

Lee Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 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:** Treasurer Lowery, Clerk Friel, Supervisor Owen, Trustee Galdikas, Trustee Hatfield.

**Amendments:** None

**Board Comments:** Supervisor Owen spoke about the weather and that it is a great preparation for the upcoming holidays. He gave a salute to Veterans in recognition of Veteran's Day and a thank you to those who have and continue to serve. He also spoke on opening day for hunting being November 15, asking that hunters be safe, and wishing them luck.

Trustee Hatfield stated that PHP would be holding a Thanksgiving feast on November 23, stating that all are welcome, and dinners can be delivered to anyone who is unable to get out of their homes. She asked that anyone who would like a delivery or knows someone who might, please contact her at PHP.

Clerk Friel spoke on the recent November 8<sup>th</sup> Election. She thanked the workers, Sandy Anderson, Cindy Rawson, Shirley Kay, Pam Booth, Mary Stap, Chrissy Ciokiewicz, Chaqara Moragne, Renee and Tim Looman. She expressed her happiness with how smoothly the long day went, stating that the workers were happy to be done before midnight, leaving at 11:30pm. She informed that the precinct hosted 620 in-person voters, and processed 225 absentee ballots.

Trustee Galdikas informed that there are many events coming up as we head into the holiday season. She also thanked the VFW for hosting a dinner for our Veterans on Veteran's Day.

**Citizens Comment:** Carlos Lopez stated that there will be an event held on Wednesday at Pullman Elementary to give out coats and commodities to anyone in need. He stated that they held this event last year, and were able to help over 300 people by donating coats for winter. He informed that everyone is welcome, and that everything is free. He gave a thank you to everyone who has supported his cause in our community, stating that the community has been very generous in their donations.

**Guest Speaker:** Craig Atwood from Allegan County Road Commission spoke about the possibility of a road closure recommended by MDOT on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave, East West of 56<sup>th</sup> St. He informed that MDOT holds diagnostic safety reviews, and determined this crossing to be a high risk that needs to be repaired/replaced or closed permanently. MDOT would provide \$275,000.00 plus the possibility of a \$50,000.00 grant if the Township chooses to close the crossing. As the ACRC does not have a policy for what to do with the money in a situation such as this, he stated that the ACRC Board would be meeting to decide how to handle it. He stated that a proposal had been written up to vote on at the next board meeting, suggesting that after using the funds needed to close the crossing, the remaining funds would go to the Township to use on other road projects. He included that the cost to close the crossing would be around \$15,000.00, awarding the Township potentially \$310,000.00 to use on road projects.

Supervisor Owen informed that letters have been sent out informing the owners of the parcels on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave, between 56<sup>th</sup> and ~~57<sup>th</sup>~~ 58<sup>th</sup> St. who could be affected by the closure, allowing for discussion, questions and concerns.

Of the parcel owners contacted, Scott Harris attended the meeting voicing his concern regarding the closing and the hardship it would cause his farm when moving equipment from his 107<sup>th</sup> Ave property. He stated that they try to use the dirt roads to cause less inconvenience for other drivers, and this closure would create a logistical challenge in moving his farm equipment. He questioned what about that particular area is different from the other crossings on the next roads North or South? To which Mr. Atwood stated that MDOT determines the risk factors based on the quality of the crossings and the amount of traffic they see.

Mr. Atwood stated that the deadline for the decision is December 13<sup>th</sup>, and if it passes, the closure would move forward sometime next year.

### **Approval of Regular Board Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Lowery to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated October 10, 2022. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

### **Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes** None.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Lowery.

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

**Commissioners Report:** None. Supervisor Owen will invite newly elected commissioner Dean Kapenga to our meetings.

**Deputy Report:** Supervisor Owen reported on behalf of Deputy Jackson that for the month of October there were 169 calls, 42 of which were taken by Deputy Jackson. The calls included 3 larceny/ B& E, no malicious behavior, 53 traffic stops, 23 tickets given and many car/deer accidents. He asked that drivers be on alert, watching for deer, as they are very active this time of year.

**Fire Department/ EMS Report:** Chief Chamberlain reported that for the month of October, there were 64 calls, including 49 emergency medical service calls, 2 building fires, a search for a missing person, who was found, 4 alarm system calls, 2 trash/rubbish fires, 3 medical assists, 1 down powerline, 1 public service assistance call and a malicious false call.

Training for the month was on the new Engine 17, that came from Fennville. The engine was put in service temporarily while engine 16 was out for service. It ran its first structure fire during that time.

When Engine 16 is back in service, Engine 17 will be used at Station 2.

He updated that fire prevention week was great, as always. He stated that the kids had a good time, and so did the department.

Regarding the potential for new fire software, Chief Chamberlain informed that he has been using the state program for the past couple months, and believes they can continue to use it and save the department \$3,000.00 per year, by not purchasing a new software. He continued that the state program will keep the department in compliance, and works just fine for what they need to do.

He informed that he is planning to get a few smoke detectors for people who absolutely need one. He asked that if anyone is in need of one, to please contact him. He urged residents to check the batteries in their smoke detectors, as they do save lives.

**Code Official Report:** Supervisor Owen reported that the current Code Official, Ben Hustafa has resigned. He informed that there is a person interested in the position, who he would like to recommend for the job. He continued that Jeff Olney, a retired Michigan State Police Officer is the candidate, who he feels is perfect for the position.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to hire Jeff Olney to fill the position of Code Official, at the same rate at the previous Code Official with a start date of November 15, 2022. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

**Assessor's Report:** Kyle Harris was out due to illness. Supervisor Owen informed that Kyle has been keeping up with phone calls and emails as usual. He informed that the December BOR will be held on Tuesday, December 13, at 3pm.

**Ambulance Reports:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the ambulance committee meeting was held on October 14, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. She stated that the quarter had 361 response requests, 236 of which resulted in transport. The average response time was 9 minutes, 37 seconds for all 6 municipalities. She stated that Lee Township continues to have more than two times the number of calls than the other municipalities who use LIFE EMS, with a total of 133 calls.

She reminded that LIFE EMS is looking for recruits to work, and will pay for school for interested persons.

She continued that they are still struggling with mutual aid from other EMS agencies, AMR primarily. Recently they have received response from SHAES in South Haven, but that they are requesting significant financial reimbursement to do so.

She informed that we are wrapping up year 2 of the 3-year contract Lee Township has with LIFE EMS, and that it will be up for renewal in August of 2023.

**Building Inspector's Report:** Supervisor Owen reported in the month of October, there were 7 electrical permits, 8 mechanical permits, 0 plumbing permits and 7 building permits. Which resulted in a total of \$237,931.00 in revenue improvements brought into the township for the month.

**Cemetery Report:** None. The board is looking for a volunteer to fill the vacancy of Cemetery Chair.

**Library Report:** None.

**Transfer Station Report:** Treasurer Lowery reported that for the month of October the Transfer Station brought in \$1,685 and 104 tickets. She requested that everyone pray for Jim Rawson's family as they are going through some hard times.

**Lake Board:** None.

**Newsletter Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that the Fall newsletter was mailed out the last week of October, and that copies are available at the Township Hall, Intercare kiosk, and on the Township website in English and Spanish.

**Holiday Committee Report:** Trustee Galdikas stated that the Holiday Social will be held on Saturday, December 3, from 6 pm to 8 pm at The Linking Center. Families can enjoy caroling, refreshments, photo, and gift from Santa. She informed that the holiday decorations are up in town and will be lit Thanksgiving Day.

**Pullman Pride Report:** Trustee Galdikas reported that scholarship application information has been given to the local school counselors. The deadline to apply is April 14. In response to a question, she informed that anyone who wishes to make a donation to the scholarship fund can drop off donation at township office treasurer or mail in.

She continued that Pullman Pride Day 2023 will be held the weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Road Committee Report:** None.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Town Hall Improvements:** Supervisor Owen reported that he had gotten a few estimates for work on the hall, including estimates for a new flat roof, with and without insulation (without was recommended by builders based on how the design of a flat roof works for melting snow), and with consideration of an option of trussing to save on heat. He also got quotes for resurfacing the parking lot.

Regarding the updates to make the bathroom ADA compliant, he is still working on securing a design before he can get bids. He stated that according to MTS, the cost potential to update and renovate the bathrooms would require a design with an architectural stamp. He reminded that the board had already approved the expenditure of up to \$750 for a design.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Hire Code Official:** See code official report.

**Land Division- 12-018-016-00; 775 60<sup>th</sup> & 12-028018-00; 206 55<sup>th</sup>:** Both splits met approvals from MTS and the Assessor.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the split at parcel number 12-028-018-00. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Galdikas to approve the split at parcel number 12-018-016-00. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.*

**Approval of Tax Newsletter:** Treasurer Lowery presented a draft copy of the newsletter to the board.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the newsletter pending minor corrections addressed by the board. Roll call vote was taken: Yes- Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Lowery. Motion carried.*

**Par Plan Grant:** Supervisor Owen informed that a grant is available through the Township's Par Plan insurance policy to purchase a security camera system to monitor the Township office, hall and transfer station. The grant requires a board resolution for submission. Supervisor Owen read the resolution aloud.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Lowery to approve and accept the resolution to apply for Par Plan Risk Reduction grant for security camera system and signage. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.*

**Payment of the Bills:** Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$137,986.37.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$137,986.37, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel, Lowery, Owen. 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 8:42 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk