

Lee Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 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 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

**Amendments:** None

**Board Comments:** Trustee Galdikas acknowledged Kim and Tara Morris and thanked them for many years of service to the community at Northwoods Restaurant. We are sorry to see them close.

Supervisor Owen noted the significant increase in mosquitoes and plans to check with the Allegan County Commissioners to see if they might do something about it, as they did last year.

**Citizens Comment:** Daniel Todd, of Pullman, commented that he recently learned that drug paraphernalia is available at local gas stations. He thinks it is wrong to be able to purchase crack/ meth pipes at any age. He suggested the township adopt an ordinance to ban the sale of these items.

Clerk Friel presented a statement submitted by Debbie Laraway regarding Beautify Pullman. They are pleased to say that work on the Frontier Building will begin in August. The muralist, Conrad Kaufman, has already taken photographs of locals for inclusion in the mural and will have at least one of Bloomingdale's art students assisting. Volunteers will start weeding the planters this week, and plans are ongoing for parks improvements. Join them Saturday for a history walk/scavenger hunt around the 4 corners area of 56<sup>th</sup> St and 109<sup>th</sup> Ave from 9am-3pm. They will have several generations of local folks in the old gas station/museum answering questions about Pullman's history. They continue to fund raise. They mentioned that one of the Beautify Pullman volunteers has a sign making business and would be interested in making a new sign for the township with a smaller library sign. They would be happy to send a proposal to the board.

**Guest Speaker:** None

**Approval of Regular Board Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Lowery to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated June 14, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the special board meeting minutes dated July 8, 2021. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

Treasurer Lowery gave the treasurer's report.

*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 for the month of June, there were 175 calls. He took 40 himself, including 1 weapon arrest, 7 assault, 1 larceny, 4 others were answered by other officers. In response to the concern brought up by Mr. Todd, he checked into the issue at the gas stations. The items discussed are being sold legally as tobacco pipes, and according to the proper age restrictions. He

mentioned that everyone knows what they are typically used for and recommended to the gas station owners that they do not sell them, but he cannot legally stop them. When he went back to the stations after the conversation, the items appeared to be removed.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Chamberlain reported that in the month of June there were 11 runs, including 2 structure, 1 assist, 2 carbon monoxide, 2 auto accidents, 1 wire down, 1 legal controlled fire and one lightning strike. Training was for EMS and engine operations. He recognized and congratulated Brent Falor and Paul Forster for completing and passing the Fire Academy. This was a very tough year to accomplish this, with COVID, and many other stations had people start the program, who were unable to finish due to the challenging times. It is a big accomplishment for these two gentlemen and our township.

**First Responders Report:** Pam Rawson reported that in the month of June there were 36 medical calls, 2 fire assists, and 2 PIs. Training is going well with the fire department, grateful for their guidance. On day 193, there had been 241 calls in 2021.

**Assessor's Report:** Kyle Harris was out with poison ivy. Supervisor Owen reported that Kyle continues processing and answering emails and phone calls. Reminder that the July BOR will meet July 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, at the township hall.

**Ambulance Reports:** None

**Building Inspector's Report:** Supervisor Owen reported in the month of June there were 8 electrical permits, 2 plumbing permits, 6 mechanical permits and 5 building permits, bringing in a total of \$26,175,600.00 in improvements for the month of June. This far exceeds the normal amount due to the Solar Farm project and will be beneficial to our township.

**Community Center Report:** Trustee Hatfield reported that for the month of June Pastor Medina continues to rent on Sundays and there was one graduation party rental. The center will be used for Pullman Pride Day this coming weekend.

**Cemetery Report:** None

**Library Report:** Clerk Friel reported for Debbie Laraway that Nicole and Robert DuShane have completely reorganized the library and received donations of new books from a Kalamazoo bookstore. They have enlisted several new volunteers through Facebook and are looking into the possibility of selling some of the older and rare books allowing the ability to continue modernizing the library. They had made invaluable contributions which are much appreciated. For Pullman Pride Day they will be giving away children's books, which were donated for that purpose. They hope to see everyone at the Beautify Pullman Booth.

**Transfer Station Report:** Treasurer Lowery reported that in the month of June the transfer station brought in \$930.00, and 38 tickets. The numbers are down due to the free dump weekend in June.

**Lake Board:** In the absence of Rustin Scherer, Dick Palmby reported that the second weed treatment was applied on Thursday June 24 and the third will be held Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>. Reminder that there is no swimming for 24 hours after the treatments. There are fluorescent signs posted at the public beach areas and every other house around the lake. Fishing and consuming fish is fine to do the same day. There was a meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> of the Lake Board. Discussion was had about increasing the assessment for next year. The board discussed possibly holding meetings mid-July and in August, but no dates or times have been set. He also mentioned there is one additional parcel that touches the lake.

**Newsletter Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the spring/summer issue has been mailed out. Spanish translation and English versions are posted on the website. Extra copies are located at the local kiosks in the Township Office, Post Office and Intercare.

**Holiday Committee Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the holiday committee has donated 4 road signs to the township that have the tagline: "LEE TOWNSHIP WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW." Three of the four have been placed.

**Pullman Pride Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Pullman Pride Day is this Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. She thanked all of the dedicated committee members and mentioned that there will be something for everyone. Events include live music, car show, flea market, farmer's market and craft fair, wood carving demo, RC car demo, Pullman's Got Talent Show, disc golf, fishing tournament, free lunch, bake sale, outdoor movie and much more. There will also be a community prayer service at the ballpark behind the school at 4pm on Sunday. She looks forward to the community coming together to celebrate their passion for our town and commitment to see our youth seek opportunities for post high school education.

**Road Committee Report:** Chuck Pugh reported a correction from the June meeting, stating there is 46 miles of gravel roads and 26.5 miles of paved roads in Lee Township. He stated that the road millage had started back in 2009 and encouraged the community to thank themselves for the 2 mills in the past 3 years. Mentioning that there had been a lot accomplished and has been very successful. 5 miles of asphalt has been completed and he mentioned that Lee Township has good, sandy soil, which helps avoid flooding, as the water drains well here.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**CC Expenditures-** Supervisor Owen stated that the township hired Pillar to Post to inspect the Community Center, as approved at the last meeting. He thinks we will need to put money into the center to bring it back to light. Trustee Galdikas stated that the report was a bit overwhelming and asked Owen if he had figured a rough estimate for the cost to fix it up. Supervisor Owen listed of the several issues found by the inspector, and stated that in his opinion, the cost to revamp would range between \$22,000-\$30,000 to fix everything. This estimate does not include the cost to correct the lacking support beam issue, which was not included in the report.

Dick Palmby asked the board if there might be any projects that local volunteers could help fix, as a cost saving measure? Owen replied that some basic things may be accomplished with help of nonprofessionals, but many issues would not be safe to allow. Dick Palmby stated that he has served on different condo boards in the past, and they held capital reserve funds for issues that came up, and suggested maybe the township could do the same for building repairs. Owen stated that there has always been an issue with building a reserve in the township, as every time there is extra money, it is quickly eaten up by issues in the township.

Galdikas stated that we use the Township Hall and office a lot more and thinks if we are going to pour money into a building, it would be smarter to start with those. The center may bring in a couple hundred dollars per year. Owen agreed that the center would not offset the cost to run/maintain, which usually costs \$5,500-\$6,000/year for heat alone. He agreed that we have many buildings that need attention. Friel asked if the inspector mentioned anything about safety concerns with people using the building, to which Owen responded no.

**Ordinance Officer-** Supervisor Owen discussed how the board has tried to cover the position since losing the last official, who received \$6,000 per year, several years ago. He explained that permit fees will bring in about \$3,000 per year, with this year being better, and may offset the cost of the salary. Community member Vicky Brock asked if we came up with a job description for the officer, to which the board responded yes, a draft, discussed at June's meeting. She asked if this would include cleaning up at the corner of 58<sup>th</sup> St, to which the board responded yes, all of Lee Township would be included. Owen recommended investing money to hire a code official to address the blight issues.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen, to approve the job description for Ordinance Officer. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

Supervisor Owen stated that he thinks we should start at \$500 per month, or \$6,000 per year for the position.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve up to \$500 per month, or \$6,000 per year expenditure for code enforcement stipend to start enforcing ordinances for the township. Roll call vote was taken, Yes: Hatfield, Galdikas Owen, Friel. Nay: Lowery. Motion carried.*

Treasurer Lowery asked how the job will be posted. Trustee Galdikas suggested posting with MTA, and Supervisor Owen will put feelers out and help search for someone.

**ARPA-** Supervisor Owen stated that there has been no money received yet, and that the board is going through paperwork to make sure everything is in line to receive the money when it is available. July 27 is the deadline to get the paperwork in.

Trustee Galdikas stated that Tom Jessup, County Commissioner, mentioned last month the commissioners were asking for input and meeting to review requests. Trustee Galdikas and Supervisor Owen followed up with a written statement on behalf of Lee Township requesting funding assistance for Broadband for all in Lee Township (based on the #1 concern raised at Master Plan meetings). The use is still TBD, but the request has been submitted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**July BOR-** Supervisor Owen stated that the July BOR meeting will be held Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, in the Township Hall.

**Free Dump Days July 17-18-** Supervisor Owen reminded everyone that July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> there will be free dump days. Suggested that anyone holding a yard sale during Pullman Pride weekend who doesn't sell everything use the opportunity to dispose of any unsold/unwanted items. This is not for tires, but there will be tire pick-ups in other townships that will be shared/posted soon.

**Governance Resolution:** Supervisor Owen reminded everyone that the board is involved with MTA, who provides advise, guidance and education for our board. The MTA provided our board with Principles of Governance, which he read.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Lowery to accept the resolution and commitment to our township. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

Treasurer Lowery informed the board that all online courses are included in the membership with MTA this year.

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

**Correspondence:** None

Supervisor Owen mentioned that the LSL dam paperwork refileing is almost complete and work should begin.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.  
Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk