

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
WEDNESDAY, July 13, 2021 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka (arrived 6:02 pm), Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development Director Clark, IT Director Gebes, Chief of Police Plaga

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Clerk Guthrie called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Trustee Jackson moved to have Trustee Opsommer serve as Supervisor Pro Tem. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: None

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

Trustee Wisinski is present virtually in Drummond Township.

Supervisor Styka is present virtually in Meridian Township.

4. PRESENTATION - NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer opened public remarks at 6:03 pm

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Dr. spoke in support of including a question about the sale of recreational marijuana in Meridian Township on the Citizen's Survey

John Covell, 6156 E Lake Dr. spoke against allowing recreational marijuana sales in Meridian Township.

Kevin Schoen 6102 Columbia spoke about his broadband internet business, ACD.net, and spoke in support of recreational marijuana facilities.

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer closed public remarks at 6:10 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh outlined the solar project at the service center complex. He spoke about the annual picnic, stating all non-emergency operations will close at noon on July 14th. He mentioned two of Meridian's retirement funds are fully funded. He spoke about an error in billing that led to a resident's bill going to collection and apologized to the resident for the misunderstanding. Manager Walsh wished David Lee well as his last day is this Friday.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Summer tax bills have been mailed out and are due September 14th
- Deputy Treasurer Marry Ann Groop has retired
- Attended the Ingham County Chapter Association meeting

- Trustee Jackson
- Attended the Ingham County MTA meeting and the July 12 DDA meeting

- Trustee Wisinski
- Environmental Commission is reviewing the wetland ordinance
- The Diversity Equity Inclusion Program is moving forward with help from Director Tithof

- Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer
- Expressed disappointment on latest updates on the Downtown Okemos Project

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer reviewed the consent agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

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 Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2021 and June 30, 2021

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of June 15, 2021 and June 30, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	650,575.08
Public Works	\$	67,665.63
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>28,094.88</u>
Total Checks	\$	746,335.59

Credit Card Transactions	\$ 22,804.79
06.10.2021 – 07.06.2021	
Total Purchases	\$ <u>769,140.38</u>
ACH Payments	\$ <u>1,308.104.51</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Pathway Master Plan Update

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer called the public hearing to order at 6:22 pm.

Public Works Director Derek Perry outlined the Pathway Master Plan.

Opened public remark at 6:27 pm.

NONE

Public remark closed at 6:27 pm.

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen’s Survey Draft

Director Clark outlined the current plan for the Citizen’s Survey Draft.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the drafted survey and instruct Meridian Township staff to proceed with Cobalt Community research. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Jackson offered an amendment to adopt the Citizen’s Survey Draft as is minus question 34. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

Trustee Wisinski explained question 34 may appear on a ballot in November and that’s a better way to find out people’s opinion.

Supervisor Styka stated he felt question 34 is appropriate.

Treasurer Deschaine stated a better idea is to rewrite question 34, and it should be left in.

Clerk Guthrie concurred with Treasurer Deschaine.

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer explained he believes the wording of the question could be misleading.

Treasurer Deschaine disagreed.

Trustee Jackson stated the question has disrupted the original intent of the survey.

Supervisor Styka stated he believes the question is valid.

Trustee Sundland expressed disappointment about so much focus on one question, she stated the survey should be community focused and not political.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

Motion carried: 4-3

Town Manager Walsh explained the Board has approved questions similar in the past.

Treasurer Deschaine stated he disagrees with removing the question.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to table the Citizen's Survey Draft. There was no second to the motion.

Supervisor Styka called the Question.

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

NAYS: Treasurer Deschaine

Motion carried: 6-1

B. Daniels Drain-Full Disclosure Certificate

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the Daniels Drain-Full Disclosure Certificate.

Supervisor Styka moved to approve and execute the Resolution to Authorize Official Statement and Continuing Disclosure Certificate for Daniels Drain Drainage District Bonds as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Supervisor moved to adopt the drafted survey and instruct Meridian Township staff to proceed with Cobalt Community research as amended. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: Treasurer Deschaine

Motion carried: 6-1

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Pathway Master Plan Update

The Board discussed the Pathway Master Plan Update with Deputy Manager Perry. Clerk Guthrie asked what happens when the 425 agreements expire. Deputy Manager Perry explained each one is different and you would have to look at the specific language pertaining to each pathway.

B. SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority

Director Clark offered an update on the SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority and introduced Joe Carr Vice President, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Team at Lansing Economic Area Partnership to the Board to answer questions.

The Board discussed SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority with Director Clark and Joe Carr.

Treasurer Deschaine stated he believes the item should come back to the board for discussion.

C. Police Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic COVID-19 Appreciation Pay

Manager Walsh outlined and discussed Police Officer, Firefighter and Paramedic COVID-19 Appreciation Pay with Board Members.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the rules and vote to adopt the Police Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic COVID-19 Appreciation Pay. Seconded by Jackson.

Supervisor Styka was not present at this time due to connection issues and did not vote on the following motions.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Police Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic COVID-19 Appreciation Pay. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Paramedic School Sponsorship

Fire Chief Hamel outlined and discussed the Paramedic School Sponsorship with the Board.

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer asked how many of the students who attend classes go on to serve as Firefighter/Paramedics.

Manager Walsh stated this should come back before the Board before final adoption.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer Opened Public Remarks at 8:33 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Pro Tem Opsommer Closed Public Remarks at 8:33 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka stated he supported the Police Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic COVID-19 Appreciation Pay.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Jackson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK