

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, JUNE 15, 2021; 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 Schmitt, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development Director Clark, Police Captain Grillo, IT Director Gebes

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. MERS, Retiree Health Care and Township Pension Fund 2020 Valuation Reports –

Township Manager Walsh gave a detailed presentation on the current funding levels for the Township's staff retirement funds.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:25 pm

Steven Vagnozzi, 2144 Woodfield Rd. Okemos, spoke in support of the resolution for increased Amtrak funding

Dr. Shereen Tabrizi, 3917 Sheldrake Ave, Owner of 3566 Kansas Rd. spoke in opposition to Sparrow rezoning

John Faichney, 3917 Sheldrake Ave, Owner of 3566 Kansas Rd. spoke in opposition to Sparrow rezoning

Donna Old, 104 Cornell Road, Chair of Ebersole Foundation stated they are planning to hold a raffle on September 26<sup>th</sup> to build a pavilion and amphitheater. She asked the Board to support the Charitable Gaming License

Aubury Holmes, 34 Broadstreet, Charleston, South Carolina, representing Okemos IL-AL Investors, LLC, stated she is available to answer questions about site plans during the meeting

Steve Freemire, 3622 Kansas Rd, spoke in opposition to Sparrow rezoning

Dr. Sondos Al-Hachim, 3589 Kansas Rd, spoke in opposition to Sparrow rezoning

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 7:16 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh had nothing further to report and referred back to his retirement fund presentation.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wisinski;

- Attended Groundwater Management Board Meeting where a letter of support for funding updates to the Michigan Geological Survey has been submitted with a grant to update the Geological Survey's research, data collection, model development and water conservation.
- The Environmental Commission is moving forward with Green Grants with Radmoor Montessori and Haslett Middle School. They are reviewing the Wetland Ordinance looking for any needed revisions.
- Thanked Meridian's school boards, teacher and educators for all the hard work they put in during a challenging year.

Trustee Opsommer:

- Stated one of the items on Consent Agenda is scheduling of a public meeting for Pathway Master Plan 5 Year Update.

Treasurer Deschaine

- Commended Trustee Wisinski for recognizing the hard work of the community's teachers, and commended the community's teachers himself as he saw firsthand the effort they put forward this last year.
- Attended the Economic Development Corporation (EDC )Meeting with Trustee Sundland where the main order of business was the Small Business of the Year Awards.
- Attended Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Meeting and received the Village of Okemos update.

Trustee Sundland

- Attended EDC meeting, and reported a LEAP art grant proposal is being worked on.
- Thanked the community's teachers and took note of signs honoring this year's graduating students around the community

Clerk Guthrie

- Reported that the May Special School Election Audit took place. It was reported that the November Election Audit showed 15 discrepancies, while this May Election only showed one minor discrepancy. Supervisor Styka stated that this was Clerk Guthrie's first audit and that the

November Election had been carried out under the previous Clerk.

Supervisor Styka

- Attended the latest DDA Meeting. Supervisor Styka mentioned a formal request to give the DDA relief for the loan for streetlight installation in the downtown area.
- Attended meeting with representatives of Corridor Improvement Authority and Michigan Department of Transportation concerning Grand River Avenue and received an update on the project.

Township Manager Walsh introduced Captain Rick Grillo who has been recently promoted to captain of Meridian Police Department.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the revised agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2021 and June 1, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the May 18, 2021 and June 1, 2021 Virtual Regular Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

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

<b>Common Cash</b>		\$	<b>347,814.80</b>
<b>Public Works</b>		\$	<b>609,424.56</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>		\$	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Total Checks</b>	\$	<b>957,239.36</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>		\$	<b>12,571.26</b>
<b>05.27.2021 – 06.09.2021</b>			
	<b>Total Purchases</b>	\$	<b>989,810.62</b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>		\$	<b>792,245.13</b>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Pathway Master Plan 5-Year Update – Set Public Hearing

**Trustee Jackson moved to schedule a public hearing for the Township’s regularly scheduled meeting on July 13, 2021 to review the draft Pathway Master Plan update and hear comments regarding additions and/or deletions from the plan. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Set a Date for Board Study Session – June 30, 2021

**Trustee Jackson moved to schedule a Township Board Study Session on June 30, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Change Regular Board Meeting Date of August 5, 2021

**Trustee Jackson moved to change the originally scheduled Township Board meeting date of Thursday, August 5 to Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Charitable Gaming License-Ebersole Foundation

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve a request from the Ebersole Foundation 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 Treasurer Deschaine.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS - NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

**A. Rezoning #21020 (Martin Investment Properties, Inc.) rezone approximately six acres on the north side of Jolly Road and east of Kansas Road from I (Industrial) and RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional Office) – Final Adoption**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adopt the resolution approving for final adoption Rezoning #21010, an ordinance to rezone approximately six acres of land located on the north side of Jolly, east of Kansas Road, from I (Industrial) and RA (Single Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional Office) with the following conditions:**

- **The proposed rezoning and the conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant ensures that the development of the site will be consistent with Goal 3 and Goal 7 of the Township's Master Plan**
- **The conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant will limit the potential impacts of the development on the surrounding residential properties while allowing for commercial development to continue in the Jolly Road corridor, consistent with the Future Land Use Map.**

**Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

The Board discussed the Rezoning Resolution before voting on it.

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

NAYS: Trustee Jackson, Clerk Guthrie

Motion carried: 5-2

#### **B. Resolution in Recognition and Celebration of Juneteenth**

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the resolution in Recognition and Celebration of Juneteenth. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### **C. Resolution for a Traffic Speed Study**

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution to authorize Michigan State Police (MSP) to conduct a speed study and safety audit on Mount Hope Road and advise the Board of their results. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### **D. Lake Lansing Advisory Committee Appointment**

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Roger Taylor of 6089 E Lake Drive, Haslett, MI, as a Tier 1 representative to the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee for a term ending April 30, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### **E. Review of the Meridian Township Investment Policy**

**Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the Meridian Township Investment Policy and resolution. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

#### **F. Amtrak Corridor Development Program Resolution**

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the Amtrak Corridor Development Program resolution. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

### **13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. Rezoning #21040 (Okemos IL-AL Investors, LLC) rezone approximately 9.07 acres located at 1510 and 1560 Grand River Avenue from C-2 (Commercial) to RA (Single Family-Medium Density)**

Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt outlined the proposed rezoning request

Aubrey Holmes, Senior Development Manager; Lynn Bishop Senior Vice President Development and Construction; and Michele Sons Development Manager, Smith/Packett Med-Com LLC, 34 Broadstreet, Charlestown, South Carolina, representing Okemos IL-AL Investors LLC, outlined their aging in place senior facility.

Development Director Schmitt said that he would discuss the potential rezoning further with the applicant and would update the board on whether or not the matter will be discussed again at a later meeting.

**B. Downtown Development Authority Loan Forgiveness**

Economic Development Director Clark gave a report on the current loan held by the Downtown Development Authority, and asked the Board to consider the DDA's request for loan forgiveness.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to suspend the rules in order to take action on this item at tonight's meeting. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the granting of \$124,500 to the Downtown Development Authority, as forgiveness of the loan to the General Fund and authorize the termination of the loan agreement between Meridian Charter Township and the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

**C. Citizen's Survey Draft**

Economic Development Director Clark outlined the Citizen's Survey draft

The Township Board offered changes and clarifications on the survey

Board consensus to place this item on the next Board meeting agenda

**14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 10:17 pm.

None

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 10:18 pm.



15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 10:18 pm.**



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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



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DEBORAH GUTHRIE,  
TOWNSHIP CLERK