

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

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director Clark, Fire Chief Hamel, IT Director Gebes, Human Services Specialist Love, Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski, Parks and Recreation Specialist Zegarzewski

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the May 7, 2026, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Demas called the roll of the Board. All members are present at 6:01pm.

At 6:02 pm, Supervisor Hendrickson called a recess due to technical difficulties. The Board reconvened at 6:09 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. #SockOutSuicide

Okemos High School ACTION members Joe Chizick and Autumn Gebara presented information on SockOutSuicide. This annual event encourages folks to wear bright, colorful socks to start conversations about suicide prevention and will take place this year on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Supervisor Hendrickson presented a proclamation from the Township Board in support of #SockOutSuicide.

B. Polar Dash & Splash Donation

Director Wisinski and Specialist Zegarzewski presented a donation to Meridian Cares in the amount of \$981.81 from the Polar Dash & Splash event.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:22 pm.

Alex McCrae, spoke about the Haslett Road Bike Way.

Everett Root, spoke in support of aerial imagery proposed legislation.

Jared Jonckheere, spoke in support of item 11.C-Chicken Ordinance Update.

Brandi Bauer, spoke in opposition to an expired rental license at 1276 Orlando Drive.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:36 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey's report included the following:

- Township Board Listening Session will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:00pm at 242 Community Center.
- Police Department will hold a Community Engagement Session, hosted by Chief Grillo, on de-escalation on May 26, 2026.
- Farmers' Market is back outdoors at Marketplace on the Green.
- Acknowledgement to Township staff and election workers for the extra hours and effort put into the election.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas thanked election workers for helping administering the May 5, 2026 Special Election. The Clerk's Office is looking into an alternate polling location for Precinct 2-StoryPoint, based on voter feedback. She mentioned April 29, 2026, was Denim Day, to support those affected by sexual violence.

Treasurer Burghardt reported she attended the Michigan Municipal Treasurers' Conference last week and attended 18 sessions.

Trustee Sundland stated she attended the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting this morning and provided a summary of the items discussed.

Trustee Lentz recognized Yu Man Lee, Environmental Commission Chair, who was awarded the 2026 Legacy Award from the Michigan Wildlife Society for her outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation. Six total awardees were granted \$15,000 in Green Grants. He mentioned the importance of bike safety and viewing the recent social media posts from the Police Department on bike safety.

Supervisor Hendrickson mentioned he was able to attend the Haslett Community Church Woodland Garden dedication on Sunday, April 26, 2026. They are a prior Meridian Township Green Grant recipient. The Township Board held the annual Joint Meeting of Local Governments and Schools on April 28, 2026.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE:

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the consent agenda items.

Treasurer Burghardt offered an amendment on Item 9F on the Resolution Appointment Code Enforcement Officers, section 1, to add "and his or her designees" after successors each of the three times it is written.

Treasurer Burghardt moved item 9F Designation of Code Enforcement Officials for Civil Infractions with proposed friendly amendment. Treasurer Burghardt deferred her amendment.

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

The Board discussed the amendment and asked questions to Township Attorney Kuschel.

Trustee Trezise moved the consent agenda with the amendment to Item 9F mentioned. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- A. Final Adoption of Ordinance 2026-01: Eyde/Capstone-Hannah Boulevard-Conditional Rezoning-PO, Professional Office, and RAA, One-Family, Low Density Residential, to RD, Multiple Family Residential up to 8 Dwelling Units per Acre, Subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement

Director Schmitt reviewed the item which pertains to the properties that are currently vacant and located between The Lodges of East Lansing and the Indian Lakes Estates neighborhood. The applicant is requesting to rezone the parcels to RD, Multiple Family Residential up to 8 dwelling units per acre.

Board discussion occurred with support of the ordinance. Trustee Wilson initially offered the motion, then withdrew so that Trustee Trezise could make the motion.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Ordinance 2026-01, an ordinance to rezone two vacant parcels on Hannah Boulevard (parcel IDs #33-02-02-20-401-005 and 3302-02-20-327-006) from PO, Professional Office, and RAA, One-Family, Low Density Residential, to RD, Multiple Family Residential up to 8 Dwelling Units per Acre, Subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

- B. Final Adoption of Ordinance 2026-02: 2936 Jolly Road-Tekchandani Rezoning-C-1, Commercial, to RB, One-Family, High Density Residential

Director Schmitt presented the item which pertains to the property at 2936 Jolly Road. The property has a single-family home on it and is currently a legally licensed rental property. The owner is looking to sell the property and retire, but has run into issues selling the property, as it is considered non-conforming, since the use of the property does not match the zoning.

Board discussion occurred with support of the ordinance.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving Ordinance 2026-02, an ordinance to rezone 2936 Jolly Road (parcel IDs #33-02-02-32-300-013) from C-1, Commercial, to RB, One-Family, High-Density Residential. Supported by Treasurer Burghardt.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Data Center Moratorium Introduction

Director Schmitt shared the draft ordinance that would establish a six-month moratorium on Data Center development in the Township. During that time, the Township Attorney would develop ordinances to present to the Planning Commission and Township Board to regulate the use.

A public notice will be published, and the Township Board will take final adoption on this item at the next meeting.

Supervisor Hendrickson stated that no Data Center projects have been brought to the Township for discussion.

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Text Amendment #2026-03 to implement a six-month moratorium on Data Center developments while regulations are developed. Supported by Clerk Demas.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium

Director Schmitt shared the draft ordinance that would establish a six-month moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems development in the Township. During that time, the Township Attorney would develop ordinances to present to the Planning Commission and Township Board to regulate the use.

A public notice will be published, and the Township Board will take final adoption on this item at the next meeting.

Board discussion occurred in support of the resolution.

Trustee Trezise moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Text Amendment #2026-04 to implement a six-month moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems developments while regulations are developed. Supported by Treasurer Burghardt.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes Legal Services Agreement

Manager Dempsey reviewed that the Township recently completed a RFP process for legal services and received four proposals. The Township Board selected Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes (FSBR) PLC. He presented the renewal engagement letter from them to provide legal services to the Township through June 30, 2026.

Board discussion occurred with support of FSBR legal services.

Trustee Lentz moved to approve the renewal engagement letter with Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC for legal services through June 30, 2029. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Parking Ordinance Update #3

Director Schmitt presented the final update which includes the following: updates and modernization of general ordinance language, update to the bicycle parking regulations, creation of regulations for EV stations, and inclusion of green infrastructure language for future developments.

Board discussion occurred regarding the need for shared parking agreements as well as communication needed to business owners regarding changes to the parking ordinance and that they could have green space in place of parking spaces.

Questions were asked about off-street residential parking changing from no parking space or driveway shall be located within two feet of any interior lot line and that this may cause an issue around Lake Lansing. There was discussion of

The Board appeared to be in general support of the ordinance changes proposed and the item will be back for introduction at the next meeting.

B. Tailgaters SDD Resort Liquor License Application

Director Clark summarized the application submitted by Tailgaters Meridian LLC for a new convenience service station located at 1622 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos. As part of this proposed development, Tailgaters Meridian LLC has submitted an application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for a Resort Specially Designated

Distributor (SDD) license. They have requested the Township Board submit a letter of support to the MLCC on their behalf.

Board discussion occurred about the number of SDD licenses allowed by the MLCC for Meridian Township.

The Board will have this item on for action at the next meeting.

C. Chicken Ordinance Update

Director Schmitt presented the backyard chicken and rabbit ordinance update. The Planning Commission has reviewed the ordinance and recommends two updates that would allow backyard chickens and rabbits in the RB and RX zones and would define regulatable chickens and rabbits.

Board discussion occurred which included questions about registered lots that have chickens and rabbits in the Township.

The Board appeared to be in general support and will have this ordinance for introduction at the next meeting.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 7:53pm.

Josh Nahum, spoke in support of item 11A-Parking Ordinance Update #3.

Chris Patterson, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, stated appreciation to the Township Board for the contract approval, item 10E.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 7:54 pm.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Trezise moved for the Township Board enter into closed session under Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with the Township Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with ordinance enforcement litigation involving 5837 Carlton Street now pending in Ingham County District Court, namely case number 25M93588-ON because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Township Board entered into closed session at 7:55 pm.

Township Board opened public meeting at 9:06 pm.

Trustee Trezise moved that the Township Board authorize counsel and staff to discuss the discussion held on the May 7 meeting of the Township Board in executive closed session with the Parks Commission meeting scheduled next week pertaining to settlement negotiations involving litigation case number 25M93588-ON in their closed session. Supported by Clerk Demas.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

14. ADJOURNMENT

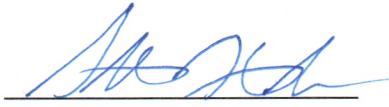
Treasurer Burghardt moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk