

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026, 6:00PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Police Chief Grillo, Deputy Manager & Public Works Director Opsommer, Community Planning & Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Fire Marshal Millerov, Communications Manager Diehl, Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski, and Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Clark

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the July 7, 2026, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Demas called the roll. Six Board Members present.

Trustee Sundland was absent.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of New Firefighter – Benjamin Smith

Fire Marshal Millerov introduced Benjamin Smith as their new Firefighter.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:04 pm.

Larry Stephens P.E. commented on Winslow Mobile Home Park Public Sewer.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:08 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Deputy Manager Opsommer spoke about the following:

- Thanked Meridian Cares, Police, Fire, Public Works, and Communications departments for assisting residents and for all their work due to the storm this past weekend.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas attended the annual MAMC conference. She provided information regarding the process to spoil a ballot and receive a new one.

Trustee Wilson attended the Police Department's Awards Ceremony and recognized that Lorenzo Velasquez was named Officer of the Year.

Trustee Lentz thanked the board members who attended the Ingham County Chapter of the MTA meeting. He gave a reminder of the ELMWSA annual meeting on July 15th. He recognized the upcoming July 2026 Meridian Happenings.

Deputy Manager Opsommer announced that the joint application for the BUILD grant for Okemos and Hamilton Road was awarded.

Supervisor Hendrickson gave a reminder about the second of three listening sessions scheduled for July 28th at 6:00 pm located in the pavilion at 5151 Marsh Road. He recognized that July is Parks and Recreation month.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the consent agenda items.

Closed Session minutes were placed before each Board member for review.

Supervisor Hendrickson pointed out three small changes to be made to the June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes of the Township Board. 1. Section 3, Roll Call to include the vote to appoint Trustee Trezise acting as Temporary Clerk. 2. Section 6, the Manager Report to correct the spelling of HOMTV. 3. At the end of the meeting a note stating Treasurer Burghardt left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Supervisor Hendrickson moved to amend the June 16 minutes to reflect those three small corrections. Seconded by Treasurer Burghardt.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Board members asked questions regarding a public hearing notice included in item 9A Communications.

Trustee Wilson moved the consent agenda. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Zoning Amendment #2026-05 – Backyard Chicken and Rabbits Update – RECONSIDERATION

Director Schmitt explained that after Ordinance 2026-05 was approved, a homeowner applied for backyard chickens and started building a coop. It was discovered that the homeowner lived in RN, Village of Nemoka Mixed Residential District. This area is a mix of small apartments and single-family homes and was not included in the updated ordinance.

The ordinance has not been published for adoption, and this item has been brought to the Board to reconsider the approval from the June 16, 2026, meeting.

Board discussion occurred which included asking for clarify on the ordinance.

The Board indicated support to reconsider the approval and adopt the amended resolution.

Trustee Trezise moved to reconsider the resolution to approve Text Amendment #2026-05 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-368 to update the standards for the keeping of backyard chickens and rabbits in the Township. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Lentz moved to adopt the amended resolution approving for reintroduction Text Amendment #2026-05 to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Meridian at Section 86-368 to update the standards for the keeping of backyard chickens and rabbits in the Township, adding the RN, Village of Nemoke District to the list of districts where backyard chickens and rabbits are permitted. Supported by Treasurer Burghardt.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

- B. Sanctuary #2 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #430 – Resolution #4

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave a brief overview of the process.

The Board indicated support.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Sanctuary #2 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #430 – Resolution #4, which files the proposed Special Assessment Roll with the office of the Township Clerk and sets the date for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2026. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

- C. Sierra Ridge #4 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #431 – Resolution #4

Deputy Manager Opsommer explained that this is almost identical to the previous resolution except double the parcels.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Sierra Ridge #4 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #431 – Resolution #4, which files the proposed Special Assessment Roll with the office of the Township Clerk and sets the date for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2026. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Park and Public Safety Millage Renewals

A presentation was given by Deputy Manager Opsommer, Police Chief Grillo, Fire Marshal Millerov, and Director Wisinski on the past 10 years of where each department was and where they are now.

Board discussion emphasized that these proposals are renewals and not new proposals.

The Board indicated support for the millage renewals to be placed on the November ballot and for this item to be brought back to the next meeting.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 7:10 pm.

The opportunity to speak was provided to the public.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 7:10 pm.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Trezise moved to enter into closed session under MCL 15.268(1)(h) to consult with the Township Attorney regarding a confidential written legal opinion. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

At 7:11 pm, the Board entered closed session.

At 7:35 pm, the Board returned to open session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

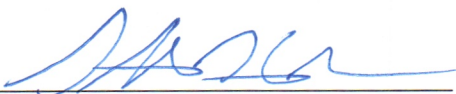
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Burghardt, Trustee Lentz, Trustee Trezise, and Trustee Wilson.

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk