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Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2011

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, Clerk King.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Comments : Mickey Bittner from Wightman Jones came to give an explanation of the requested easement donation. It would donate an easement to the county in order to maintain the Scott Creek Drain. He estimated that the cost of that project would be around \$300,000.00. It has raised some from this figure due to special request for rerouting or open or closed access, but those additional cost will be added to that resident's assessment. Questions presented regarding the charging of the assessment.

Supervisor Miller stated that he misunderstood that the township would not have a portion of the assessment. It was his error and he wanted to bring that to the attention and apologize for his misunderstanding.

Mickey stated that when Steve asked the question regarding cost, the donation was being discussed and he felt that is where the misunderstanding took place.

Citizen Comments:

A comment from a resident inquiring about the upcoming events at Willow Ranch and if anything had been done regarding the injunction.

A resident at 615 56th Street, stated that the drainage ditch at his property is not low enough for water to drain from fields. He was given the road commission to contact regarding this drain.

A question was presented regarding the new state ordinance regarding burning trash. Has it taken place? It was answered by Supervisor Miller that the bill had not been sign, so it burning can still take place. She also wondered about the progress at Grove Street? Also regarding potholes.

A comment was made regarding the Rodeo around 49th Street. Will anything be done? Music is very loud. When deputies arrive the music is turned down until they leave and then it remains loud until sometimes 2 am.

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A resident commented that she enjoyed the music.

Ferguson/Lowery

A motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by Lowery to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes from the April 11, 2011 meeting. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Black/ Ferguson

A motion was made by Black and seconded by Ferguson to approve the Special Meeting minutes dated 4/22/11. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miller 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.

Committee Reports:

County Commissioner's Report: No report

Deputies' Report: No report

Fire Department Report: During the month of April there were 10 calls. The new fire station is waiting on Lansing to approve the plans. Once this is complete the bids will go out and a Special Meeting will be schedule to open the bids. The fire trucks have been serviced. The pagers and portable radios will have to be replaced before the conversation. If not changed by 2013, they will be off the air. The estimated cost will be around 20,000.00 to 25,000.00. Nelvin is waiting to see if Allegan County 911 will have enough to buy the radios. If they are able to purchase the radios, they would be the property of dispatch, but the townships would maintain them. Chief DeWeerd introduced 2 new firefighters to the department. New to the department are Patrick Curley and Andrew Caldwell. Congratulations on their many hours spent training to be Lee Township firefighters.

First Responders' Report : During the month of April there was a total 19 calls, 15 medical, 2 assist, 2 accidents.

Ambulance Report: No report .

Building Inspector's Report: During the month there was property improvement in the amount of \$250,726.00. Paul stated that things are picking up. He reported the there is a person interested in purchasing the property on Grove Street. Paul provided him with the information necessary. He is aware of what would be required if he bought it. Lastly he stated that he received information regarding Willow Farms requesting an engineer for building a sound stage. He is working on a resolution to this ongoing problem.

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Cemetery Report: Paul has replace the dead tree with a new donated tree. Donated wreaths have been purchased and Mike as put up the new flag. The Allegan County inmates will be there on the 21st and 22nd to finish clean up. The rain dates are May 24th and 25th.

Library Report: No Report

Transfer Station Report: During the month of April there was \$ 584.00 collect and 47 coupons redeemed.

Lake Board Report: No report.

Newsletter Report: No report. Newsletter committee will want to meet with the board on where it will go from here.

Assessor's Report: 2011 tax year is done. 2012 tax year has begun. Tax review is going along fine.

Holiday Committee: Committee is meeting still working towards next year's event.

Pullman Pride Committee: Donations are still being received. The Easter Egg hunt was a success. Two of the local seniors doing community service held a bake sale and donated proceeds toward Gator Aid for the fire department.

Clean Team Report: The next meeting of the clean team will be held on May 13th at 10:00 am.

Road Committee Report: A meeting will take place to work on suggested projects for the next year. Committee member, C. Pugh felt that the assessment would bring in \$115,000.00 over the next year.

Church Activity Report: The water damage to the building has been submitted to the insurance company.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Purchase of Tax Foreclosure: Treasurer Lowery stated that any unpaid taxes after 3 years are sold by the county. The Township has the first opportunity to buy, before they are sold at public sale. Any property purchase by the township should be done so for benefit of the residents.

Sharing the Cost of Application of Diamond Dust for Ball Field:

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A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to table until further information is gathered. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Judge Skoculous- Attended the meeting to drop off the courts annual report. He talked about the Drug Court that is place and doing well, Mental Health Court and well as the possible consolidation of judgeships due to the number of case loads dropping.

Ken Driasma from People Helping People- Offered to work with the township to clean up the blighted areas. He has the necessary equipment that could be used. He would like to partner with the township in this effort.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Ferguson to form a committee to work with People Helping People to work toward solving some of the blight issues in the community by offering help.

Payment of the Bills: *A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to approve the bills as presented with the additions listed as reimbursement to S. Black for \$74.20 and S. Simpson for \$30.00. Roll call was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.*

A motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by Miller to authorize the clerk to pay the election workers their wages from the May 3rd election in the amount of \$550.50. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Lisa Galdikas presented the board with a letter provided by Alvan with a summary of services provided to area townships. It was determined that 117 calls came from Lee Township and estimated that with the abandoned animals the total would be around 147 to 163 animals that they took care of and worked towards adoption. This care was estimated to cost \$883.00 annually. Lisa stated that with the services provided to our township that she would be happy to take any donations back to the shelter to help them with the cost and asked if the township would donated as well.

Citizen's Comments: None

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn King, Clerk

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