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LEE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

February 8, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:31 p.m. at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, MI.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Comments:

Supervisor Miller introduced Mickey Bittner from Wightman & Jones regarding the construction/repair of the 102nd Avenue culvert. The road has been closed due to the heavy rains. The Allegan County Road Commission had submitted an estimate of \$189,000.00 to repair the damage; unfortunately the Township did not have the funds for such a repair. Supervisor Miller was contacted recently regarding a Community Development Block grant that could possibly be used for just such a project. Criteria that would make our township possibly qualify would be that we are considered a "lower income" community. The grant deadline is February 22, 2010, and currently the paper work is being processed and the plans and permits are in place. It was to the township's advantage that the plans were drawn up initially when the original quote was given by the Allegan County Road Commission. The grant would be for \$200,000.00, and the township's portion would be \$24,000.00. Some of the questions asked were why a cement culvert was necessary or could metal pipes be considered. Bittner stated that metal pipes were originally used and had deteriorated. This was one of the factors as well as the severe flooding that took place.

Citizen's Comments: Citizen H. Melson asked about the low income program that had been put into place a few years prior. She went to the library to obtain cards for her children, and the library worker was unaware of such an agreement. Clerk King stated that she had dealt with the same issue previously when the program was put into place, and would call and check on it.

Citizen T. Kotas had presented to the entire board a packet prior to the meeting with statistical information regarding the use of the website. He requested that the township look into upgrading their software, which would allow for quicker download as well as allowing those with mobile phones to download information. The board thanked Tim for all his hard work in keeping the website maintained.

Citizen S. Lacy commended the nice job done on the lengthy set of minutes from January's meeting.

Motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by Black to approve the regular board meeting minutes from January 14, 2010 as presented. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

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

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Jessup passed out his monthly newsletter to all the board members and the members of the audience. He highlighted the new jobs anticipated to come to Allegan County. Johnson Controls would be hiring as well as NOVOI. These new jobs would be a result of a grant received by the City of Holland and would require 51% to be filled by low to moderate income families. Commissioner Jessup also announced that the county had information on their website regarding a new discount Rx card. There were questions regarding the new animal shelter. Commissioner Jessup stated that the shelter would house more animals and with the help of Wishbone, a group of volunteers, he hoped that the hours would be increased. He stated that the jail project was slowly moving with the purchase of the property. The millage issue for the jail is being considered for placement on the August ballot. The commissioners were hoping that with the building being secured, and with minor upgrades to the office portion that Sheriff's Administrative office could be moved to the new location. Lastly, he highlighted that after 22 ½ years of service to MSU Extension, Director Paul Wylie was retiring and will be missed.

Deputies Report: Deputy Speese reported that during the month of January there were 82 complaints of which 61 were handled by the night shift and 21 by the day shift. Of the total calls there were 6 harrasement, 3 dui's and 3 b&c'e's. He also stated that Deputy Lyle was able to produce a suspect and a warrant is in place.

Fire Department: During the month of January there were 4 calls. Chief DeWeerd updated on the new fire station; paper work is still in the process. Chief gave an update on the smoke alarms to be given away. The liability paper work was prepared and they hope to start giving them out soon. He reported the successful Fire Prevention program that was taken to the school. A week was spent bring this important information to all of the students. Upcoming training to be attended is the Pipeline training which 3 fire fighters will attend. The training is a 2 hour training with a provided meal. Chief DeWeerd provided the board with a packet of information regarding the annual fire calls, the amount of usage from surrounding communities and other stats. Lastly, Chief DeWeerd announced that the Fire Department will hold their monthly pancake breakfast on the 13th of February.

First Responders: No report given.

Ambulance Report: No report given.

Building Inspector's Report: Inspector Shamblin reported that during the month a total of 7 permits were issued. These include 3 building, 3 electrical, 3 mechanical and 1 plumbing with a total property value of \$46,500.00. (3+3+3+1=10, not 7)

Cemetery Report: No report

Library Report: No report.

Transfer Station: During the month of January there were 18 tickets and \$208.00 collected. Heather expressed her concern regarding the garbage being placed in the recycling area as well as trash periodically being dumped by the gates. Heather also made a request to meet with the entire board to go over the duties for the transfer station as well as the park before the spring season starts. She would like a list of things that are expected of her.

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Lake Board: No report.

Newsletter Committee: The Newsletter committee will meet on February 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the township office.

Assessor's Report: No report given.

Holiday Committee: Committee member Lisa had previously given the Supervisor a letter regarding repairs needed to the electrical units on two of the poles. Supervisor Miller would contact Consumers Energy.

Pullman Pride Committee: No report.

Clean Team Report: The clean team will start again in April and dates will be posted.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Tree Removal Bids: Supervisor Miller presented the board with bids that he had called and requested for the removal of the trees on the new fire station property. Clerk King stated that all the bids were over the amount, that it would be required for the entire board to approve a published notice requesting sealed bids. Treasurer Lowery agreed and did not recall this being discussed. It was discussed by the board members that there should be a published request for bids. Clerk King asked why this was being done so early. Supervisor Miller stated that he had hoped to have it done before many of the residents in the area came back for the summer season to eliminate a nuisance that the noise and smoke would cause.

Request to Waive the Tax Penalty Deadline: Treasurer Lowery stated that in the past the board has considered to extend the deadline for the collection of winter taxes. This has given the residents a couple weeks longer to pay their taxes without the 2% penalty.

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Ferguson to extend the deadline until March 2nd without the 2% penalty. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Board of Review Dates: Supervisor Miller announced the scheduled dates for the March Board of Review. The requested dates were –March 1st for an organizational meeting, March 9th from 9-12 and 1-4 pm and March 11th from 1 – 4 pm and 6-9 pm.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to approve the dates of Mar 1st 4 pm for an organizational meeting, March 9th from 9-12 and 1-4 pm and March 11th from 1-4 pm and 6-9 pm as requested by the Assessor. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to authorize the clerk to publish the required Board of Review Notice in the Allegan County News. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

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There was more discussion regarding the tree bids and should a notice be published in the paper requesting sealed bids. Treasurer Lowery wanted to know if Supervisor Miller was certain that Midwest Engineering wouldn't be responsible for this service. Questions were asked regarding what the bids would entail. Supervisor Miller stated that it would be only stump removal and the area graded down. This would not involve the work that will be done when the project is leveled for the start of construction.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to authorize the clerk to publish a request for the removal of the trees in question. 4 voted "Aye." 1 - "Nay."

Land Division: One land division was presented from the Assessor. This was only a land adjustment for Gary Jackson's property located on 109th Avenue and 58th Street. This was only a line adjustment between the house and the mobile home in the back of the property. This would be necessary for the deed only.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to approve the boundary adjustment as presented by the assessor. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Resolution for the Grant to repair the 102nd Avenue Culvert: *A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to accept the resolution as presented by Wightman Jones to go forward with the grant process of \$200,000 and \$24,000 Township's expense. Roll call vote was taken: Yes - Black, Ferguson, Miller and King. No- Lowery. Motion carried.*

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Miller to approve the liability release presented for the distribution of the smoke alarms to families in need. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills:

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Black to approve the clerk to pay the bills as presented with the necessary additions of bills not yet received for this month. Roll call vote was taken: Yes - Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Budget Adjustments: The Clerk presented some necessary budget adjustments for bringing the year to a close.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to authorize the clerk to make the necessary budget adjustments. Roll call vote was taken: Yes - Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Citizens' Comments:

Citizen E. Maas asked what has taken place on the removal of the time capsule at the cemetery?

Citizen S. Anderson announced that the VFW would hold a "Sweethearts Dinner" on February 14th from 4- 7 pm. She said they will serve Swiss steak for \$5.00 per dinner and encouraged all to attend.

Citizen L. Galdikas asked the date of the Township's annual meeting and what is currently happening with the donated church property. Supervisor Miller stated that it had been used for only a couple of

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bread give-a-ways and a coat drive. More discussion will take place in the future. A meeting will be set in the spring to decide the different uses of the facility.

Correspondence: None

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk

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