

**LEE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

January 12, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

Members Present: Trustee Black, Trustee Ferguson, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Miller and Clerk King.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Comments: Supervisor Miller reported his progress on the process of acquiring funds for a new township hall and office. During the last couple months, he has been working with Paul Bristol from FEMA to start the process of securing grants. Supervisor Miller pointed out the new agenda format which moves "Citizen's Comments" earlier in the meeting. This will allow citizens to make their comments without waiting to the end of the meeting. Supervisor Miller requested help from those interested in forming a committee to work on the process of getting the bad roads in the township on the list for repair. Miller announced that C. Pugh has already volunteered to help with this project and he anticipates their first meeting in the spring.

Introduction of Harold Schuitmaker from Schuitmaker,Coopers, Shuitmaker, Cypher and Knoter- Attorney Schuitmaker introduced himself and gave the background information on their firm. The firm was established in 1970 and has locations in South Haven, Allegan as well as their central office in Paw Paw. The firm takes pride in the fact that they have experience in representing many surrounding townships and cities. The staff is equipped to handle zoning, blight ordinance as well as appeal work. Harold is experienced in real estate matters and is a Level 2 Assessor.

Comments: Comments were made by two citizens. Both express appreciation for Supervisor Miller's office hours as well as his involvement.

Motion was made by Black and seconded by Lowery to approve the regular board meeting minutes of December 8, 2008 as presented. All voted "Aye". Motion carries.

Motion was made by Black and seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting on December 22, 2008 as presented. All voted "Aye". Motion carries.

Motion was made by Black and seconded by Ferguson to receive the treasurer's report as presented. All voted "Aye" Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Jessup apologized for not having his normal handout available for residents, but promised to bring copies to the next month's meeting. During the last month Casey Jones was elected by the County Commissioner to serve as chairperson. This will be the second time he as held this position. Commissioner Jessup spoke of a survey that was completed to see what financial direction the commissioners should focus on in the upcoming year. There will be a dinner meeting planned sometime in

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April or May for township officials to discuss contracts with the sheriff's department for law enforcement. This meeting will provide another opportunity for input. Changes have taken place in the Senior Services with the director's position. Tammy Griggs will serve as interim director until the position is filled. The retirement of Judge Sheridan will also produce a vacancy within the District Court and Judge Baillargeon has asked to be considered for the position. This position will be appointed by Governor Granholm.

Deputies Report: Deputy Lytle reported 104 calls for the month of December. Some of the complaints were listed as 5 domestic call, 12 property damage calls, 4 medical assist calls, 3 criminal sexual conduct, 4 breaking and entering, 6 warrants and 4 drug complaints. Of the total complaints, Deputy Lytle handled 30 and Deputy Greene handled 21. The majority of the calls for the month were taken in the evening. Deputy Lytle also gave a brief update on a couple drug raids that took place during the month. Over the last three weeks, a large amount of drugs, 2 assault weapons and a large amount of was confiscated.

Fire Department: Chief DeWeerd reported a total of 9 calls for the month of December and an annual total of 119 fire calls for 2008. The Chief also gave an update on the traffic vest, which have been received; truck repairs were completed; 2 recruits are involved in training through Saugatuck. Chief ended his report with a reminder to all citizens to make sure that new batteries are installed in all smoke detectors and carbon detectors regularly to insure that they are working properly.

First Responders: Albert Rawson reported a total of 17 calls during the month. The breakdown of these calls was 1 accident and 16 medicals. Rawson also reported that the number of calls for 2008 had slightly decreased from 2007.

Ambulance report: Trustee Black read the minutes from the last Ambulance meeting. Their meeting consisted of a report from AMR, and discussion on the resigning of the annual contract.

Building Inspector report: Inspector Shamblin reported 3 permits issued for the month with a total property value of \$120,000.00.

Cemetery Report: No report

Library Report: No report

Transfer Station: During the month there was a total of \$297.00 collected with 11 coupons redeemed.

Lake Board: No report

Newsletter Committee: A quick reminder of next month's deadline was given for any articles for consideration in the next publication of the newsletter. Any articles of interest can be submitted to Clerk King for review.

Assessor's report: Assessor Brousseau handed out the State Tax Commission analysis for the equalized values. He intends to put out another sales study. Assessor Brousseau commented on the decline of property values in the township with the exception of Agriculture properties as well as Lake front properties which are holding their values. He also reported a reduction of 7% in residential properties and 7.5 % in

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industrial properties. Brousseau also set the dates of March 3rd and 9th for Board of Review dates with times to be set at the next regular board meeting.

Holiday Committee: Lisa Galdikas thanked Tom Militello and Tom Laraway for their help in taking down the majority of the decorations. The remaining banners will be changed in the spring. Lisa also stated that any donations are always greatly appreciated.

Pullman Pride Committee: No report

Clean Team: The clean team will have new dates posted as well as listed in the township newsletter.

Neighborhood Watch Committee: Cary Sue Ahlman gave an update on the last Neighborhood Watch Meeting. To date \$90.00 has been collected by the purchase of the membership decals. Cary Sue invited all of those individuals interested to attend the next meeting which has been set for February 5th at 7 p.m. and request those attending to bring a friend. Attendance is extremely important in the startup of this program.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Splits: None presented.

MTA Survey: Treasurer Lowery passed out to the board members a survey provided by MTA on Salary Comparisons for other townships within Allegan County. If there is a request for any salary increase, a resolution must be prepared and presented at the February meeting to meet the requirements of 30 days prior to the budget meeting held in March.

Payment of the Bills:

Motion by Black and seconded by Ferguson to authorize the clerk to pay the bills in the amount of \$92,020.23. Roll call was taken- Yes: Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carries.

Correspondence: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk

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