

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023

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

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen spoke on behalf of the board offering condolences to Clerk Friel and the entire Laraway family for the loss of their patriarch, Royal “Babe” Laraway.

Clerk Friel expressed appreciation to the community for the support given to her family through the loss of her Grandfather, Babe. She stated that the support throughout the community is why he built his family legacy here.

Treasurer Lowery informed that tax season is over for winter/summer 2022. She stated that she was again able to close with the county with no trouble.

Citizens Comment:

Corey Eunema, who lives on 58th St. asked about dust control and grading of the dirt roads being used for construction detours.

*Supervisor Owen reminded that all questions and concerns regarding the road construction or road concerns in general, should be directed to the Allegan County Road Commission, as this project is entirely run by their office.

EJ McNamara stated that he would like to get water in the old hardware that he owns so he can start a boxing club.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes as presented. All voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the March 25, 2023 special meeting minutes as presented. All voted: “Aye.” Motion carried.

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 as given. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Lowery, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dean Kapinga provided literature on many services available in the County. He talked about the citizen survey they have been working on to understand what services the citizens of Allegan County would like to see available. He discussed the growth within the County, as residents from the bigger cities move into Allegan County. He touched on concerns for employee retention, and that the sheriff’s department is offering to pay for training for new recruits, to ensure coverage. The department is also working on hosting a safety officer in every school throughout the county. He reminded that the job of the commissioners is to represent and help fulfill the needs of the residents, and that he is here for the residents of Lee Township. Trustee Galdikas noted that Bloomingdale

Schools has secured a safety officer (through Van Buren county) that covers all school buildings, including Pullman Elementary.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of March there were 162 calls ,46 of which were taken by him. These calls included 3 breaking and entering and 2 larcenies. He informed that Lee and Casco Townships have the highest volume of calls in the southern part of Allegan County. He stated that Animal Control is setting live traps, with the permission of residents, to catch stray dogs in the township. He asked that if a dog is found in a trap, to please report it, so they can take the dog to the shelter.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that for the month of March there were 63 calls, including 40 medical calls, 3 cancel enroute, 1 alarm, 1 electrical, 6 powerlines down, 5 building fires, 1 public assist, 1 vehicle fire, 3 rubbish fires, and 2 motor vehicle accidents. The training was on EMS training for back boarding and C collaring to secure and support injured people. He reported that Engine 17 is in service at Station 2. Also, that there are many upgrades planned for Station 2 this year. Regarding the first responder vehicle “25,” he stated that a 10-year plan was made when it was implemented. He continued that it is not doing great, and listed concerns. He stated that the vehicle is used on nearly every call, and thinks it is worth replacing. He suggested that the chassis could be repurposed as a grass unit or plow vehicle. Discussion from board on funding this project with follow up needed.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Owen read a submission from Jeff Olney, stating that for the month of March there are 10 ongoing blight complaints. 1 is in process of a citation, 6 are in the process of cleanup, 2 new warning letters have been sent, 0 official citations have been issued and 2 complaints are waiting on police assistance.

Assessor’s Report: None.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas stated that the next meeting will be held on the upcoming Thursday, where the new Life EMS contract will be presented.

Building Inspector’s Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of March there were 10 electrical permits, 3 plumbing permits, 3 mechanical permits and 3 building permits giving. Resulting in a total of \$297,885 in improvements brought into the Township.

Cemetery Report: Spring clean-up is scheduled in preparation for Memorial Day service. 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 March the transfer station brought in \$979 and 46 tickets.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the Spring newsletter will come out mid to late May. Deadline for information for spring/summer issue is end of April.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that the winter banners have been switched out for the spring welcome banners. She stated that planning is underway for the upcoming holiday social, which is being planned alongside Beautify Pullman.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that the deadline to apply for the scholarship is April 14, and applications are available at the local schools and on the Township website. She continued that Pullman Pride will be held on June 24th. She informed that a meteorologist from WWMT has agreed to MC the Fun Run. She added there is a hardworking committee planning many other activities for the day.

Road Committee Report: None. Sally Lacy informed that Chuck's son had been in an accident, and Chuck is with him. He is hoping to be back mid-May.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen stated the Township Board is accepting bids for Hall renovations including a new roof, ADA compliant bathroom, new flooring/baseboards, kitchenette updates, fresh paint and tuckpointing. He requested that if any local licensed contractors are interested in submitting bids, please call or email him. Review of bids received will take place on May 8th at the regular monthly meeting. He expressed that the board prefers to hire local contractors if at all possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

FEMA Floodplain Ordinance: Supervisor Owen informed that FEMA is updating floodplain maps in the area and throughout Michigan. He continued that Lee Township has been part of the FEMA Floodplain since 1985, and that our current ordinance is outdated. NFIP insurance requires a current floodplain ordinance. He stated that an updated ordinance must be in place by June 21, 2023.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Hatfield to adopt the Floodplain Ordinance Number 2033 as presented. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, with the addition of one bill for \$1,500.00 to the architect hired to design the ADA bathroom, for a total of \$93,201.80.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills with the addition of \$1,500.00, totaling \$93,201.80, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Lowery, 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 8:31 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk