

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD -**Approved**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026, 6:00PM

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Dempsey, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Deputy Manager and Department of Public Works Director Opsommer, IT Director Gebes, Fire Chief Hamel, Finance Director Blonde, Sr. Land Stewardship Coordinator Campbell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called July 21, 2026, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Demas called the roll. All Board Members present.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Granger Annual Update

Governmental and Regulatory Affairs Manager Charles Hauser and Community Relations and Events Coordinator Michelle Pitts gave an annual update on Granger Waste services including the recycling program within Meridian Township and other services they provide.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 6:18 pm.

The opportunity to speak was provided to the public.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 6:18 pm.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Dempsey spoke about the following:

- The next Listening Session is scheduled for Tuesday July 28th at the Central Park Pavillion at 6:00 pm. The next Parks and Recreation Master Plan public input session is July 30th at the Harris Nature Center at 6:00 pm.

- Celebrate Meridian is this weekend starting at 4pm till 11pm. All information is online describing all the activities and times.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Demas announced that Early voting starts this Saturday, July 25th with the hours 7am to 3pm on this day only and July 26th to August 2nd hours will be 9am to 5pm. She gave updates about the August 4 Primary Election including absentee ballot deadlines, poll hours on Election Day, and the Public Accuracy test that took place.

Trustee Lentz thanked Clerk Demas and Trustee Trezise for attending the ELMWSA annual meeting last week. Highlights of the meeting included the ELMWSA plant was awarded the F.H. Paschen Civil Engineering award of the year.

Trustee Trezise stated that he thoroughly enjoyed the ELMWSA annual meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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 moved to accept the consent agenda. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

10. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Ballot Proposals – Park & Public Safety Millages

Manager Demsey gave an overview of the presentation that was given at the last meeting.

It was emphasized that this is a millage renewal.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the resolution to adopt Park Millage proposal. Seconded by Clerk Demas.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the resolution to adopt Police and Fire Protection Millage proposal. Supported by Trustee Trezise.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

B. 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Blonde gave an overview of the 2nd Quarter budget amendments and increases in revenue from the Metro Act distribution, Local Revenue Sharing Payments, rental inspection revenue and May 5 Special Election with a pending reimbursement from Ingham ISD.

Expenditure increases in higher-than-anticipated election costs, green grants that were budgeted for 2025 but disbursed in 2026, costs associated with the Grettenberger Relief Drain Maintenance assessment and changes in employee health insurance coverage.

Discussion held by the Board with general support for accepting the budget amendments.

Treasurer Burghardt moved to approve the Second Quarter 2026 budget amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the General Fund in the amount of \$79,270 which projects a decrease in year-end fund balance of \$313,984. Based on 2025 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2026, will be \$16,054,093. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Land Preservation Acquisition – Hamilton Road

Coordinator Campbell gave an overview of the Hamilton Road parcel including the appraisal.

Discussion was held by the Board including whether development is possible, land preservation value, and the acquisition process.

Clerk Demas moved to approve the Resolution authorizing purchase of parcel #22-02-02-21-179-008 located on Hamilton Road. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Zoning Amendment #2026-5 – Backyard Chicken and Rabbits Update – Adoption

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the update to the zoning amendment to include the RN Zoning District.

Discussion was held by the Board with general support of the zoning amendment.

Trustee Lentz moved to adopt 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, adding the RB, RX and RN districts as locations where backyard chickens or rabbits can be kept. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

11. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Ordinance 2026-08 – Copper Creek East – Rezone to RA with PRD Overlay

Discussion items A & B were presented and discussed together.

B. Copper Creek East – Sketch Plan

Director Schmitt explained that both items A and B are explained at the same time, but it will be two different motions needed. He explained the history of Copper Creek East. Two motions will be provided for the Board's review at the next meeting. If the Board amends the proposal, the request may be referred back to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. A resolution will be provided at a future meeting.

Discussion was held by the Board which included questions about the rezoning, private roads, and density.

C. Township Manager Dempsey explained that the Township has continued to have conversations with both school districts. In the meantime, the township has been

reassessing properties, which include the parcel off Central Park Drive and the site near the Service Center. Since May of 2028 is not that far out, discussions will be had on what to do in the short term.

Discussion was held by the Board including the use of Township property to be cost effective and looking into the Academic Way property in Haslett.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson opened public comment at 7:18 pm.

The opportunity to speak was provided to the public.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed public comment at 7:18 pm.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

14. CLOSED SESSION

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

At 7:19 pm, the Board entered into closed session.

At 8:06 pm, the Board returned to open session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

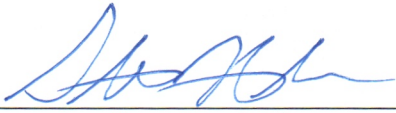
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Lentz.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.



Scott Hendrickson
Township Supervisor



Angela Demas
Township Clerk