

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 8, 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 Galdikas, Clerk Friel, Supervisor Owen. Absent: Trustee Hatfield, Treasurer Lowery.

Amendments: Trustee Galdikas requested to add the review with approval of the transfer station sign.

Board Comments: Clerk Friel spoke about the recent August 2nd Election, and thanked the Election Inspectors for their hard work and dedication throughout the day, including Sandy Anderson, Cynthia Rawson, Shirley Kay, Chrissy Ciokiewicz, Renee and Tim Looman and Mary Stap. She stated that it was a long day, but that the election ran smoothly and was a success because of the hard work put in by the election team, and support from the electors in our community.

Supervisor Owen spoke on the nice break in the weather, and thanked everyone for making it out to the meeting.

Trustee Galdikas shared on behalf of Treasurer Lowery's email statement, that she was sad to see her favorite Commissioner, Tom Jessup's defeat in the polls, stating that she had enjoyed her years of working with him. The board concurred with these sentiments.

Citizens Comment: Dick Palmby, by submission, stated safety concerns about multiple piles of logs on the West side of 55th street, North toward 111th Ave, which have been there since early May.

Ben Lewis thanked the Fire Department for their response to a brush fire at his home. He stated that they worked quickly and the small truck was very effective.

Tyrone Hobbs stated that he is trying to move a trailer on his property, but is concerned that he is being charged \$900 for a soil erosion permit. He felt that he should not have to incur such a steep fee to do what he plans to.

Jerome Norman spoke regarding lack of notification for the recent August 2, primary election.

Guest Speaker: Craig Atwood from the Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) spoke regarding the upcoming construction planned for the intersection at 56th Street and 109th Avenue. He stated that the county received funding to widen the intersection with turn lanes in all directions in the downtown. He informed that the cost for the project is being covered completely by the CMAC grant for \$480,000.00 through MDOT, which will result in no cost to Lee Township. He continued that the final plans are ready, and that they are waiting on one property acquisition from Frontier. He stated that they are hoping to bid out the job in November, and have plans to do construction next year. He informed that the ACRC had already met with the local business owners in town to discuss the plans. He updated that the power poles needed to be moved, resulting in the removal of the traffic light being replaced with solar stop signs. He detailed that storm sewage work that is also a part of this project. The design includes some sidewalks around the corner, to allow access to cross through the curbs that will be put in.

Questions arose from members of the community on who cleans the drains throughout the township and why some roads are paved, and others are not. Atwood stated that anyone with concerns could call ACRC. Supervisor Owen complimented the ACRC on being very accommodating and quick to work on issues that are called in by residents.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated July 11, 2022. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the minutes from the special board meeting dated July 11, 2022. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried

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

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

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: None.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Ted Chamberlain reported for the month of July there were 19 fire calls, including 1 building fire, 3 cancel in route, 4 rubbish fires, 1 medical assist, 2 animal rescues, 4 power lines down, 1 public service, 1 smoke scare and one motor vehicle accident. EMS had 41 calls for the month. EMS training in July was on administering Narcan, which is a life saving drug administered in the case of an opioid overdose for emergency treatment. Fire training for the month of July was on Truck 55 for the ladder and pump use. He informed that Truck 55 is back in use, they are still waiting on a couple vendors to have supplies in stock to completely finish the truck, but it is complete enough to be in service.

Chief Chamberlain spoke in support of hiring Sandra Kasinger to fill the position for the part time department employee and medical officer to help with continued education at the department. He stated that she had stepped up as the position has needed someone, has put in the time and has the skill and passion needed to do the job.

He informed that the fundraiser held in July for Retired Lee Township Fire Fighter Paul DeWeerd raised \$3,400.00 to help with his medical expenses. He thanked everyone who came out.

Code Official Report: Ben Hustafa reported that for the month of July there were 24 open complaints/violations, including 14 single family residence (SFR) and 10 blight. There were 5 blight issues resolved for the month. There was one new blight issue logged in July, 1 initial warning letter issued for blight, and one verbal warning issued for SFR. No official citations have been issued, and 2 complaints are waiting ongoing police and/or fire investigation.

Chuck Pugh complimented Ben on his progress with the blight issues and getting them cleaned up, stating that he has made great progress since taking on the position, all without fining residents, and doing his best to try to help and work with residents to get things cleaned up.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris stated that he continues to answer calls and emails and work on transfers. He spoke regarding the 12-021-014-10 land division. He stated that it is a strange shape, but meets all of the requirements. He informed that he is still waiting on MTS, but asked the board to approve the split, pending MTS' sign-off.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that the ambulance committee met on July 14. That between April- June there were a total of 309 calls throughout the 6 municipalities covered by LIFE EMS, with a 70% transfer rate, with an average of 8 minutes 33 seconds transfer time. She informed residents that they can purchase a membership with LIFE for \$59 annually with insurance and \$89 annually without insurance. She reminded that Lee Township continues to have at least two times the number of calls with LIFE than the 5 other municipalities using them. She stated that the satisfaction rate with care provided by LIFE EMS continues to be highly rated.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of July there were 13 electrical permits, 1 mechanical permit, 0 plumbing permits, and 6 building permits, bringing in a total of \$169,080.00 in improvements to the township.

Cemetery Report: None. The board is looking for a volunteer to fill the vacancy of Cemetery Chair. Supervisor Owen reminded that the water source turn on valve is inside the green building. To use the water at the cemetery, it must be turned on inside the green building first. Those using water are asked to remember to turn it off when they are done.

Library Report: Clerk Friel reported based on submission from Debbie Laraway that the library continues to be open 3 days per week, is planning a book sale for September and continues to accept books. There are 3 free Little Libraries in Lee Township located at the Linking Center, Diamond Supply and Pizza Plus. The library was grateful to be the recipients of many boxes of children's and youth books which are being distributed at Pizza Plus. They had a goal of getting the 16 plus boxes of books into the hands of young readers before the start of school, they welcome any businesses that wish to help distribute books. She informed that the quality books were donated by a teacher from Indiana and a teacher from the Chicago area that summers in Lee Township.

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that for the month of June, the Transfer station brought in \$1,181.00 and 152 tickets. It was also noted that there were a couple days that needed to close early due to all dumpsters being full. Chuck Pugh mentioned that other transfer stations seem to be having the same issue.

Lake Board: Rustin Scherer reported that the July cut went well. There were lots of compliments, but the weeds are coming back. He informed that there is another cut planned for August, but they will not be cutting weeds in the channel this year. He stated that a management company will be doing testing on soil and weeds so they can set a plan and budget for the future.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the next newsletter will come out in November, and reminded everyone that the newsletters come out twice a year, in the spring and fall, adding that the newsletters include dates for upcoming elections, Township board meetings, BOR, Fire District and other annual meetings and events, along with contact information if residents have questions for board members.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas updated that the Holiday Social will be held the first Saturday in December, on December 3rd, at the Linking Center.

Pullman Pride Report: None.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh was happy to report that the road millage passed with 61% of votes in favor and 39% of votes opposing. He was appreciative of the support, and informed that this was the fourth consecutive time it had passed. He encouraged everyone to drive the recently paved roads that were funded by the millage, including 105th to the cemetery.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fire Truck Expenditure: Fire Chief Chamberlain spoke about a trade that was discussed about a year prior, regarding trading 2 older trucks that Lee Township has on reserve to Fennville's Fire Department, in exchange for an engine that is 4 years newer, with only 14,000 city miles. He informed that the truck Lee would receive had only fought 2-3 big fires in the city limits. He asked that the board approve the trade and expenditures of up to \$25,000.00 to make upgrades/ updates on the truck. He explained that the purchase of a new truck would cost upwards of \$500,000.00, not to mention the cost for upkeep and maintenance on the older reserve trucks the department would be trading. Concluding that financially the trade would help save the department and township hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the trade of trucks with Fennville Fire Department, and the expenditure of up to \$25,000.00 for upgrades. Yes –Friel, Owen, Galdikas. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Department Part Time Position:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the hiring of Sandra Kasinger to fill the part time fire department position. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Land Split 12-021-014-10:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the land split 12-021-014-10, pending the MTS sign-off. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen stated that after the sale of the Community Center, the board stated that they intended to prioritize the upkeep of the building most used by the township, the Township Hall. Conversation continued to discuss different issues that need to be addressed within and around the building to bring it back to light, and renovate it to meet working and safety standards. Members of the community suggested finding grants to cover the cost of renovations.

AMENDMENTS:

Transfer Station Sign: Trustee Galdikas discussed the poor quality and age of the current sign that is up at the Transfer Station. Stating that without clear guidelines, it causes uncomfortable situations for the staff, as people do not seem to understand what they can and cannot drop off. She informed that a member of the community offered to have a new sign printed at no cost to the township and presented a copy of the language to be included for approval.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the literature on the sign and to move forward with the printing and posting of the sign. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the for a total of \$58,197.14, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Friel, Owen, Galdikas. 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 9:12 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk