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**LEE TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING**

January 26, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 6:31 p.m. at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss and make a decision on making a one time contribution to the Pullman Community Center to assist with heating the facility during the distribution of food. Discussion also took place regarding the approval to publish an ad to start the process to get bids for the purpose of starting the grant process for the new township hall/fire station.

Supervisor Miller brought to the attention of the board members that the Pullman Community Center has struggled to heat the facility for the weekly food pantry. The facility does not currently have enough fuel to run the heat during Saturday's food distribution. Inez McMann has purchased a 100 pound cylinder out of her own pocket to try to keep this service running and has contacted the board for assistance in locating help to have the propane delivered to the center.

Some of the questions that were presented by the board members:

Trustee Ferguson had unanswered questions to what the criteria for helping such an agency? He also stated that he felt that the Pullman Community Center's distribution of food was an extremely important service and it would be helping the community to contribute toward the fuel. It is not just helping the Community Center, but helping the community.

Treasurer Lowery stated that the Township had never given a contribution before to the Community Center, but she had checked with the auditors and it was acceptable to give a contribution if it benefits the community. She also noted that the Community Center was a 501-3C Agency.

Many questions were presented from the citizen's in attendance. Some of the questions presented were:

Who owns the center and isn't to be run by a board of directors? Who determines the use of the community center and why it can not be used for political purpose? Would a check be written for the assistance?

Much discussion took place regarding many concerns from residents who did not approve of their management of the center and suggested that a committee be formed so that the center can have the help needed to operate the facility. Supervisor Miller assured everyone that he would discuss these concerns with Ms. McMann. There were also concerns regarding this contribution

setting precedence for the township to be obligated to help other business. Treasurer Lowery pointed out that this was a non-profit, tax exempt agency and not a business, which separates from any other surrounding businesses. It was also suggested that the contribution be taken from the township's "Special Needs" fund so that the money would not come from tax payers monies.

*Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to approve a one time contribution to the Pullman Community Center not to exceed \$600.00 of propane from the Hamilton Farm Bureau. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carries.*

Supervisor Miller brought the next topic for discussion forward. A request was made by Supervisor Miller for approval from the board to publish an ad to request bids for the engineering of the new township hall/ fire station. He explained to the board that this is the next step recommended by Paul Bristol from Rural Development for the process of obtaining grants. This would only be for the purpose of submitting the grant application. After the grants have been secured, the project would include much discussion and input from the board as well as the community to what would be need.

Many questions regarding the process and how much are we looking at as far as the building a new facility. Supervisor Miller conveyed that Mr. Bristol, who works with Rural Development, has indicated that our community would be a good candidate for the grants necessary for such a project. Supervisor Miller also listed the project to cost \$400,000.00, but that is a high figure which was determined in order to apply for the necessary grants. This project will be discussed in much more detail with several opportunities for input in the future. It was also questioned if the township fire department had the necessary funds to finish paying for such project and if property has been purchased?

Supervisor Miller also used the plans of the Hamilton Township Fire Station as a guideline in filling out the grant applications. He will make these plans available at the next township meeting for those interested to view.

*Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to publish the necessary ad for securing engineering bids to use for the purpose of information required in the grant application process. Roll call vote taken: Yes- Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carries.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:  
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk