

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.349.1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020 **6:00 pm.**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark, Communications Manager Yates, Principal Planner Menser

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. ROLL CALL
Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.
4. PRESENTATIONS
 - A. 2021 Action Plan Work Groups

Township Manager Walsh presented the proposed 2021 Action Plan Work Group Assignments. These work groups will assist staff in achieving the Township Board's goals. The plan is to have the work groups give a three-five minute report every two months at a board meeting. The plan offers transparency, communication and accountability.

Discussion:

- This is an opportunity to offer input on the Board's vision and give direction toward achieving each goal
- This is a new approach to assist the Board at their work or study sessions
- Support using work groups to work through the goals
- Work groups can assist with narrowing down the scope of work required to accomplish the Township's goals
- Work Group Additions: Group B: Sustainability Plan/Supervisor Styka; Group D: Redevelopment in Okemos and Haslett/Trustee Jackson; Group G: MSU/Lake Lansing Pathway/Trustee Opsommer; Group J: Pension Payments/Clerk Guthrie

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:16 pm

David Pierson, 1142 S Washington, Lansing, spoke in support of applicant's request and conditions offered for Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC).

David Straub, 1650 Tendale Blvd., East Lansing, representing Mayberry Homes, stated he was available to answer questions on agenda item #12B Powell Road Paving Public Road Improvement SAD- Resolutions 1 and 2.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:20 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported

- Congratulated Sergeant Chris Lofton on graduating from Staff and Command School at MSU
- Chief Plaga is overseeing the first night of the enhanced DNR approved deer cull
- The Joint Board and Commissions Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, at 6 pm and will be held virtually
- The annual report will be available on January 29
- Work on the Village of Okemos project is progressing with demolition of buildings
- The Winter Farmers Market is being held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 11 am – 2 pm and staff is considering expanding to the first and third Saturdays of the month
- Congratulations of 41 years of service to Mark Kieselbach

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine:

- Attended December 7th Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting with Trustee Sundland
- Attended December 8th Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) meeting
- The Grub Hub promotion the EDC had contributed to sold out right away
- The Township Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 10 am – 3 pm. It will be held virtually and the public is invited to attend. Larry Merrill, former President of the Michigan Township Association, will be leading the event
- Reviewed the Quarterly Treasurer's Report, Agenda Item #9F

Trustee Sundland:

- Attended EDC meeting on December 7. Members discussed annual goals, Meridian Township Small Business Relief Grant Program and the MABA Business Awards

Clerk Guthrie:

- This Thursday, the Clerk's Office will be conducting a Risk Limiting Audit. The State Bureau of Elections randomly selected Clerks' Offices around the State to conduct this audit as part of their post-election audit process. The audit will be conducted live through the assistance of HOMTV and is anticipated to take two-three hours
- Attended the Okemos Library Board Meeting and it was reported that half of the residents in the Township have library cards and the Okemos branch has the highest circulation of all the CADL libraries
- Attended the Community Resources Commission meeting

Trustee Wisinski:

- Attended the Environmental Commission Meeting on January 6. Commissioners reviewed 2021 goals and green grants for schools. They are working to achieve the Tree City USA designation, on implementing the Climate Action Plan and on environmental justice issues and/or concerns in the Township. Commissioners attended a recycling tour and offered ideas for improvements on the Township's recycling site

Trustee Opsommer:

- Land Preservation Advisory Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings were canceled for the month
- Thanked Will Randle, Pat Smith and the Village of Okemos Development Team for their clean-up efforts in the downtown Okemos area. He thanked the Okemos Downtown Development Authority and Township Board for the public funding and staff for their work toward this first step on the site clean up

Supervisor Styka

- Several Board Members attended the forum on the Village of Okemos development on January 7 and it has received positive feedback

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Sundland move to approve the agenda with the removal of Agenda Item #13A, Commercial Planned Unit Development 320-13034 (Meridian Mall Limited Partnership. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

Trustee Jackson move 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: Trustees Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Jackson, Treasurer
Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – Virtual Regular Meeting; and December 18, 2021 Virtual Special Meeting

Trustee Jackson move to approve and ratify the minutes of the January 5, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Trustee Jackson move to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

Common Cash	\$	437,651.61
Public Works	\$	282,375.97
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>1,222,105.39</u>
Total Checks	\$	1,942,132.97
Credit Card Transactions	\$	13,163.19
12/0224/2020-1/13/2021		
Total Purchases	\$	<u>1,955,296.16</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>949,532.03</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Set a Virtual Board Study Session Date for Recreational Marihuana on February 16, 2021

Trustee Jackson move to approve that the Township Board hold a virtual Board Study Session for Recreational Marihuana on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Set a Virtual Special Board Meeting Date for February 23, 2021

Trustee Jackson move to approve that the Township Board change their regularly scheduled February 16 meeting to a virtual Special Township Board meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6 pm in order to conduct a study session on recreational marihuana on February 16, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Trustee Jackson move to accept the Quarterly Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY - NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC) rezone 31.63 acres east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre)

Trustee Opsommer move to approve to adopt the resolution approving the introduction Rezoning #20050 to rezone approximately 31.63 acres located east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre) with conditions. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

Discussion:

- Applicant offered two additional conditions: a two year time limit for the approval process and the approval would remain with the current property owner
- Support this type of project and it is consistent with the Master Plan
- Attention will need to be given to the wetlands and retention areas
- Support condition that the eastern 11 acres of the site be developed as detached single family residential units
- Concerned with the density and resulting impact on the water features
- Asked staff to discuss this proposed project with the Ingham County Road Department to address the road buffer concerns along Powell Road and the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office on the wetland and drainage issues

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

NAYS: Clerk Guthrie

Motion carried: 6-1

B. Powell Road Paving Public Road Improvement SAD-Resolutions #1 & #2

Deputy Manager Perry summarized the proposed project.

Treasurer Deschaine move to approve Powell Road Public Road Improvement Special Assessment District No. 43 Resolution No. 1, accepting the petition and ordering plans and an estimate of costs to be prepared; and move to tentatively approve Powell Road Public Road Improvement District No. 43 Resolution No. 2, tentatively declaring the Township Board's intention to make the public road improvements: grade, gravel and pave Powell Road, from the northern extent of the Silverstone Estates plat southward to Grand River; and sets the Public Hearing for February 16, 2021 for the purpose of hearing objections to the petition, the improvement and the special assessment district of Powell Road Public Road Improvements District No. 43. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

Discussion:

- Requested the public hearing date be changed from February 16 to February 23. The Maker and Supporter of the motion agree with the change to the motion
- The road will have a rural road profile except near the Silverstone Estates development
- One specific tree was discussed as it pertains to the proposed road improvement and it is the goal of the Township to save as many trees as possible.
- If a hardship arises due to the special assessment and/or tax payments, there is a process in place to assist residents with payment issues with both the Township and the County

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Non-Discrimination and Fair Employment Practices Policy

Trustee Wisinski move to adopt the proposed Non-Discrimination and Fair Employment Practices Policy. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer

Discussion:

- This will give applicants an opportunity to get through the first phase in the application process

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Meridian Township Small Business Grant Relief Program

Trustee Sundland move to adopt the Meridian Township Small Business Grant Relief Program Awardees, at attached. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

Discussion:

- The Small Business Grant Relief Program was reviewed by the EDC
- Economic Development and Neighborhoods Director Clark summarized the grant program
- The committee reviewed each application individually and prudent decisions were made on the awards
- Thanked the committee members for their service

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #20050 (DTN 2013 LLC) rezone 31.63 acres east of Central Park Drive and north of Grand River Avenue from RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to RD (Multiple Family-maximum eight units per acre)

This item was removed from the agenda

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 7:30 pm.

None

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 7:31 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka stated he and his wife received the first COVID vaccine dosage today and has not received any ill effects and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated

Trustee Jackson stated her husband had received the first COVID vaccine dosage today and has not experienced any discomfort, and encourage everyone to be vaccinated.

Treasurer Deschaine reported the Township has received a national award in Newsweek Magazine naming Okemos, Michigan as the best small town in which to live.

Trustee Opsommer stated his wife is a health care worker and will be receiving her second dosage soon. He encouraged everyone to submit their request to be vaccinated.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wisinski move to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

DEBORAH GUTHRIE,
TOWNSHIP CLERK