

LEE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

September 14, 2009

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, Michigan.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Member Comments: Supervisor Miller stated that he is in the process of receiving quotes for the clean-up of the tires on 104th between 55th and 54th Streets. Miller gave an update on the property purchase. The closing took place on September 11th and the property belongs to the township. Miller also has received condemnation letters from Allegan Realty regarding the property on 109th next to Cericola's and east of east of 53rd and 109th. Lastly, the quit claim deed has been prepared for the donation of the church.

Citizens' Comments:

A question was asked by a citizen regarding the purchase price of the property. Miller stated that it was approximately \$41,140.93.

There was also a question presented on the status of the property on Grove Street. This will be addressed by Building Inspector Shamblin.

A motion was made by Trustee Black and seconded by Trustee Ferguson to approve the August 10th Regular Board Meeting minutes. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Miller and seconded by Trustee Black to approve the August 17th Special Meeting minutes. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Black and seconded by Trustee Ferguson to approve the August 19th Special Meeting minutes. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Miller and seconded by Trustee Black 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: No report.

Deputies Report: Deputy Lytle gave the report for the month of August. There were a total of 140 complaints with 24 taken by Deputy Franck and 21 taken by Deputy Lyle. The night shift covered 117 of the 140 complaints.

Fire Department: Chief DeWeerd gave the report for the month of August. A total of 6 calls were responded to. There has been no word on the FEMA grant. Bio-care physicals will be held off until next spring. No new firefighters. The 911 surcharge will be on the next election ballot on November 3rd. It will be imperative that a lot of campaigning is done to educate the citizens on the importance of the surcharge to keep the 911 service in place. All the community fire departments will have to be responsible to answer the phones. This would be a much larger cost on the township to staff the office to cover the emergency phone calls. It will also be confusing for residents in an emergency having to call a different phone number, which would be different for each community.

First Responders: Director Rawson gave the report for August. There were 23 calls total. Of the 23 calls, there were 21 medical and 2 personal injury accident calls that were assisted. A request has been made by Mary Frye, the current instructor to sponsor her for \$1,000.00 of her renewal and licensing costs. Rawson had indicated that they had an issue in the past, but it has since been resolved. Lastly, the ambulance in the back of the station will be listed on either E-bay or another on-line auction.

Ambulance report: Supervisor Miller attended the last ambulance meeting to fill in for Trustee Black. Miller reported that all other members were in attendance. They discussed response time, which is very good. The information has been passed on to the Clerk for filing.

Building Inspector: Inspector Shamblin reported that 4 building, 2 electrical, 5 mechanical and 1 plumbing permits were issued for a total property value increase of \$140,932.00. Shamblin discussed the progression of the condemned properties. They are in the hands of the attorney for legal processing. This is a slow process, but it is moving along as quickly as possible. Regarding the Grove Street property, it has been condemned and the location of the owner is not known at this time. The paperwork has begun.

Cemetery Report: Information was given to the board members on the Friday before the meeting, but need more time for review. Committee member Eve made a request for the Ground Rules to be published along with the Fall Clean-up notice. Miller stated that he would schedule a Special Meeting to go over the large amount of information that was presented to the board for rates increase, deputy sexton's wage increase as well as the plantings and benches. Meeting was set for September 22, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

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A motion was made by Supervisor Miller and seconded by Trustee Black to authorize the clerk to publish the Ground Rules and Fall Cleanup notice for the Cemetery. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Library Report: No report – Clerk noted that she was told the library is in the process of being organized with the help of a volunteer and they are making good progress.

Transfer Station: Total money collected for the month was \$518.00 with 77 coupons redeemed.

Lake Board: Lake Board Treasurer Eleanor reported that the dredging has stopped. There has been numerous problems with the dredge.

Newsletter Committee: November newsletter deadline – October 12th. – Saturday, October 17th at 1:00 pm. the Newsletter committee is to meet.

Assessor's report: Assessor Brousseau gave the board information regarding a land split that was presented tonight.

Motion was made by Treasurer Lowery and seconded by Trustee Black to approve the land division for Garcia located on 56th Street which was approved by the Assessor. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Holiday Committee: The next Holiday Committee meeting has been set for the 16th at 6:00 pm at Pizza Plus. This meeting will start the planning for this year's event.

Pullman Pride Committee: No report

Clean Team: The Clean team met last Saturday and no volunteers showed up. Donna and Gene were only able to clean the 4 corners. The next meeting is set for October 10th at 10:00 am. Volunteers will want to report to the township hall.

Lee Township Road Committee: Committee member C. Pugh passed out a detailed report regarding the condition of the roads in the township. He explained some of the report, but it was requested by Supervisor Miller to set a meeting to go thoroughly through the report.

Neighborhood Watch Committee: No report.
No one has taken over yet.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Splits:

Lower Scott Dam Structure - Miller requested quotes from Compton's of South Haven and Steele in South Haven. Compton's bid was for \$1,250.00. Steele's quote was for \$1,138.56 which did not include the drilling of holes and securing of the safety cover.

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A motion was made by Trustee Ferguson and seconded by Trustee Black to accept Compton's quote at \$1,250.00 for the complete job to be done. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Trustee Black, Trustee Ferguson, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Miller and Clerk King. Motion carried.

Purchase 2 benches for the cemetery. – Menard is currently having a sale on benches, but no location has been determined so the topic was tabled.

Water hookup – for VFW: Miller received a request from the VFW to be added to the municipal water system. Compton's gave a quote of \$440.00 for the hookup, and VFW would be responsible for the cost of the hookup along with the application fee of \$500.00.

A motion was made by Supervisor Miller and seconded by Trustee Ferguson to give permission for VFW to pay the application fee of \$500.00 and the quoted hookup fee to Compton's for \$440.00. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Water hookup for Laraway's House Moving: Miller requested a quote from Compton's to hook up Laraway's House Moving to the township municipal water system. He requested the hookup to go under 109th Avenue which caused the quote to be \$4,151.00. More questions need to be asked regarding the requested path of the hookup, so this will be tabled until more details can be ascertained.

Replacement of Water Meters: Currently there are 7 meters that are malfunctioning. Compton's has given a quote for \$1,991.00 for all 7 meters; this includes the cost to install as well. This will insure that the township is receiving the accurate readings for the water usage.

A motion was made by Treasurer Lowery and seconded by Supervisor Miller to replace the 7 meters, for the total cost of \$1,991.00, from Compton's in South Haven. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Trustee Black, Trustee Ferguson, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Miller and Clerk King. Motion carried.

Replacement of Park Attendant: Ads were placed in the Reminder and the Flashes to request letters of interest to fill the vacancy in the position of Park Attendant. The board discussed the experience of each applicant. Applicants included Jim Rawson, Paul Hapke, Heather Melson, Mike and Janice Curley and Glenn Alderink. All applicants had the necessary qualifications, but Alderink was from Fennville and the board would prefer to fill the position with a township resident; Jim Rawson and Paul Hapke had experience as well as Mike and Janice Curley. The board decided that the applicant with the most experience was Heather Melson due to her hands on experience that she had gained while helping her father for the past 2+ years. This experience would allow the township to continue with the least amount of disruption.

Motion was made by Supervisor Miller and seconded by Trustee Ferguson to hire Heather Melson to fill the position of Parks Superintendent. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

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Payment of the Bills:

A motion was made by Treasurer Lowery and seconded by Supervisor Miller to authorize the Clerk to pay the bills in the amount of \$124,319.35 with an additional \$3,003.00 for payment to the Building Inspector. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Trustee Black, Trustee Ferguson, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Miller and Clerk King. Motion carried.

Citizens' Comments: Citizens presented a question regarding the payment to Miller and Canfield. They wanted to know what this payment was for.

Clerk King stated that this was for services rendered on the legal defense for the township in a lawsuit that had been dismissed this month. The lawsuit was presented in November 2008 regarding the removal of an election worker and was dismissed at a hearing that took place September 4th.

Correspondence:

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk