

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 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 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Amendments: Trustee Galdikas asked for setting a date for the Master Plan Meeting be added to agenda.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen spoke on the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. He spoke with hope for a peaceful resolution soon. He also thanked the community members for coming out to the meeting.

Trustee Galdikas informed that George Wesbey passed away. She thanked him and his family for their financial support for the Pullman Pride Scholarship, and asked the community to keep the family in their thoughts.

Citizens Comment: Sandy Anderson informed that the VFW has given her authority to run the Memorial Day Parade for this year. She stated that she already has much of the event secured, and that she is still planning to let kids be in the parade.

Steve with Bloomingdale Communications informed regarding the Osterhaut Lake area project, that they got approval for use of ARPA and Reconnect Funds. He stated that they are still working to secure fund commitments in other townships, then they plan to make a request to Allegan County. In regards to the questions he had been receiving from Osterhaut Lake area residents regarding timing, he informed they are trying to move as quickly as possible.

Guest Speaker: Lori Antkoviak, from Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center spoke regarding their free services. She informed that they service Allegan County and Berrien County. They help educate kids on personal body safety and educate adults on signs of abuse in children. They coordinate with law enforcement and CPS to make getting help easier for the victims. She spoke about the therapy they offer for children, and volunteers they provide to visit children on a more frequent basis than CPS or lawyers are required. She informed that they are hosting an event April 1, 2022 at Noon at their Allegan location, to raise funds and bring awareness. She also spoke about their Lifeline Gala that will be held on April 29 at the Silo in Allegan. They are also raising funds to build a bigger building.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

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

Commissioners Report: None

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of February there were about 5 B&E, of which they have a suspect for one. He reported that there was a Citizen's Award presented to the citizen who helped him retrieve the person from a submerged vehicle. He informed that Johnny, a disabled young man who lives in Lee Township, is getting out more with the nicer weather. He stated that he is 25 years

old, with a much younger mental capacity, has brown hair, is about 5' 10" and 90 lbs. He asked that if anyone sees Johnny wandering, to please call authorities, as Johnny may go into houses uninvited. He stated that Johnny is harmless but does not understand boundaries.

Code Official Report: Ben Hustafa reported that in the month of February there were 2 new complaints, one a single family ordinance issue and one blight issue. There were 8 letters sent, 6 of which were resent with corrected contact information. He had 2 verbal warning conversations. He stated that there are currently 18 open complaints, 12 single family ordinance issues and 6 blight issues. He informed that both of the dangerous building complaints that had gone to hearings are scheduled for cleanup by the owners.

Fire Department Report: Chief Ted Chamberlain reported for January and February. In January there were 14 calls, including 1 camper fire, 1 chimney fire, 1 dumpster fire, 4 medical assists, 1 other department assist, 3 cancel enroute, 1 false alarm and 1 motor vehicle accident. January training was on finding addresses manually, which they plan to continue due to high amount of interest. In February, there were 17 calls, including 1 structure fire, 5 medical assists, 4 automobile accidents, 1 electrical fire, 2 cancel enroute, 1 public assist, 1 snowmobile fire and 1 power line down. Training in February was ice rescue and medical equipment location on rigs. He informed that first responder class started March 10, and there are 7 people taking the class. He asked the board to approve \$4,025 to cover the cost of the class.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve an expenditure of \$4,025.00 to cover the cost of first responder training. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Chief Chamberlain informed that truck 55 is about halfway done. It is being worked on in Grand Rapids. He stated that the department did some work themselves before taking it in, to add winch-points, which will help flip vehicles if the need arises. Hoping to have the truck back mid-April.

First Responders Report: Sam Kasinger reported for the month of February, there were 28 calls. That it was day 73, and they had had 73 calls.

Assessor's Report: None. Sally Lacy stated that it was the first day of BOR, and 3 people came all day, which is significantly less than in the past.

Ambulance Reports: None.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of February there were 4 electrical permits, 3 mechanical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 2 building permits, bringing a total of \$65,815 in improvements. In January there were 3 building permits, bringing in \$71,500 in improvements. He reported that there was one demo permit issued.

Cemetery Report: None.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that for the month of February there were 29 tickets, and \$694 collected.

Lake Board: None.

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.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas reported the committee will have the spring banners up soon.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that the deadline for scholarships is April 15. There will be a planning meeting held on March 21, 2022 at 4:30pm, at the Sawmill Diamond Diner. It is open to anyone interested in helping plan this year's event.

Road Committee Report: -None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Public Gathering/Rodeo Complaint: Supervisor Owen informed that there is consideration for a Special Events Policy for Lee Township due to increased complaints by residents. He stated that the board is evaluating the policy's efficiency for the township, or if it would need to become an ordinance. An application and fee would be required for certain events, making clear that this is not an issue of control, but rather a way to address ongoing concerns by residents.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to table the policy until guidance is provided by the township lawyer. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Master Plan Date: Trustee Galdikas informed that the results to the Broadband feasibility study should be in this week. A date was set for the Master Plan Meeting to be held on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 6:00 pm, at the Township Hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

Electrical Inspection Fee Increase: Supervisor Owen informed that the electrical inspector for Lee Township has requested to increase his fees. The board reviewed his request.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the proposed recommendations with a request to increase specific Amps by only \$5 each, being \$20 for 200a or less and \$25 for 201a-600a. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Full Time Fire Chief: Supervisor Owen spoke regarding the combination of EMS and the fire department and the need for a full time Fire Chief position. He informed that the job was posted, and of 3 candidates, 2 responded to interview request. The candidates' names were Mark Jordan of Bellevue, MI and Ted Chamberlain of Lee Township. Both candidates came with high qualifications and an abundance of experience. After present residents spoke in support of our current Chief, the board moved forward to offer the position to Ted Chamberlain.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to offer the full time Fire Chief position to Ted Chamberlain. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Chief Chamberlain accepted the position at the time of the meeting.

Annual Budget Meeting: Supervisor Owen stated that annual budget meeting will be held Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Township Hall. The board reviewed budget adjustments presented by Clerk Friel.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to accept budget adjustments with additions, as presented by Clerk Friel. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Friel, Owen, Galdikas, Hatfield.. Motion carried.

Free Dump Day: Trustee Galdikas asked to approve 3 free dump weekends for Lee Township residents, to be held: May 14-15, June 4-5 (during Pullman Pride weekend) and September 17-18 (during World Clean Up).

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve dates for free dump days. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Friel, Owen, Galdikas, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Dust Control: Supervisor Owen informed that SWMDC has increased the cost of dust control to \$16,000.00 for the first and second applications. He informed that in the past several years the cost has fluctuated between \$11,000.00 to \$15,000.00. He informed of the importance of these applications for our many residents who reside on dirt roads.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to 2 dust control applications at \$16,000.00 each application. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, including an increase to First Responders' bills, in the form of reimbursement to the Fire Department for the cost of fuel.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills including the increase to the First Responders' bills, for a total of \$118,397.09, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes – Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk