

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
SPECIAL MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, March 8th, 2022 **4:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

ABSENT: Clerk Guthrie

STAFF: Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works and Engineering
Opsommer, IT Director Gebes, HR Director Tithof, Clerk's Assistant Zachary
Lemaster

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Assistant Zachary Lemaster called the roll of the board. All members present except
Clerk Guthrie.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 4:00 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 4:00 pm.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the March 8th 2022 Township Board Agenda.

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

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wisinski,
Sundland
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

6. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Modify Township Board Schedule

Township Manager Walsh outlined Modifying the Township Board Schedule.

Trustee Wisinski moved to modify the April Township Board Meeting Schedule as follows, the Township Board shall meet on April 5th, 2022 and April 19th, 2022 and the Annual Township Boards and Commissions Meeting shall be held on April 26th.

Trustee Sundland mentioned she would be out of town on April 5th.

Treasurer Deschaine stated April 5th is in conflict with some board members and suggested they meet April 8th and move the April 5th meeting to March 29th.

Manager Walsh stated the meetings are currently set for April 12th and April 26th

Trustee Wisinski withdrew the previous motion.

Trustee Wisinski moved to change the November Township Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 3rd to Tuesday, November 1st 2022. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wisinski,
Sundland
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Treasurer Deschaine suggested moving the Annual Joint Boards and Commissions Meeting to Tuesday March 29.

Trustee Wisinski asked if there is a reason the joint meeting can't be held on April 19th.

Treasurer Deschaine stated it could be done but the board would need to hold three meetings in a row.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to hold the Annual Joint Boards and Commissions Meeting on Tuesday, April 19th Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wisinski,
Sundland
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

B. Waiving Sec. 50-84, Subdivision 4.a. for the Okemos Rd. Bridge Construction

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined Waiving Sec. 50-84, Subdivision 4.a. for the Okemos Rd. Bridge Construction.

Treasurer Deschaine stated the first thing is to wave the rules so this item can be moved on tonight.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to wave the rules to take action on this item tonight. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Wisinski, Sundland, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to waive Sec. 50-84, Subdivision 4.a. for the Okemos Rd. Bridge Construction until May 22, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wisinski asked how Assistant Manager Opsommer plans to make sure residents are aware of the expanded construction hours and why they are necessary.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated he will reach out to the Homeowners Association President of Indian Hills, as the residents there will be most affected.

Trustee Wisinski asked if there have been complaints on this project yet.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied no.

Supervisor Jackson asked if he has a plan to reach out more broadly to the township.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied he would work with Communications Manager Yates to make sure residents are aware of expanded construction hours.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Wisinski, Sundland, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Trustee Wisinski moved to waive section 50-84, subsection (4) in our code of ordinances to permit the Ingham County Road Department and its contractors working on the Okemos Rd. Bridge Project over the Red Cedar River to conduct up to three concrete pours for the bridge deck after 7 p.m. between March 8, 2022 and November 30, 2022, excluding holidays, and require the Ingham County Road Department to give the township a minimum of 1-week notice of when the bridge deck pours will occur. Seconded by Trustee Sundland.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Trustee Wisinski, Sundland, Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

C. Selection of Finalists for Township Trustee

Manager Walsh outlined the Selection of Finalists for Township Trustee.

Each board member listed their top candidates with the top three being picked outright, and a tie for fourth.

Manager Walsh stated the board could interview the top three candidates or could elect to interview the top five candidates because of the tie.

The board discussed the pros and cons of each option.

Trustee Wisinski moved to interview the top three candidates as opposed to five for 30 minutes each to include; Linda Burkhardt, Scott Hendrickson, and Marna Wilson on March 15th, 2022. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Jackson, Trustees Wisinski
Sundland
NAYS: None

Motion carried: 4-0

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 4:49 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 4:49 pm.

8. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Manager Walsh stated under the policy laid out by the board it's his job to contact all finalists to set up the interview schedule.

Supervisor Jackson noted the March 15th, Township Board Meeting will not be televised.

Treasurer Deschaine suggested extending interview times by 5 minutes, that interviewees should not see questions ahead of time, nor should they sit in on each other's interviews.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 4-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 4:53 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK