

Lee Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 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 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

**Amendments:** None

**Board Comments:** Supervisor Owen wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. He also asked that everyone keep Pam Rawson and her family in their thoughts and prayers as she deals with recent health issues.

**Citizens Comment:** None

**Guest Speaker:** None

**Approval of Regular Board Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the regular board meeting minutes dated January 10, 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, Hatfield, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.*

**Commissioners Report:** Tom Jessup reported that the courthouse construction is now complete and the new entrance is open. He spoke regarding the move being made by Allegan County Mental Health to the old Shopko building. He reported that there may be more moves being made throughout the county, and possible remodels. He reported that the commissioners' districts have officially gone to 5 representatives. He discussed the changes that will come with this, including increased governmental entities covered by each representative. He was unsure which district Lee Township will be in. Regarding broadband, he stated the county commissioners decided to put county ARPA funds toward broadband and water infrastructure needs. He stated the county decided against funding for the Health Department based on duplicate services being available for free through other entities. Trustee Galdikas asked if there was a write up available regarding the commissioners' statement regarding the Health Department funding, to which Jessup offered his write up. Jessup stated that the State is looking into the Open Meetings Act, due to COVID. Galdikas inquired about a State-level contact for broadband questions. Jessup suggested sticking to Township-level contacts, for better results. Tim Kotas reiterated Lee Township's commitment to getting broadband.

**Deputy Report:** Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of January, there were 117 calls, 25 of which were taken by him. These calls included 7 larceny/B&E calls, and 28 traffic stops, 15 of which resulted in warrant arrests. Supervisor Owen complemented Deputy Jackson on his hard work, and shared a comment made by a contact at the department regarding how busy Deputy Jackson stays. He also congratulated Deputy Jackson on his water rescue call made in January.

**Code Official Report:** Ben Hustafa reported that in the month of January, there were 3 new complaints filed, 2 single family ordinances and 1 blight. He stated that there are currently 17 open violations, 5 for

blight and 12 for single family ordinance violations. He also mentioned his concern with trash dumping on 111<sup>th</sup> Ave, which he has personally been picking up as he sees.

**Fire Department Report:** Supervisor Owen reported due to Chief Chamberlain being out due to illness, that the new truck ran flawlessly on the way back from being picked up. The department is working on updates and upgrades. Supervisor Owen thanked the fire department for their unseen work, stewardship and commitment to our township. Trustee Galdikas stated that the board is getting ready to start interviews for the full time fire chief position, stating there are currently 3 applicants.

**First Responders Report:** Sam Kasinger reported that it was day 45 of the year, and they had run 55 calls. In the month of January, there were 39 calls, including 2 fire assists, and 37 EMS calls.

**Assessor's Report:** None.

**Ambulance Reports:** None.

**Building Inspector's Report:** Supervisor Owen reported in the month of January there were 3 electrical permits, 3 mechanical permits, and 3 plumbing permits. He had not received the building report.

**Community Center Report:** Trustee Hatfield reported that the Community Center building is now owned by People Helping People. She stated they will continue to rent it and anyone interested can contact her.

**Cemetery Report:** Supervisor Owen reported that Spring Cleanup will be held the first and third weekends in April.

**Library Report:** None.

**Transfer Station Report:** Supervisor Owen reported that for the month of December, there were 32 tickets and \$751 taken in.

**Lake Board:** Supervisor Owen reported on behalf of Rustin Scherer that the lake board signed a contract with Solitude Lake Management to do testing and surveying in 2022. Solitude will draw up a long term (10 year) plan for better lake management. He also reported that they have a verbal agreement with American Dredge to do 2 sessions of weed cutting and collecting. They will cement that agreement with a deposit, when the funds are ready.

**Newsletter Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the spring newsletter will come out earlier this year, due to Pullman Pride being earlier. The newsletter will likely be out mid- May. She informed that the focus of this newsletter will be Pullman Pride activities and reminders about Township ordinances as it relates to code enforcement.

**Holiday Committee Report:** None.

**Pullman Pride Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the deadline for scholarships is April 15. There will be a planning meeting held on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 4:30pm, at the township hall open to anyone interested in helping plan this year's event.

**Road Committee Report:** -None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Law Enforcement Contract:** Supervisor Owen stated that the contract has been agreed upon. Also, that they are working on an agreement for the sale of the cruiser. He stated that they are discussing the value

of the vehicle, and need to agree on a price. When they do, he said he will bring the offer to the board for a decision.

**ARPA (SLFRF) UPDATE:** Tim Kotas reiterated the township has asked Allegan County for funds for the broadband project. He stated the first step for the township is a feasibility study in order to move forward. The cost is under \$8,000 to do the feasibility study, which will provide specifics for the area to focus on first and number of houses that could be served. This will provide specific information to present to the county and/or state, when asking for funds. Steve with Bloomingdale Communications stated that they are currently working with 12 townships in Allegan County. He stated that services and supplies are already on back order, and keeping this a top priority will hopefully allow availability when we are ready for them. Supervisor Owen voiced thanks to Tim Kotas for his efforts to work for Lee Township and Allegan County, fighting for our needs.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve \$7,780.00 for Turnkey Solutions to complete a Feasibility Study. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Hatfield. Motion carried.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tax Lien Waiver:** Supervisor Owen reviewed the request submitted by Treasurer Lowery to waive the 4% penalty of Tax paid after February 14, due to numerous delays in the mailing and forwarding of tax bills by postal service, and inclement weather days. 2021 summer and winter taxes will be collected by Lee Township Treasurer until February 28. Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, taxes must be paid to the Allegan County Treasurer (269-673-0260) with a 5% interest.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to waive the 4% penalty tax through the month of February, 2022. All voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.*

**Police Cruiser Tires:** Supervisor Owen noted that the board had been informed of price options for new cruiser tires.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas for the purchase of new tires for the police cruiser, not to exceed \$808.04. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Hatfield. Motion carried.*

**ORV Ordinance:** Supervisor Owen stated that there was an opportunity to open the current designated closed roads in Lee Township for the ORV Ordinance. This will allow access to the downtown area.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to open all roadways within in Lee Township for the ORV Ordinance. All voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.*

**March BOR:** Supervisor Owen reported the following BOR meeting dates:

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 2:00 pm Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Friday, March 18, 2022, 9:00 am to Noon

**ACRC Improvements to Downtown Intersection:** Supervisor Owen presented a draft drawn up by ACRC for new downtown road updates. The draft included new drainage and left turn lanes in all 4 directions at the corner of 56<sup>th</sup> & 109<sup>th</sup>. Anyone with questions or concerns was advised to contact Allegan County Road Commission. Discussion was had voicing concerns regarding necessity of left turn lanes in all 4 directions, how it may impact the safety of that corner, and what may be affected by the

construction. Trustee Galdikas recommended that representatives from the board meet with the ACRC to continue to monitor this project and provide input.

**Payment of the Bills:** Presented by Clerk Friel. Trustee Galdikas noted the scholarship recipient Joseline Martinez provided her transcript of straight A's and has received her award. She also noted that the payment made to Tim Kotas was reimbursement for purchasing a new computer for Supervisor Owen.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills with in the amount of \$145,376.59, as presented by Clerk Friel. All voted: "Aye." 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