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Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2010

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Comments: Clerk King announced the good turn out at the November 2nd election and had a tape of results, if anyone wanted to review them. She also stated that the Road Millage had passed with 274 –Yes and 273 – No votes.

Citizen Comments:

Citizen N. Andres – Wondered why there has been no progress on the blight? Especially Grove Street.

Supervisor Miller stated that a relative was working on trying to get the property cleaned up.

Trustee Ferguson commented on the efforts of many volunteers with Lansing in the initial effort to clean up the property. This site was a health hazard and even after hours of working and the crew only was able to clean out a small portion of the house.

A citizen asked if a motion or proposal regarding condition of 54th / 110th & 112th street had been done?

Supervisor Miller stated that with the Road Millage there will be work done on the condition of the roads, but it will take time due to the expense of fixing the road with no longer receiving help from the county on the road improvements.

A motion was made by Black and seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated 10/11/10. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by 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’s Report: An update regarding what is happening the county. The county budget was passed with making reductions in staff. There were 13 early retirements and some elimination of positions. The commissioners approved to use \$750,000 from the budget stabilization fund to back the budget.

Jessup gave an update on the jail project. 77% voted no in the November 2nd election. He asked the residents in attendance for input on how they felt about the project and what was their opinion on why it failed. Comments were that too much was spent on consultants, poorly portrayed in the news and the overall the economy had a large impact on its lack of support.

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Deputies' Report: Deputy Lyle reported 106 complaints from the month of October. Of the total calls, 83 were handled by the nightshift. He reminded people the importance of smoke detectors and carbon detectors. He commended the fire department and first responders on their quick action in saving a family that had been running a generator and were consumed by carbon monoxide. If it hadn't been the departments quick action there would have been fatalities. Deputy Lytle also stated that with the county budget passing, there were no deputies laid off.

Fire Department Report: During the month of October there were 8 calls. Chief reported that the gravel had been replaced at the boat launch by the AC Road Commission, so there was no expense to the township. Station 2 water problems could cost around \$6,500.00 to fix, by replacing the well with a 5 horse pump. It will depend on the amount of gallons per minute if it is worth the cost. The board will need to decide how they would like to proceed. There was a trash fire during the windy weather that spread and damage the dredge pipe. They were able to keep the tools from being damaged, but the fire did about \$800.00 damage. The land owner has been sited. Chief DeWeerd lastly reported on the new fire station project. He has spoken to the engineer and they stated that the project would cost much more for the delay. The increase was so substantial, that more research will be done. Supervisor Miller did not think that the information was correct.

First Responders' Report: No report

Ambulance Report: No report

Building Inspector's Report: During the month of October there was 1 building, 4 electrical, 8 mechanical permits sold for a total property improvement of \$2,100.00.

Cemetery Report: Committee member, E. Pachoski gave a list of concerns to Supervisor Miller regarding some of the grave sites. There were some individuals that were not complying with the cemetery ordinance such as no glass containers or homemade headstones. Supervisor Miller stated that Janice should contact the owners by certified letter before anything is done. They could get names from the funeral homes to locate the owners.

Library Report: no report

Transfer Station: During the month there was \$461.00 collected and 83 tickets redeemed.

Lake Board Report: The dredging is done for the season.

Newsletter Report: The newsletters have been sent and should be in mail boxes this week.

Assessor's Report: The December Board of Review has been set for December 14th at 4 pm. This session is set for correcting mutual mistakes of fact and clerical errors only. The state has been sending out letters regarding homestead exceptions. If you do not respond they will remove the homestead exemption. The Department of Treasury is where you need to contact to correct the mistake.

Holiday Committee: Lisa displayed the new banners. Thank you to the board for approving the purchase. There is one light pole that is not fixed. Steve will call Consumers to get them out to repair the problem.

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There will be 1 more meeting before the Holiday Social scheduled for December 11th. The event has come together nicely and will be held at the Pullman Elementary school from 4 to 7 pm.

Pullman Pride Committee: No report

Clean Team Report: No report

Road Committee Report: No report

Church/Activity Center Committee: Committee member, S. Anderson questions the heat and furnace at the facility. She thought that the water was supposed to be off. Supervisor Miller stated that the head is set low, but it would not get cold enough to freeze any pipes. He will check the propane to see what is left from last year.

Unfinished Business:

Sign paperwork for 102nd culvert: The third and final partial pay estimate is ready for approval. This final payment is for \$9,029.09 and will be submitted to the State for reimbursement. M. Bittner stated that after they invoices are paid that the state comes in to audit the file and they will take place shortly after the project paperwork is done. Everything went well, and there was enough left from the grant to have some addition paving done.

A motion was made by Miller to accept the third and final payment of \$9,029.09. Roll call vote was taken: Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

New Business

Discuss ambulance problems: Director A. Rawson addressed the board regarding the condition of the ambulance that is used by the First Responders. The unit correctly used replaced the very old model that had been used for many years, but this model, which was purchased used, has developed some very severe issues. The transmission is not shifting properly, the heater does not work, no odometer or speedometer and has developed some serious brake issues. Rawson made a request to the board to consider the purchase of a new unit. First Responder, S. Simpson had done much research to find the best estimate for the township. The first estimate was for \$112,500.00, which was using the current box. This was an out of state company which did not provide a loaner while the unit is be constructed. Second quote was for \$109,080 also using the same box and allowing for a \$1,000.00 trade value on the current unit. Lastly, he presented a bid from Michigan First Response. This company would give a \$4,000.00 trade value on the old unit, provide a loaner while the unit is constructed and would totally redo the box and place on a new 2011 Ford Chassis. The truck would be 4 Wheel Drive and come with the factory warranty from Ford and the box would have a 3 year warranty on it as well. If there were problems, they send a mobile unit and will provide a loaner while the truck is repaired. This included everything except radios. Scott had check with C-Com and presented a estimate for \$748.00 to put upgraded radios into the unit. The process would take between 60-90 days. The total cost was \$98,000.00. A down payment of \$60,419.00 would be required to start. The First Responders have in the past not spent much money to upgrade their equipment and currently have more than \$200,000.00 in their budget. The millage that was approved by the voters was for the operation of First Responders was this purpose.

Questions were presented regarding if Ford was the best truck to buy. The International is a bigger unit, but the cost is also a lot higher. They checked with Spencer Manufacturing and the same unit would cost more

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than \$130,000.00. A question was asked if all the First Responders were in agreement with this decision. Director A. Rawson stated that all members were aware in agreement with replacing the unit.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to authorize the First Responders to purchase the new unit from Michigan First Response in the amount of \$98,000.00 and providing the down payment check upon receipt of a signed contract in the amount of \$60,419.00 and \$748.00 to C-Com for the radio upgrade. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller & King. Motion carried.

Chief DeWeerd requested that an ad be placed in the paper for new fireman. Station 2 is about ready to close from the lack of volunteers to work it.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to publish a request for new volunteer fireman. All voted “Aye” Motion carried.

New computer for Supervisor: The current computer being used by the Supervisor and Assessor has been displaying error messages, will not work properly and has a faulty on/off switch. It has been taken in for service, and determined that it is beyond repair. This computer has been there for many years and is very outdated.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Ferguson to authorize the Supervisor to spend up to \$1000.00 for a new computer that will handle the BS&A Assessing program as well as the needs of the Supervisor. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by Miller to accept the draft of the township news flyers to be placed in the December tax bills. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills:

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to authorize the clerk to pay the bills as presented with the addition of the Code Enforcement check in the amount of (). Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller, King. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Miller to authorize the clerk to pay election staff for the November 2nd election in the amount of \$1,504.80.00 Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Citizen Comment: The VFW was commended on the excellent job done in getting gift for their holiday party, but they are estimating that the need will be double this year. Those interest are encouraged to donate. Also, those interested in helping with the refreshment table, can call S. Kay to sign up. .

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk

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