

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:32 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman Michigan.

In response to the Governor's Executive Order, the Lee Township board is meeting with a quorum to conduct the business of the township as required by law. All committee reports were submitted in writing and summarized for the purpose of the minutes. Not all members were present due to risk factors of the COVID 19 virus.

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

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen commented on the importance of participating in the census. The census determines funding levels for the next 10 years. He also mentioned that there will be no Memorial Day parade or service held at the cemetery due to the stay at home order.

Citizen Comments: None

Guest Speaker: None

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 13, 2020. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to receive the Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Owen and King. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: No report. The township board extends its condolences to Tom Jessup and his family at the recent passing of his mother.

Deputy Report: During the month of April there were 73 calls of which 14 were taken by our township Deputy. His new schedule due to COVID 19 has him working during the day which is not as busy as his evening shift. Most of the calls he responded to were welfare checks, disorderly and suspicious individual complaints.

Fire Department Report: 23 calls for the month, including 3 mutual aid structure fires. Small groups will start to train next month following CDC guidelines. Chief Chamberlain is still looking at breathing apparatus options.

First Responders Report: 35 calls, including 31 medical, 3 fire assists and 1 personal injury.

Assessors Report: No report

Ambulance Report: The Emergency Services Committee held a special meeting on May 7 to review the RFP from Life EMS as an alternative to the new AMR proposal that was given to us at the April meeting with our current service provider. As a reminder the townships served had a signed contract with AMR,

who chose to terminate that agreement prematurely and provide an alternate agreement where township subsidies tripled as did costs to the residents. At the May 7 meeting Life rep (John) was in attendance and Mark Meijer was present by phone. Although Life's township subsidy figure was comparable to AMR, the cost to the residents was cut in half. In addition, residents can become a member for \$49 if they have other insurance or \$79 if they do not. Although they would be stationed in Fennville, Life EMS also has a second response rig staged in Allegan, which is where 911 calls come in. This location is also closer to Lee Twp and should cut down the response time to our area. Although PRIDE Ambulance Service has verbally expressed interest in serving Lee Twp at the current subsidy rate, via their Bangor hub, they would not commit to serving all the municipalities covered under the current committee. They also did not provide an official RFP/contract. Life EMS did state they were willing to adjust the subsidy for the first year from \$207,000 to \$195,000 to give townships a year to work on securing the additional funds needed to this service. The second year would be \$212,000, which includes 2.5% annual increase plus an adjustment to get back up to the original fee proposed. The 3rd year would be \$217,479 (2.5%). All township reps were asked to review this information at their next board meeting. The committee will hold a special meeting on May 21, 7pm to make a final decision.

Building Inspection: For the month of April there were 3 electrical and 2 building permits. There were no plumbing or mechanical permits issued. Total improvements to the township were \$45,000.00.

Community Center: Due to COVID 19 the Community Center has not been used. Hoping that in the future things will go back to normal and the building will again be utilized for meetings and events.

Cemetery Report: The Cemetery committee met with the Sexton and Supervisor to discuss maintenance concerns at the cemetery, including some overgrown trees and shrubs and worn out signage. Clean up will take place without jail volunteers and Janice Curley will take care of flags for veteran's graves.

Library report: No report

Transfer station: During the month of April there was \$1,670.00 collected and 81 tickets redeemed.

Lake Board: No report

Newsletter Committee: The next issue will go out sometime in June/July, once we have more information from the Governor and how that will impact summer events. If anyone has a story to share about how Pullman has "come together" as a community to help each other through the pandemic, please email trusteelg@twp.org. Currently, the mailing list is also being updated.

Holiday Committee: The Memorial Day the parade and cemetery service is cancelled due to the stay at home order. Thank you to the VFW for putting up the flags throughout the downtown area. We wish everyone a safe and Happy Memorial Day.

Pullman Pride Committee: Scholarship winners have been selected and will be announced on May 28th during Bloomingdale HS virtual Honors and Awards program. Trustee Galdikas is happy to report that 2 individuals donated their stimulus checks to the scholarship program this year, which has allowed the committee to provide an increase in funds awarded. Since the students will not be notified until the end of May, we will announce their names at the next regular Township board meeting.

Road Committee: No report

Clean Team/Beautification Report: No report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance Contract: Trustee Galdikas has attended the last few ambulance meetings and provided information (found in the Ambulance Committee Report) regarding what our options are for ambulance service in the township. The board will need to consider funding options for this service as we move forward. Clerk King reported Treasurer Lowery had indicated the First Responders currently have funds in their account to cover increase in subsidy for the time being.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to sign the contract for ambulance service with Life EMS. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Galdikas, Owen and King. Motion carried.

Revenue Budget Adjustment: Treasurer Lowery provided board members with adjustments to be made to the 2019-2020 budget to close out the accounting year with the final revenue totals.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to adjust General Fund and Fire Department 2019-20 revenue budgets to actual as of March 31. Roll call was taken. Yes – Owen, Galdikas and King. Motion carried.

Tax Collection Procedures: The State and County are working on new tax collection procedures in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Some of the changes suggested were only taking payments by checks in the mail or dropped off in a drop box or credit card payments. There currently has been no decision and this issue will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Cemetery Signs: Supervisor Owen stated the Cemetery Committee recommended replacing the old worn-out wooden signs that are currently at the Lee Township Cemetery. The new signs will be metal, include the cemetery rules, and will hold up well with the weather.

Motion was made by Owen and seconded by King to authorize the Supervisor to order signs not to exceed \$425.00. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Galdikas, King and Owen. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: *A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Owen, Galdikas and King. Motion carried.*

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jacquelyn King, Clerk