

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, January 21, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Economic Development Director Buck, Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Moment of Silence for the passing of Principal of Haslett High School, Bart Wegenke
- B. Resolution in Recognition of Ann Chapman, Haslett Library Head Librarian, retiring, honored for her 15 years of service.
- C. Special Recognition of Mark Kieselbach for his 40 years of service at Meridian Township.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:10 pm.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:10 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh spoke on the future site of the Market Place on the Green (Farmer's Market) to open in mid-late 2020, roads approved and ready for bidding, ladder truck from the 2017 Police and Fire mileage request, 2019 Annual Report.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Thanked Ann Chapman for her years of service.
- Transportation Commission meeting at the Central Fire Station, January 23, 2020, 6:00 pm. Public Meeting on the proposed "road diet" (lane reductions) for Jolly Road.
- Chinese New Year Celebration at Meridian Mall, January 26, 2020, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
- Taxes due Friday, February 14, 2020, 5:00 pm. Suggestion to mail two weeks ahead of time if using the US mail. Can sign up for online payment at no cost (if paying from bank account).
- Attended the Lansing Economic Chamber Forecast Luncheon January 9, 2020.
- Attended the Economic Development Corporation meeting January 9, 2020.
- Attended the Ribbon Cutting for new exercise equipment for the Meridian Senior Center on January 10, 2020.
- Attended the Michigan Municipal Treasurer Association Winter Conference on January 17, 2020.

Trustee Opsommer:

- Spoke on the CATA Collective Bargaining negotiations with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), and the CATA Board Retreat.

Clerk Dreyfus:

- Attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting on January 21, 2020. New Environmental Sustainability Planner, replacing Jeremy Orr.
- Early voting begins week of January 27, 2020, hours: 8 AM – 5 PM, Monday through Friday.
- Preparation for the March 10<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary election will include Training the Trainer from the Bureau of Elections on Jan 29.
- The new Director for the Bureau of the Elections is Jonathan Brater.
- Agreement with the Superintendent of Haslett to install a police officer in each of the three Haslett School District polling locations for the upcoming Presidential Primary.

Supervisor Styka:

- Meridian Township Financial Department received the highest achievement award for governmental accounting and financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- The Code Enforcement group meeting was on January 13, 2020.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

A. Communications

**Clerk Dreyfus 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 Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

B. January 07, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 07, 2020 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

C. Bills

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Common Cash		\$	761,014.71
Public Works		\$	16,210.47
Trust & Agency		\$	9,968,197.33
	<b>Total Checks</b>	\$	<b>10,745,422.51</b>
Credit Card Transactions		\$	17,689.82
Nov 14th - Nov 25th			
	<b>Total Purchases</b>	\$	<b><u>10,763,112.33</u></b>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>705,309.92</u>

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

D. Treasurer’s Report-Phil Deschaine

E. Celebrate Meridian Liquor License Resolution

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve the attached resolution supporting the application of a one-day liquor license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission For Sale of Beer and Wine at the Celebrate Meridian Festival on June 27, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

F. Charitable Gaming License-Red Cedar River Carvers Guild

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to approve a request from the Red Cedar River Carvers Guild of Meridian Township, Ingham County, asking that they be recognized as a Non-Profit organization operating in the community for the purposes of obtaining a gaming license for approval, and further that the Township Clerk be authorized to execute the resolution from the State of Michigan. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

G. Reappointment of Supervisor Pro-Term

**Clerk Dreyfus moved that the Board reappoint, through November 05, 2020, Trustee Dan Opsommer to act as President Pro-term at any meeting of the Township Board wherein the Supervisor is absent. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

H. Board Liaison Appointment to Environmental Commission

**Clerk Dreyfus moved to appoint Trustee Courtney Wisinski to serve as a Township Board Liaison to the Environmental Commission for a term ending November 05, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS (CANARY)

12. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)

A. ZBA Appointments

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka, effective January 01, 2020, of Don Kulhanek to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 Year Term Ending 12/31/2022 and Brian Shorkey for a 1 Year Term as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a 1 Year Term Ending 12/31/2020. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

B. Planning Commission Appointment

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the appointment made by Supervisor Styka of Bill McConnell to the Planning Commission for a 1 Year Term Ending December 31, 2020. Seconded by Clerk Dreyfus.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

C. Rezoning #19090 (Planning Commission) Hagadorn Road – **Introduction**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution to approve Rezoning #19090 to rezone 2.2 acres addressed as 4036, 4038, 4046, 4108, and 4118 Hagadorn Road from RP (Research Park) to RAA (Single Family-Low Density). Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Board discussion: Rezoning was necessary to match the zoning initiated at the corner of Marsh and Lake Lansing, original zoning was from a “bygone era” when land was designated for a research park, zoning now

reflects the 425 agreement with Lansing, small row of single-family lots facing Hagadorn remaining, board member offered support as long as there is no high-density MUPUD scenario in the future that comes before the Board, zoning allows property owners to be in compliance with single-family when maintenance is required – but cannot add height or area.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

D. Support Emergency Operations Plan Update

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the updated Support Emergency Operations Plan, direct the named parties to sign the plan, and adopt the resolution to appoint the Ingham County Emergency Management Coordinator as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Board discussion: Chief Hamel, Chief Plaga, and Sergeant Besonen updated the Support Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), resolution with an up-to-date plan with the name of the county as the Agency for Meridian Township, required to acquire certain state and federal assistance, municipalities can declare local emergency through damage assessments, can qualify for reimbursements for overtime, equipment, etc. from the State under Section 19, residents can apply for low-interest disaster loans, federal team support such as Urban Search and Rescue (US&R), Hazmat, and Disaster Mortuary Operation (DMORT) teams available to municipalities without a declaration.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

E. Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area Donation

**Trustee Opsommer moved to accept with gratitude donation of 31.9 acres of Open Space from Dr. Maureen Sander Property Number 33-02-02-27-177-007 and ratify the December 31, 2019 executed donation agreement. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

Parks and Recreation Director Maisner spoke on the request to ratify the donation agreement between Dr. Maureen Sander and Meridian Township.

Board discussion: easement agreement, donation part of Township Parks and not Land Preservation Program, paved trail connector was approved through the northern part of the pathway adjacent to the Tacoma Hills neighborhood.

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)- NONE

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 6:41 pm.

Sima Pavar, 5697 Edson St., Haslett, MI; spoke in support of the recognition of Ann Chapman.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 6:42 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Wisinski:

- Member Mansour has been appointed as the new Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, replacing Chair Beauchine whom has retired.

16. CLOSED SESSION – Township Manager Performance Review

**Supervisor Styka moved to go into closed session for purposes of the Township Manager’s contract review at his request pursuant to subsection 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 – 0

Supervisor Styka moved the meeting into closed session at 6:45 pm.

**Supervisor Styka moved to return the meeting to open session. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 – 0

Supervisor Styka moved the meeting back into open session at 7:58 pm.

17. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS (ORCHID)

A. Township Manager Contract

Board discussion: 3 year rolling contract request, increase in salary from \$130,000/year to \$132,600, increase the number of consulting search services offered outside of work by the Manager from four (4) to six (6).

Question about Township Manager ability to run consulting business outside of regular work week involving 6 recruitment searches per year, Township Manager responded he has a partner to help, board member comments that they have not seen any problems with current 4 recruitment searches per year, Township Manager must notify the Supervisor when embarking on a search, several board member comments on salary level and comparisons with other communities and opinion that Manager is not paid enough compared to others, board member comment to consider all forms of compensation when making salary comparisons as municipalities offer different types of compensation such as Meridian Township's automobile allowance offered in the contract, not appropriate to compare only salaries because total compensation is more than salary, board member belief that Manager compensation is much higher due to permission for Manager to manage consulting and recruitment business which other municipalities might not allow, opinion that it is premature discussing salary increases based on speculation on unknown future plans of Manager, concern about future boards skimping on this position and making a poor hire, board member view that compensation of the Township Manager reflects the level of service provided, Manager stated he would like the contract voted on this evening.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to suspend our rules so we can take the Manager's revised contract up for consideration this evening. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 - 0

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve extending the Township Manager's Contract for one year, changing (the previous contract) from four to six major searches, and raising the salary from \$130,000 to \$132,600. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS:

Motion carried: 6 - 0

18. ADJOURNMENT

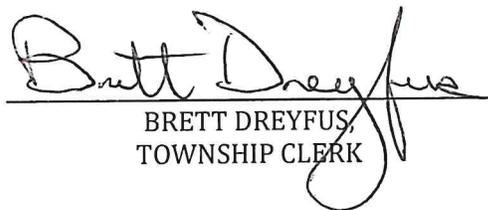
**Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried: 6 - 0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.**

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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



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BRETT DREYFUS,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK