

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 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, Treasurer Lowery

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Trustee Galdikas reminded that there is still time to fill out the county-wide broadband survey, to assess what service is available in our area. The survey can be done online or in written form, and can be found on the Township website or at the Township Office.

Supervisor Owen informed of the Township's loss of resident Eva Pacholski, and sent condolences to her family. He spoke regarding her efforts in our community, and at our cemetery, stating that she will be missed. Sally Lacy added that Eva's son will be in town later this week or early next, and that services are pending, waiting on Casco Church, which is waiting for a pastor reassignment. She stated that she will keep the board informed on any updates with that.

Supervisor Owen added a thank you to Tim Kotas for his time and effort toward the Township's broadband needs. He stated that Tim is doing great work. He also informed that the first round of dust control has been completed, and the next round will be sometime in August.

Citizens Comment: Dick Palmby informed that the Lake Board purchased 8 orange buoys to be placed by the beach. He stated that a decision was made to postpone putting them out due to concerns from residents, and the potential of vandalism. He urged everyone to swim carefully there, and for boaters to use caution in that area.

Jackie Warren spoke regarding tiny houses. She stated that she would like to build a tiny house, but has been denied.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

Dick Palmby requested corrections on the June 13, 2022 minutes, to correct the mis-spelling of "Lee" and changing "Association" to "Board" in the Guest Speaker section of the minutes.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated May 9, 2022, with the amendment of the word Le to Lee, and Association to Board in the Guest Speaker section of the minutes. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Lowery. She stated she will research interest earning bank accounts for the Township ARPA funds as we have some time before it is spent.

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

Commissioners Report: Tom Jessup reported that the County set aside \$3 million for water study, which will test for quality and quantity of the water in the County. He complimented Lee Township's Scott Owen and Tim Kotas on their presentation to the Board of Commissioners on Broadband. He thanked them for the support, and stated that their presentation and preparation helped to convince the board to commit financial support to the project, and has helped encourage other townships, including Cheshire, to start making moves in support of county-wide broadband. He informed that the Sheriff's Department is implementing body cameras. He stated that it should be completely implemented by the end of summer, and that they are currently setting up personnel to take care of FOIA and video review.

He informed that the 2023 budget is currently being worked on, and asked if there is anything the County can include in the budget for Lee Township. He asked that the board think about it and let him know by the next meeting. He suggested an idea of public transportation as an example. To which Trustee Hatfield informed that when she contacted the county transportation office, they informed her that regularly scheduled times for use of the bus are not available in our area. Jessup said he would check on that. He spoke regarding the upcoming Primary Election in August, stating that the Senior Services Millage is up for renewal on the ballot, as well as State and Federal Officials, including County Commissioners.

Deputy Report: Supervisor Owen reported on behalf of Deputy Jackson that in June, there were 200 calls, including 12 larceny/ B&E calls, 23 suspicious calls, and 1 destruction of property.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Ted Chamberlain reported for the month of June there were 12 fire runs, which was less than previous months, but that it was still a very busy month. The calls included 1 building fire, 2 wires down, 1 medical assist, 5 grass/rubbish fires, 1 Law Enforcement assist and 1 authorized controlled burn. The first responder class was completed in June. The training for June was on the new self-load/unloader cot in Life ambulances. He informed that this equipment is very helpful and will hopefully cut down on back injuries for responders. He stated that they also did state mandated PFAS training. He updated that truck 55 will be going into service on July 12, even though they are still waiting for some back ordered parts. He informed that the people who completed the First Responder course are setting up their licensing tests. He added the department will hold a fundraiser for Paul DeWeerd, former Lee Township Fire Fighter and son of former Chief Nelvin DeWeerd. He served our community and department until he moved south. Chamberlain stated that Paul is in bad health, and the department is holding a pancake breakfast to help with his medical expenses on Saturday, July 16th from 8am-11am at the Fire Hall on 109th Ave. Chamberlain finished by informing that he will begin his full-time position as Fire Chief on Monday, July 18th.

Assistant Chief Sam Kasinger reported that for the month of May there were 46 calls for First Responders, and 30 calls in June.

Code Official Report: Ben Hustafa reported that for the month of June there were 26 open complaints, including 14 single family residence and 12 blight violations. In June there were 2 new complaints logged, regarding blight, 3 initial/warning letters were issued for 2 blight and 1 SFR cases, and 2 verbal warnings for 1 blight and 1 SFR. He stated that 0 official citations were issued. He informed that 2 complaints are waiting ongoing police and/or fire investigation, and that dangerous buildings are not included in these totals. He also stated that at least 2 open complaints are nearly 80% resolved thanks to residents' cooperation.

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Owen reported by submission from Assessor Kyle Harris that he continues to process things as normal, and that the July BOR will be held July 19, 2022 at 2pm, in the Township Hall.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas had no report, but informed that there will be a meeting held on Thursday for the Ambulance Committee.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of June there were 11 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit, 1 mechanical permit and 6 building permits, bringing in a total of \$477,600 in improvements to the Township.

Cemetery Report: None. The board is looking for a volunteer to fill the vacancy of Cemetery Chair. Galdikas asked on behalf of residents who asked about the lack of access to water at the cemetery. Supervisor Owen stated that the water source turn on valve is inside the green building. Those using water are asked to remember to turn it off when they are done.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Lowery reported that in the month of June \$877 and 60 tickets were collected. She stated that the numbers were down due to the free dump weekend in June.

Lake Board: Supervisor Owen reported by submission from Rustin Scherer that American Dredge completed the first weed cutting, and that the second will be done mid-August. He stated that the feedback has been good.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas had no report, but informed that newsletters are available on the website, the Township Office and Intercare lobby kiosk.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas thanked the Lower Scott Lake Improvement Association for the \$125 donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh reminded everyone that the Road Millage is up for renewal on the August 2 ballot, and encouraged everyone to vote in support. He informed that the millage is up for renewal, so it will not change tax costs, will just be a vote for the Township to continue receive money to put toward road upkeep and repairs.

Dick Palmby complimented Chuck Pugh on the work he does for our roads, stating that any pot holes he has reported are being filled quickly, with compliments to Allegan County Road Commission. He also asked about the downtown project to widen and create turn lanes and concerns of the school zone speed limit signs. Chuck did not have construction date information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel. Trustee Galdikas questioned the amount of the bill from Best Way Disposal, asking if it was the total for just one month, which it was.

Supervisor Owen stated that the Transfer Station has very specific requirements for the kinds of trash they can receive, and that he believes that the signage should be improved to help inform residents of the rules. Chuck Pugh informed that many local townships, including Lee have been taking in a lot more trash in the past couple years, which could be a contributor to the high bill from Best Way Disposal.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the for a total of \$136,321.29, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Galdikas, Lowery, Hatfield, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk