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**LEE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

April 13, 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

Board Member Comments:

Supervisor Miller gave an update on the new building and land purchase. The property located at 56th Street north of 109th Avenue is still being considered. The Health Department has done borings and will do 2 perk test to make sure that there will be clean, sufficient water supply to operate the station.

Supervisor Miller introduced new contracted officer Deputy Kevin Franck. Deputy Franck brings to our community 6 years experience. As a police officer for Allegan city for 5 years, he brings much experience in working in a small community.

Supervisor Miller introduced Drain Commissioner Becky Rininger to address the community on recent flooding. Drain Commissioner Rininger stated that the reasons for the flooding was largely due to the excessive rains that took place during June, July and September of 2008 in addition to the record snow fall and the thaw in January 2009 thaw which drove the frost level deeper into the ground. All of these factors as well as the low ground level have all contributed to the high level of saturation in the ground. Becky is working with the Road Commission as well as the DNR to coordinated efforts to inspect and clean the area drains, resetting the drainage culvert and the cleaning of a 150' ditch on the DNR's property located on 50th Street. Becky indicated that there were two properties to which she is working on resolving their flooding issues. Many questions were presented from the audience regarding the conditions of the area drains, how often the drains receive maintenance and general questions regarding resolving the water issue. Becky is hopeful that the strategies being implemented will alleviate the flooding township.

Supervisor Miller gave a correction of the clean team dates as well as announced the passing of Lee Township's Neighborhood Watch Committee leader, Cary Sue Ahlman. Cary Sue has been the driving force behind forming this new committee. She devoted her time and energy into getting the program out to the residents and worked towards a safer community. A memorial will be held after the 22nd of May at the Episcopal Church in South Haven. Cary Sue will be sadly missed.

Wings of Hope Hospice: Theresa Lynn addressed the audience with services provided by Wings of Hope Hospice. Their services include Nurses to administer medications, assistants to go and help with needs of the patient as well as grief support to the family and patient. All services are provided without cost to the family.

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Minutes- April 13, 2009

1 | Page

Citizen's Comments:

Judge Skocelas, Chief District Court Judge presented the Lee Township Board with the District Court's annual report. He gave highlights of the programs that have been implemented in Allegan Co. These programs deal with getting the residents in touch with services needed and educating the youth regarding the court system. There are other new programs that Judge Skocelas would like to put in place. The Mental Health Court would help identify the individuals with mental health needs and get them the necessary help rather than sentence them to jail. Other programs in place are the community service work program that allows offenders to work off their fees by doing community service work. Allegan County has currently applied for stimulus money to help start more programs to better serve the community.

- A comment was made by a citizen regarding the poor conditions of the port-a-johns at the transfer station as well as the cemetery. Better cleaning is needed.

- A list of committees was provided for the citizens to review to attempts involving more volunteers. Everyone is encouraged to look over the list and find a committee of interest to volunteer their services to.

- G. Melson of the transfer station wanted to find out who was responsible for the Transfer Station sign on 102nd?

- A citizen wanted to thank all those who attended Saturdays events. The car wash raised \$175.00 for carbon/ smoke detectors. There also were 80 children who participated in the Easter Egg hunt.

- A request was made by a citizen to increase the trash receptacles at the new park. Supervisor Miller stated that he would get in touch with the school to request a few more barrels.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to approve the March 9th Regular Board Meeting minutes. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting that took place on April 3, 2009. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to approve the Annual Budget Meeting minutes from March 28, 2009. A roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Black and seconded by Miller to receive the treasurer's report as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Jessup passed out his monthly newsletter to give the update on the happening in Allegan County during the past month. Jessup spoke of the high unemployment rate that Michigan is experiencing. It was originally was projected that the unemployment rate would reach 12% for the year but it already at 12.6 % with a new projection of 18% before the end of the year. Commissioner Jessup commended the many good quality people that are working in the county for working together to look out for the residents. He has enjoyed working with these individuals. Lastly, he gave the update on the Jail discussion regarding another new plan. The next commissioners meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23rd and everyone is welcome.

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Deputies Report: Deputy Lytle gave the monthly report for March. During the month, there were 137 complaints of which Deputy Greene responded to 37 and Deputy Lytle 39. There were 39 complaints taken on the day shift and 98 taken on the night shift. The complaints consisted of 11 Domestic, 5 warrants, 4 accidents, 10 larcenies, 4 drunk driving and between 4-6 drug raids. There were no updates to report on blight issues.

Fire Department: During the month of March there were 26 calls. This was a very busy month due to dry conditions. Wages for firefighters exceeded \$5300.00 for the quarter and over \$11,000 since January. Chief DeWeerd stressed the importance of getting burn permits before burning. The Jaws of Life equipment has arrived and training has taken place. The Rip and Run is also in place which allows the information from the fire calls to go to be faxed to directly to central dispatch. Chief DeWeerd also spoke of the flooding problems which have caused some propane tanks to float. Residents are urged to have them filled to help weight them down. Special thanks were given to Ted Chamberlain, Assistant Fire Chief for all the help that he gave during the high number of calls for last month.

First Responders: During the month there were a total of 25 calls. Of the total calls, 18 were medical, 3 accident and 4 fire assists. The First Responders will have a request on the May 5th ballot for 1.5 mills to sustain there services as well as to secure the contract with AMR ambulance service. Brochures were available for those interested in knowing more. There will be an upcoming meeting to provide more information in regards to all that the First Responders do and the services that are covered under their budget.

Ambulance report: Trustee Black read the minutes from the March 12th Ambulance meeting that took place in Fennville. It was reported that there will be an increase in the AMR contract as of April 1st.

Building Inspector: During March there were 8 permits issued. There were 2 building, 3 electrical, 1 mechanical and 2 were plumbing for a total of \$64,555.00 in property improvements.

Cemetery Report: A request was made to have the community service workers from the Sheriff's Department help with the clean up of leaves. Supervisor Miller will call the Sheriff's Department to set that up.

Library Report: No report

Transfer Station: During the month \$522.00 was collected with 40 coupons redeemed.

Lake Board: No report

Newsletter Committee: The Spring newsletter is out. Anyone that has not received one can get a copy in the township office or at the township's website leetwp.org.

Assessor's report: No report

Holiday Committee: No report

Pullman Pride Committee: The Pullman Pride committee is in dire need of volunteers. Without more help from volunteers this festival may no longer be able to take place. At the moment there is only 1 person to work on the committee. Clerk King stated that she would volunteer to help to keep this worthwhile event a

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part of Lee Township. Last year, despite the rain, there was a great turnout. This event helps provide students with a \$500.00 scholarship to go toward their education or educational needs. The committee will meet on Monday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. All of those interested are encouraged to attend.

Clean Team: Donna Allgaier-Lamberti announced the changes in the upcoming clean up dates. The correct dates are May 9th, June 13th, and July 11 (all Saturdays). Donna also gave a report on April's cleanup, which was a great success! She reported they had their 5 regular volunteers and 3 new volunteers. She also expressed her concern regarding the increasing number of tires that have appeared on the road sides. She encouraged the board members to look into ways of cleaning up these areas to protect ground water quality.

Neighborhood Watch Committee: The national charter is in place and the meetings have been set for the 1st Thursday of each month. The committee is currently looking for 4 block captains. Anyone interested in purchasing a window sticker can contact Supervisor Miller, temporarily until a replacement can be found for Cary Sue. The stickers are \$5.00 and the money goes towards the purchase of neighborhood signs. Everyone can be part of this committee by participating in being the eyes and ears of the Community. Please plan on attending their next meeting.

Community Center Committee: Trustee Ferguson gave a plea for help. There were a few residents in the audience that expressed their discontentment regarding the community center and would like to see a meeting scheduled. Trustee Ferguson will contact them when he has had a chance to check schedules and set a date for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Splits: None

Noise Ordinance Variance: Gerardo Montoya approached the board with a request for a noise variance for the rodeo that is scheduled to take place every other weekend. The rodeo is scheduled to run from 1:00 to 9:00 pm. and is open to all. He has made a point to speak to his neighbors and is willing to try to keep the noise to a level that is acceptable, but would like to follow the proper channels to clear this request through the township board.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to approve a noise variance for the rodeos scheduled on May 10th from 1-9 pm and May 24th from 1-9 pm located at 4875 104th Avenue, Grand Junction. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Quit Claim for purchase of Church on 56th Street: Discussion took place regarding a quit claim for purchase of the church located on 56th Street north of 109th Avenue. More information will be obtained for the next regular meeting.

Liquor License Name Change: The PTO 109 made a request to change their name on their liquor license from Stage Flights LLC to Pullman Tavern LLC.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to approve the name change for the Pullman Tavern from Stage Flights LLC to Pullman Tavern LLC. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

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Minutes- April 13, 2009

4 | Page

Year End Budget Adjustments: The final year end budget adjustments were presented to the board members to finalize the 2008-2009 budget.

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Miller to make the final budget adjustments to the revenue to balance out the year end totals. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
Township Board (101.101)			
101.101.801	Professional Services	\$1900.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$1900.00
101.101.900.1	Printing /Publishing	\$750.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$ 750.00
Supervisors Expenses (101.171)			
101.171.702	Wages	\$20.00	
101.171.706	Wages - Deputy	\$100.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$120.00
Board of Review (101.247)			
101.247.702	Wages	\$500.00	
101.247.727	Office Supplies	150.00	
101.247.900	Publishing	\$200.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$850.00
Treasurers Expenses (101.253)			
101.253.801	Professional Services	\$ 25.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$25.00
Assessor Expenses (101.257)			
101.257.818	Contracted -Assessing	\$1400.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$1400.00
Building & Grounds (101.265)			
101.265.818	Contractual Services	\$400.00	
101.265.921	Utilities –propane	\$75.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$475.00
Police Expense (101.301)			
101.301.853	Telephone	\$180.00	
101.301.867	Gas & Oil	\$150.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual Re-evaluation		\$330.00
Transfer Station (101.526)			
101.526.820	Recycling –Sanitary	\$700.00	
101.526.818	Contractual Services		\$700.00
Library Expenses (101.790)			
101.790.920	Utilities – Telephone	\$25.00	
101.257.818.1	Contractual –Re-evaluation		\$25.00
Total General Funds Adjustment		<u>\$6925.00</u>	<u>\$6925.00</u>
FIRE DEPARTMENT			
		Increase	Decrease
206.336.701	Wages	\$6400.00	
206.336.853	Telephone	\$160.00	
206.336.931	Building Maintenance	\$20.00	
206.336.714	Clothing		\$6400.00
206.336.801	Operating Supplies		\$ 180.00
Total Fire Department Adjustments		<u>\$6580.00</u>	<u>\$6580.00</u>
FIRST RESPONDERS			
		Increase	Decrease
210.651.702	Wages	\$500.00	
210.651.715	FICA	\$40.00	
210.651.850	Communications		\$540.00
Total Adjustments		<u>\$540.00</u>	<u>\$540.00</u>

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Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to make the final budget adjustments to the expenditures as presented. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills:

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to authorize the clerk to pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Publishing of Cemetery Cleanup: The spring clean up will need to be done before the 1st of May and a notice is required to be published in the local papers.

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Miller to authorize the clerk to publish the Spring Clean up for the cemetery before April 30th. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk

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