

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 13, 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, Clerk Friel, Treasurer Lowery

Amendments: None

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen held 30 seconds of silence in honor of 9/11 victims. Trustee Galdikas stated that information was available up front regarding a continuation of the unity service that was held during Pullman Pride Day weekend. The ministers involved are planning more events like that. The next will be held September 19, at the baseball field next to the township hall. She also wished Chief Chamberlain a happy early birthday. Supervisor Owen wished Trustee Galdikas a belated happy birthday. Treasurer Lowery reminded everyone that September 14 will be the last day to pay taxes without penalty. She will be in the office that day.

Citizens Comment: Mark Witte, Allegan County Community Mental Health Director, informed everyone that they are planning a move across town, to the old Shopco. Due to COVID, they are short on finances by a couple million. They would like consideration of 10% of the ARPA funds to help them. They will be taking a loan, but will have to pay it back, and the funds will help with that.

Guest Speaker: The Beautify Pullman Committee had a presentation given by Debbie Laraway and Patty Conway. They spoke on updates that have been done or started at this time, donations and positive support from the community. They discussed their desire to work with the township to improve township parks including Ravenswood Park and the public beaches. They presented issues that could use attention, and their plans to correct the issues. They made a suggestion of creating uniform signage that could be incorporated throughout the township at different locations including parks, beaches and public buildings. They went into greater detail on their plans to upgrade Ravenswood Park, and the steps they have taken to make sure they do everything legally. After breaking down the financial projections needed to complete their goals, they decided their goal for funds should be \$100,000.00 to upgrade the parks. They would like to apply for grants, and fundraise to get the money, and propose that the township cover half of the costs, and they cover the other half.

Kathleen Hoffman voiced concern that the public beach is private property and was willing to provide the proper documentation to prove this.

Another citizen voiced concern for space available for a parking area at Ravenswood Park, and how to avoid residents parking on surrounding private property and in the street.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated August 9, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer Lowery gave the treasurer's report, and updates from the recent Census. Trustee Galdikas brought up the opportunity to challenge the Census findings regarding the loss of residents. Supervisor Owen stated there is a process that begins in December to challenge the findings.

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

Commissioners Report: None

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that in the month of August, there were 184 calls, 59 of which he took on personally. These included 3 larceny/breaking and entering calls, 4 domestic/assault calls, 5 suspicious activity calls, and many others called in that he did not take on himself.

Code Official's Report: John O'Connell was unable to attend the meeting, but is getting familiar with the township, and has been working on complaints from earlier in the year.

Fire Department Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that in the month of August they had 21 runs. Including 2 carbon monoxide calls, 2 auto accidents, 12 wire/tree down calls due to storms, 2 trash/rubbish fires, including a camper fire, and 2 cancel in routes. The month's training was for engine pump use, and EMS training was on medical reports and taking vitals. There have been over 400 calls already this year.

First Responders Report: Pam Rawson was not able to get the paperwork with specific details, but there have been about 310 calls so far this year.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris was unable to attend. Supervisor Owen reported that Kyle continues processing and answering emails and phone calls. He provided a split that would be covered later in the meeting.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that the quarterly meeting was held last Thursday, and Lee Township continues to have 2-3 times as many calls as the 4 other municipalities covered by Fennville. We have now had Life EMS for over a year. It appears that AMR, the previous company used has not been responding to mutual aid calls due to their loss of contract with the area. The board is looking into legal action that can be taken for their lack of response. Life EMS seems to be doing a good job. If anyone would like to sign up for the ambulance program, it is \$79 without insurance and \$49 with insurance for an annual membership.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of August, there were 8 electrical permits, 6 mechanical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 5 building permits. Bringing in \$376,573.25 in revenue to the township.

Community Center Report: Trustee Hatfield reported that for the month of July Pastor Medina continued to rent on Sundays, but no other rentals were booked. Beginning in September, AA will begin meeting every Wednesday at 7:30 pm again.

Cemetery Report: None

Library Report: Clerk Friel reported based on submission by Debbie Laraway, a thank you to Robert and Nicole DuShane for their efforts on behalf of the library. They recently received donations of adult and young adult books, which are appreciated. They now have a Facebook presence with almost 400 followers, and a website. Check them out for updates. They continue to catalog the collections and welcome volunteers.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Lowery reported that \$1,653, and 105 tickets were collected in August. The final free dump day was September 11-12 and was a success.

Lake Board: Rustin Scherer reported that the LSL Board met last week, and the proposed \$66,000 passed for the tax bill next year.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the next newsletter will come out in November. The spring/summer newsletter is still available in area kiosks.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that Tim Looman and the VFW took down all of the flags after Labor Day. The VFW will repair/replace any flags as needed. The holiday social is planned for Saturday December 6, with details to come as they are decided.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the date of the Pullman Pride Day will be moved to the beginning of June (June 3-5, 2022) based on feedback the committee received, including the heat and the ability to collaborate with the elementary school.

Treasurer Lowery voiced concern for conflict with local graduations, and suggested checking into that.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh reported that all roads that were being paved are now open. He reminded everyone of the high cost for keeping up with road repairs, and that the millage will be coming up again next year for vote. He encouraged everyone to vote in support of our roads.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ARPA- Supervisor Owen informed everyone that there has been no update at this time for the funds but will continue to monitor. The township should receive at least half of the funds by the end of the year.

LSL Weir- Hopefully in 2 weeks, the spillway repairs will begin. We are next on the list for the contractor and are all set to go at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beautify Pullman Charitable Gaming Resolution- Beautify Pullman requested the board pass a resolution recognizing them as a 501-c3 so they can apply for charitable gaming licenses for upcoming fundraising events.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to receive Beautify Pullman as a 501-c3. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Patrol Vehicle Repair Cost- Supervisor Owen reported that Deputy Jackson got 2 estimates for repair for the township cruiser after hitting a deer back in April. One for \$2,896.06, and a second company proposed \$2,434.60, if insurance is used, and \$2,075.00 if paid without insurance. The township's deductible is \$500.00. Concern on whether the claim will affect the rate, which Clerk Friel agreed to check on.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to move forward with the Finishing Touch Auto Body & Refinishing quote, not to exceed \$2,434.60. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Lowery, Hatfield. 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 in the amount of \$107,455.38, as presented by Clerk Friel. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Friel, Owen, Galdikas, Lowery, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Supervisor Owen received a letter from People Helping People, regarding their interest in purchasing the Community Center building at fair market value according to the recent building inspection report. They plan to make many upgrades to the building if they were to purchase it.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.
Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk