

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

ABSENT: Trustees Wisinski, Sundland

STAFF: Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer, Fire Chief Hamel, Chief of Police Plaga, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Human Resources Director Tithof, IT Director Gebes, Economic Development Director Clark, Director of Project Management and Operations Massie, Clerk's Assistant Zachary Lemaster

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk's Assistant Lemaster called the roll of the Board.

Trustees Wisinski and Sundland Absent. All others Present.

Supervisor Jackson introduced new board members Trustee Marna Wilson and Trustee Scott Hendrickson.

4. PRESENTATION - NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public remarks at 6:04 pm

Amy Salisbury, 1585 Picadilly Dr., Haslett, MI introduced herself as a candidate for the Ingham County Commission.

Supervisor Jackson closed public remarks at 6:09 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Welcomed Trustees Wilson and Hendrickson to the Township Board

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

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 Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

B. Approval of Minutes – March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Special Meeting and March 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 Regular Meeting

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of March 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and March 15<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	392,076.07
Public Works	\$	777,673.13
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>668.74</u>
<b>Total Checks</b>	\$	<b>1,170,417.94</b>
Credit Card Transactions	\$	36,064.14
09/16/2021 to 09/29/2021		
<b>Total Purchases</b>	\$	<b><u>1,206,482.08</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>	\$	<b><u>3,021,746.38</u></b>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

D. MDOT Performance Resolution

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the 2022 MDOT performance resolution and authorize the following positions to apply to MDOT for the necessary permits to Work within the State Highway Right of Way on behalf of the Charter Township of Meridian: Director of Public Works and Engineering, Chief Engineer, Superintendent of Public Works, Senior Project Engineer, and Project engineer. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

E. Ratification of New Full Time Paramedic/Firefighter

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Timothy Brighton to Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

F. Fireworks Display Permit – Celebrate Meridian

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the fireworks permit for celebrate meridian festival on Saturday, June 25, 2022, by pyrotechnic operator night magic displays. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

G. Liquor License- Celebrate Meridian

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Parks & Recreation request to apply for One-Day Liquor License from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for the Celebrate Meridian event on June 25, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD#21

Supervisor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 pm.

Assistant Manager Opsommer gave a presentation on the Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD#21 for Public Hearing. He explained recent changes to the assessment roll and stated the cost of the project has been reduced by 5.38%.

Cecelia Kramer, 4560 Oakwood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the handling of the Daniels Drain project as it relates to Forest Hills.

Ronald Potterpin, 1250 Ethel St., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll and Project.

John Leone, 4544 Dobie Rd., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll and provided letters to the board.

Marlene Osborn, 1494 Forest Hills Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll and Project.

Michael Osborn, 1494 Forest Hills Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll and project.

Sabir Biswas, 4504 Mistywood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll and Project.

Brian Markham, 4424 Satinwood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll and explained the specifics and mechanics of the Assessment Roll.

Ross Lucas, 4555 Cornell Rd., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Quenda Story, 4526 Marlborough Rd., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Mike Zavadil, 1378 Ivywood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Koray Gurbus 4562 N. Spicewood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of how the Daniels Drain project has been administrated.

Kim-Van T. Beers 1406 Ivywood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Todd Cordill, 1484 Forest Hills Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Piotr Pawlak 1441 Ivywood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Ludmilla Wilson 4590 Marlborough Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Brian Harris, 4597 Marlborough Rd., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Paul Doher, 4451 Satinwood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll.

Sabir Biswas, 4504 Mistywood Dr., Okemos, MI asked what happens if someone sells their property that is on the assessment roll.

Todd Cordill, 1484 Forest Hills Dr., Okemos, MI stated he believes this project should be paid for with ARPA funds.

Mike Osburn, 1494 Forest Hills Dr., Okemos spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Project.

Ken Bills, 4566 Mistywood Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about benefits received by the Daniels Drain Project and should be paid for with ARPA funds.

Hiroshi Tanimoto, 4417 Hickorywood Dr., Okemos, MI, spoke in opposition of the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll..

Supervisor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 pm.

## 12. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Economic Development Corporation Member Appointment

Director Clark outlined Economic Development Corporation Member Appointment and introduced Trisha Bird to the board.

Trisha Bird, 5625 Ventura Pl., Haslett, MI spoke about her credentials and why she should become a member of the Economic Development Corporation.

**Clerk Guthrie moved to appoint Trisha Bird to the Economic Development Corporation for a term ending 12/31/27. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson, Supervisor Jackson,

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

### B. Letter of Agreement between the Township and the DPW and the DPR Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM)

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined the letter of Agreement between the Township and the DPW and the DPR Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the letter of agreement between the Charter Township of Meridian and the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM) union effective March 17, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.**

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

Supervisor Jackson further explained this item and explained it is an amendment to the current contract and is being presented as a trial run.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson, Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

C. Ingham County Broadband Task Force Appointment

Supervisor Jackson outlined the County Broadband Task Force Appointment.

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to appoint Clerk Guthrie to replace Patricia Herring Jackson to serve as Meridian Township's representative on the Ingham County's Broadband Task Force. The appointment is contingent on the approval of Ingham County officials. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine Trustee Wilson Trustee Hendrickson, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

Clerk Guthrie spoke about her credentials that make her a good candidate for the County Broadband task Force.

D. 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Resolution #4 - Set Public Hearing for May 3, 2022

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Resolution #4.

**Clerk Guthrie moved to approve the 2021 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #19 Resolution #4, which files the proposed Special Assessment Roll with the office**

**of the Township Clerk and sets the date for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if this is a maintenance program and not an improvement program.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated that is correct.

Treasurer Deschaine stated the residents also have the opportunity to repair the sidewalk themselves.

Supervisor Jackson asked what areas are being repaired.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied the areas being repaired are located at Briarwood; Briarwood #3, #4, #5; East Meadows Condominium, Heritage Hills; Heritage Hills #2, #3, #4.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Wilson Trustee Hendrickson, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

E. Imposing Escrow Conditions for Permitted Work by Telecommunication Within the ROW

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined Imposing Escrow Conditions for Permitted Work by Telecommunication within the Right-Of-Way.

**Trustee Wilson moved to authorize the Director of Public Works and Engineering to require telecommunication providers who are applying for permitted work within the public rights-of-way to deposit escrow amounts that are of reasonable cost per permit as a condition of their permit to cover performance standards and compliance with permit requirements and specifications to ensure that the public rights-of-way are returned to their original condition during and after the telecommunications provider's access and use, as provided under Section 70-184, permit application procedures, in the code of ordinances. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

Clerk Guthrie asked about the difference between escrow and performance bond.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated they are predominantly interchangeable terms, but went into the specifics of what is different.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the township has more leverage using this method.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied that is correct.



Clerk Guthrie asked what some of the costs are.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated it takes 4-5 Department of Public Works employees and takes 4-5 hours.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson, Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

### 13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD #21

Assistant Manager Opsommer outlined Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD #21 for discussion. He explained what has changed from the last assessment roll, and how each assessment was made.

Max Clever from Spicer group further outlined Daniels Drain Public Drain Improvement SAD #21 for discussion. He explained what has changed from the last assessment roll, and how each assessment was made explaining the calculations used for C-values. He stated he would look at the parcel for each person that spoke today.

He outlined how the A-Values were found using assessing records and P-Values were set by proximity to drainage pipes.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated staff is having an internal meeting about P factors and stated if you increase the P-value of any parcel that the other parcels will have their assessment lowered.

Clerk Guthrie asked if residents could see the reason against for their assessment.

Opsommer stated the hours required to write the formulae used would be very high and he would need a team to do that.

Clerk Guthrie asked if this is the normal process.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated Spicer was chosen because they have experience in this kind of assessment. He further stated the drain boundary is set by the county and the township has no authority to set drain boundaries. He showed how some residents have had their assessments lowered by concerns they raised.

Clerk Guthrie asked if there is another methodology that can be used for an assessment like this.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated the P-value is not always used, but the C and A-values are standard. He further stated the contract is with Hoffman, and the county drain office.

Trustee Hendrickson asked how many units are in the ponds.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied around 189.

Trustee Hendrickson stated the P value of The Ponds properties should be reevaluated.

Trustee Wilson asked if there is a deadline to finalize the assessment roll.

Assistant Manager Opsommer replied the deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting or the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Trustee Wilson asked if the assessment cost is attached to the property in case of a sale.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated the assessment would have to be paid off when closing on a home.

Assistant Manager Opsommer explained the Whispering Oaks assessment changes. He encouraged people to email him or come in to see their unique parcel number and that he can explain your assessment cost to the cent.

Supervisor Jackson asked how we got to this point of the project.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated this is a Chapter-20 drain meaning the only part of the drain work that is the responsibility of the township is the assessment roll and stated residents are paying 40.5% of the total cost of the project. He stated ARPA funds could not cover the cost of the drain work as it is considered a debt from the county.

Paul Pratt Deputy Drain Commissioner addressed the board and stated he is proud of this project and feels it is necessary.

Mr. Cenci went over the history of Daniel's Drain, explaining previous construction started by petition, the age of the infrastructure, the regional water detention system, improving the regional water detention system to hold more water, why the drain tile hasn't been replaced in almost 100 years, the loss of depth and volume of the retention system. He broke down cost sharing among the three parties involved in a Chapter-20 drain. He detailed the process the drain office goes through to improve all drainage systems in the county. He detailed each area that would be worked on, why it would be worked on, what kind of repairs would be done and with what kind of materials. He addressed some citizen questions, such as taxes not being used to pay for drains, and that it is not normal to know exact costs before work in drain work.

Trustee Wilson asked why the benefitted area is so irregular.

Mr. Censie stated the border line comes from the lidar map which is based on where the watershed is located and is then confirmed during field work.

Trustee Wilson asked if you could have a higher assessment because of your driveway.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated driveways were taken into account only by satellite imagery.

Treasurer Deschaine asked about communicating this presentation to residents.

Mr. Censie stated he did communicate some information to residents.

Assistant Manager Opsommer asked about overlapping drain district boundaries.

Mr. Censie stated it's not uncommon to be in multiple drain districts.

Clerk Guthrie asked if a fence can be added to a portion of the pond.

Mr. Censie stated the area will be screened, and the pathway will be moved.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if the construction is on schedule and if the project is on budget.

Mr. Censie stated it is.

Trustee Hendrickson asked what happens if the project goes over or under budget.

Mr. Censie stated if it went over budget you would have to borrow more money but this has never happened in the 200+ drains he's worked on. If it goes under budget there will likely not be any kind of any refund but the extra money should be used for maintenance in future assessments of this drain over a 21-year period.

Paul Pratt Deputy Drain Commissioner spoke about Chapter-20 drains, their history of being mostly established in the 70's, how they've worked in the past, and how the Drain Commission is established to perform assessment rolls. He stated it is unfortunate the township must perform their own assessment in this case and under normal circumstances the drain commission would address citizens long before construction begins. He further stated contingency is limited to 10%, or just under \$600,000 in this project. He further stated Drain Code states contingency could be refunded to the payers, but not until the bonds are paid, however it usually is left for maintenance.

Assistant Manager Opsommer stated this item will come back.

**B. Ordinance 2022-09 – Rezone 2260 Jolly Oak Drive – PO to C-2**

Director Schmitt outlined for discussion Ordinance 2022-09 – Rezone 2260 Jolly Oak Drive – PO to C-2.

**Clerk Guthrie moved to suspend the rules to handle new business after 10:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

Applicant Becky Beauchine spoke to the board about her application.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if there is any concern of inserting Professional Office Zoning into a portion on Commercial Office.

Director Schmitt stated there is not.

Trustee Hendrickson asked if the applicant plans on making any renovations to the building.

Ms. Beauchine states they will remove their drive-through, and make an addition for a goldsmith and storage.

Clerk Guthrie asked for the timeline on this project.

Applicant stated it should be done by December, or during the first quarter of next year.

C. Zoning Ordinance Updates

Director Schmitt outlined Zoning Ordinance Updates for discussion.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of these updates.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of these updates.

D. Juneteenth

Clerk Guthrie outlined Juneteenth for discussion.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

E. Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center Donation

Chief Plaga outlined Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center Donation for discussion.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the rules and take action on this item tonight.  
Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees  
Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to move to authorize the donation of \$5,000.00 of police forfeiture money to the small talk children's advocacy center to support abused children and their families. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Wilson, Hendrickson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson Opened Public Remarks at 10:24 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public Remarks at 10:24 pm.

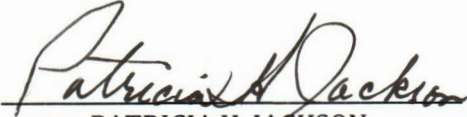
15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE


16. ADJOURNMENT

**Clerk Guthrie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 5-0

**Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 10:25 pm.**

  
PATRICIA H. JACKSON,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

  
DEBORAH GUTHRIE  
TOWNSHIP CLERK