

Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unapproved	<input type="checkbox"/>

**LEE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

JULY 14, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:31 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, MI 49450.

Members Present: Trustee Black, Trustee Christensen, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Schlack and Clerk King.

Pledge Allegiance was recited.

Board Comments: Supervisor Schlack met Larry Merritt regarding the dam on 109th. A report was requested and should be ready any time. There was a previous report done in 2005.

Introduction of Candidates – Jeff Farnsworth introduced himself for State Representative. He previously ran in 2002 and has been the Treasurer of the Allegan County Republic^{an} Party. He prides himself in being active in his church and has led 3 separate mission trips. He holds a BA from Western Michigan University and a Masters in Business. Although he did originally support the Casino, it has passed in the house and as part of the district he will represent them. **Steven Miller**, Running for Supervisor (D), is currently retired. He will have the time to devote to the people of Lee Township. He has been in the area for 24 years and has lived by the Lower Scott Lake for the last 6 years. If elected, he will established office hours. **Lucy Ann Loud – Precinct Delegate (D)**, She has lived the township since 1993. Issues that she feels strongly about are office hours. As a Precinct Delegate she will represent the democratic people as a go between to their party. Other important issues are spending, solid waste management, transfer station hours and tickets, senior citizen committee, citizens comments, fire department, questions regarding law enforcement and utilizing the Hispanic community, **Hoyt Higg**, candidate for Supervisor, (D). Concerns are office hours, special meetings, microphone and speakers, new building for the First Responders and Fire Department, the high price of gasoline and diesel, increased taxes with property values decreasing. **William Ferguson – Trustee (D)** has been a property owner for the past 12 years. He is a retired steel worker of 32 years. As a citizen, he has talked to a lot of people concerning issues that are important to them and would like to be able to help. His experience includes: correction officer, Light House (Christian organization) working with offenders. He has had an opportunity to work with people from all walks of life, and feels that everyone’s voice should be heard. He was glad to have an opportunity to let citizens meet him and to show that he is honest and sincere. He will do everything possible to promote the township. **Sally Lacy, Supervisor (R)** She has not posted signs because she is the only Republic candidate for Supervisor. She spoke of the most important thing that she has learned in the last year is to listen to the people. Citizen’s comments are very important and she too agrees that office hours are also important. She will be retiring at the end of the year and she would be more available to have office hours. She also promised that the residents would see a new board, and won’t see the “clicks”. **Jessie Lowery, Treasurer** - Introduced herself as the Treasurer of Lee Township since 1992. She would work toward continuing to do her job and serve the people. **Steve Black, Trustee –** Introduced himself as trustee. He is grateful to have had an opportunity to serve and would continue to represent the community. **Jacquelyn King, Clerk** - Introduced herself as the township clerk. She thanked all of the residents that have welcomed her and

This is the only official minutes from the Lee Township Board. The Township is not responsible for any other unofficial and unauthorized duplication of this document. Any document or information published from any other source than the above mentioned governmental municipality is not recognized as official information.

let her serve them in their needs. She looks forward to having the opportunity to further serve the community.

Citizen's Comments –2 comments were made regarding: L. Loud stated that you can vote for both democratic trustee candidates without them opposing each other. S. Lacy stated that township should check into possible coverage of insurance on the Lower Scott Lake Dam (structure)

Approval of the June 9th Regular Board Meeting Minutes-

Motion was made by Black and seconded by Lowery to approve the minutes from the June 9th Regular Board Meeting as presented. All voted "Aye". Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report-

Motion was made by Christensen and seconded by Black to receive the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll call vote: Yes – Black, Christensen, Lowery, Schlack and King. Motion carries.

County Commissioner's Report : Commissioner Jessup passed out his monthly newsletter. He discussed that a good plan is needed before we start breaking into projects. Regarding the county jail, a petition was sent out to the area townships to keep the jail in downtown. It not has reached that point, Jessup spoke that the site selection is not really the current issue as much as the cost. Commissioner Jessup introduced County Administrator, Rob Sarro. Questions were presented on the jail issue in regards to transportation. A possible solution could be video arraignments. Also considered is only making a couple trips a day and keeping prisoners in the holding cell until their arraignments. This option would require a larger staff. Questions were asked regarding the security and the cost factor of a walk through system and the need for less staff. Security at the court house is continually under review. Equipment is under review as well. An x-ray machine is to be implemented. Van Buren Court house is not under such security. The board is looking to be more pro-active in finding a better way to separate the services, so that someone coming in to pay taxes or do a property search would not have to go through a search, this would keep the security for more of the court side. It was also mentioned that the township officials will have a chance to participate in a forum with the County Commissioners regarding the fee involved with the law enforcement contracts. Lastly County Administrator Rob Sarro was commended for his work done with the Fire Chief's Association.

Committee Reports:

Police-During the month of June there were 186 calls. Township deputies handed only 55 of these calls due to vacations and family illness. Some of the complaints listed were: 20 BE, 4 Accident/Property damage, Assaults 21, Traffic complaints 4, 2 stolen cars, (later recovered) and 3 CSC.

Fire Department- During the month of June there were 8 fire calls. June/July has had a lot of storms resulting in downed lines. If you see a downed line, please stay far away. There was an incident where lines were down, and children were playing near them. Fortunately, these lines were not live so no one was hurt. Fire Chief DeWeerd is still waiting on a decision regarding the federal grant. When the grant comes through, they will use it for computers. A request was made for a fax machine to be placed at the station. Starting September 1st they will no longer be able to call in when the scene is cleared. Everything will need to be faxed. The paperwork on the Grass fire truck is completed and licenses plates are on the truck. Chief DeWeerd requested approval for a new chainsaw. The chainsaw they were currently using is no longer working. Chief also requested a fuel reimbursement or fuel charge of

This is the only official minutes from the Lee Township Board. The Township is not responsible for any other unofficial and unauthorized duplication of this document. Any document or information published from any other source than the above mentioned governmental municipality is not recognized as official information.

\$150.00 to cover traveling to and from fires and other fire department business. Lowery questioned if a second phone line would be needed for the fax machine and if they should consider an all-in-one machine verse just a fax machine. Some information was released on the house explosion on Baseline, but the matter is still under investigation.

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Black to purchase a fax machine and set a designated line not to exceed \$150.00. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Christensen, Lowery, Schlack and King. Motion carries.

Motion was made by Christensen and seconded by Black to purchase a chainsaw not exceeded \$300.00. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Christensen, Lowery, Schlack and King. Motion Carries.

Motion was made by Black and seconded by Lowery to authorize the Chief to have a fuel allowance of no more than \$150.00 per month. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Christensen, Lowery, Schlack and King. Motion carries.

First Responders- During the month of June there were 27 calls. Of these calls; 25 were medical, 1 fire assist and 1 personal injury accident.

Ambulance Report - No report

Building Inspector – In Inspector Shamblin’s absence, Clerk King read his report. Total improvements for the month were \$51,500.00 with a total of 20 permits issued. There were 6 building, 9 electrical, 4 mechanical and 1 plumbing.

Cemetery Report -None

Library Report - None

Transfer Station Report – During the month there was a total of \$761.00 collected with 41 coupons redeemed.

Lake Board Report- Meeting that was supposed to take place on July 9th was postponed.

Newsletter Committee- Newsletters are in the mail. Grand Junction residents have already gotten them.

Assessors report – Regarding the re-evaluation the township records, they will be released upon payment of the remaining bill from the State Treasury Department. All appraisal are done and on the website. A person has been placed on staff, 5 days a week, for any records needed. July- Board of Review is scheduled for July 21st and is for errors of record only. Call the Assessor in advanced to see if your concern is a matter that can be handled. A question was asked regarding if we will have to go through the process of a re-evaluation again? The appraisal could change rapidly due to the no-zoning issue. Changes are continually happening causing the values to change. The board will need to make a decision to do a 20% annual review. It was also noted that the term “Home stead” has been changed to a PRE –Principal Residence Exemption and MTB are for businesses.

This is the only official minutes from the Lee Township Board. The Township is not responsible for any other unofficial and unauthorized duplication of this document. Any document or information published from any other source than the above mentioned governmental municipality is not recognized as official information.

Holiday Committee: L. Galdikas announced that the City of Douglas was going to throw away their old decorations and has given them to be added to our holiday decoration. Douglas workers were kind enough to help load the holiday decorations. Additional poles will need to have electrical service added before the next holiday season. A request was made for anyone with welding skills or who would like to volunteer to help put up decorations. Contact the Holiday committee if interested. Reminder first Friday in December is our Christmas gathering.

Pullman Pride Committee- Information was placed in several newspapers free of charge for this year's Pullman Pride festival. There will be free rides, food vendors, craft fair and a pancake breakfast that starts at 8:00 to 11:00 am at the VFW. The festival hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be held in the parking lot between the school and township offices.

Clean Team –

During last month meeting of the Clean Team, the mosquitoes were horrible. It was announced that July's meeting will not be held. A request was made for barrels to be placed at the Verizon building and at the Post Office. Supervisor Schlack stated that we can check with Verizon and the Post Office to see if they are willing to place a barrel on their property.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on the Lower Scott Lake Dam- Discussion already took place.

NEW BUSINESS

Land Splits – None ready for action.

Osterhout Lake Weed Treatment Bill- An invoice was submitted for the township's portion of weed control. A request was made from the board to have copies of the bills for documentation before payment is issued for their portion.

Consideration of Assessor's Contract – Assessor Brousseau presented a copy of his new contract to the board for review regarding a renewal of the next three years. The contract was virtually the same with the exception of a raise in monthly pay of \$167.00. Treasurer Lowery requested that office hours be added to the contract. Assessor Brousseau agreed to add a couple hours every other month to be held prior to the regular board meeting.

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Black to accept the Assessor's contract with the addition of adding office hours. All voted "Aye". Motion carries.

Discussion of Septic Tank Concerns – This topic was added to the agenda, but a request was made by C. Pugh to table it till next months meeting for more information to be gathered.

Payment of the Bills

Motion was made by Christensen and seconded Black to authorize the clerk to pay the bills in the amount of \$80,422.50 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Black, Christensen, Lowery, Schlack and King. Motion carries.

This is the only official minutes from the Lee Township Board. The Township is not responsible for any other unofficial and unauthorized duplication of this document. Any document or information published from any other source than the above mentioned governmental municipality is not recognized as official information.

Motion was made by Christensen and seconded by Lowery to authorize the Clerk to publish the July Board of Review. Roll call vote: Yes – Black, Christensen, Lowery, Schlack and King. Motion carries.

Citizen's Comments: Six citizens commented on: Stricter enforcement of litter, garage and yard sales, complaints regarding a local rodeo, reminder to vote on the First Responder's millage and support our Responders, comments on the Pullman Pride scholarships, pancake breakfast to be held at VFW and lastly a point was made that Lee Township covers not only Pullman, but also Grand Junction and events should reflect all of Lee Township.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk