

Lee Township
Annual Budget Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2021

The annual budget meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 10 am at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Supervisor Owen reported on “the state of the Township” and what accomplishments took place in the past year. He started by stating what an honor it is to serve our community. He spoke of the struggles of 2020, and living with the challenges that came with the COVID Pandemic. He thanked the public servants for their dedication. Supervisor Owen paid tribute to the valued servants Lee Township lost last year, mentioning Steppny Black, Trustee, Albert Rawson, First Responder, and Fred Rawson, Transfer Station Attendant. The Township was able to enter two applicants for the Salute to Small Town Volunteers Award, and recognized Reverend Steppny Black and Albert Rawson by presenting their family members with a framed certificate in recognition of their selflessness and dedication to our community, The board also presented a plaque to the community, to honor other residents who passed away while serving in an official capacity for the township throughout the years. This plaque will hang in the township hall for the community to see. Owen spoke of plans to continue to work to eliminate blight throughout Lee Township. He also noted tire clean-up throughout the township, thanks to an EGLE grant, including disposal of over 2,000 tires at the Transfer Station, and the COVID relief grant that secured almost \$7000 for township PPE needs. The board will continue to focus on its Master Plan to better Lee Township. The next Master Plan meeting will be held on April 19th, at 6:30pm, at the Lee Township Hall, pending any COVID-19 restrictions. Owen went on to add that in the past 4 years, Lee Township building permits have brought in over \$8 million of improvements into the community. Lower Scott Lake dam improvement is still a priority as the board continues to secure a contractor. Lee Township, as part of the Fennville Area Emergency Services Committee, has agreed to a contract with Life EMS for ambulance service, which has gone well, although the first responders’ budget has gone up to \$39,000.00 due to price increase for contract. The fire department has been busy with 190 calls in 2020, up from 152 the previous year. The volunteers have dedicated hours to training, many hours unpaid. First responders continue to grieve the loss of Albert Rawson, and many community members stepped up to try to help cover his loss. First responder calls were up in 2020 to 444, from 414 the previous year. The fire department played a big roll in stepping up to help them out. Owen thanked Anthony Rawson for stepping up to help out at the transfer station following the loss of Fred Rawson. All residents will get 2 free dump tickets again this year, to help keep the community clean. Thank you to Jim Rawson for his hard work at the transfer station, and to Vicki Lindsey for her hard work in cleaning the office and township buildings. Regarding the road millage, Owen stated a portion 103rd will be paved. Other roads were fixed this year, with shoulders at no cost to the township. We plan to continue to take care of the many gravel roads in Lee Township and will do 2 applications of dust control this year. Congress approved a stimulus package which will provide \$400,000.00 to Lee Township, to be spent by December 21, 2024. Following federal guidelines, the board will work on the best ways to utilize these funds. Crisis help is always available for residents in need by calling 211.

The board reviewed the proposed budget and the clerk answered questions.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Lowery to adopt the budget as presented. Roll call was take: Yes – Lowery, Owen, Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Friel and seconded by Lowery to adopt and sign the General Appropriations Act as presented. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 10:25. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:
Heather Friel, Clerk