

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: Supervisor Jackson

STAFF: Chief Grillo, Manager Walsh, Director Schmitt, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Chief Hamel, Officer Short

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson called the April 2, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. New Police Officer Introductions

Chief Grillo presented new Officer Dustin Short who attended Police Academy at Northern Michigan.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:04 pm.

Supervisor Pro-Tem Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:04 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh gave updates about the following:

- Good progress on Police hiring
- Improvements to Marshall Park are taking place
- Haslett Village Square TIF changes will be forthcoming

- Village of Okemos will be before the Planning Commission, then the Board on May 9th
- Silverleaf Development is getting underway
- Trader Joes is on schedule
- 2023 Audit begins this week
- Will celebrate Administrative Professionals next week
- CAMTV equipment will be replaced in the next two weeks
- Township Survey questions are being compiled
- Recognized employee anniversaries

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson updated the board on the Community & Senior Center task force activities.

Trustee Trezise updated the board on the actions of the Environmental Commission.

Treasurer Deschaine noted that the Parks Community Service day will be April 27.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson announced that a last-minute agenda item was added: 9.J Charitable Gaming License-Hiawatha Elementary PTO and asked the board to review it if they had not already done so.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Ordinance 2024-03 – Planning Commission Membership – FINAL ADOPTION

Director Schmitt outlined the discussion that has occurred to this date regarding this Ordinance change.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt Text Amendment 2024-03, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 2-287 to change the number of Planning Commission members from nine to seven. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

B. 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Resolution #5

Deputy Manager Opsommer reviewed the discussions and hearings that have already taken place regarding this Resolution.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #20 Resolution #5, which adopts the Special Assessment Roll; designates the project as “2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District # 20”; adopts the Assessment Roll as the “2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District No. 20 Special Assessment Roll”; adopts the District as “2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District # 20”; adopts the amount of \$50,227.52 as the final amount for the Assessment Roll; and orders and directs the Assessment Roll to be paid and collected. Supported By Clerk Guthrie.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Unruh Drain Conversion – Chapter 20 to Chapter 3/4

Deputy Manager Opsommer outlined the reasoning behind changing the drain from Chapter 20 to Chapter 3/4 and gave details about the differences between Chapter 20 and Chapter 3/4 drains.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the Resolution authorizing Ch. 3 application for Unruh Drain Drainage District and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Application for laying out and designating a Drainage District and the Petition for locating, establishing, and constructing a Drain. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Fire Apparatus

Chief Hamel explained financing for the apparatus and recommended waiting until fall to finance because the vehicle cannot be received until then. Manager Walsh outlined use of the Motor Pool fund to pay a portion of the cost for the fire apparatus. Clerk Guthrie asked if there would be funds recouped from the cost of the malfunctioning vehicle. Chief Hamel stated that there are many variables, and the determination won't be made until after litigation is complete.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize the Township Manager to sign the appropriate documents for the purchase of Suthpen Corporation's G9 Program 1 Pumper. Further, the Township Board appropriates \$200,000 from the Motor Pool Fund as a future down payment to reduce the overall interest rate exposure. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Policy Review Working Group

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson outlined the need for a Policy Review Working Group.

Trustee Wilson moved to establish the Policy Review Working Group consisting of two Township Board Members, the Township Manager (or their representative), the Human Resources Director, and a relevant rotating Departmental Director, based on the Policy to be updated. The Working Group will recommend new and revised policies to the Township Board for final approval. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Wilson moved to appoint Trustee Peter Trezise and Clerk Deborah Guthrie to be the Board's representatives on the Policy Review Working Group. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

F. Recreational Marijuana License Applications in Zones 1 & 5

1. Zone 1 application – Haslett Gallery

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the previous discussion regarding this application. The Planning Department looked into the Board's questions from the previous meeting and reported that the lease is valid and that the number of shareholders was a typographical error, that there are only two shareholders at this time. Inspections and code requirements have been met and the applicant is following the permitting process.

Trustee Sundland moved to adopt the Resolution granting CONDITIONAL APPROVAL of the Recreational Marijuana License Application to Haslett Gallery, LLC for the proposed marijuana retailer location at 2119 Haslett Rd, Suite A. The property is zoned C-1 Commercial and is located within the Marijuana Facilities Overly District. Seconded by Trustee Trezise

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

2. Zone 5 application – SANDDS Meridian

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the previous discussion regarding this application.

Clerk Guthrie moved to adopt the Resolution granting CONDITIONAL APPROVAL of the Recreational Marijuana License Application to SANDDS Meridian LLC for the proposed marijuana retailer location at 3520 Okemos Road, Suites 9 and 10. The property is zoned C-2 Commercial and is located within the Marijuana Facilities Overly District. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Recreational Marijuana License Applications in Zone 4

Anderson Grandstaff, counsel to the Applicant, Okemos Local Investments, presented information to answer the Board's questions regarding the application.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 7:31 pm

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:31 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:32 pm the board moved to enter Closed Session

Treasurer Deschaine moved to go into a closed session to discuss a personnel issue under MCL 15.268(1)(a). Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 11:15 pm Open Session resumed.

Supervisor Pro Tem stated that the Board and the Manager have agreed that given the lateness of the hour and the importance of the discussion at hand, the Board has decided to recess until 6:00 pm April 17, 2024 with the intention of re-entering closed session to complete the discussion. Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson asked the board if there were any opposed to recess. No opposition was voiced. The board recessed at 11:16 pm.

At 6:00 pm the April 16, 2024 Township Board Meeting resumed.

Trustee Wilson moved to reconvene from recess to go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue under MCL 15.268(1)(a). Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

**ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie,
Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee
Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 7:22 pm Open Session resumed.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to direct counsel to work with Trustee Sundland and Trustee Trezise to negotiate a resignation agreement and consultation agreement with Frank Walsh. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

**ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie,
Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee
Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson made a brief statement. "We are grateful for our employees' and the public's patience with regard to the time we have spent to consider the matters before us. We appreciate the manager's service to the Township and his service to our residents. The decision to move forward in this way was reached on a mutual basis and we appreciate Mr. Walsh's professionalism and willingness to put the Township first. We believe that the actions taken here and over the next several weeks represent the best possible solution for the Township, our employees, and our residents."

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.

**VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Pro Tem Hendrickson, Clerk Guthrie,
Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee
Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.



Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk