

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 13, 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: None.

Board Comments: Trustee Hatfield informed that People Helping People will have a food truck on June 22, at 6pm. She stated that Community Action Commodities will be June 27th from 11am to 12pm. Also, that VBS and the summer program started today, for grades kindergarten through 6th grade.

Supervisor Owen wished a happy birthday to Chuck Pugh, the township “Road Guy”, who had celebrated on the 12th of June. He also informed that May Davoren, the Township’s Cemetery Liaison passed away May 15. He stated that she will be greatly missed, and spoke of how much she had done for our community and the cemetery.

Trustee Galdikas wished a happy birthday to Ben Hustafa, the Township Code Official.

Citizens Comment: Tim Kotas spoke about the recent County Commissioner’s meeting that took place the week prior. He and Supervisor Owen addressed the BOC and requested a financial commitment from the county, minimally equal to the township’s ARPA funds, in order to write for a state grant for broadband when they become available. Kotas indicated matching funds will be a criterion for state funding so this will help Lee Township’s chances of gaining additional funding. The BOC voted to approve to match our ARPA funds. The timing is still unknown for the state funds.

Jackie Warren expressed her frustrations, stating she feels picked on regarding her yard, and she feels that there are other people who could be the focus, besides her.

Guest Speaker: Dean Kapenga, candidate for District 3 Commissioner spoke. He began with a compliment for Supervisor Owen and Tim Kotas, regarding their presentation on broadband to the Board of Commissioners at their recent meeting. He stated that it was very well done, and impressive, which is why they were moved to vote in our favor. He continued to speak about his history in the Lee Township area, as a former Insurance rep, working with our fire department, and a member of our local Lake Association Board. He informed that the reason he is running for election in our area, after having been serving as an elected Commissioner in northern Allegan County was due to redistricting. He spoke highly of our current Commissioner, Tom Jessup. He talked about his family, 46 years of marriage, 4 children and 16 grandchildren. He discussed the many ways he serves the community, and his passion for helping people, which is why he wishes to continue to serve the communities of Allegan County.

Jodi Nilson spoke in support of her husband Matt Nilson, who is running for State Representative in the 39th District. She stated that he would be at the meeting late, as he was attending a meeting at another township before Lee’s, and that being at local meetings is very important to him, so he can know the people he is working with. She stated that Nilson is the only candidate sponsored by the Farm Bureau. She informed that Nilson is a retired Green Beret, and is currently a pepper farmer in Hartford, where he is from. Also, that he coaches at the High School in Hartford, and is involved and passionate about the education system, as a child of a retired teacher. She informed that he plans to be involved in the grant tracking process, and is very good about getting back with people. She stated that this position would not be a political stepping stone for Nilson, that he intends to use the position to help people, not move up.

Matt Nilson arrived and stated that he is hopeful to be able to help with big money issues in Lansing, and make an impact for small communities. He was grateful to have an opportunity to speak, and visit Lee Township.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated May 9, 2022, with the correction from the road program to remove "from 50th St to 112th", and replace it with "101st St, from 50th to 51st St.". All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was read by Trustee Galdikas in Treasurer Lower'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, Owen, Friel, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: None

Deputy Report: None

Code Official Report: Trustee Galdikas gave the report in absence of the code official, who was out for his birthday. By submission Ben Husfafa reported for the month of May there were 24 open cases, 14 for single family ordinance, 10 for blight. There was 1 new blight complaint, 4 letters sent, 3 verbal warnings and no official citations.

Fire Department Report: Chief Ted Chamberlain reported for May there were 25 calls, including 2 medical assists, 2 power lines down, 3 building fires, 4 grass/rubbish or forest fires, a camper fire, 2 gas leak, a carbon monoxide incident, 3 alarm calls, 2 motor vehicle accidents, an animal call, a good intent call and 3 cancel in routes. He informed that the first responder class is finished, and all Lee Township reps passed. The next step will be to pass the state licensing exam. He explained that truck 55 made it to the Memorial Day Parade. He stated that the truck is not finished, but looks good, and they are hoping it will be in service by the end of the week. He informed that the department gained a new recruit, Daniel Ciokiewicz, and that he is doing a great job. He stated that he is set to start full time on or shortly after July 1st pending his passing of the First Responder License test.

First Responders Report: None.

Assessor's Report: None. Supervisor Owen informed that the next BOR will be held July 19, at 2pm.

Ambulance Reports: None.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of May there were 6 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit, 2 mechanical permits and 7 building permits, bringing in a total of \$286,750 of improvements into the township.

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

Library Report: Clerk Friel reported by submission from Debbie Laraway, that the library has given away 4 large boxes of children's books to area children, to help keep them reading through the summer. They are joining Pullman School and the Linking Center in a special summer reading program in July. More information will be forthcoming.

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of May, the transfer station brought in \$1,387, and 67 tickets. He also informed that the township held a free dump day to help residents clean up their homes at no cost to them, and will hold one more this year the weekend of September 17th and 18th.

Lake Board: Rustin Scherer reported that the weed cutting will be starting soon. He stated that there is no date yet for the management company, but they are pushing them to get one. He said that the lake is looking good, the South East corner is a little overgrown, but otherwise looks pretty good.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the spring/summer newsletter was mailed out mid-May and is available at the township office or online. The next newsletter will come out in November, if anyone would like to have something printed in it, please let her know.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the event was bumped up to June this year, and raised a total of \$2,738, more than had been raised in at least the last 5 years. The successful fund raising was primarily due to the commitment from the committee's hard work and dedication. The climbing wall was the only expense to the event, but due to private donations, the cost was completely covered. She thanked the committee, including: Mike & Melinda Jones, Debbie Laraway, Joan Laraway, Shirley Kay, Ann Hatfield, Melissa Corona, and Sonja McNamara for their hard work in putting together a great event in support of scholarships for local youth. She informed that 6 scholarships were awarded for a total of \$4,500 this year, including 5 Bloomingdale students and 1 Fennville student. One of the recipients was in attendance at the Pullman Pride event, and walked around talking to vendors, and people making donations, thanking them for helping to provide a scholarship so she can attend college. The committee will hold a meeting in 2 weeks to debrief.

Road Committee Report: None. Supervisor Owen informed that Chuck Pugh sent an update that the S-curves from 103rd to 104th was complete, and the portion on 105th was complete and saved from being brought back to gravel. He also reminded that the Road Millage will be up for vote at the August election. The board encourages everyone to support the continuation of the Road Millage, so we can continue to afford to update and upgrade the roads in Lee Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Patrol Vehicle Sale: Supervisor Owen informed that the patrol vehicle for Lee Township is owned by the Township. On Sunday the vehicle was in a serious accident, Deputy Jackson was driving and had a training officer with him. Both are okay, with minor injuries. He stated that the vehicle is totaled, and an insurance claim will be filed.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to table the patrol vehicle sale until the insurance claim is complete. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Gravel Road Program: Supervisor Owen stated bids submitted by Allegan County Road Commission for gravel on 54th St between 111th and 112th, and 101st between 51st and 52nd, for a total of about a mile and a half. Regarding concerns mentioned previously about the state of 58th Street, the county stated that it had recently been re-graveled in 2015, and suggests requesting to have the county grade the road when it gets bad, rather than using our gravel there, at this time.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to accept the bid submitted by Allegan County Road Commission, for graveling 54th St between 111th and 112th, and 101st between 50th and 51^s. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Special Event Ordinance: Supervisor Owen updated that at the April 11th meeting the board adopted a Special Events Ordinance for large events. He informed that the Ordinance became official on June 9th, 30 days after being posted in the paper. If anyone is planning on holding an event involving 100 or more people, please follow the proper guidelines to file an application with the township.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of News Tax Letter: Treasurer Lowery provided a draft copy of the news tax letter to the board prior to the meeting, for review.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the printing and mailing of the tax newsletter. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, with a correction of a typo made on a payment to Spencer Manufacturing, Inc, from the Fire Department.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the for a total of \$154,533.55, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Owen, Friel. 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 8:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk