

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:33 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Amendments: None

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen stated BOR member Sally Lacy recently fell and broke her hip. Her surgery went well, and we send out thoughts and prayers. Trustee Hatfield mentioned that Mary Hoots' husband passed away and asked for everyone to keep her in their thoughts. Trustee Galdikas thanked everyone who rallied for the Memorial Day Parade, especially the Lee Twp. Fire Department, local VFW, township board, Sandy Anderson, and all who participated. The Township Hall kitchen was recently cleaned out, and if anyone has left anything in there in the past years, it is available to pick up in the back room of the hall, otherwise, it will be thrown out.

Citizens Comment: Sandy Anderson commented on the lack of involvement by the VFW at the Memorial Day Parade, and that the new commander was unaware of this, and has now been informed. She stated that the Memorial Day Parade is supposed to be in honor of our Veterans, and thought all of the extra stuff was inappropriate. She asked a question on how often the board and township employees get raises. Zach Clark expressed interest in getting the baseball field cleaned up on the infield. Clerk Friel spoke in the absence of Debbie Laraway regarding Beautify Pullman. The committee wishes to thank all of the volunteers who helped do the planting on the work day; the muralist Conrad Kaufman will begin work in August. The committee is now looking into parks and will keep everyone updated. The committee continues to fund raise.

Guest Speaker: None

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated May 10, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the special board meeting minutes dated May 17, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer Lowery gave the treasurer's report.

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

Commissioners Report: Tom Jessup reported that the ORV Ordinance has passed with a 5/2 vote. It will go into effect July 1, 2021. If any townships wish to get out of the ordinance, they will need to pass their own ordinance in order to do so. The road commission is working on an "off limits roads map" and will be publishing the maps through Parks & Recreation, to have available to the public. The ARPA funds are still being discussed, and will be through mid-July. Hoping to have a decision made by August on how the county will spend these funds. They are considering a broadband committee and will have about 20 million to use after COVID relief. If anyone is interested in joining the broadband

committee, applications can be found online at www.allegancount.org, under Boards & Commissions Openings.

Zoom meetings will be coming to an end for commissioners and will be in person beginning in July. Attendance can still be joined via Zoom, or the meetings can be re-watched on YouTube.

Restrictions for masks continue to make trouble for in person jury. The courthouse renovation is underway and has a long way to go. Thinking it may be complete by the first part of next year.

AC transportation is working to get people where they need to be, and they will be pouring money into that.

Deputy Report: Supervisor Owen reported in Deputy Jackson's absence. In May there were 172 calls, 55 were handled by Deputy Jackson. Some of the calls were a result of the rodeo, as loud noise complaints. There were no breaking and entering calls, 2 larceny reports, including a stolen package, and a stolen U-Haul, which is settled, and returned.

Fire Department Report: Zach Clark reported in the absence of Chief Chamberlain. In the month of May there were 12 calls, including 2 structure, 2 fire assists, 2 auto accidents, 1 gas leak, 2 canceled in route, 2 grass fires and a public assist. Training was on EMS and fire fighter agility. He mentioned the success of the Memorial Day Parade, honoring our veterans.

First Responders Report: Pam Rawson reported that in the month of May there were 43 calls. Including 40 medical, 2 PI, and 1 assist. Training with the fire department is going well. Out of the 165 days in 2021, there have been 201 calls.

Assessor's Report: In the absence of Kyle Harris, Supervisor Owen reported that he is working hard processing and responding to emails, phone calls. The July Board of Review will be July 20, 2021, at 2 pm.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that the quarterly meeting for the ambulance committee was held on Thursday, June 10, 2021. Life EMS reported responding to 272 requests for service within the 6 municipalities covered; 202 resulted in transport. Average response time was 7 minutes and 35 seconds for priority one calls. Paramedic Alicia Prins was recently hired as part of the Fennville staff, and has been with Life EMS since 2016. Lee Township continues to have 3 times as many calls for service than 4 of the other municipalities, and twice as many as Fennville.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of May there were 6 electrical permits, 1 plumbing, 4 mechanical and 8 building. Bringing in a total of \$495,285.50 in improvements for Lee Township.

Community Center Report: Trustee Hatfield reported that for the month of May the center was used for 1 funeral, and church on Sundays with Pastor Medina. There is a graduation party scheduled for June.

Cemetery Report: Supervisor Owen reported for May Davoren that Memorial Day found the cemetery in good condition. The cemetery service was done by Sandy Anderson and Jamie Austin, the Commander of the VFW. The fire department put on a beautiful display. County Clerk Bob Genetski was the speaker at the service and did an excellent job. The 21-gun salute was directed by Jamie Austin. Thank you to all who participated. They will be working on sections 2 & 3, but everything is shaping up.

Library Report: Clerk Friel reported for Debbie Laraway that the library is planning on a presence at Pullman Pride Day, and will share that information at the next meeting.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Lowery reported that in the month of May the transfer station brought in \$1,728, and 94 tickets.

Lake Board: Supervisor Owen reported that the LSL improvement board met on June 8, 2021. They discussed the tax roll out and weed treatments and hiring for that. The first bill for Aquatic Doctors has been received, signed by all board members and sent to the township for payment.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the newsletter is at the printer and should be mailed out by the end of the week. Spanish translation and English version can be found on the website.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas wished everyone a safe 4th of July. She added the VFW will be hosting a community cookout on the 4th. There will be a \$6 charge, and everyone is welcome, including non-members. They will hold a cornhole tournament and a pool tournament at 1pm with a \$5 fee.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the 20th annual Pullman Pride Day is July 17th, 2021. There will be live music, car show, flea market, farmer's market & craft fair, a wood carving demo, RC car demonstration, Pullman's Got Talent Show, disc golf, free lunch, bake sale, outdoor movie and much more. There will be a community yard sale on the 15th and 16th. If you wish to be part of this, email the committee your address, and the kinds of items you will be selling to have your sale information shared. There will be a community prater service at the ballpark behind the school at 4 pm on Sunday. Flyers with the weekend's events will be posted around town soon. Watch the Facebook page for more details. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy the weekend activities.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh reported that the southern part of the township from 102nd to 103rd and 104th to 48th is complete and very smooth. 103rd was done on the 7th and 8th, due to rain delay. It is the best job he has seen in years. The company (Black Gold, from Door, MI) did a fantastic job, and even took care of many driveways, where they connected with the road. They replaced the old metal culverts, and there is now good drainage, and the shoulders look great. He suggested the board send a thank you to them. The township has committed to at least 1 mile of gravel on all of the gravel roads. 50th st from 102nd to 103rd has been done already. Dust control was completed last week, and there is work being done on 55th Street this week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CC Expenditures- Supervisor Owen presented concerns regarding the structural integrity and safety of the Community Center, including lack of ceiling and flooring supports. Trustee Galdikas suggested having a professional come in to assess and quote or direct the township on how to move forward.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen, to approve up to \$500.00 for an inspector to assess the Community Center. Roll call vote was taken, Yes, Hatfield, Galdikas, Lowery, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Revenue Adjustments- Treasurer Lowery stated that because we received more than budgeted, adjustments must be made to the budget. She made the adjustments, and the board has received copies.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield, to approve the budget adjustments. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

LSL Spillway- Supervisor Owen presented that the previous contractor has opted out to our 90-day ultimatum, stating that they "may" be able to do the job in November. Moving forward, he had contacted contractors, and has come up with 2. JCI Bridge group will do the same plan as the previous contractor, and quoted \$75,000, plus any charges for any unforeseen issues that may come up. Meaning they can charge more if they need to. This job would also require an application/permit revision. The second contractor is Land Tech, Shore Tech. They will use a similar product, but instead a PVC sheet piling, at a cost of \$61,608. They can move forward very soon, as they have the materials on hand. It will take up to a month for DEQ revisions.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen, to approve an increase of \$6,000.00 to the previously approved amount for completion of the LSL spillway repairs. Roll call vote was taken, Yes: Galdikas, Lowery, Owen, Friel, Hatfield. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tax Newsletter- Treasurer Lowery stated that tax time is upon us again, everything is all set to go.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Galdikas, to approve the tax newsletter. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Ordinance Officer- Supervisor Owen suggested the township consider hiring an Ordinance Officer/Code Enforcement Officer. Specifying that the township does not have anyone helping with code enforcement at this time, and the MTS has declined our request for help. In the past the township has budgeted a stipend of \$500/month or \$6,000/year to an Ordinance Officer. Other local municipalities typically pay \$12,000-\$14,000/year. He asked for board suggestions.

Treasurer Lowery commented that Lee is a rural, agricultural/farming community, and that we cannot afford to hire, as it will cost more than we will want to pay after court costs.

Trustee Galdikas stated that the options at this point are to hire someone, or abolish the ordinances, which will make things much worse.

Chuck Pugh agrees with Trustee Galdikas and has concerns for the children who are growing up in dangerous blight conditions.

Supervisor Owen stated that he thinks with the right person, it could make the difference. That an officer may be what it takes to get residents to take sightings seriously. He asked the board to look into it and consider, as we need help to enforce ordinances.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen, to fill the vacant ordinance official position, and refine a job description for an Ordinance Officer. "Aye" vote, Hatfield, Friel, Galdikas, Owen, "Nay" vote: Lowery. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills presented by Clerk Friel with the additions. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Lowery, Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel, Owen. 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 9:03 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk