

Lee Township
Special Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021

The Special Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 6:32 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Absent: Treasurer Lowery.

Purpose of the Meeting: Discussion on the merging of the Lee Township Fire Department and EMS departments.

Discussion was had regarding the merging of the Lee Township Fire Department and Lee Township Emergency Medical Services. Supervisor Owen had been in touch with the township attorney and informed everyone that the EMS are funded by 1.5 mills, and the FD has 4 mills. The way the millages are written up, would allow for the money to be used for fire and ems, and would not affect the merger. Regarding the 1.5 mills for EMS, we can carry it over until 2024, when we can rewrite it to include the contracted ambulance service we choose to use.

Discussion took place regarding first responders becoming fire fighters with cross training. Chief Ted Chamberlain mentioned that training is for structural fire fighters, but the department can choose to utilize people according to their strengths.

After discussion with other local townships, it is understood that the hardest part of merging the two entities would usually be the actual combining of staff, which is already well underway here.

Fire Chief Chamberlain provided job descriptions for Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Medical Officer based on duties they are currently doing, previous job descriptions and job descriptions provided by surrounding departments. Chief Chamberlain also went over the proposal he provided and broke down the financials needed to accomplish the goal. The proposal asked for 1 additional mill to cover the financials.

The board reviewed the resolution regarding EMS and Fire Department prepared by township attorney.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Friel to approve the resolution following adjustments discussed in the meeting. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Absent: Lowery. Motion carried.

Trustee Galdikas suggested continuing discussion at the August meeting, and Chief Chamberlain suggested possibly scheduling another special meeting for further discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk