included information on solar power installation, grant money for Meridian's recycling center, and electric cars. The Diversity Equity Inclusion plan is going forward under Human Resources Director Tithof. The Pine Village project is moving forward and he provided an update on the current status of the Village of Okemos. The road project is going forward with 18 miles of road being worked on. A survey on broadband is going out in September. Phase one and two of the Master Pathway Project will be completed in 2022. Old township signage is being replaced. The new website will be rolled out in October. Pension ARC for next year is 2.3 Million dollars. 5.2 Million is being recommended to contribute to pension plans in next year's budget. Budget review is in three weeks. Focus of budget is roads, public safety, Information Technology, redevelopment fund, and pension and legacy costs. Census reports show 11% growth in Meridian Township. The citizen survey will be back in 2 weeks. The Master Plan will be reviewed in 2022.

Manager Walsh discussed points of his report with members of the board.

During Discussion Supervisor Styka disconnected from the Zoom call.

Clerk Guthrie Moved to have Trustee Opsommer serve as supervisor pro tem until Supervisor Styka returns. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Styka Returned.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:28 pm

Lauri Lechler Dobie Road spoke about her property becoming a Bed and Breakfast.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:32 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT-NONE

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended August 5th attended economic development meeting
- Attended DEI training
- August 18th is the CATA board of directors meeting
- August 19th is the Brownfield redevelopment meeting
- Daniels drain meeting is 26th of August
- Spoke about Treasurer's Quarterly report
- Taxes are due September 14th

Clerk Guthrie

- August 16th attended Garden Club Award Ceremony
- Attended DEI training
- Attended De-escalation Training through Meridian Police Department
- Attending Communication Commission Meeting Wednesday August 25th
- CRC cancelled August and September Meeting
- Working with School Superintendents to finalize polling locations
- Spoke with Director Clark to get an understanding of SmartZone

Trustee Wisinski

- Attended DEI training
- Attended Groundwater Management Board Meeting on August 11th

- Meridian Chief Engineer Younes was elected secretary treasurer of Groundwater Management Board
- Attended Environmental Commission meeting August 11th
- Resolution to honor Rose Vadnais former Environmental Commission Vice Chair
- Election Commission meeting on August 26th

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of August 3, 2021 and August 9, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Set the Date for the 2022 Budget Hearing-September 7, 2021

Treasurer Deschaine Moved that a public hearing be held at 6:00 PM on September 7, 2021 for the purpose of taking comments regarding the 2022 Charter Township of Meridian's recommended budget. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Request to Purchase MERS Generic Credited Service

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the request from fire Lieutenant Paul Cullimore to purchase additional credited service as provided by the municipal Employees, Retirements System plan document. Lieutenant Cullimore is requesting to purchase one year's worth of service. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Quarterly Treasurer's Report-Phil Deschaine

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Meridian Township Treasurer Quarterly Board Report as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Rezoning #21050 (M & J Management), rezone an approximately 5 acre parcel located at 1999 Saginaw Highway, from C-2 (Commercial) to I (Industrial)-**Final Adoption**

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Rezoning #21050, an ordinance to rezone approximately five acres of land at 1999 Saginaw Highway from C-2, Commercial, to I, Industrial, for the following reasons:

The proposed rezoning to I, Industrial, is consistent with the land uses called for on the site in the 2017 Master Plan for Land Use adopted by the Township.

Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Rezoning #21030 (New China of Michigan), a request to rezone a 0.42 acre parcel at 5114 Jo Don Drive from RC, Multiple Family Residential (maximum 14 dwelling units per acre) to RCC, Multiple Family Residential (maximum 34 dwelling units per acre)-Final Adoption

Treasurer Deschaine Moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Rezoning #21030, an ordinance to rezone approximately an 0.42-acre parcel located at 5114 Jo Don Drive from RC, Multiple Family-maximum 14 dwelling units per acre, to RCC, Multiple Family-maximum 34 dwelling units per acre, with a condition. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Director Schmitt gave an outline of Rezoning #21030.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Environmental Commission Appointment

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the appointment of Valeria Lafferty to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2022. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Joint Township Board & Planning Commission Meeting Summary

Director Schmitt gave a summary of the joint meeting of the Township Board and Planning Commission.

Director Schmitt further discussed the joint meeting with the board.

B. MUPUD Ordinance Update

Director Schmitt outlined the MUPUD Ordinance Update.

Director Schmitt discussed the MUPUD Ordinance Update with the board.

Director Schmitt discussed the idea of an amenities scoring system with the board.

Director Schmitt discussed the idea of different zoned MUPUDs with the board.

Trustee Opsommer asked if township staff had spoken to the mall about their involvement in the MUPUD Ordinance update. Director Schmitt replied that he had not but that he would check with staff to see if they had and get back to him.

Trustee Opsommer and Director Schmitt discussed the amount of trips required before a traffic study would be required.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:41 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:41 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Wisinski reported that she was in attendance virtually due to COVID exposure.

Trustee Jackson stated she had misspoke on the Rezoning on Saginaw Highway. She stated earlier the Planning Commission recommended approval of rezoning. She believes the Planning Commission did not have a recommendation. Director Schmitt clarified that it was rezoning of Jo Don Drive that the Planning Commission had no recommendation on.

Trustee Opsommer noted that Chair Hendrickson of the Planning Commission referenced zoning requests for the Lake Lansing overlay district. The current setbacks are causing residents to request variances for construction that other nearby residents could do without variance. Director Schmitt stated that staff is already working on this issue.

Clerk Guthrie noted that she went to Music at the Marketplace. She commended Fire Chief Hamel for the outdoor warning siren coverage.

Supervisor Styka spoke about Temporary rentals and Bed and Breakfasts and mentioned asking staff about this kind of facility.

Trustee Jackson encouraged residents to return the Citizens Survey.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK