

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, March 1st, 2022 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski,

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works and Engineering
Opsommer, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director
Gebes, Chief of EMS in Training Priese, Multimedia Coordinator Diehl, Chief of Police
Plaga

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

All members are present except for Trustee Sundland.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of two new Firefighters/Paramedics

Chief of EMS in Training Priese presented Michael Webber to the board and spoke about Jared Gentner who could not attend the meeting.

Michael Webber stated he's happy to be here and to Serve Meridian Township.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:05 pm.

Scott Hendrickson, 4206 Graystone Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about the Planning Commission Annual Report.

Ernie Stuart, 612 Tisdale Lansing, MI spoke about an overgrowth of trees on his property.

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 6:16 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Assistant Manager Opsommer reported the Economic Development Corporation and board subcommittee met this morning to review and deliberate on the Village of Okemos LLC second request of the redevelopment fund. The sub-committee recommended an award up to \$1.25 million to the developer for infrastructure. The developer is seeking affirmation from the township on their stance so the developer may go to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The developer is seeking up to 10-11 million dollars from various mechanisms. The sub-committee stated it would entertain a third request from the developer in the future if a financing gap continues to exist.

The board convened and established the process to fill the trustee vacancies. Applications are due by Friday March 4th at 4 pm to HR Director Tithof. The board will meet March 8th to review applications and decide the finalists. The board will meet again at 5 pm on March 15th to select the Trustees.

There will be an internal meeting of various department heads with Michigan Department of Transportation to go over timelines on the M-43 project. Buddy's Pizza will be opening soon. Meridian Cares will be holding a fundraiser on March 15th at Culver's.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Tax collection is complete for the 2021 tax year
- Rejoined the Zoning Board of Appeals as of February 16th
- Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation, Village of Okemos Redevelopment Fund sub-committee met this morning with an ask of \$3.5 million, the sub-committee recommended \$1.25 million

Trustee Wisinski

- Thanked the Fire Department for delivering pączki to staff in honor of Supervisor Styka's well known tradition
- Environmental Commission Green Grant application window has closed and the commission will meet tomorrow in hopes of awarding the grant
- Groundwater Management has not met recently
- Election Commission met to determine voter districts based on redistricting within the township
- Appointed to the Land Preservation Advisory Board and her first meeting will be on March 9th

Clerk Guthrie

- Thanked the Firefighters for delivering pączki
- Attended Economic Development Corporation Special Meeting sub-committee this morning

- Attended Ingham County Michigan Township Association meeting last week where a presentation was given by the new director of the Ingham County Road Department on current road projects and briefly went over 2023 road projects
- Election Commission met to redraw lines for precinct 6 and 9 to eliminate multiple ballot styles, and split precinct 17 to reopen precinct 16 in an effort keep the population in each precinct under the legal limit
- Due to redistricting every voter in Meridian Township should expect to receive new voter ID cards
- Attended Friends of Okemos Library meeting, there will be a book sale on March 6th
- Attended today's Rotary meeting
- Attended Supervisor Styka's Funeral Service last Saturday

Supervisor Jackson

- Attended Ingham County Broadband Task Force Meeting on February 3rd where the county stated they have contracted with Merit Network to help assess access to high-speed broadband in the township, residents are encouraged to look for information on how to let the township know what kind of broadband they currently have access to

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson outlined the March 1st 2022 Township Board Agenda.

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

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Wisinski, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

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 Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski,
Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

B. Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting and February 22, 2022 Special Meeting

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting and February 22, 2022 Special Meeting as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski,
Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	150,144.49
Public Works	\$	482,337.67
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>156,807.12</u>
Total Checks	\$	789,289.28
Credit Card Transactions 02/10/2022 to 02/23/2022	\$	21,257.57
Total Purchases	\$	<u>810,546.85</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>537,278.27</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

D. Ratification of New Police Officer Appointment

Treasurer Deschaine move to ratify the appointment of Jack Akers to the position of police officer contingent upon successful completion of those items stipulated in the conditional offer of employment. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski,
Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

E. Planning Commission Annual Report

Treasurer Deschaine moved to accept the Planning Commission Annual report as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski,
Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY-NONE

11. HEARINGS-NONE

12. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Township Damage Assessment Plan

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Township Damage Assessment Plan.

Clerk Guthrie asked how this plan will be implemented across staff and departments.

Chief Plaga stated police, fire, and planning departments will be trained to work with the state and county.

Supervisor Jackson stated Chief Hamel stated this is part of a larger plan that will put them on the same page as the county.

Chief Plaga stated that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie moved to approve the damage assessment plan as annex c of the Township's Support Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski, Clerk
Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

B. Harkness Law Firm Contract

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Harkness Law Firm Contract.

Chief Plaga stated Mr. Harkness is very easy to work with.

Mr. Harkness stated the Meridian Police department have been great to work with and make his job quite easy.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to extend the current Harkness Law Firm contract, as presented from May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2025. The annual rate for service shall remain at \$80,000. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Clerk Guthrie stated she is in favor of Mr. Harkness continuing his contract with the township, but would like to pay him more in the future.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Wisinski, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

C. Ordinance 2022-01 – Fire Hydrant Hose Connection Standards – **Introduction**

Director Schmitt outlined Ordinance 2022-01 – Fire Hydrant Hose Connection Standards and clarified this ordinance would apply to everyone except single family homes.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving for Introduction Ordinance 2022-01, an ordinance to add fire hydrant hose connection standards in Chapter 26, Fire Prevention and Protection. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Wisinski
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

D. Resolution Celebrating Women's History Month

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the resolution celebrating Women's History Month. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there are any events planned in honor of Women's History Month.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated he was not aware of any at this time.

Clerk Guthrie stated she would like to see more concrete information about how women in Meridian Township have contributed to the Land Preservation Advisory Board, the Friends of Historic Meridian, and the Harris Nature Center.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Wisinski, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

E. Appointment to the East Lansing Meridian Water & Sewer Authority

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the Appointment to the East Lansing Meridian Water & Sewer Authority.

Supervisor Jackson asked who the citizen representatives on the ELMWSA board are.

Treasurer Deschaine stated one of the citizen members is Brad Brogan.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated James Eckland is the other citizen member.

Trustee Wisinski moved to appoint Dan Opsommer, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works and Engineering, to the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

F. Appointing Alternate 1 and 2 to the Groundwater Management Board

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined Appointing Alternate 1 and 2 to the Groundwater Management Board.

Clerk Guthrie moved to appoint Chief Engineer Younes Ishraidi as the Township's alternate 1 member of the Groundwater Management Board, and to appoint Dan Opsommer, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works and Engineering, as the Township's alternate 2 member of the Groundwater Management Board. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Wisinski
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit – 22-011 – The Meridian Company– Building greater than 25,000 square feet

Director Schmitt outlined Special Use Permit – 22-011.

Jim Phillipich 5823 Wood Valley Rd., Haslett, MI further outlined Special Use Permit – 22-011.

Treasurer Deschaine thanked Mr. Phillipich for investing in the township and asked what his plans for the building are.

Mr. Phillipich stated he will likely look into leasing the building to a single use entity and has no intention to sell.

Trustee Wisinski thanked Mr. Phillipich for his continued investments into Meridian Township. She asked what the storm water that will be diverted into the adjacent wetlands will be treated with.

Director Schmitt stated it could be a swirl concentrator or by natural means like a rain garden or discharged into a lawn and naturally filter through soil before reaching its destination.

Trustee Wisinski asked if there was a final plan to treat the storm water at this time.

Director Schmitt replied no, that is a site plan related detail that will be addressed.

Trustee Wisinski asked how many of the 30-40 trees planned for removal are significant.

Director Schmitt offered to follow up on that question for the next meeting.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the communication tower is leased.

Mr. Phillipich replied the tower lease is nearing the end of the 25 year lease, but he has no idea what will happen with that in the future.

Clerk Guthrie asked if there are any anticipated issues with the drain.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated no.

Director Schmitt stated the County Drain Commission has not done a full review of the proposal yet.

Clerk Guthrie asked if 104 parking spaces are necessary.

Director Schmitt replied staff has not looked into the issue yet, but they will not be over parked.

B. American Rescue Plan Funds

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the American Rescue Plan Funds for discussion. He stated the funds can be used for anything that falls under governmental services, the exception being debt services. He stated the township will likely have a study session in May to discuss which items will be pursued.

Clerk Guthrie stated it would be a good idea to contact broadband providers about a private partnership.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated he has a few providers in mind, with Comcast being the first to come to mind.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the information collected from directors will be conveyed to the board, and if he will be using the citizen survey for further information.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied yes.

Trustee Wisinski stated Assistant Manager Opsommer will probably need to collect more information to bring back to the board.

Assistant Manager Opsommer agreed and stated he hasn't had a chance to discuss this with all of the directors yet.

Trustee Wisinski asked if he had researched what other jurisdictions have done with their ARP funds.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated Delhi Township is investing almost all of their funds in water and sewer.

Trustee Wisinski asked if we know what the needs of the sewers currently are.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated he would like to have a good list by May.

Supervisor Jackson stated these are the kinds of projects we should be looking at, but not necessarily the projects that will go forward. She further stated that residents will have an opportunity to speak on American Rescue Plan fund spending as well.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 8:28 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 8:28 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

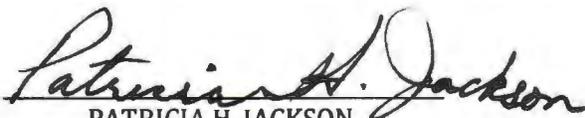
Treasurer Deschaine attended a road bond funding meeting to discuss the issuance of bonds in October this year and for the next three years. So far 4 million dollars' worth of bonds have been spent with a goal of the township reaching a Triple-A bond rating.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 4-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK