

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 8, 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, Clerk Friel. Absent: Treasurer Lowery
Absent: Supervisor Owen

Amendments: Approval of Lee Crossing newsletter.

Board Comments: Trustee Galdikas extended a Happy Veteran's Day to everyone, and honor and a thank you to those who have and do serve. She also informed that Ron Collins of Fennville, along with about 20 people in the Fennville area want to start a Rotary Club (international service organization) in our area. They would like to include Pullman, so if anyone is interested, to let her know, and she will work it out.

Clerk Friel extended a thank you to Michael Rawson, and everyone involved in hosting the trunk or treat event. The event was successful and very fun for the kids in our community.

Citizens Comment: Trevor Schewe, of Pullman congratulated the board, and especially Scott on the dam/weir work being done. He thanked the board for sticking with getting this project going, and said it looks like they are doing a great job.

Trustee Galdikas added that this project has been Scott's personal devotion for years, and it sounds like it should be complete in a couple weeks.

Steve Schulz of Bloomingdale Communications spoke, checking on the township's ARPA funds. He asked again that the board consider putting some of the funds toward their broadband project near Osterhaut Lake area. Other townships and Van Buren and Allegan Counties have committed to help. He asked for a portion of the funds to help with this. He stated that he is willing to meet to answer any questions and noted that he saw that Lee Township has received some of their funds.

Guest Speaker: Linda Teeter of Allegan County Legal Assistance Center spoke. Since they opened, the center has assisted over 20,000 residents of Allegan County. Their service is free, they only charge people to make copies. In 2020 the center served 117 Lee Township residents, and so far in 2021, they have helped 110. They have no doubt they will exceed the number served in 2020. They are seeing an increase in domestic violence cases and included information for Sylvia's Place. They are trained to recognize domestic violence and make referrals as needed. The center received a grant from the Delano Foundation, and have used it to translate literature to Spanish, and plan to do more. They are now open Friday mornings and have started remote patron's assistance in Casco. They would like to talk to us more about this option, so people do not have to go to the courthouse. Linda requested Lee Township consider financial support through ARPA funds for their services.

Trustee Hatfield voiced concerns with the ability to print forms from their website.

Linda responded that she will get her coworker in touch, to help with copies.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Hatfield and seconded by Lowery to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated October 11, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Lowery gave the report, including receipt of ARPA funds.

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

Commissioners Report: Tom Jessup informed that the budget has been passed, at \$40,951,341.00, an increase from last year. Increase expenses will go toward police coverage and body cameras, health department staff increase, and a new assistant prosecutor. The ARPA funds are around 23.5 million. \$200,000.00 will be set aside for children. State plans on spending \$50 million on broadband and also on water systems. They went from 7 to 5 commissioners and changed district boundaries. An appeal has been filed, but does not seem likely. He was not in favor of this change. The next board meeting is December 9th. He finished with speaking in support of the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center, and all the good they do for the county.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson informed that for the month of October, there were 205 calls. He took 71 himself. This included 7 larcenies, 34 traffic stops, 2 of which lead to narcotics busts, and a noise ordinance citation.

Code Official's Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that John O'Connell resigned, due to health issues. The board is looking to fill this position.

Fire Department Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that in the month of October, there were 13 runs, including, a structure, carbon monoxide, 2 med assists, 2 auto, 2 wires down, a rubbish fire and a mutual aid. They looked at possible replacement truck in Pennsylvania, which they are considering for purchase. They are waiting on the insurance company and hoping for funds this week. Regarding the Engine 25 project, they are waiting on parts, and using squad 61 in its place. Training was hose testing, which took 4 nights. Chief commended his crew and Pullman Elementary students on a successful fire prevention program.

Treasurer Lowery asked about the potential trade with Fennville.

Chief Chamberlain said that Fennville approved the trade, but they are waiting on it, due to the many projects being dealt with currently.

First Responders Report: None

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris absent. Trustee Galdikas reminded that the BOR will be held December 14 at 1:30 pm, at the hall.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that there will be a meeting next month.

Building Inspector's Report: Trustee Galdikas reported for Supervisor Owen, that in the month of October, there was 1 plumbing permit and 4 Mechanical permits.

Community Center Report: Trustee Hatfield reported that for the month of October, there was 1 rental, and there are 3 scheduled in November. Love INC has a sign up for a Thanksgiving dinner give away, which will be held at the Community Center November 23.

Cemetery Report: Fall clean-up is being scheduled. May Davoren is having health issues, so we are looking for someone to assist with the cemetery. Reminder that the Township has a fall and spring clean up at the cemetery every year.

Library Report: None

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Lowery reported in the month of October, the transfer station brought in \$1,182, and 123 tickets.

Lake Board: None

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the next newsletter will come out the week of Thanksgiving.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas reported holiday social will be held December 4, from 6-8 pm at the Linking Center. There will be gifts for kids up to the age of 11 and Santa will be available for family photos. Gifts can be donated to the holiday committee, or the VFW for their gift distribution. Love INC is also doing an “Adopt- a- Family” for the holiday.

Pullman Pride Report: Scholarship applications will go out to schools in January with the deadline to apply as April 15. The applications will also be available on our website.

Road Committee Report: Recommendations from the Road Committee have been received. Trustee Galdikas reported that the Road Committee is on the agenda for later.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ARPA: Trustee Galdikas reported that Lee Township has received \$215,774.00 of the ARPA funds. No decisions have been made, but broadband for all is a top priority. The board is continuing to figure how to maximize the funds. We have until 2026 to spend it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Variance 12-630-158-00- Keith Volgman spoke regarding the property, and how he would like to significantly update and expand the house to the south and west on the property. He discussed the property layout. Regarding the variance, he is asking for 4 feet of extra width to the south on the property. Treasurer Lowery mentioned that usually these requests are reviewed by MTS and the fire department. Trustee Galdikas spoke on how the variance is complicated, per Supervisor Owen’s notes, because Mac Street is a Right of Way to Lower Scott Lake and its current width is already less than standard requirement. Variance request will have the structure on the legal right of way in that case. Treasurer Lower suggested tabling until further discussion and a decision can be agreed upon by the board. The board members present agreed.

Road Millage: Discussion tabled until December meeting due to Supervisor Owens’s absence.

Approval of the Tax Letter:

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Hatfield to approve the tax letter, all voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.

Approval of the Lee Crossing Newsletter:

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve printing and mailing the township newsletter, all voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel with a few additions that came in today.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills with additions noted in the amount of \$50,120.34, as presented by Clerk Friel. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Hatfield, Galdikas, Lowery, Friel. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Friel to adjourn the meeting. All voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk

UNOFFICIAL