

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, November 15, 2022 **6:00 pm**

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

ABSENT: None

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, IT Director Gebes, Economic Development Director Clark, Finance Director Garber, Communications Manager Diehl, Parks and Recreation Director Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All board members are present.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

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 Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1st, 2022 as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

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

Common Cash	\$	1,260,235.62
Public Works	\$	621,558.05
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>160,771.33</u>
Total Checks	\$	2,042,565.00
Credit Card Transactions 10/27/22 to 11/09/2022	\$	18,276.68
Total Purchases	\$	<u>2,060,841.68</u>
ACH Payments	\$	<u>556,725.95</u>

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Resolution in Support of Small Business Saturday

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the attached resolution in support of Small Business Saturday. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Resolution in Support of Native American Heritage Month

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the attached resolution in support of Native American Heritage Month. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

6. PRESENTATION

Manager Walsh presented the recap of 2022 Township Goals and noted the board will be setting its goals for 2023 on November 29th.

Manager Walsh reported the board has adopted its new budget with a fund balance of \$6.3 million. The northern water tower improvements have been completed. The Okemos Rd. bridge replacement is expected to be finished in 6 to 7 weeks. Construction on Grand River Ave. east of Marsh Rd. is finished. The township's PASER rating has climbed from just above 4 to a 5.2 and he expects it to be at an 8 in the future. The Township held its first annual Juneteenth celebration this year. The percentage of female police officers in the township is at 26%. Feminine sanitary products have been included in Township facilities. The Haslett Village Square, Copper Creek, Silverstone, Silverleaf, Trader Joe's, Woodward Way, Buddies Pizza, and Village of Okemos projects all have made considerable progress in 2022.

Township pensions and retiree healthcare have both made big strides forward as the pension is now an asset and healthcare is 100% funded. The MERS program has had \$8-\$10 million of its debt eliminated. Police and Fire retiree debt is being erased as an additional \$750,000 is being paid in annually.

A new battalion chief car, ladder truck and an ambulance have all been purchased and paid for in cash. The Police Squad Room will be updated in 2023 and a new K-9 unit will be added to the department.

Through the American Rescue Plan \$1.3 million has been obligated to road repair, \$970,000 has been obligated to IT upgrades, and 262,000 has been obligated to the fire department for electric cots.

7. JOINT MEETING

(1) Planning Commission

Mark Blumer spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission.

- The Master Plan update is underway
- The sign ordinance has been revised
- The new recreational marijuana plan is underway
- Grand Reserve housing project plan has been approved
- Haslett Village Square and American House projects have moved forward
- Mixed Use Planned Unit Development language has been rewritten

(2) Pension Board/ Brownfield Redevelopment

Joyce Van Coevering spoke on behalf of the pension board

- 42 retirees are receiving benefits that are fully funded
- The pension plan has become an asset of \$498,000

Director Schmitt spoke on Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

- Six current brownfield plans
- Haslett Marathon and Joe's on Jolly are complete and set to begin capturing taxes next year
- American House project under construction
- Haslett Village Square approved this year
- Village of Okemos Project to be adopted soon

(3) Downtown Development Authority

Renee Korrey spoke on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority

- Provided quality leadership and support in redeveloping downtown Okemos
- Replaced street lights sitting on a gas main on Hamilton Rd.
- Small businesses were promoted through a \$50 match gift certificate program
- Holds an annual art fair

(4) Lake Lansing SAD Advisory Committee

Kurt Armbruster spoke on the Lake Lansing SAD Advisory Committee

- Surveys Lake Lansing and harvests invasive plants
- Maintains 15 drains around the lake

- Test the lake water six times a year
- Increasing educational information to residents
- Promoting natural shorelines
- Outlined project south of swimming area to build natural shorelines
- Focus on removing phosphates from water and hopes to address lawn care providers using phosphate fertilizer

(5) Environmental Commission

William McConnell spoke on behalf of the Environmental Commission

- On track to meet goals for renewable energy
- Promoting renewable energy in residential areas
- Recycling events for paint, metal and electronics through small and large recycling events
- The Wetland Education Team has been promoting awareness and maintenance of wetlands in the community
- Expansion of recycling organics
- Working with local schools on reducing food waste
- Financial contributions to community events and the Green Grant program
- Revising 2017 climate sustainability plan to be brought before the board

(6) Community Resources Commission

Suzanne Brouse spoke on behalf of the Community Resources Commission.

- 19% of the population utilizes community resources
- Fundraising at restaurants
- The commission is in transition as a new human service specialist has been hired, Marna Wilson is the new board liaison and Georgia Styka will be the new chair
- Georgia Styka noted their goal is to make the community more aware of the Community Resources Commission.

(7) Communications Commission

Brian Seipal and Leslie Charles spoke on behalf of the Communications Commission.

- 77% of households have broadband access in Michigan
- 27% of households with young children do not have broadband access
- Asked the township board to promote access to broadband
- Connectivity through Prime Meridian Magazine
- Held nine candidate interviews and a pre-election show for November election

(8) Transportation Commission

Steve Vagnozzi spoke on behalf of the Transportation Commission.

- Spends equal time on Non-Motorized and Motorized transportation
- MDOT added extra pathway safety objects on Grand River Project
- Applied to Bike League of America to be listed as a bicycle friendly community
- Annual presentation from CATA in July
- Redi-Ride program is stable with small tweaks taking place on occasion
- Received presentation from Ingham County Road Department on intersection of Lake Lansing and Towar (etc.)
- Scheduled to review transportation goals and objectives for township Master Plan

(9) Park Commission

Mary Nardo Farris spoke on behalf of the Park Commission.

- Reinstated Celebrate Meridian, the Heritage Festival and concerts at Marketplace on the Green
- Harris Nature Center Celebrates 25th anniversary
- Installed five biological floating islands in Lake Lansing
- Completed parks and recreational five-year Master Plan in March
- Deer Management is underway
- Focused on repair and maintenance work starting with the Historical Village and the Central Park Pavilion

(10) Economic Development Corporation

Kim Thompson spoke on behalf of the Economic Development Corporation.

- Haslett Village Square is underway as is American House
- Meridian is a Redevelopment Ready Community
- Supporting businesses during construction by placing shop local signs that give directions through construction
- Supported local business with Mob the Roadblock and Bonus Bucks for local shops
- Attends 2-3 local ribbon cuttings a month

(11) Board of Review

Lanny Brunette spoke on behalf of the Board of Review.

- On track to meet for the full three scheduled days in March 2023
- Educates population on preparedness when coming to Board of Review

Corridor Improvement Authority

Director Clark spoke on behalf of the Corridor Improvement Authority.

- Worked on reshaping Grand River Ave
- The Chair and Vice-Chair have resigned
- The Authority is lacking a tax increment finance district and funding in general
- Plans for TIF capture with Meridian Mall

(12) Local Officials Compensation Commission

Manager Walsh spoke on behalf of the Local Officials Compensation Commission.

- Sets the salaries of local elected officials and will do so next year

(13) Zoning Board of Appeals

Director Schmitt spoke on behalf of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- Took 18 cases this year and only denied one
- New standards of review have been implemented

(14) Land Preservation Advisory Board

Jamie Hiller spoke on behalf of Land Preservation.

- Meridian Conservation Corp have taken 58 volunteer opportunities and logged over 1000 volunteer hours
- Planting native plant species with the Harris Nature Center and Parks and Recreation
- Encourages local planting of native species
- Installation of rules signage for nature preserves
- Introducing new community friendly naming for preserves
- Continuing to host educational workshops
- Expanding relationship with Michigan State University

Trustee Hendrickson noted there are openings on the Planning Commission, the Pension Board, the Downtown Development Authority, the Community Resource Commission, the Communications Commission, the Transportation Commission, the Economic Development Corporation, the Local Officials Compensation Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Land Preservation Advisory Board

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 7:55 pm.

Steve Vagnozzi, 2144 Woodfield Rd, Okemos, MI spoke about the rising cost of rental housing costs.

David Premoe, 3884 Pineknoll Dr., Okemos, MI spoke about a proposal in the 5 year plan of the Planning Commission to provide reasonably priced housing.

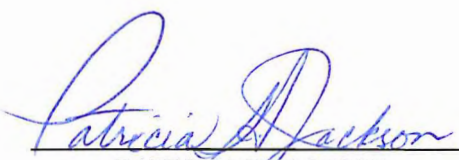
Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 8:00 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

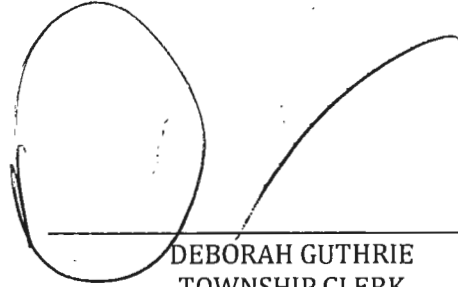
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

Supervisor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.



PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK