

Lee Township
Special Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2015

The Special Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Lee Township Hall, 877 56th Street, Pullman, MI 49450

Members Present: Trustee Galdikas, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Owen and Clerk King.

The purpose of the Special Meeting to review a draft of a Master Plan for the township.

The board members were all given a copy of a draft. Tim Kotas drafted a copy of a Master Plan to be used as a starting point to help the township board draft a plan with the input of residents through surveys and public comment. The largest benefit of having a master plan in place is to enable the township to be able to receive grants. Tim stated that this document needs to be driven by the community and the board.

Legislation was enacted to encourage communities to get in involved with creating a plan. The plan should cover aspects of the community such as streets, safety and fire, lights and air, healthy living, civic design and fiscal responsibility as well as sewer/well and recreation. Our community is unique in our population is static. With being rural and with no industry in our community, we are somewhat limited to substantially increase the population of the community.

The census was used to compile information for the report which indicated that a large portion of our population is young adults with children with the median age of 31.8. It also reported that the median household income is \$31,786. This is not the demographic that generally attends meetings so another means of gleaning input from the residents will be necessary to compile needs and interest of the community.

The township is working constantly to ensure financial responsibility and how best to use the resources that are currently in place. With decline in revenue this has been a challenge in the past and with a decline in population.

An example of some of the ideas for future planning might be the Lower Scott Dam which is in current need of repair. Once the decisions are made on “what” is in place then the board can work towards the “how”. It has appeared the township has been operating in a similar manner, but there has never been written into a plan.

Each member of the board prioritized the list of areas that are generally covered in a plan. The areas are:

- Promote a safe and inclusive community
- Maintain and improve upon the fiscal strength of the Township
- Encourage business growth
- Improve upon roads and basic infrastructure
- Improve access to necessary services that allow residents to work and thrive
- Protection of the Township’s natural amenities like lakes and wetlands.

The board collectively prioritized as follows.

1. Maintain and improve upon fiscal strength of the Township

2. Promote a safe and inclusive community
3. Improve upon roads and basic infrastructure
4. Improve access to necessary services that allow residents to work and thrive
5. Protection of the Township's natural amenities like lakes and wetlands
6. Encourage business growth

The next step will be for the board to go over the draft and agree as a board to adopt the drafted plan. The board members will want to come up with general ideas for each area as a place to start. Trustee Galdikas suggested that some tactical thinking might be helpful for future questions. Once the plan has been adopted and the board has decided where to start, then some method of input will need to be put in place to work on getting public suggestions.

Citizens Comments: None

Motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to adjourn the meeting. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55

Minutes Submitted by:
Jacquelyn King, Clerk