

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:35 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Absent: Treasurer Lowery

Amendments: None

Board Comments: Trustee Galdikas recapped a conversation she had with Jeff Kruithof, with People Helping People. He told her there will be a picnic in the park August 12th & 19th, with free food. They are also giving out free backpacks to kids, for back to school. You can register at their office, pick up will be August 14th. Church service continues on Sundays. There will be a fall festival on Thursday, October 28th from 6-8pm. The after school program will be available for pre-k- 12th grade students from 3pm-5pm. The food pantry broke ground, and construction will start in the fall.

Supervisor Owen noted that all revisions are complete for the LSL dam repairs. The board will make the down payment, and the work will begin. We are very close to getting this done, working with Landtech/Shorettech.

Citizens Comment: Dick Palmby made positive comments about this year's Pullman Pride Day. He took advantage of the free dump day, and suggests in the future providing better signage. He expressed concern about the noise and safety issues around a CPL training range in the township. He mentioned that South Haven has a dog ordinance, and suggests that we consider one, as there has been recent issues with dogs in our area , including a dog attacked by another dog near his home. He reiterated his concern about an apparent decrease in fish in LSL and would like the township to invest in restocking the lake.

Ben Engle, with Borrego Solar spoke about their project in Lee Township. He thanked everyone for allowing them to build here, and wanted to make everyone aware that the job will come with increased traffic and noise for several months. They are aware of and will comply with the township's ordinances. He said that everyone is welcome to come check out the job during working hours, which will be 7am-6pm. Late afternoon, at wrap up is usually the best time to come. He is happy to show people around, and share a cup of coffee. He said that is has been a pleasure to be in our area.

Jennifer Santono mentioned that she bought the old Capone property on LSL. She has been seeing a lot of concerning activity at the public beach, including people there all hours. Many times these people wander onto their property.

Kathleen Hoffman brought up that she has had to call the sheriff 3 times recently about squatters by the swimming area. People have been bathing there and harassing the homeowners who live near the access, cussing at the local owners. She is concerned about plastic and trash along the shore, which is a danger to the native animals.

Guest Speaker: Linda Teeter, director with Legal Assistance in Allegan County spoke, letting everyone know that the venter opened July 30, 2012. In 2012, the center helped over 200 people, compared to 2021, they have helped over 4000 people. The center is growing each year. They have helped over 21,000 people so far. She thanked the township for their support. She invited everyone to a celebration on September 2, 2021 from 12pm-1pm at the courthouse.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated July 12, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the fire department meeting minutes dated July 12, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Trustee Galdikas gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Treasurer Lowery.

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

Commissioners Report: None

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson was unable to attend the meeting and will give the report at next month's meeting.

Code Official's Report: Supervisor Owen introduced John O'Connell, as Lee Township's new Code Official. John introduced himself, explaining that he is currently the code official for Arlington Township, and has been for 19 years. He has a lot of experience with code/zoning. He explained that his style is to ease in and work with the residents, allowing them time to correct violations. He reported that he started that day and had already visited a couple places. He said the residents were happy to talk with him and seemed willing to work on the issues.

Dick Palmby asked how residents could contact the official. Trustee Galdikas explained that all complaints/concerns should still be emailed to the supervisor, and will then be passed onto the official.

Fire Department Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that in the month of July there were 10 fire calls, including a structure, carbon monoxide, an alarm, 2 auto accidents, a wire down, controlled burn, a rubbish fire, EMS assists, 1 cancel in route and 1 public assist. Training was for water rescue, using the boat. The pancake breakfast at Pullman Pride day was very successful. Plan on putting the call in number out again next year. The recruitment booth at Pullman Pride was also successful, gaining 2 new recruits. He brought up the possibility of a trade with Fennville FD, for a used engine. Hoping it will work out, pending the decision of the Fennville board. He will keep us posted on that. He discussed planning a special meeting regarding FD/FR merge, which will be determined at a later date, and posted. Dick Palmby questioned the FD meeting minutes from July as to the rationale for another mill, concerning the merge. Chief Chamberlain explained that Lee Township has been lucky to have a small group of retirees who have run everything in the past, and are to a point where they cannot keep up. They would need the mill to cover the cost of new people, as EMS calls continue to grow in our area. Trustee Galdikas mentioned that Lee Township has 2 times the amount of calls for EMS than the 5 surrounding townships. We would not be able to continue as we have been, and we would need to invest.

First Responders Report: Pam Rawson was unable to attend.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris was unable to attend. Supervisor Owen reported that Kyle continues processing and answering emails and phone calls. The July BOR went well. Kyle sent a thank you to the board members for their participation.

Ambulance Reports: None

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of July there were 14 electrical permits, 3 plumbing, 6 mechanical, and 5 building permits. Bringing in a total of \$130,666.00 in improvements to the Township.

Community Center Report: Trustee Hatfield reported that for the month of July Pastor Medina continued to rent on Sundays and the center was used for Pullman Pride Day. At this time, there are no upcoming rentals scheduled.

Cemetery Report: None

Library Report: None

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of July, the station brought in \$1,049, and 77 tickets. The July free dump day was a success, and the final free dump day for the year is scheduled for September 11 & 12.

Lake Board: Rustin Scherer reported that the LSL Board recently had a meeting. Residents want to see changes. The board is looking to hire a consultant, to help work out how they need to move forward. The next LSL Board meeting will be August 31, at the Township Hall. They are working on projects within their budget. He thinks that with direction from a consultant, they can make great improvements to the lake. He explained that as far as restocking, that was not a priority for the lake board at this time.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the spring/summer issue has been mailed out. Spanish translation and English versions are posted on the website. Extra copies are located at the local kiosks in the Township Office, Post Office and Intercare.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that she plans to touch base with the VFW to get the flags down after Labor Day.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas thanked everyone who helped out to make Pullman Pride Day a success. She stated that the current and past scholarship winners were there volunteering for the day. The committee will be meeting soon to discuss next year's event. Supervisor Owen added that AES Solar made a large donation to the scholarship fund.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh suggested that if anyone has not been out to check out 103rd between 52nd and 50th, to go do so. That the company Black Gold did a phenomenal job. Also, check out by Osterhout Lake, where the stripes have been repainted. He reminded everyone that the board has committed to 1 mile of gravel road maintenance each year. He complimented the board on spreading the road money wisely.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CC Expenditures- Supervisor Owen brought up that the Community Center is not bringing in enough money to cover its own costs. Trustee Galdikas stated that she recently spoke with People Helping People, who neighbor the center. She suggested that there may be an opportunity for further discussion with them, regarding the future of the building.

Ordinance Officer- Supervisor Owen introduced John O'Connell earlier in the meeting. He stated that he will get his contact information on the website. In the meantime, all inquiries should be sent to the supervisor.

ARPA- Supervisor Owen informed everyone that the deadline to get ARPA requests in was met. We have not heard anything back at this point. The township should receive half of the money this year, and half next year. At this point, there has not been a firm number given as to how much we will get.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conflict of Interest Policy- Supervisor Owen informed that with any federal funding, including ARPA funds, all townships must adopt a Conflict of Interest policy. Trustee Galdikas suggested the board use the language provided by MTA.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to adopt the conflict of interest policy. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Osterhout Lake Special Assessment- Supervisor Owen introduced Gale Rewa, President and Nancy Salvacy, Secretary, from the Osterhout Lake Association regarding the process of special assessment to fund weed treatment in the lake. The two explained that their association is 25 years old, and for that long residents have voluntarily paid to have weed treatment done. They explained that in that time, they have built a relationship with a company named PLM, who has done this job in the past. Their association provides newsletters to residents, and posts treatment dates and information. They hold two meetings each year and go to conferences to learn more about the treatments. They have volunteers who take water samples to determine the health of the lake. Their goal is to balance fun and stewardship of the lake, for generations to come. Many of the families on the lake have been there for generations, primarily as seasonal residents. Osterhout lake is very shallow, which allows for more weed growth. This year has been significant, including native and non-native varieties, which can negatively impact boats used there. Treatment options are limited, and they need to have 100% permission from residents to do new treatments. They are working at it, but 100% is not likely. They are currently short 11 parcels/8 owners' permission. They currently have 88 members in the association who pay \$20 per year. Bringing in about \$13,000- \$17,000. They are looking to bring in more, to cover the rising cost of chemicals. Supervisor Owen questioned if the amount they get now is adequate. Nancy explained that more money would allow more options and allow to cover any new outbreaks. They will need 51% of the landowners to comply, and currently have about 42%. They are hoping to see 63% soon. They plan to develop a 5-year plan with PLM, and file it with the Township Clerk. Their next meeting is scheduled for Saturday September 4th. They are working with a lawyer, and plan to tweak the language, and will share it with the board to cover both sides' expectations. They explained that they are not a lake board, and are not controlled like the LSL board is.

Resident Tom asked if Lee Township has any other special assessments, like this, and if the township will get any more involved with the delegation of the funds. Supervisor Owen explained that they do, with LSL, but they are different. That the board will only collect and disperse the funds, they cannot use them for anything it is not intended for. Dick Palmby raised concern on if the board really wants to take on the work of being involved with a new board; to which the board explained that they are looking into everything to figure it all out. Nancy explained that they have confidence that they will have volunteers willing to help as much as they do now. Chuck Pugh reminded everyone that our local lakes are recreational lakes and are for all the township to enjoy. Nancy stated that she is willing to share all information they have and want to be as cost neutral as possible. They do not foresee any additional costs to the township.

John Kukla asked if the township will collect any money for the time and effort of working on this. He asked who would be handling the tax money and how would residents get a say if they are unhappy with the service? Supervisor Owen explained that any tax money collected can and is only used for its intended purpose. The board or anyone involved cannot and do not receive any compensation from the money collected. Both sides will continue to do their homework, and keep everyone posted. They are hoping to be set by next month's meeting.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills presented by Clerk Friel. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk