

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:30 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Absent: Treasurer Lowery

Amendments: None

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen commended the EMS & Fire departments for their quick response to the accident on May 9th, on 109th Ave. The response time was very fast, and he thanked them for a job well done.

Trustee Galdikas had noticed more comments regarding garbage throughout the township, and mentioned that all residents have an option for private garbage service. She suggested that residents who have concerns plan a time to pitch in and pick up garbage when they can. She thanked those residents who continue to pitch in. If residents need help, please reach out to the township.

Clerk Friel thanked the ladies who helped with the May 4th election. The day was very slow, but all in all a success. It could not have been done without the help of the poll workers.

Citizens Comment: Dick Palmby talked about the Zoom meeting held regarding the solar project coming into town. He believes it will be a positive addition to our community. He mentioned the lake board will be trying to get together soon, and that he is hoping to hear an update on the dam repair. He was also concerned with the increase in the number of multiple trailers on properties throughout the township, and hopes the townships assessor and building inspector are aware.

Debbie Laraway submitted a statement regarding Beautify Pullman. Fundraising continues for the mural and Ravenswood Park. The recent plant sale was a success, and thanked everyone who made a purchase. She encourages any groups or families who would like to “adopt” planters in town to contact her. The brickwork in town has been completed. Thank you to Rosa’s who donated their time and expertise. They are optimistic to have phase one of Beautify Pullman ready by Memorial Day. There are still plants and hummingbird feeders available for purchase at Pizza Plus.

Guest Speaker: None

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated April 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 Friel to receive the treasurer’s report. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: Tom Jessup reported that the ORV Ordinance is likely to move forward, considering the sheriff and prosecutor’s support. More information will be available in the next two to three weeks, and will have more answers after the upcoming county commissioner’s meeting on Thursday morning, on May 13th. The commissioners will be deciding by the end of June whether to extend virtual meetings, or to go back to in-person. He mentioned that COVID shots are now available with walk-in appointments for people 16 years and older. Clinics are listed on the Allegan County website. Allegan County is the fourth fastest growing county in the state for the past 10 years. Re-districting is coming up.

ARPA funds should be available, but it is still not clear on how it needs to be spent. The county is considering spending it on infrastructure, but are looking for input from the townships. They are taking suggestions, and should have a direction for spending by mid-June.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of April, there were 124 calls. He handled 45 of the calls himself. The rodeo was the reason for many of the calls, and there was a loose long-horned steer. As the weather is getting nicer, the calls have and will likely continue to increase. There were 34 traffic stops, and 2 larceny calls. He reminds residents that if breaking and entering is not called in, they cannot do anything about them. Please call the non-emergency line, if residents notice any theft from overnight.

Fire Department Report: Supervisor Owen reported in Fire Chief Chamberlain's absence. In the month of April, there were 11 fire runs total, 2 fire assists, 3 grass fires, 1 automobile accident, 2 wires down, 1 pellet stove fire and 2 public assists. Training was for EMS/cardiac arrest and hose training. Progress was made on cleanup of the old fire station.

First Responders Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the absence of Pam Rawson, in the month of April, there were 36 medical calls, 3 fire calls, and one accident for a total of 40 calls.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris was unable to attend, due to family reasons. Supervisor Owen stated that he is working hard processing and responding to emails, phone calls.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that the ambulance committee meets next in June. Also that there is a special meeting planned for next week on 5/17/21 at 6:30pm, at the Township Hall, to discuss the merging of EMS and the Fire Department.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of April, there were 11 electrical permits, 4 mechanical permits, 3 plumbing permits, 2 demolitions and 15 building permits. Bringing in a \$438,360.00 in total improvement costs for the township. Last year we saw over \$2 million in improvements.

Community Center Report: Trustee Hatfield reported that for the month of April, there was 1 graduation party, and Pastor Medina rents on Sundays. Pastor Medina got the new carpet installed and it looks great.

Cemetery Report: May Davoren reported that section 3 is trimmed out, and section 2 is being done now. They addressed the veteran's memorial, but need a new flag. They also need 2 new memorial trees to replace dead ones. She will need someone to plant them, and remove the old trees. The dogwood trees are blooming beautifully, and she thanked Jim Rawson for his help with the cleanup. They hope to be done by Memorial Day, and Baylor's will bring out the porta-potty. She also mentioned they had an expert come out, and he found a tree in section 1 that is 170 years old.

Library Report: Clerk Friel passed on a report from Debbie Laraway. The library is continuing to upgrade its services by adding more technology, and hopes to have regular hours as soon as it is safe to do so. Plans are underway for a float in the Memorial Day parade. If anyone is interested in helping to plan, execute, drive or supply a trailer to haul the float, please contact her at 269-236-6206.

Transfer Station Report: Trustee Galdikas reported the transfer station brought in \$1,937 and 80 tickets.

Lake Board: None

Dick Palmby mentioned that there is a posting in the Post Office with a schedule for the 3 lake treatments. The first should be done around May 25 (weather permitting), and the 2nd and 3rd treatments will be done

each a month apart following, in June and July. Notices will be posted around the lake, at boat launches, the public beach and every other house.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the newsletter will come out the end of June, and will focus on Pullman Pride and scholarship recipients. Entries should be in by the first of June.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that she checked with the VFW regarding the Memorial Day Parade. They stated they are not actively involved with the planning this year as they do not have the manpower. Galdikas asked Dick Palmby to double check in on this at the VFW and let the board know so we can come up with a plan B if necessary.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reported there are flyers available with upcoming planned events and opportunities to get involved. This will be the 20th anniversary of the Pullman Pride celebration, and this year will be a weekend- long event.

Road Committee Report: Supervisor Owen reports Chuck Pugh is on his way back from Texas. No dates yet, but planning on pavement for 103rd and chip-coat for the full length of 109th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gravel Road Program- Supervisor Owen presented that R. Smith & Sons submitted a bid for \$15,900, which is less than the approved \$17,000 budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Variance-Junge- Supervisor Owen reported that the Junge's pulled their application.

Dump Day-

A motion was made by Supervisor Owen and seconded by Trustee Hatfield, to approve 3 dump day weekends this year, to be held June 12-13, July 17-18 and September 11-12, not to exceed the cost of \$4,500.00. Roll call vote was taken, Yes, Hatfield, Owen, Galdikas, Friel. Motion carried.

Dick Palmby suggested a "test" trash program and reminded the board about the need for a porta potty at LSL park.

ARPA- Supervisor Owen reported the possibility of \$400,000.00 to the township through the federal government's rescue plan. Being that Lee Township's population is under 50,000, the number may change. It could take 6 (+/-) months to receive the money. The township will decide how to spend the money, when we know an amount, and how the county plans to spend their relief money, based on regulations for spending.

Dick Palmby suggested the board put together scenarios for different amounts and timing factors of how the money could be spent.

Municipal Water Bill Updates- Trustee Galdikas reported in the absence of Treasurer Lowery that water bills that now get billed annually for the township water system for 11 residents and businesses, 7 of which were paid, and 4 were not. Those 4 were paid by the county and will be put on their tax bill. \$2,160.00 of income for water payments was received.

Revenue Adjustments-

A motion was made by Supervisor Owen and seconded by Clerk Friel, to table the discussion until clarification can be made by Treasurer Lowery. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

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 – Owen, Friel, Galdikas, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to adjourn the meeting. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Heather Friel, Clerk