

Mark E. Blumer

December 14, 2023

Meridian Township Board of Trustees
% Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk
Meridian Township Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Rd
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Jackson and Township Trustees,

I hereby submit my request to be considered for the open position on the Meridian Township Board of Trustees. Please also find my completed questionnaire, my resume and names and contact numbers of four references.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Blumer

Mark E. Blumer



Education:

Michigan State University--BA with Honors 1971
University of Detroit School of Law--JD 1974
Bar Admission--October 1974
National College of District Attorneys--Career Prosecutor training--July 1984
Medico-Legal Investigation of Death--March 1995
Numerous professional training seminars

Career History:

- A. Magistrate of the 55th District Court, Mason Michigan (2013-2020)
- B. Office of the Prosecutor, Jackson County Michigan—Chief Assistant Prosecutor (2005-2013)
- C. Michigan Department of Attorney General--assistant attorney general (1976-2005: full retirement)
 - 1) Health Care Fraud, First Assistant--October 2003-2005
 - 2) Criminal Division, First Assistant and Acting Assistant-in-Charge--June 1978-October 2003: Criminal Division assignments:
 - a) Criminal prosecution for violation of all state criminal laws
 - b) Legal Advice to Michigan State Police, Governor and Attorney General on Criminal Law issues
 - c) Legal Opinion writing
 - d) Until January 1984--defense of state law enforcement officers who were sued in the line of duty
 - e) Assist county prosecutors upon request
 - f) Education of other staff attorneys, Michigan State Police, prosecutors
 - g) Acting Assistant-in-Charge of Criminal Division--February, 2003-October, 2003.
 - 3) Executive Division (special assignments for Chief Deputy AG)-April 1976-June 1978
 - 4) Education Division-January 1976-April 1976

Michigan Department of State-license appeal hearing officer (1975)

Description of Magistrate Duties:

As Magistrate of the 55th District Court I was required to review and assess for probable cause nearly every search warrant and arrest warrant in the district. I also arraigned all persons brought before the court on criminal matters. I handled waivers of preliminary examinations and arraigned on probation violation arrests. I also adjudicated traffic and ordinance violation cases and adjudicated small claims cases brought in our court. I was designated as deputy court administrator and acted as administrator in the absence of the Court Administrator. Finally, I was a member of the court senior administrative team (composed of the two district judges, the court administrator, the chief probation officer and myself) which set policy and procedures for the court.

Description of Jackson County Duties:

As Chief Assistant Prosecutor, I advised the elected prosecutor on all legal issues confronting the office and I directed the substantive activities of the entire professional staff. On occasion, I also tried major cases such as R.I.C.O., murder and sexual assault cases. However, seventy-five percent of my daily activities involved the direct administration of the legal affairs of the office of the prosecutor. I evaluated and trained the junior attorneys and supervised their activities. I was the liaison to the courts; in particular, to the Domestic Violence Court. In that activity, I consulted with the DV judge as to programs and policies in that court. I also worked with state representatives to propose revised legislation concerning DV repeat offenders that would make the recidivist offender subject to greater and more assured punishment. I am also one of the most senior and widely experienced prosecutors in the state of Michigan. As such, I have been asked, fairly regularly, to advise, assist and mentor younger, less experienced prosecutors in other counties when they encounter unusual or unusually difficult cases. I also regularly assisted in training new prosecutors in various programs managed by the Michigan Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Counsel (PACC).

Description of State Attorney General Duties:

As the First Assistant in the division I had a number of varied duties. When the Assistant-in-Charge was away I am was charge of the division and its entire staff. At other times I assisted the Assistant-in-Charge with administrative duties.

For over 20 years, I was also the chief trial attorney of the criminal division. In this position I was routinely assigned to independently handle the most difficult cases. I was also regularly called upon to aid county prosecutors who were unable, due to inexperience, lack of resources, or conflict of interest, with their cases.

The cases which I prosecuted generally had one or more of the following elements: extremely difficult factual situations; no legal precedent; political or social sensitivity. I have handled all appeals of my cases myself and have written all appellate briefs for my cases (with review and approval of the Solicitor General). Copies of briefs I have written for the Michigan Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court are available upon request.

Prior to a reordering of division assignments by the Attorney General, I also frequently tried cases related to Civil Rights lawsuits against the State of Michigan and several of its agencies including the Michigan State Police, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Natural Resources.

Examples of my cases:

Dearden v. City of Detroit, established the only case counter to the general national precedent that a state agency could be barred from a local activity by a zoning ordinance.

People v. Garza, first degree murder conviction in completely circumstantial case eight years after the crime. Body of victim not found until three weeks before trial and three months after obtaining the “bind over.”

People v. Hryshko, bribery conviction. Defendant was third ranking official in Macomb County prosecutor’s office.

People v. Ratliff, manslaughter/attempted murder conviction. Defendant was a police officer who killed his wife (a judge) in the Kent County courthouse, then had a gunfight with police coming to her rescue.

People v. Davis, defendant convicted of murdering his wife with exotic poison then making it appear to be a horse riding accident. Captured in Pago Pago with help of TV program “Unsolved Mysteries” (subject of a book and a TV movie).

People v. Schuette, defendant was administrator of District Court in Romulus, MI convicted of embezzling over one quarter of a million dollars in two years.

People v. Madejczyk, defendant was police chief of Grandville, MI (and president of the Michigan Association of Police Chiefs) and had been embezzling from the department for most of his 30 years in office.

People v. Draheim, defendant bound victim with police flexi-cuffs and murdered her. Crime unsolved for 16 years until AG entered case. Defendant convicted of murder and sentenced to 60-90 years.

People v. Bean, 23 year cold case, bodiless murder. First case in Michigan prosecuted using new version of spousal privilege.

People v. McRae, serial murder case. (reversed by Michigan Supreme Court on procedural grounds). I supervised the investigation, tried the prosecution, handled all the state appeals (two in Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court-including all oral arguments), and prepared and filed the Petition for Certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court.

People v. Murine, defendant repeatedly sexually assaulted the 7 year old daughter of his girlfriend. Most difficult part of the case was obtaining the testimony of the victim.

People v. Russell, felony stalking at an unparalleled level.

Teaching Experience:

- Lecturer at National Advocacy Center (Columbia, SC)—national training school for prosecutors and US Attorneys—7 times
- Lecturer for the National Association of District Attorney training programs twice
- Instructor at in-house trial practice seminars for Attorney General department
- Lecturer at State Police Arson School (Prosecutor program) 1988-2005
- Guest lecturer at FBI Academy 5 times
- Lecturer at Rocky Mountain homicide seminar 1994 (Montana)
- Lecturer at Western States homicide seminar 1993 and 2001 (Wyoming)
- Lecturer at Midwestern Conference on unsolved and serial murders 1989
- Instructor at Lansing Community College, School of Criminal Justice 1990-2002
- Instructor at Trial practice seminar for National Association of Attorneys General

- Co-author: Sauer, Norman, William A. Lovis, Mark E. Blumer and Jennifer Fillion, “The Contributions of Archeology and Physical Anthropology to the John McRae case.” In Dawnie W. Steadman (ed.) Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology. Prentice Hall, 2002.
- Lecturer at NDAA program on Homicide Prosecution. My topic was prosecuting the bodiless homicide—November, 2008
- Visiting Professor of Criminal Law. Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, Lansing, Michigan, 2005 to present.

Foreign Language Ability and Experience:

In college I was in a specialized program called Justin Morrill College. This was an early experimental program designed to develop substantial fluency in one or more of four languages (Spanish, French, Russian and German). Students were then required to live in a country where that language was spoken and to study there. Students then returned to East Lansing and obtained BA degrees with an emphasis in foreign relations/political science. My chosen language was Spanish and I traveled extensively through South America and lived with a family in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At the end of this training my Spanish ability was sufficient that native Spanish speakers could detect that I was not from his/her country but could not tell where I was really from.

Since that time, I have tried to maintain my ability in Spanish. I admittedly have lost some fluency over the years. However, I still have the ability to interview witnesses and interrogate defendants in Spanish and I have, on occasion, caught an official court translator in missed translations.

Family and non-professional activities:

My wife Susan and I have been married for over 50 years. We raised two children and we are grandparents of two. I am an avid photographer and my work has been shown in an art gallery in Lansing, Old Town. My other hobby is woodworking and furniture building and design.

Honors and Recognition:

- Prosecutor of the year-1997, by IAAI/MACP
- Frank J. Kelley Attorney General award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy, 2002
- Citation of Professional Excellence from Michigan State Police twice
- Letter of Professional Recognition from Attorney General
- Letter of Commendation from Governor John Engler
- Invitation to be teaching assistant at NCDA career prosecutor course 1985
- Subject of the book, Murder in the Thumb by Richard Carson, 2009
- Subject of the book, With Murderous Intent by Robert Hemming, 1991
- Subject of a TV movie, Victim of Love.

References:

- **Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth—Ingham County Sheriff**
- Hon. Stephen Markman—Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court (retired)
- Hon. Amy Krause—Michigan Court of Appeals Judge, Lansing, MI (retired)
- Hon. Darryl Mazur—(Domestic Violence judge) 12th District Court, Jackson, MI
- Hon. Michael Klaeren—12th District Court, Jackson, MI
- Robert Ianni—Bureau Chief--Dept. of Attorney General (retired), Lansing, MI

- Thomas Boyd, former Chief Judge of 55th District Court, now State Court Administrator, Lansing, MI
- Michael Dillon, Court Administrator of 55th District Court, Mason, MI
- Stephanie Godsey, Magistrate of 55th District Court, Mason, MI

Please Note: I retired from my position as Magistrate of the 55th District Court, a position that I loved very much, because the Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel contacted me and personally requested that I return to that office (after an absence of 15 years) to run the recently reorganized Criminal Trial and Appeals Division. I was greatly honored by her request and accepted her offer. I began work there the second week of April 2020; about the same time that the pandemic began to explode. I and my wife are both over 70 and she is a cancer survivor with asthma. We became greatly concerned that I might bring home the virus due to numerous personal contacts that I would have at the two offices (Lansing and Detroit) that I had to manage. My wife is critically vulnerable to this disease, so I requested permission to work from home until the crisis subsided. The Attorney General executive staff deemed me to be a critical employee and denied my request. I therefore resigned at the end of my second week there. We are now fully immunized and no longer overly concerned about the epidemic.

Since that time, I have been the designated substitute magistrate of the 55th District Court and I am the Chair of the Meridian Township Planning Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

APPLICATION FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please return this application along with your resume, cover letter and three (3) references to:

DEBORAH GUTHRIE, TOWNSHIP CLERK
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
5151 MARSH ROAD
OKEMOS, MICHIGAN, 48864

Completed applications must be received by 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, December 27, 2023. We prefer applications to be emailed to guthrie@meridian.mi.us. **Incomplete applications will be disqualified.**

1. Please confirm that you are available to be interviewed at the Meridian Township Board meeting to be held at 4:00 PM, on January 9, 2024.

I confirm that I will be available for interview at 4pm on January 9, 2024.

2. Please share your understanding or knowledge of municipal finances, budgeting and auditing.

I have no specific training in municipal finance or budgeting and auditing. However, I was the chief prosecutor of the state Attorney General for most of my 30 years in that office. In that time I prosecuted multiple cases of misuse of public money (including by the chief of police of Granville, Mi). In those cases, I had to work closely with investigative auditors who made me understand the issues sufficiently that I was able to argue the issues in court and present them in a comprehensive way to juries.

3. Please share your community activities and volunteerism in the community over the past 5-10 years.

I have been a member of the Meridian Township Planning Commission for about 3 years and the chair for almost 2 years.

4. A significant amount of your time will be allocated to Township Board responsibilities, such as planning, zoning, budgeting, re-zonings, land use, economic development, labor negotiations and audit review. Please share with us your experience with, and understanding of, the aforementioned responsibilities.

As explained above, I am comfortable reviewing audits. I have spent the last three years dealing with land use, zoning and re-zoning issues due to my membership on the Planning

Commission. Economic development and labor negotiations are areas that I have little prior experience with.

5. The position of township trustee is an elected position, and the holder of the office must reside within the township. How long have resided in Meridian Township?

I have been a resident of Meridian Township continuously since 1976. Before that, I was a student at MSU from 1967-1971 and for part of that time I lived in a house in Meridian Township (which no longer exists). Therefore I can honestly say that I have lived here my entire adult life.

6. Have you ever served on a Board or Commission for Meridian Township? Please be specific.

Yes. I am currently the chair of the Meridian Township Planning Commission.

7. Have you ever served as an elected official? Please be specific.

Although I have served at significant levels in government for my entire working life, I have never held an elected position.

8. In 200 words or less, please provide the Township Board with the reason that you are seeking the Township Trustee's position.

As stated above, I have lived in this community most of my life and I am intimately familiar with the workings of government. I love this community and want to use my experience and expertise to help it continue to be a wonderful place to live and work.

References for Mark Blumer

Judge Amy Ronayne Krause (Michigan Court of Appeals-retired)

[REDACTED]

Magistrate Stefani Godsey (55th District Court)

[REDACTED]

Mr. Takura Nyamfukudza

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Elaine Stocking

[REDACTED]

Angela Demas

Political Professional



[Redacted contact information]

Dear Meridian Township Board,

27th December 2023

My name is Angela Demas, and I have lived in Meridian Township for almost half my life since 2013. I am a proud 2020 graduate of Okemos High School and this fall, I graduated from Michigan State University *cum laude*. I want to continue to serve the community I love as a Meridian Township Trustee. I believe that I could bring a unique perspective to the board as a young queer woman who has extensive experience with community and governmental issues and understands the skills required to hold office.

The role of Trustee requires being a good listener and working together with other board members to make decisions to best serve our community in areas including economic development, land use, police, fire, and EMS services, and parks and recreation. I have completed internships with Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Curtis Hertel and Representative Julie Brixie, where I've had the pleasure of working closely with people in government and assisting constituents. I also have experience with researching policy issues; writing reports on legislation, including budget bills; communications; and door-to-door canvassing.

I also believe it's important to be involved in our community and I have held several leadership positions in organizations, including serving as Professional Chairwoman for the Delta Phi Epsilon Professional Foreign Service Sorority Mu Chapter and being a member of the Philanthropy Committee. Our motto is "la tre wo," meaning "I serve," to remind us to always be willing and actively serve our communities to the best of our ability. I live by these words each and every day.

I've also served as Vice Chair, Public Relations Coordinator, Conference Coordinator in Training, and the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMU) Representative for the Alliance of Queer and Ally Students organization. As the ASMSU Representative, I wrote several bills in support of passing the Equality Act, as well as a bill to hire more ASMSU HR staff directors. I also contributed to a bill that sought out accountability from the ASMSU Vice President of Student Allocations after several organizations filed complaints about the lack of funding they received.

My leadership positions in these organizations and my political internships have prepared me to serve as a Trustee. I believe that my research, communication, policy analysis and constituent relations skills would be assets on the board. Most importantly, I am passionate about making sure that Meridian Township is best the best place for people to live, work and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Demas

CAREER OBJECTIVE

To secure a challenging government or political position where I can use my extensive communication, research and policy analysis skills. In the future, I plan to pursue a J.D. focused on human rights law and run for public office.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE INTERN

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

SEPT 2022.- MAY 2023, JUNIOR AND SENIOR, MSU

- Wrote press releases, columns, talking points and social media posts for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist
- Compiled media clips

WHITMER-GILCHRIST CAMPAIGN FELLOW

RESEARCH TEAM

JUNE-AUG. 2022, JUNIOR, MSU

- Vetted job candidates, officials and donors
- Compiled social media clips
- Did opposition research

SENATE INTERN

SENATOR CURTIS HERTEL JR.

JUNE - AUG. 2017 AND 2019, 10TH AND 12TH GRADE

- Wrote and edited letters to constituents and speeches
- Transcribed speeches
- Researched legislation and issues and wrote summaries
- Attended legislative session
- Assisted Chief of Staff

CAMPAIGN INTERN

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES AND ONE CAMPAIGN

JUNE - AUG. 2018, 11TH GRADE

- Did door-to-door canvassing for Curtis Hertel, Steve Bieda, Julie Brixie, Kara Hope and the One Campaign
- Wrote letters to voters
- Took campaign photos
- Filmed debates

EDUCATION

DIPLOMA, OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL, 2020

B.A. IN ARTS & HUMANITIES, MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, 2023 GPA: 3.9, *cum laude*

CLASS EXPERIENCE: SOCIAL INEQUALITY, CLASSICAL REPUBLICANISM, TRANSCULTURAL RELATIONS, CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY, HEALTH AND SOCIETY, PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT AND WRIT NG RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES.

ACTIVITIES

LEADERSHIP ROLES: VICE PRESIDENT OF RCAF COUNCIL; VICE CHAIR, PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR AND ASMSU REPRESENTATIVE OF ALLIANCE MSU; PROFESSIONAL CHAIRWOMAN OF DELTA PHI EPSILON PROFESSIONAL FOREIGN SERVICE SORORITY MU CHAPTER

MEMBER: TRANSACTION, HCMSU, MSU DEMOCRATS



ANGELA DEMAS

POLITICAL PROFESSIONAL,
PHOTOGRAPHER AND
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

CONTACT



SKILLS

- Research
- Communications
- Graphic design
- Photography
- Journalism
- Writing
- Social media
- Media relations
- Videography
- Editing
- Canvassing
- Legislative analysis
- Constituent relations

APPLICATION FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Angela Demas
[REDACTED]

References:

Representative Julie Brixie
[REDACTED]

Ingham County Cleark barb Byrum
[REDACTED]

Ingham County Commissioner Thomas Morgan
[REDACTED]

Please return this application along with your resume, cover letter and three (3) references to:

DEBORAH GUTHRIE, TOWNSHIP CLERK
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
5151 MARSH ROAD
OKEMOS, MICHIGAN, 48864

Completed applications must be received by 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, December 27, 2023. We prefer applications to be emailed to guthrie@meridian.mi.us . **Incomplete applications will be disqualified.**

1. Please confirm that you are available to be interviewed at the Meridian Township Board meeting to be held at 4:00 PM, on January 9, 2024.

I will be available.

2. Please share your understanding or knowledge of municipal finances, budgeting and auditing.

In my internships with Senator Curtis Hertel's office, I gained valuable experience on local government issues. Local officials in the district would regularly contact the Senator's office about financial needs and concerns. One area of concern for many officials was revenue sharing, the funding they received from the state. Local governments often haven't received enough revenue-sharing from the state in order to meet the needs of their residents, such as public safety, roads, and parks. In addition, I also understand the necessity of balancing annual budgets, because state lawmakers are responsible for balancing the state budget, too. I also believe that it's important to safeguard taxpayer dollars and to audit the effectiveness of spending on various programs.

3. Please share your community activities and volunteerism in the community over the past 5-10 years.

I've always believed being involved in my community is important since I moved to Meridian Township almost 11 years ago. As a freshman at Okemos High School in 2016, the first club I joined our school's community service club, Action. I volunteered to help out at our community recycling drive, I've helped set up community events for the school and I've donated clothes to a clothing drive. At Michigan State University, I joined Delta Phi Epsilon Professional Foreign Service Sorority Mu Chapter and was a member for my entire 3.5 years until I graduated in 2023. I joined the philanthropy committee where I volunteered at a local farmer's market, helped give out candy during Safe Halloween, wrote letters to encourage people to vote in elections, and organized charity fund drives. I also was elected Professional Chairwoman my senior year where I helped organize financial literacy programs, mentored younger members, put on career-readiness workshops and organized an event on public speaking. I held several leadership roles at the Alliance of Queer and Ally Students since my freshman year, serving as Vice Chair, Public Relations Coordinator, Conference Coordinator in Training, and the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) Representative. As the ASMSU Representative, I wrote several bills in support of the Equality Act and hiring HR staff directors for ASMSU. I also contributed to a bill seeking accountability from the Vice President of Student Allocations as several organizations filed complaints about not receiving funding. I was also the Vice Chair for my Residential College of Arts and Humanities' (RCAH) student council, RCAH Council, where I was able to help organize community events and send out student experience surveys to

improve people's education and quality of life at our college. In 2018, I volunteered for the One Campaign and helped canvass for several Democratic candidates on the ballot in the Metro-Detroit area and Ingham County.

4. A significant amount of your time will be allocated to Township Board responsibilities, such as planning, zoning, budgeting, re-zonings, land use, economic development, labor negotiations and audit review. Please share with us your experience with, and understanding of, the aforementioned responsibilities.

My work with Senator Curtis Hertel's office included a large amount of effort in passing the state budget since he was the minority appropriations vice chair. One of my responsibilities was reviewing legislation and summarizing it for the Senator and other staff. In addition, the Senator would also review multiple state audit reports of different state departments and programs, and thus I was exposed to that information.

I recognize that land use decisions make up the largest amount of time the Township Board spends in their official capacity during the year. Planning is extremely important for Meridian Township as we continue to rebuild both our downtowns and try to foster success with large and small businesses. Some of my work in the honors program included a unit about architecture and planning communities. I found this work exciting and interesting. I believe that in order for our township to continue to be the best place to live in Ingham County, we need to make sure that we maintain the right mix of residential, business, and mixed-use developments. The zoning and development process is critical for the success of the township. Some of Meridian Township's best assets are its many parks, trails, and open spaces. Making sure we maintain enough green space that draws so many residents to our township has to be a consideration as we also try and encourage development and importantly re-development. Land-use decisions can be challenging, but they are very important to help our community thrive. Meridian Township has a variety of businesses from Meridian Mall to some of the best restaurants in the Lansing area. In our economic development policies, it's important that we encourage small businesses, the backbone of our community, that give residents unique experiences in our township.

Meridian Township's staff make sure that our community is safe, our water is clean, our residents are able to access services, and our parks are clean. Most staff are represented by labor organizations, and as part of our budget process, their contracts are an important consideration. As a Democrat, I am very supportive of labor unions and was exposed to many labor stakeholders and issues during my work with Senator Curtis Hertel. I do understand that the manager plays a large role in these negotiations and working with the manager through the budget process is crucial. Respecting and understanding roles is important to a good functioning board.

5. The position of township trustee is an elected position, and the holder of the office must reside within the township. How long have resided in Meridian Township?

I've resided in Meridian Township for a decade. Unlike most young people in Meridian, instead of moving to Chicago, Grand Rapids or Atlanta, I'm here eager to not only stay in my community but actively participate in governing it.

6. Have you ever served on a Board or Commission for Meridian Township? Please be specific.

No, I have not.

7. Have you ever served as an elected official? Please be specific.

No, I have not.

8. In 200 words or less, please provide the Township Board with the reason that you are seeking the Township Trustee's position.

Meridian Township is the first place that felt like home. As a proud 2020 Okemos High School graduate, I knew I wanted to stay in my community, which is why I chose to attend Michigan State University. After graduating early from MSU this fall, I was interested in serving my community and was delighted that a position opened up. I have wanted to serve in elected office since I was 5 years old. My internships with Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Curtis Hertel, and Representative Julie Brixie have given me valuable experience in how to listen to constituents and assist them with their issues. My leadership roles in several organizations have given me a great start in preparing for the role of Trustee. When I look at the Township board, I feel that something is missing, and that is a voice for people like me. Our Township board should look like our community and I am excited to help represent young people and LGBTQ+ people in our community. If I were appointed Township Trustee, I would work every day to make Meridian Township the best place for people to live, work and thrive.

December 27, 2023

Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk
Meridian Township Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Meridian Township Board of Trustees,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Angela Demas for the appointment to the Meridian Township Board of Trustees.

I have known Angela since she was in fifth grade and in my 10-plus years of knowing her, I have found her to possess strong leadership skills, as well as a firm understanding of the important of public service and accountability.

Angela has worked diligently as a student, graduating with a 3.9 GPA early from Michigan State University. Angela has served in many volunteer leadership roles and has more political experience than most. No matter the particular challenge presented, Angela will jump in with both feet and work to thoroughly understand the issue so she can find a solution that best serves her community.

Along the way, Angela has built strong relationships with and garnered the respect from numerous state-level elected officials, as well as other key policymakers and advocates throughout mid-Michigan.

Angela is an engaged and passionate leader who I know would well represent the residents of Meridian Township. For these reasons and more, I highly recommend her for this position.

Sincerely,



Barb Byrum
Ingham County Clerk

PETER L. TREZISE

December 20, 2023

Township Clerk Deborah Guthrie
Meridian Township Building
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

SUBJECT: Meridian Township Trustee Vacancy

Dear Clerk Guthrie,

I am applying for the open Meridian Township Trustee position vacant as a result of the resignation of Trustee Courtney Wisinski on December 12, 2023. I have been a township resident for over thirty-five years. My wife and I have raised two children through the Okemos Schools.

I am a licensed attorney admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1976. I have served and on the Meridian Township Planning Commission since 2018. I served on the Okemos Board of Education for sixteen years. My employment since law school has been in the public sector, either with the State of Michigan or for public schools. I have demonstrated the temperament to be a productive, dedicated and collaborative member of a public board.

I have enclosed a completed application for the trustee position, a brief resume, and reference contact information. I look forward to hearing from you as the appointment process continues. I am available January 9, 2024 for an interview should I be chosen to proceed beyond the application step.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Trezise

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██████████ ████████████████████

██████████

PETER L. TREZISE

RESUME

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI
Bachelor of Science. Social Science Prelaw, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

MEMBER OF MICHIGAN STATE BAR SINCE 1976

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member Meridian Township Planning Commission 2018 to current.
Past President Briarwood Home Owner Association
Okemos Public Schools Board of Education 1995-2011
Okemos Public Schools Bond Committee 2013 and 2019
Okemos Public School Strategic Planning 2019
Meridian Township Rebranding committee

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Interim Director of Human Resources: Responsible for operations of HR Department including hiring, disciplining, grievance management, contract negotiations and Title IX Coordinator. Member of Superintendent Advisory Council involved in district wide planning and administration.
Holt Public Schools, November 2019-June 2021.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources: Responsible for negotiations, grievances, and contract management including layoff, employee discipline, and hiring for five bargaining groups and other non-represented employees in school district of 3500 students
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools 2007- 2012

Labor Relations Specialist: Responsible for grievances, arbitrations, Michigan Employment Relations Hearings for a school district. Serve as administrator for all collective bargaining agreements.
Lansing School District 2005-2007

Chief Operating Officer: Administered a principal state human services department with direct responsibility for human resources, MIS, and administrative hearings. Administered a \$9 billion budget and 5,000 employees.
Michigan Department of Community Health, Lansing, MI 1999-2003

Assistant Attorney General
Served as Assistant Attorney General with assignments as Assistant-in-Charge of two divisions, Habeas Corpus and Mental Health, as well as workers compensation defense work.
Michigan Department of Attorney General 1979-1999

REFERENCES

John J. Hood

Superintendent, Okemos Public Schools

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

David G. Hornak, Ed.D

Superintendent, Holt Public Schools

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Erin Quinlan, Ed.D.

Director of Human Resources

Holt Public Schools

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

APPLICATION FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. Please confirm that you are available to be interviewed at the Meridian Township Board meeting to be held at 4:00 PM, on January 9, 2024.

I am available to be interviewed 4:00 pm January 9, 2024.

2. Please share your understanding or knowledge of municipal finances, budgeting and auditing.

I have been involved in municipal budgeting in a public school setting on the Okemos School Board as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources with the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and as Interim HR Director for the Holt School District. I reviewed audits of expenditures on an annual basis in each of these positions.

3. Please share your community activities and volunteerism in the community over the past 5-10 years.

I have served on the Township Planning Commission since 2018 and have served as liaison to the DDA and EDC in the past. I currently the Chair of the BRA and at voting member of the ZBA. In 2022 I served as an election worker for the primary and general elections. I served as president of the Briarwood Home Owners Association 2015-2018

4. A significant amount of your time will be allocated to Township Board responsibilities, such as planning, zoning, budgeting, re-zonings, land use, economic development, labor negotiations and audit review. Please share with us your experience with, and understanding of, the aforementioned responsibilities.

At Mt. Pleasant Public Schools, I successfully negotiated contracts with five bargaining units on behalf of the school district, often on a yearly basis. While Interim HR Director for Holt Public Schools I

negotiated six full contracts as well as several amended provisions necessary to function during the height of the Covid pandemic. See question 2 for budget experience.

5. The position of township trustee is an elected position, and the holder of the office must reside within the township. How long have resided in Meridian Township?

I have resided in Meridian Township since 1986.

6. Have you ever served on a Board or Commission for Meridian Township? Please be specific.

I have served on the Township Planning Commission since 2018 and have served as liaison to the DDA and EDC in the past. I currently the Chair of the BRA and at voting member of the ZBA. I served on the Meridian Township Brand Development Committee.

7. Have you ever served as an elected official? Please be specific.

I served on the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education for 16 years, June 1995 through December 2011.

8. In 200 words or less, please provide the Township Board with the reason that you are seeking the Township Trustee's position.

I strongly believe in community service. My pursuit of the Trustee position is to allow me to continue and broaden my service. My career as Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Director for the Department of Community Health as well as serving in and leading the HR Departments in three public school districts demonstrate my commitment to public service. My service on the Okemos School Board as well as the Planning Commission demonstrate my commitment to volunteer service to my community.

Many citizens do not understand the serious impact the Township Board can have on their quality of life. I believe I would be a positive addition to the Board. I will perform the duties diligently. I will have a significant learning curve fully appreciate the issues present to the Board but am excited to undertake this education process. I have no agenda to push. My experience and temperament provide me the skills necessary to listen and assess differing views on issues. I believe that respect and civility is necessary for democracy. If appointed, I pledge to treat fellow Board members, township staff and the public with respect and civility.