

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, February 3, 2026, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Deputy Manager & Public Works Director Opsommer, Communications Manager Diehl, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Clark, Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski, Fire Chief Hamel, IT Director Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the February 3, 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. Six Board members present at 6:01 pm.

Trustee Sundland was absent.

4. PRESENTATION

None

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:01 pm.

Dee Storey, Anne Fitzgerald, Laura Smith, Ann Briggs, Lisa Nowak, George Owen, Debra Chamberlain, David Schweickert, and Emily Weaver spoke about item 12.A, in opposition to ITC's proposed electric transmission line through Meridian Township.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:27 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Dempsey gave updates on:

- Reminded residents and business owners to protect water pipes and fire suppression systems from freezing temperatures. Thanked fire department for their response to a fire suppression system break over the weekend.
- Splash and Dash event has been rescheduled for February 22nd.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson, Trustee Lentz, and Supervisor Hendrickson attended the ITC open house and noted the times and location of upcoming ITC open houses.

Clerk Demas reminded residents of Board email contacts.

Trustee Lentz gave an update about Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; announced that Dave Chapman, a retired Okemos High School teacher, is being recognized by Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Supervisor Hendrickson recapped the Celebration of Life event for former Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson and informed residents of means to lodge complaints with ITC at their open houses.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson requested Items 12.A and 12.B be swapped.

Trustee Lentz moved to approve the agenda with the change indicated by the Supervisor to make 12.B 12.A, and 12.A 12.B. Supported 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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hendrickson listed the consent agenda items.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 6-0

10. HEARING

A. Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan Termination

Director Clark gave an overview of the agenda item.

Supervisor Hendrickson opened the public hearing at 6:38.

The opportunity to speak during the public comment section was given.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed the public hearing at 6:39.

11. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- A. Sanctuary #2 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #430 – Resolution #1 & #2.

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the special assessment district.

Board discussion occurred which included questions about the purchasing process and the costs covered by the assessment.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Sanctuary #2 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #430 – Resolution #1, ordering plans to be prepared showing the streetlighting improvement, location, and estimate of cost; and Resolution #2, filing the plans showing the improvement, location and estimate of cost with the Clerk's Office, tentatively declaring intention to maintain four (4) 46-watt LED streetlights with traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles and defray the cost of maintenance by special assessment against the 7 benefitting lots, and setting a public hearing for Tuesday, March 3, 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

- B. Sierra Ridge #4 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #431 – Resolution #1 & #2

Deputy Manager Opsommer gave an overview of the special assessment district.

Board discussion occurred which included questions about disclosure of special assessments on properties when they are sold.

Trustee Trezise moved to approve the Sierra Ridge #4 Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District #431 – Resolution #1, ordering plans to be prepared showing the streetlighting improvement, location, and estimate of cost; and Resolution #2, filing the plans showing the improvement, location and estimate of cost with the Clerk's Office, tentatively declaring intention to maintain four (4) 47-watt LED streetlights with traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles and defray the cost of maintenance by special assessment against the 14 benefitting lots, and setting a public hearing for Tuesday, March 3, 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

12. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. ITC Oneida-Sabine Lake Electric Transmission Line Proposed Routes

Manager Dempsey gave basic information about utility right of way regulations and introduced ITC representative, Ben Tirrell, who gave an overview of the project. Director Wisinski answered questions as well.

Board discussion occurred which included questions about the agency that makes the routing decision, specifics about Board actions and roles in the process, decisions that may be made during the process, timelines for conveying information to the public, public opposition to proposed routes, existing corridor and easements, the width of the right-of-way and expanded easement, ITC and the Michigan Public Service Commission, impact to property and parks, emergency management, and preliminary environmental review.

Concern was expressed about encroachment on parkland, line failure, width of the project, and impact on residents. Board members discussed the means of communicating the Board's opinion to ITC.

The Board indicated opposition to the proposed route through Meridian Township and asked staff to bring a letter and resolution of opposition to the February 10 Board meeting.

B. Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan Termination

Director Clark provided an overview of the termination of the Brownfield Plan.

Board discussion occurred which included questions about when staff had last spoken to the developer, whether the property owners were aware of the BUILD grant application, and next steps after termination. Comments were made about how the property has not been developed upon and is for sale.

The Board indicated support for termination of Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 7:39 pm.

Lisa Nowak, Monica Schafer, George Owen, Debra Chamberlain, David Schweickert, Phillip Stevens, Katie See, and Marilyn Johnson spoke about item 12.A, in opposition to ITC's proposed electric transmission line through Meridian Township.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 7:54 pm.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Hendrickson asked staff to add information to the Township website for residents to comment about the ITC proposal and noted that the agenda item should be placed at the end of the next meeting.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Trezise moved to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) for the purpose of discussing a confidential legal opinion regarding the pending Meridian Township v. West Shore Fire Inc. litigation with the Township attorney. 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 7:57 pm, the Board entered closed session.

At 8:36, the Board returned to open session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

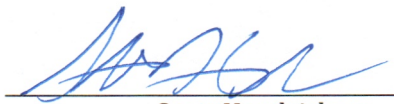
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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 8:36 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk