

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Zoom Meeting
THURSDAY, August 26, 2021 **5:30 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Opsommer,
Wisinski, Sundland, Jackson(Arrived 5:40 PM)

ABSENT:

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, IT Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Sundland and Trustee Wisinski are attending the meeting virtually on Zoom in Meridian Township.

Trustee Opsommer is attending virtually from the City of Lansing.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 5:36 pm

Gerry Richards, 3986 E Sunwind Dr., Okemos, spoke in support of holding the election in November 2nd, 2021 or August 2nd, 2022.

Lynn Page, 3912 Raleigh Dr., Okemos, spoke in support of holding the election in November 2nd, or the next scheduled regular election.

Joan Wierzba, 1268 Harbor Cut, Okemos, spoke in support of holding the election.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 5:42 pm

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

6. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Proposed Date For The Recreational Marihuana Election

Supervisor Styka explained that Michigan Law prohibits voting to opt out of recreational marihuana during a special election, and asked Attorney Matthew Kuschel to explain further.

Matthew Kuschel, Township Attorney, further explained that a 13th Circuit Court Judge ruled against holding a similar election in Grand Traverse County, due to the ballot initiative appearing during a Special Election. The ruling also found the ballot initiative would appear on ballots at the next scheduled Regular Election. Kuschel went on to explain the issue was not with the validity of the petition, only the date of the election.

Trustee Jackson arrived in the zoom call, but due to poor connection was not able to vote or speak.

Trustee Sundland moved to rescind the resolution putting the ballot language prohibiting adult use marijuana establishments on the November 2nd, 2021 election and moved to direct the Clerk to place that ballot language on the next regular election. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 5:53 pm.

Lynn Page, 3912 Raleigh Dr., Okemos, thanked the Township for recognizing the validity of the petition and asked the Township Board to include documents that support the decision made today in the next board meeting packet for the public to see.

Manager Walsh explained the single document uploaded to the board packet is the only physical item the board had and that communication on this issue before the meeting was verbal.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 5:56 pm.

8. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine thanked citizens who wrote the board on this issue.

Supervisor Styka clarified that since no other language would be on the November ballot it would be considered a special election which is what makes holding the election in November invalid.

Manager Walsh thanked Clerk Guthrie for her work on this election, and the board for making themselves available on short notice to handle this situation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

RONALD J. STYKA,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK