

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
  2. MISSION: Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture; be the example for revitalization of our business districts and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships.
  3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  4. CONSENT AGENDA
    - A. Minutes –Meeting May 5, 2022
    - B. Financial Report
    - C. Development Projects
  5. PUBLIC REMARKS
  6. OLD BUSINESS
    - A. Village of Okemos Update
    - B. Shop Local Major Construction Sign Campaign Payment
  7. NEW BUSINESS
    - A. Sponsorship For 2022 Freedom Fest – Juneteenth Community Celebration Reimbursement Payment- Frank Walsh
    - B. Economic Development Strategy Update
  8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS
    - A. Township Board
    - B. Township Manager
    - C. Planning Commission
    - D. Chair
    - E. Staff
  9. COMMUNITY REPORTS
    - A. Meridian Mall
    - B. MABA
  10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS
  11. PUBLIC REMARKS
  12. NEXT MEETING DATE
    - A. August 4, 2022, 7:30am
  13. ADJOURNMENT
- 

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, May 5, 2022– Minutes -DRAFT

**Members**

**Present:** Chair Kim Thompson, Vice Chair Brenda Chapman, Dave Ledebuhr, Adam Carlson, Shawn Dunham, Trustee Kathy Sundland, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Henry Kwok, and Township Manager Walsh

**Members**

**Absent:** Tom Conway

**Others**

**Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise, Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson, MABA President Nate Kirk, and MABA Vice President Chaz Carrillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kim Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and read the mission statement.

2. **MISSION:** Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture, be the example for revitalization of our business districts, and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting April 7, 2022
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects
- d. MABA Awardees

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

- a. MABA President Nate Kirk gave an overview of the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA). MABA currently has 60-70 members and meets on the second Friday of the month at 9:00am at MSUFCU. The Association is a great networking opportunity for local businesses to pass referrals.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Community Engagement-Branded Bags, etc.  
Chair Thompson discussed the idea of community activities. Discussion of how the activity will impact economic development. Chair Thompson will provide ideas for activities as they come.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD FLAGS OVER MERIDIAN 2022 SPONSORSHIP. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Flags over Meridian 2022 Sponsorship  
Director Clark brought the revised invoice from the Kiwanis Club to sponsor the flags.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO SUPPORT THE SPONSORSHIP OF 20 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FLAGS WITH KIWANIS OF HASLETT- OKEMOS FOR A TOTAL OF \$800. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

- b. Joint Small Business Endeavors with MABA 2022

Vice President of MABA Chaz Corrillo suggested that the EDC and MABA continue to collaborate within existing committees to honor Small Business Week, hold an Annual Joint Meeting, Shop Small Shop Local Saturday, and the MABA Golf Outing.

- c. MABA Golf Sponsorship

Discussion regarding supporting the MABA Golf Outing. The proceeds of the golf outing support the MABA Philanthropic Grant Program. This year's event will be held on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Meridian Sun Golf Club.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE A \$50 GOLF HOLE SPONSORSHIP TO THE 2022 MABA GOLF OUTING. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

- a. Township Board

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- Discussing the use of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to projects including local roads, IT, broadband, pathways, and fire cots
- Village of Okemos request from the Meridian Redevelopment Fund
- Haslett Village Square redevelopment project is moving along
- The assessment roll for the Daniels Drain project was approved

b. Township Manager

- Local road bids are approximately 20% over budget. We are planning to use ARP funding to help close the gap.
- Contracted with Brightline Technologies to fix our IT infrastructure
- Increased Police compensation
- Working on creating a Community Rehabilitation Act (CRA) for the \$60 million project at Haslett Village Square
- New Finance Director will start in a couple weeks
- New community signs will be coming to the Board for approval
- Event is planned for Juneteenth at the Marketplace on the Green
- Celebrate Meridian will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Working on a Stimulus Inflationary Payment (SIP) for all employees

c. Planning Commission

Commissioner Trezise reported the Planning Commission has seen the Haslett Village Square Project consisting of 300 dwelling units and 21,000 square feet of commercial space. They are favorable to the plan. The Commission has been reviewing an expansion at Bickford for a memory care unit.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

Director Clark discussed the following:

- Sign campaign is complete with 11 signs for \$700 to help during the road construction
- Met with local municipalities to collaborate on a calendar for Juneteenth
- An updated market study would be helpful for the Master Plan
- Macy's grand re-opening will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham mentioned the new Imachinations costume shop has opened. B12 had a successful opening. Attendance at the Mall has increased over pre-pandemic levels. Lil Emil's in the Mall has closed.

b. MABA

President Nate Kirk thanked the EDC for inviting MABA to the meeting. There will be a social networking event on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Blue Gill Grill.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine thanks CBL for paying lost property taxes from a Mall food court business. The business ended up paying their property taxes and the Township was able to reimburse CBL.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 2, 2022 at 7:30am

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:35am.

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

Apr-22

Independent Bank

**Total EDC Funds**

**\$48,485.82**

**TRANSACTION ACTIVITY - Deposits**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deposit Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/31/2022	Interest	1.99

**CHECKS WRITTEN Since Last Bank Statement**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck.#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Paid to:</u>
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**Total**

\$48,487.81

**Total in Bank**

\$ 48,487.81

**Difference**

**\$0.00**



230 W Main St  
Ionia, MI 48846

# Statement Ending 04/30/2022

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Page 1 of 2

Account Number: XXXXXXXX2419

>001190 8724605 0001 93443 10Z

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP  
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP EDC/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
5151 MARSH RD  
OKEMOS MI 48864-1104

## Managing Your Accounts



Okemos



800.355.0641



IndependentBank.com



April is Financial Literacy Month, and a great time to teach the kids in your life to save! Open a new Swift Savings account with them in April, and they will receive a free eagle plush toy! Plus, they will automatically be enrolled in the Swift Savers Kids Club, and will receive free newsletters with fun savings tips, games, crafts, and more throughout the year. Learn more by visiting [IndependentBank.com](http://IndependentBank.com), or stopping by your local banking office.

## Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
BusinessFlex TM	XXXXXXXX2419	\$48,487.81

## BusinessFlex TM-XXXXXXXX2419

### Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
04/01/2022	Beginning Balance	\$48,485.82
	1 Credit(s) This Period	\$1.99
	0 Debit(s) This Period	\$0.00
04/30/2022	Ending Balance	\$48,487.81

### Interest Summary

Description	Amount
Annual Percentage Yield Earned	0.05%
Interest Days	30
Interest Earned	\$1.99
Interest Paid This Period	\$1.99
Interest Paid Year-to-Date	\$8.34
Average Ledger Balance	\$48,485.82

### Other Credits

Date	Description	Amount
04/30/2022	Credit Interest	\$1.99

### Daily Balances

Date	Amount	Date	Amount
04/01/2022	\$48,485.82	04/30/2022	\$48,487.81

### Interest Rate Changes

Interest Rate As Of Date	Interest Rate
04/01/2022	0.0500%



### **New Businesses Opening/Relocating**

- Evergreen Vet Clinic – 4737 Marsh Road
- Nothing Bundt Cakes - 2090 W Grand River Ave
- King Pho Restaurant -4749 Central Park Drive Okemos (previously Kingston Kitchen)
- Reborn Kicks- 1980 W Grand River Suite 280
- Macy's Backstage- Store within a Store
- Premier Martial Arts- Central Park Drive
- Icy Dental- May opening Dr. Yu Dentist Office

### **Under Construction**

- Haslett Marathon 1619 Haslett Road
- Copper Creek Haslett Road
- Joe's on Jolly 2360 Jolly Road
- Veterinarian Clinic 4737 Marsh Road
- Sparrow 24 Hr Emergency Rm 2446 Jolly Road
- Silverstone Estates Powell Road
- Woodward Way Sirhal Drive
- Trader Joes Demolition Complete
- Hypershine Car Wash 2703 E Grand River (Demo pending approval)
- Pine Village 1673 Haslett Road Commercial /Residential development Approved  
Meridian Township Brownfield Plan & Commercial Rehabilitation Act Exemption

### **Approved/Not Commenced**

- Giguere Homes Sanctuary #3 Subdivision (7 properties)
- Newton Ponte Apartments Multifamily mixed use Haslett Road (SE corner Okemos/Haslett)
- Village of Okemos 4661 Okemos Road Commercial/Residential development  
*Approved EGLE Brownfield, Meridian Redevelopment Fund*

### **Ribbon Cuttings:**

Veterinarian Clinic "Evergreen" Clinic – July  
Nothing Bundt Cakes- TBD August  
Joes on Jolly –Summer 2022 opening  
Dr. Yu Dentist Office- May opening  
Haslett Marathon July opening  
National Capitol Bank –June 7<sup>th</sup> Ribbon Cutting

### **Other Township Happenings:**

- Marketplace on the Green -Music Wednesdays are a hit- arrive early as the Market pavilion fills quickly. Weekly music nights are sponsored by the local small businesses of Meridian Township





**To: Meridian Economic Development Corporation Members**  
**From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark**  
**Date: July 7, 2022**  
**RE: Village of Okemos, LLC development Update**

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### **Summary**

May 2022 marked the launch of the Revitalization and Placemaking grant offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. This grant is eligible for municipalities and nonprofit organizations with large redevelopment projects that are committed, that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The funding is issued by the Federal Government and specifies support of projects that provide resiliency from COVID-19. The grant offers up to \$5 Million dollars in potential funding for mixed use projects that fall into an urban core community or are a catalyst project within a Downtown Development Authority. Township staff, along with the developer have gathered all concrete information related to the project, letters of support from community members, congressional members, businesses and organizations for the development of the project.

MEDC should announce the awarded projects no later than July 8, 2022. Awarded projects may enter into a second competitive vetting of the grant to finally receive full funding approval. At this time, MEDC is requiring any development that is seeking funding from the RAP grant to go through this specific grant process before submitting a request for the Community Redevelopment and Placemaking grant and loan which is commonly referred to as MCRP. The MCRP grant request from the developer will fill the final development gap on the project. The Township board at the May 17, 2022 meeting did unanimously approve the request for \$1.25M for infrastructure and road improvements in the downtown district. The funding will support the necessary street, sidewalk and utility improvements for the project. A development agreement will be created between the Township and developer for the use of those funds.

Should the MEDC grant us this funding, the project will be well on its way for site preparation and underground utilities this fall 2022. Following that submission the entire submission for the gap financing in MCRP will come from the developer. We will maintain a great partnership with the developer to garner community support for this grant as well.

The developer must still show forward progress on the project to maintain the dollars with the Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy, aka, EGLE. The forward progress will show EGLE the project is still moving forward and the funding to clean up the site is necessary.

### **Items Remaining From Developer:**

- Need site plan complete from the developer for Community Planning to review
  - o Ingham County Road Department Approval for roads (Township can work around this timeline)
  - o Drain Office Approvals for site retention/detention(Township can work around this timeline)
- Need updated Brownfield plan from developer for BRA and Township Board to approve
- Need to solidify remaining infrastructure cost gap



**To: Economic Development Corporation Members**  
**From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark**  
**Date: July 7, 2022**  
**RE: Major Construction Sign Campaign for M-43/Okemos Bridge Project Update**

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### Summary

At the May 5 2022 EDC board meeting, the EDC body voted unanimously in support of a sign campaign to support our local business community along M-43/Grand River Avenue as a part of our efforts to support the businesses. This supports the Township goal of support of our small business community during the reconstruction of M-43 Grand River and Okemos Bridge. The Ingham County Road department commenced the Okemos Bridge work on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and MDOT began construction on Grand River the first week in April, shutting down the intersection of Grand River/Okemos road May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Township staff continue to engage with the small business owners in the DDA and along the Grand River Corridor to notify them of the bridge work and M-43 road construction phases. Each time we receive a communication from the Michigan Department of Transportation or Ingham County that information is forwarded to the business owners and employees. Feedback from the owners of these establishments are asking for continued communication of the project and signage to attract patrons to their facilities.

There was no need for a sign permit due to the adopted new language in the Sign Ordinance for Meridian Township. The Township is exempt from the ordinary requirements of signage throughout the community except electronic messaging signage.

In total 11 signs were created and purchased from ASAP printing which came with the lowest bids from ASAP Printing, BRD Printing, Signarama and Johnson signs. Of the highest quality came Signarama and they may be able to produce two larger signs for the campaign should we feel the 11 signs are not adequate. The signs are 28 x 30 H frame signs that follow the detour path along Grand River, North bound Okemos Road, Central Park Drive, Grand River and Marsh and through the DDA. The cost of the signs total reached \$395 of which 4 signs belong in the DDA. The DDA will purchase those signs from the EDC for \$144 (cost of each sign is about \$36). The DDA will reimburse the EDC back for that payment.



**The EDC adopted 2022 goals to reflect the upcoming construction and negative impact to our local businesses. Our goals is to:**

- A. Identify ways to promote business operations in the district during construction
- B. Seek funding mechanisms to financial mitigate negative impacts to businesses due to construction.

The request for you today would be to approve, partially approve or deny a request of funding to create and implement these signs. A map is included for locations.

**Recommendation:** None at this time.

### **Budgetary Considerations**

Support of a local sign campaign along Grand River =\$395



**To: Meridian Economic Development Corporation Members**  
**From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark**  
**Date: July 7, 2022**  
**RE: Second Annual Juneteenth Meridian Township Freedom Fest Sponsorship**

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### **Summary**

2021 marked the first Juneteenth Freedom Fest with a community scavenger hunt to commemorate Juneteenth in Meridian Township. The goal of this first celebration was, to celebrate! Many residents and staff were new to celebrating Juneteenth and the premise of activity was initiated by the Meridian Economic Development Corporation. Utilizing the business community, gift card were hidden throughout Meridian Township, sponsored by the business owners themselves. The event went well and with support the Juneteenth for Meridian Committee met and planned the 2022 inaugural celebration.

The Juneteenth for Meridian Committee, is a committee of members comprised of Township staff, Township businesses and residents that are interested in planning a community Juneteenth celebration. This year we have expanded our committee to include Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson, Judge Wanda Stokes, Dr. Terry Flanaugh, Darlene Brown and Saltia Biscette. These members along with Melissa Terry of Lotus Beauty Lounge make up the planning committee. The Committee regularly meets on Saturday via zoom to plan the celebratory event.

2022 we will launch a weeklong celebration beginning **Monday June 13<sup>th</sup>** with “What is Juneteenth” a child’s storybook written by Ingham County resident Julian Van Dyke owner of Absolute Art Gallery in Old Towne Lansing. This story will be read by Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson, and broadcast through the community to get the entire township on the same “page” about Juneteenth.

### **Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>:**

The Community is offered a free showing of “Akeelah and the Bee” to the first 100 attendees. Movie offers a free Medium Drink and popcorn for attendees. The movie will begin promptly at 10am and attendees are encouraged to show for the movie 30 minutes prior to launch time. Sponsors for the event will be shown prior to the movie to showcase their support of the event. The Meridian EDC logo will be shown throughout the Township along with Studio C! as main event sponsors.

(Other sponsors for this event are Playmakers and KEBs Inc.)

A community forum discussion led by Dr. Scott on issues that plague our community most. The start of a longer dialogue for why cultural celebration is important, how Juneteenth elevates community inclusivity and more!

### **Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>:**

Hear from Pastor Marvin Williams of Trinity Church of Lansing, a Haslett resident teaching the community at large how spirituality led to the construction of modern Black excellence. Pastor



Williams may also give an overview of how spirituality has been used as a mechanism to divide the community. In support of the traditional "Sunday Service" and recognizing the diverse faiths of the community, the intent of this historical review is to demonstrate how tradition can work to advantage of a community to support its advancement. In traditional Black faith, members show up to participate in their faith practice well dressed. Hats, gloves and the best clothing attire is synonymous with the Black community. Attendees are invited to wear their "Sunday Best" clothes, with gloves, shoes and hats that give a nod to Black culture with respect to religion and how you should present yourself in a reverent space.

#### **Budgetary Items:**

Studio C! Theater Rental: \$1464  
Studio C! Drink and Popcorn: \$650  
AV: \$75  
Movie License: \$150  
Community Forum: None  
Sunday Catering: \$1500  
Speaker- Dr. Marvin Williams: \$500  
Speaker- Dr. Scott – DEI Forum Discussion: \$100

Total: \$4439

Requested amount from Meridian EDC is \$2500

Other Sponsors:

Playmakers, KEBs Inc. Ingham County Circuit Court and Probate Court, Lotus Beauty Lounge

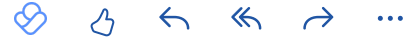
**Recommendation:** Move to approve \$2500 in support of the second annual Meridian Township Juneteenth Celebration.

↩ Reply all   ▾   🗑 Delete   🚫 Junk   🚫 Block   ⋮

## RE: EXTERNAL:Re: Juneteenth Event - Studio C - Amber Clark

📎 You replied on Wed 5/18/2022 9:27 AM

EG Erin Goss <egoss@bystudioc.com>



To: Amber Clark

Wed 5/18/2022 9:21 AM

GROUP EVENTS COORDINATOR  
Celebration Cinema

### Celebration Cinema by Studio C

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

616.224.0083

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**From:** Erin Goss

**Sent:** Friday, May 6, 2022 3:34 PM

**To:** Amber Clark <[clark@meridian.mi.us](mailto:clark@meridian.mi.us)>

**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL:Re: Juneteenth Event - Studio C - Amber Clark

Hey Amber!

As you will see from my other email, your event has been approved for a discount in connection with a sponsorship. ☺ You can work directly with Emily regarding the co-promoting and I will continue on with you as your event coordinator.

Event Details:

- **Location:** Studio C Meridian Mall
- **Date:** Saturday, June 18th
- **Time:** 10am to 12pm
- **Theatre Size:** Medium (107 seats)
- **Licensing:** Range \$150 to \$400
- **AV:** dependent on how the content is delivered, \$75

- **Concessions:** Yes, \$6.50 plus tax (100)

**Event Total Range:** \$1,139 to \$1,464

I hope that is helpful for budgeting for the event, let me know if you have any questions.

I put in your request for Akeelah and the Bee today, there is no set timeframe for how long this takes. It is all dependent on the work load of the programming team and the responsiveness of the film studio. We usually ask groups to give us at least 2 weeks to process special requests like this, though it has never actually taken that long.

I will go ahead and put a hold on a medium size theatre for your event date and time. We can then wait until we have the details for your film to have you make any payments or deposits.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions!

**Erin Goss**

Group Events Coordinator

↩ Reply all   ▾   🗑 Delete   🚫 Junk   Block   ⋮

## RE: EXTERNAL:Re: Juneteenth Event - Studio C - Amber Clark

📘 You replied on Tue 5/24/2022 11:34 AM

EG Erin Goss <egoss@bystudioc.com>  
To: Amber Clark

🔗 👍 ↩ ⏪ ⏩ ⋮

Wed 5/18/2022 9:51 AM

### PENDING GROUP EVENT

This event is in the 'pending' stage and has not been confirmed. Further information or payment is required. Once the event is booked, a confirmation summary will be sent to you.

Our preference is Blu-ray, better picture quality, but hold off ordering anything for the moment. The film studio may be able to send the digital version. Programming will let me know those details as they are confirming the content for the event. I'll let you know as soon as they give me some more details. 😊

#### Booking Details: for up to 20

- **Location:** Studio C Meridian Mall
- **Date:** Saturday, June 18th
- **Time:** 10am to 12pm
- **Movie:** Akeelah and the Bee
- **Theatre Size:** 107 physical seats
- **Concessions:** Yes, \$6.50 plus tax, order quantity TBD

**Deposit payment:** \$450, theatre rental and licensing

Theatre availability is being processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment in full is **required** to confirm your booking.

#### **[PAYMENT LINK](#)**

This payment link will only be active through **Monday, May 23rd**.

#### **Cancellation Policies:**

In the event of a cancellation, the payment will be handled in these ways:

- With more than two weeks' notice: we will refund the entire payment.
- With more than one week notice: the payment will be returned in the form of a gift card.
- With less than one week or no notice: the payment will be forfeited.

Thank you!

#### **Erin Goss**

Group Events Coordinator  
Celebration Cinema

#### **Celebration Cinema by Studio C**

[celebrationcinema.com](http://celebrationcinema.com)

616.224.0083



**To: Economic Development Corporation**

**From: Amber Clark Director Neighborhoods & Economic Development**

**Date: May 31, 2022**

**Re: Meridian Township Economic Development Strategy/ Market Study**

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The goals of 2021 and 2022 are heavily focused on the redevelopment of the Haslett and Okemos PICA. As we come to the last quarter of the year without construction in either PICA a review of our goals and development strategy is in order. COVID-19's alterations to our economy is ongoing; we have an opportunity to review our current development strategy and goals. Included is the current Economic Development strategy for the Township, a strategy that should be reviewed annually and updated in our records as a part of documenting the requirements of our RRC status as a Redevelopment Ready Community with the State of Michigan. RRC status allows the Township access to funding for technical assistance like with the Downtown Development Authority's TIF Plan and access to funding for a market study produced for Haslett (48840) in 2018.

The Haslett PICA and Okemos PICA currently have approved projects mixed used projects from 2018 and 2019. This memo is to prompt discussion with the Meridian EDC members regarding the vision, goals and tactics for Economic Development strategy. The elements to the existing strategy are working, however this is the time to review data to make appropriate changes. This year we will launch the update for the community's Masterplan. Having concrete data to review in association with that plan will better prepare the Township to make resilient financial decisions that will have last impact on the health and viability of our business community. The aspects of this report may include a simplified Business, Retention and Expansion program, support PICA development and pursue other development funding tools. It is the recommendation to prepare a market study for members of the Meridian EDC, DDA, CIA and others to use to make better planning decisions regarding development.

The goal in the next several weeks is to remit an RFQ for a company that is capable of assisting staff to update the strategy utilizing regional and local data. A formal report should be created and submitted to the EDC for final approval with the report being submitted to Planning Commission, Township Board, Corridor Improvement Authority and others.

**Recommendation: Move in support of staff planning and implementing an updated Economic Development Strategy to maintain compliance with RRC status with MEDC and support future redevelopment of Meridian Township.**