

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022

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, Supervisor Owen. Absent: Treasurer Lowery

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Clerk Friel reminded that there is an upcoming election on May 3rd for Allegan Public School area residents. She stated that a lot of hard work is going into planning and preparing for the election, although it will be quite small.

Supervisor Owen asked for prayers for the people of Ukraine, and the issues they are currently facing. He complimented the EMS of Lee Township, as he recently needed their services for a personal family member. He stated his appreciation for the compassion and care they gave during that call.

Trustee Hatfield announced there is a countywide cereal drive this month to help replenish local food banks, and donations can be dropped off at The Linking Center.

Citizens Comment: Steve Schultz of Bloomingdale Communications spoke about his work with the Allegan County Broadband Work Group. He stated that they are working on an RFP. He informed that Cheshire re-committed their ARPA funds to the broadband project, and asked Lee Township to reconsider their initial request of \$200,000.00 +. He informed that he is hoping to go to the county with a request including support from Lee, Cheshire and 2 other townships. He has continued to talk with Tim Kotas regarding his work, and believes Kotas has a good handle on it.

Guest Speaker: None

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated March 14, 2022. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was read by Trustee Galdikas, in Treasurer Lowery's absence.

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

Commissioners Report: Tom Jessup reported on a new battery plant coming into Allegan County, which will bring many jobs. He stated that this could bring concern for available housing for those employed. He informed that the County will be sending out questionnaires on changes and insights. He stated that there will be new money available for transportation, which will allow for ride availability for anyone. To secure a ride, he stated that residents will need to call Transportation's Office to schedule in advance. He stated that the County Administrator's report will be coming out soon. He complimented Steve Schultz on Bloomingdale Communications broadband presentation given to county and municipal representatives. He spoke about the possibility for state and federal funding for this project. He informed that the Water Study Group is underway, which is looking at water needs and lead pipes. He informed that he will be running for County Commissioner again in the August Election this year. Redistricting now means that Lee Township will become part of District 3 with commissioners voting to go from 7 to 5 representatives.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of March there were 169 calls, 49 of which were taken by him. The calls included 4 larcenies, 3 breaking and entering, 58 traffic stops of which 25 lead to warrant arrests. He urged residents to drive with caution as the weather gets nicer, and to watch for catalytic convertor thefts, which have been on the rise. Fire Chief Chamberlain congratulated Deputy

Jackson on saving the life of yet another Lee Township resident during a medical emergency in the month of March.

Code Official Report: Ben Hustafa reported that in the month of March there were 2 new verbal warnings. There were no official tickets issued in March. He stated that there are currently 19 open complaints, including 12 single family ordinance issues and 7 blight issues. He stated that with the snow melting more concern are visible, and he is making an effort to make verbal contact with residents to avoid the need for legal repercussions.

Fire Department Report: Chief Ted Chamberlain reported for March there were 21 runs, including 1 suspicious fire, 8 wire downs, 1 vehicle fire, 2 medical assists, 1 rubbish/grass fire, 1 gas leak, 1 building fire and 1 fire assist, a motor vehicle accident and 4 canceled in route. He stated that it was a very busy month with calls and class. Training was the annual physical agility test. He informed that the First Responder class is about halfway done and all enrolled from Lee Township are still actively engaged. He informed that truck 55 will be back by Wednesday, after a delay with a painting issue.

First Responders Report: Sam Kasinger reported for the month of March there were 25 calls, and on day 101 of the year, there had been 100 calls.

Assessor's Report: None.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas informed that the next meeting would be on the upcoming Thursday. Lee Twp. Fire/EMS representatives noted no concerns ambulance service and felt Life EMS was doing a good job.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of March there were 5 electrical permits, 2 mechanical permits, 0 plumbing permits, 1 demolition permit and 3 building permits. Bringing in \$199,450 in improvements to Lee Township.

Cemetery Report: Supervisor Owen reported that the spring cleanup took place last weekend. There were 240 bags collected, and more are needed. The cemetery and Ravenswood were both cleaned up. He stated that the cleanup will be completed by Memorial Day.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that for the month of March there were 73 tickets collected and \$912.00.

Lake Board: Supervisor Owen reported based on submission from Rustin Scherer that American Dredge will provide weed harvesting as a new practice for Lower Scott Lake. He informed that American Dredge will provide 2 sessions of weed harvesting of 12 days each. He also informed that a contact was secured with SOLitude Lake Management. He stated that they will provide assessments for surface water quality, tributary water quality, storm drain assessment, groundwater quantity and quality, sediment quality and plant mapping. The tests will be used to provide nutrient modeling and budgeting, and a Lake Management Report. He informed that the reports will provide a long term plan (10 years or longer) to best serve the lake, and that using the plan they will be able to break down each element and budget for both timing and money for a decade to come. That it will eliminate guesswork and use science and proven techniques for better lake management.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the spring/summer newsletter will come out mid-May. She stated that it's focus will be Pullman Pride and ordinances. There will also be a highlight on new businesses in town. She stated that there is still some space available in the newsletter if anyone wishes to make a submission.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas thanked the VFW for holding an Easter basket giveaway last weekend. She informed that People Helping people will hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 16, from 1pm-3pm.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that the deadline for scholarships is April 15. She encouraged anyone who knew a senior to apply for the scholarship. The planning committee continues to work hard in preparation of the event and will keep information posted as it is available. Anyone interested in the craft fair should contact Ann Hatfield, or Mike Jones if they want to be involved in the car show.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh submitted a report including statistics for road improvement history in Lee Township, via email. The board questioned the date of the next millage vote. Clerk Friel will look into the renewal date and look for the millage language.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Patrol Vehicle Sale: Supervisor Owen informed there is nothing to report, as he is waiting on a response from the county representative.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to table the patrol vehicle sale. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Event Ordinance: Supervisor Owen informed that there is currently no event ordinance for Lee Township, and that without zoning, an ordinance is the only way for the township to provide guidance and assure residents' concerns are addressed. The board reviewed the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas approve the Special Event Ordinance. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Land Split 12-013-001-00:

Land Split 12-030-011-10:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to table both land splits until the May meeting, so the Assessor can complete the paperwork. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Trustee Galdikas requested that in the future the Assessor wait to submit land splits to the board for approval until all requirements are met and paperwork is complete.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, including a payment for invoice received today from Vertical Edge for Pullman Pride.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills including the addition, for a total of \$78,496.96, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk