

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, September 20th, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works Opsommer, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Director of Economic Development Clark, Director of Finance Garber, Director of Projects and Operations Massie, IT Director Gebes

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

Assistant to the Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. Trustee Sundland is absent all others present.

4. PRESENTATION-NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 6:02 pm.

Mark Santucci, 5909 Blythefield Dr. East Lansing, MI spoke about medical and recreational marijuana.

Jon Covell, 6156 East Lake Dr. Haslett, MI spoke about recreational marijuana.

Rex Harrington, 820 Piper Rd. Haslett, MI spoke about notices going out to residents about refrigerators and coral pollution.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public remarks at 6:17 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported five sponsored students are in the police academy bringing the township to 39 officers. Phase one of the MSU-Lake Lansing Pathway is out to bid. The Sign

Project bids are due on Friday. The Haslett Village project is underway. Joe's on Jolly is now open. The Fire Department had a swearing in ceremony last Friday. There was a birthday bash for six people. The first Friday Fun Day took place. The Sparrow Ribbon Cutting has taken place. The Community Resource Team is getting back on track. Yesterday Supervisor Jackson spoke to the Garden Club in the Town hall Room. There is currently an opening in Communications, in Parks and Rec, and one in the Clerk's office, and a mechanic position.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wisinski

- Meridian Township Regional Recycling day on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, batteries, smoke detectors, and lights bulbs not accepted

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended Meridian Service Day
- Attended the September 15<sup>th</sup> Pension Board Meeting
- Attended the September 12<sup>th</sup> Downtown Development Authority meeting
- Attended Swearing in of new police officers on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>

Trustee Wilson

- Attended Opening of Joe's on Jolly
- Attended first Community Resource Commission meeting with new resource specialist Mary McGinnis

Clerk Guthrie

- Attended swearing in for new Police and Fire on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>
- Attended Meridian Service Day on Constitution Day Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>
- Attended Harris Nature Center Turtle Toast and encouraged other board members to attend future events
- Attended opening of Joe's on Jolly
- Noted today is National Voter Registration Day
- Noted this is Rail Safety Week

Supervisor Jackson

- Attended the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting where there was a focus on Agriculture tech and housing
- HR Director Tithof and Melissa Massie attended response to hate program to learn about DEI

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as Presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

A. Communications

**Trustee Hendrickson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Approval of Minutes – September 6th, 2022 Regular Meeting

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of September 6th, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Bills

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager’s Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Common Cash	\$	15,618,172.38
Public Works	\$	3,977.61

<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
	<b>Total Checks</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,622,149.99</b>
<b>Credit Card Transactions</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>18,233.24</b>
<b>08/11/22 to 08/31/2022</b>			
	<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>15,640,383.23</u></b>
<b>ACH Payments</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b><u>1,429,162.64</u></b>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Resolution Commemorating Constitution Week

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approved to the resolution commemorating Constitution Week. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Resolution Recognizing Rail Safety Week

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the resolution recognizing Rail Safety Week. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

F. Resolution Recognizing National Voter Registration Day

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the resolution recognizing National Voter Registration Day. Seconded by Wisinski.**

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Haslett Village Square – Commercial Rehabilitation Act

Director Schmitt outlined the Haslett Village Square, Commercial Rehabilitation Act.

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the attached resolution approving the application from SP HOLDING COMPANY LLC, for the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption for 10 years within the established Commercial Rehabilitation District 1655/1621 Haslett Road. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road – Brownfield Plan

Director Schmitt outlined the 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road, Brownfield Plan for action.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the resolution approving the Haslett Village Brownfield Plan for the properties at 1621 and 1655 Haslett Road, with a total increment revenue to be captured not to exceed \$2,778,028 (\$2,437,243 maximum to the developer) over an 11 year capture period. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.**

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item as it recaptures some spending.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item as it cleans up the community.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item as it cleans up the community.

Supervisor Jackson spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

The Development team thanked the Meridian Township team for all of their work on this project.

C. 2023 Township Budget

Manager Walsh thanked Courtland Jenkins for his work behind the scenes this meeting.

Manager Walsh outlined the 2023 Township Budget for action. He thanked Melissa Massie, Director Garber and Bernie Faulkner for their work on the budget.

**Trustee Hendrickson moved that the Township Board approve the 2023 recommended budget resolution. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this budget.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this budget.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of the current budget. He noted with the increase in water and sewer still leaves the Meridian with the lowest rates in the region.

Manager Walsh noted this is a non-income tax community and we are ahead of schedule paying off the central station with an expected pay off date three years ahead of schedule.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

D. 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Non-Supervisory Professional Employees Tentative Agreement

Manager Walsh outlined the 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Non-Supervisory Professional Employees Tentative Agreement for action.

**Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 2023-2027 Non-Supervisory Professional Employees agreement as outlined in the Township Manager's memo dated September 20, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.**

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Clerk Guthrie spoke in support of this item and noted the 5% increase at the last step of the contract is unheard of in her time working at the township.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

E. 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Administrative Professional Employees Tentative Agreement

Manager Walsh outlined the 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Administrative Professional Employees Tentative Agreement.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 2023-2027 Administrative Professional Employees agreement as outlined in the Township Manager’s memo dated September 20, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

F. 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Professional Supervisory Association Tentative Agreement

Manager Walsh outlined the 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Professional Supervisory Association Tentative Agreement.

**Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 2023-2025 Professional Supervisory Association agreement as outlined in the Township Manager’s memo dated September 20, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.**

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson asked why this group chose a three year contract.

Manager Walsh could not answer.

Clerk Guthrie asked why this contract has eight steps.

Assistant Manager Opsommer noted some positions in this union already have 7 steps.

Supervisor Jackson asked about extending the contracts to 5 years.

Manager Walsh stated it's that the union and the township knows what is going to happen for the next five years.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

G. 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Non-Supervisory Professional Employees Tentative Agreement

Manager Walsh outlined 2023 – 2027 TPOAM Non-Supervisory Professional Employees Tentative Agreement.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the 2023-2027 Department of Public Works and Department of Parks and Recreation agreement as outlined in the Township Manager's memo dated September 20, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

Clerk Guthrie asked about 5% increase for lead tenured workers for working 5 consecutive years.

Manager Walsh explained some positions in this group are probationary until certain licenses have been earned.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2022 Master Plan Update

Director Schmitt outlined the 2022 Master Plan Update for discussion. He noted the urban service boundary is unique and should be regularly discussed. He noted there will be a formal discussion on the urban service boundary in November. He stated there is already a good Master Plan in place and plans to tighten down and expand on those goals.



Trustee Hendrickson asked if this is a good time to address zoning mismatches.

Director Schmitt replied it would be good to address after the Master Plan Update.

Trustee Hendrickson asked about adopting a Tax Increment Finance for the Corridor Improvement Authority and Form Based Code.

Director Schmitt replied these things should be discussed during this Master Plan Update.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in favor of a discussion of Form Based Code.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this plan and its methodology. She asked where a fourth PICA might be.

Director Schmitt stated there is potential for the Meridian Mall to be a fourth PICA and the Economic Development Corporation is recommending it.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this Master Plan.

Supervisor Jackson spoke in support of this Master Plan. She appreciates not recreating the parks and pathways plan and noted smart growth and green growth.

#### B. Tall Grass Ordinance Amendment

Director Schmitt outlined the Tall Grass Ordinance Amendment for discussion. He noted this started because a judge ruled against the township on a long grass ticket.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke against this item as it may be hard for residents to understand.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if residents are provided a warning before given a ticket.

Director Schmitt replied they are.

Clerk Guthrie asked about enforcement on flower gardens.

Director Schmitt replied a well maintained flower garden will not be ticketed.

Trustee Wisinski noted the Ordinance language seems vague. She further noted definitions could be helpful.

Treasurer Deschaine mentioned the use of brochures with acceptable and non-acceptable examples.

Supervisor Jackson noted the language could be confusing.

C. Fire Department ARPA Spending – Power Cots

Manager Walsh outlined Fire Department ARPA Spending on Power Cots for discussion.

Chief Hamel further outlined Fire Department ARPA Spending on Power Cots for discussion. He noted there will soon be a 9% increase in cost.

Clerk Guthrie asked about the benefit to residents with these power cots.

Chief Hamel stated they are more comfortable, if they fail it will be less catastrophic to resident. It makes it easier to transfer heavier patients and provides a smoother transfer.

Supervisor Jackson noted that other agencies use these devices, and asked if they could be used in different kinds of ambulances.

Chief Hamel replied that is correct.

Trustee Wilson noted these aid patients, and staff.

Trustee Wisinski asked how many ambulances we have and how many cots we need and how much it will cost.

Chief Hamel noted we have 4 ambulances, and we will need four cots.

Trustee Wisinski asked about how long these last and what maintenance costs are associated.

Chief Hamel replied there is a maintenance agreement until 2029 but does not know the total lifetime.

Trustee Wisinski asked what would happen with existing cots.

Chief Hamel replied some will be kept for the fifth ambulance, the rest will be exchanged or sold.

Trustee Hendrickson noted this represents 10% of remaining ARPA funds but it will save money by sparing injury.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize spending from the ARPA funding balance of 2.3 million dollars for the purchase of power cots specified by the fire chief in the total amount of \$262,903. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson.**

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson Opened Public Remarks at 8:24 pm.

Frank Walsh 2637 Elderberry Dr. Okemos, MI spoke about Ashley Winstead becoming a level four Assessor and Capital Area District Library supporting the Okemos Library Roof Project with an additional \$50,000.

Supervisor Jackson Closed Public Remarks at 8:29 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Hendrickson asked about the roadmap moving forward on recreational marijuana.

Director Schmitt replied staff is working on a plan and a timeline now and plans to provide further information in one of the next two meetings.

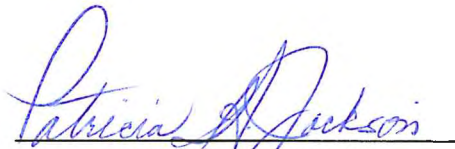
Supervisor Jackson noted there will be a Public Hearing on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm with the developers of the Village of Okemos as they have proposed a minor amendment the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

**Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.**

  
PATRICIA H. JACKSON,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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DEBORAH GUTHRIE  
TOWNSHIP CLERK