

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING **-APPROVED**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517-349-1232, REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Clerk Guthrie, Trustees Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Robin Faust, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 26, 2021

**Election Commissioner Trustee Wisinski moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the August 26, 2021 Virtual Election Commission Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by Election Commissioner Trustee Sundland.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 3-0.

3. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

A. Splitting Precinct 17 and reopening Precinct 16

Clerk Guthrie summarized the memorandum outlining the Michigan Law that requires precincts to have no more than 2,999 active registered voters and the necessity to split Precinct 17 and reopen Precinct 16 because Precinct 17 currently has over 2,999 active registered voters. The resolution in the meeting packet outlines this request.

Trustee Wisinski read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 116-1954-XXVIII, Election Precincts, of the Michigan Election Law, Public Act 16 of 1954, MCL 168.654 to 168.661, provides for Charter Township Election Commissions to divide, rearrange, and consolidate election precincts; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Bureau of Elections (BOE) recommends local clerks review larger precincts to ensure they safely stay under the 2,999-voter limit; and

WHEREAS, The BOE identified 273 precincts across Michigan with more than 2,800 registered voters and Precinct 17 was identified with over 3,000 registered voters; and

WHEREAS, The Meridian Township Clerk's Office has reviewed each Precinct carefully and identified only Precinct 17 above the limit; and

WHEREAS, any precinct with more than 2,999 active registered voters must be divided into multiple precincts; and

WHEREAS, as of February 9, 2022, Precinct 17 has 3,214 registered voters, and 2,887 active voters; and

WHEREAS, an additional 150 housing units and an additional apartment building have been approved for development and permitted for construction in Precinct 17; and

WHEREAS, Precinct 16 was consolidated with Precinct 17 on March 23, 2012 and un-consolidating these two precincts makes the most sense; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Meridian Election Commission is recommending splitting Precinct 17 into two precincts; Precinct 17 and Precinct 16, is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, under the Michigan Election Law, the boundaries of all precincts used to administer the August 2022 and November 2022 elections must be finalized by a resolution by the local Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, precinct boundary alterations made by the April 4, 2022 deadline must go into effect no later than May 4, 2022. (MCL 168.661(2))

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Meridian Election Commission hereby directs the Township Clerk to split Precinct 17 into two precincts; Precinct 16 and Precinct 17, located at one polling location at 2|42 Community Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos, moving voters on Hidden Meadows Ct., Graystone Dr., Sower Blvd., Seville Ct., Southport Cir., Highland Terrace, Turning Leaf Lane, Okemos Rd. (Jolly to Railroad), Hulett Rd. (Bennett Rd. to Railroad), Bennett Rd. (~~Okemos Rd.~~ **Smith Drain** to Hulett Rd.), Heritage Ave., Club Meridian Dr., Knob Hill Dr., Fieldstone Dr., Taos Cir., Taos Trl., Sonoma Vista, Coyote Creek Dr., Farrins Parkway, and Jolly Oak Rd to Precinct 16.

**Election Commissioner Trustee Wisinski moved to adopt the resolution with the correction of Bennett Road (Smith Drain to Hulett Road). Seconded by Election Commissioner Trustee Sundland.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 3-0

B. Redrawing Precinct boundary lines for Precincts 6 and 10

Clerk Guthrie summarized the memorandum outlining the Ingham County Apportionment Maps for Meridian Township, the current and proposed boundary maps for Precincts 6 and 10 along with the street names for each precinct. By altering the boundary lines, it will cause less confusion for the voters and election workers within a precinct requiring dual ballots.

Members review the boundary line map illustrating the apportionment changes made by the County.

Trustee Wisinski read the resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 116-1954-XXVIII, Election Precincts, of the Michigan Election Law, Public Act 16 of 1954, MCL 168.654 to 168.661, provides for Charter Township Election Commissions to divide, rearrange, and consolidate election precincts; and

WHEREAS, the reapportionment of County Commission Districts apportioned two (2) additional County Commission Districts in Meridian Township; and

WHEREAS, the apportionment of these new County Commission Districts apportioned by the Ingham County Apportionment Committee created County Commission District 12, 13, 14, and 15.

WHEREAS, ~~two~~ **three** of the four County Commission Districts (**12, 14, 15**) are shared with other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the apportionment of County Commission District 13 creates a dual ballot in Precinct 6; and

WHEREAS, when a single precinct has two or more commissioners, a separate ballot style is required so that each voter is voting only for the commissioner geographically allocated to them; and

WHEREAS, dual ballots can cause confusion with voters and election workers within a precinct because there are two different types of ballot styles in one precinct, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to maximize election efficiency it is recommended to redraw precinct lines so that no precinct will ever contain more than one County Commission District; and

WHEREAS, redrawing the boundary line for Precinct 10 moving the east boundary line along Okemos Road from Burcham Road to Grand River toward the east along Marsh Road from Tihart Road to Grand River eliminates a dual County Commission District ballot; and

WHEREAS, redrawing Precinct 6's most southern boundary line south of Grand River along the Red Cedar River to redrawing it along Grand River from Van Atta Road to Meridian Road makes more sense and creates less confusion; and

WHEREAS, moving the boundary lines do not create an issue with meeting BOE requirements for precinct size limitation; and

WHEREAS, as of February 18, 2022, Precinct 6 has 1,602 registered voters and Precinct 10 has 1,721 registered voters; and

WHEREAS, the new boundary line going north – south along Marsh Road will largely include Meridian Township municipally owned property; and

WHEREAS, the new boundary line going east – west along Grand River only includes a small number of homes and minimally impacts voters; and

WHEREAS, the new boundary lines for State Representative which includes a new house district; the 75<sup>th</sup> District and 73<sup>rd</sup> District, is along Grand River going eastern most and western most portion of the township; and

WHEREAS, it is not anticipated that future development, if any, in these areas will increase voter registration substantially; and

WHEREAS, Michigan election law stipulates that all precincts “shall be composed as nearly as practicable of compact and contiguous territory and shall have clearly defined and clearly observable boundaries.” and;

WHEREAS, Michigan election law states a “clearly observable boundary” is defined under the law as follows:

- A named road or street.
- A road or highway that is part of the federal, state primary or state secondary road system.
- A river, stream, or drainage feature that is 40 feet or more in width.
- A natural or constructed permanent physical feature that is shown on an official county, city, or township map issued by the Department of Transportation or a United States geological survey topographical map.
- An apartment building, a dormitory or other permanent multiple-unit housing structure.
- A village or school district boundary line.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Meridian Election Commission is recommending redrawing boundary lines for Precinct 10 and Precinct 6, is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, precinct boundary changes must be approved no later than 210 days prior to the August primary in an even numbered year; however, in the second year following the federal census precinct boundary changes must be approved no longer than 120 days following the August primary. (MCL 168.661(3)); and

WHEREAS, under the Michigan Election Law, the boundaries of all precincts used to administer the August 2022 and November 2022 elections must be finalized by a resolution by the local Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, precinct boundary alterations made by the April 4, 2022 deadline must go into effect no later than May 4, 2022. (MCL 168.661(2))

WHEREAS, Electors assigned to a new precinct will be issued a corrected Voter Identification Card according to Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.499(3), and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Meridian Election Commission hereby directs the Township Clerk to redraw the boundary line for Precinct 10 moving the east boundary line along Okemos Road from Burcham Road to Grand River toward the east along Marsh Road from Tihart Road to Grand River; and move the eastern most southern boundary line in Precinct 6 south of Grand River along the Red Cedar River to redrawing it north along Grand River from Van Atta Road to Meridian Road.

**Election Commissioner Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the resolution to redraw Precinct 6 and Precinct 10 boundary lines and amend the paragraph to read “three” from “two” and to include the precinct numbers 12, 14 and 15. Seconded by Election Commissioner Trustee Sundland.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 3-0

4. SCHEDULE DATE FOR NEXT ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING

After reviewing calendars, a proposed meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 19, at 5:30 pm at the Meridian Municipal Building.

5. OTHER BUSINESS - NONE

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

HOMTV Intern asked for clarification on the appropriation and boundary lines on the map.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**Election Commissioner Commisisoner Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Election Commissioner Commisisoner Sundland.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 3-0.

**Election Commissioner Clerk Guthrie adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.**