

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:33 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Clerk Friel gave an update about the recent August 8th election. She stated that although the Fennville Millage was voted against in Lee Township, overall votes approved it. She stated that the election went well, and expressed gratitude for the election inspectors who worked a long day for only 5 people to come in to vote. Including absentee ballots, Lee Township processed a total of 18 votes. Supervisor Owen spoke on the cooler weather and thanked everyone for attending.

Citizens Comment:

Kris LaPoint: informed that the storybook walk behind the school had been completely destroyed. She stated that the matter had been taken to the police, and is under investigation. She asked that anyone with information on the vandalism come forward. She stated that the storybook walk will not be erected in the same spot, but rather an area that can be watched more carefully.

Pastor Carlos Lopez informed that they were able to serve 281 people at their giveaway the past month at Pullman Elementary's parking lot. He informed that the next giveaway will be Wednesday August 16th. The thanked everyone for their support and donations.

Guest Speaker: Heather Bishop from EGLE spoke about community water supply. She shared a handout with information. She informed that Allegan County currently has 50+/- community water supplies, primarily for manufactured home communities. She stated that anywhere 15+ homes or more than 25 people live have a community water system. She continued that Lee Township has a community well that was initially built to serve 7 connections, and is currently serving around 14 connections. The current system can potentially withstand no more than around 16 connections, meaning it is nearly at capacity. She spoke about the benefits of a community water supply, including guaranteed water quality, due to mandatory, regular water testing. She continued with resources available to help initiate community water supply.

Tim Kotas asked about the cost of the mandatory water testing. To which Ms. Bishop stated that roughly, the cost of testing alone would be around \$700/annually, and that does not include the cost of the hired person who takes samples, which can cost upwards of \$500/month.

Commissioner Dean Kapinga spoke about the water program being conducted by the county, using ARPA funding, which they are working with EGLE to complete. He continued that they are working to create resources to help private home owners with well/water issues, as there are currently none available. Ms. Bishop informed that www.GLCAP.org is a resource the county can check out that has resources that may help private home owners with well/water issues.

She had no updates on the Mystic View Apartments' issues, but assured that she could get an update for anyone interested.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the July 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the July 10, 2023 special meeting minutes as presented. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Godlew.

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

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dean Kapinga spoke about his attendance at the Solar Farm ribbon cutting. He gave congratulations to the Township for the accomplishment. He updated that the Sheriff's Department now has 80 body cams in use, and that they recently purchased 30 more. He stated that they are working against the proposal to remove many dams in the area. He informed that they approved plans for the courthouse construction, as they plan to grow the building. He finished with an update on the efforts to improve and modernize the parks throughout the County.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson stated for the month of July there were 200 calls, 35 of which were taken by him. These calls included 3 for larceny and 2 for breaking and entering. He informed that he will be phased out of Lee Township in October as he has been selected to be a K-9 officer. The board will work with the Sheriff's office to select a new officer for Lee Township. The board thanked him for his service to the community the past couple years.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that for the month of July, there were 57 calls, including 36 medical, 2 alarms, 1 attempted burning, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 citizen complaints, 4 canceled enroute, 6 down powerlines, 1 passenger vehicle fire, 2 medical assists and 2 building fires. Training was for the mandatory annual driver's training. He explained that there are many vehicles behind the department due to breakdowns and parts swapping. Hoping to have these gone by the end of the month. He informed that 4 people took the First Responders test, and 2 are now certified. He continued that they have a nice crew built currently, and are able to try to work in breaks for everyone.

Code Official Report: Code Official Jeff Olney stated that for the months June and July, there are 8 ongoing blight complaints. The majority of which are nearly taken care of. He informed that there is a complaint for a dangerous building in the works. He assured that many of the complaints are being taken care of within the first week of contact to the property owners, and are being resolved very quickly. He thanked residents for their cooperation.

Assessor's Report: None

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that there was a meeting in July. In the 2nd quarter there were 292 calls, 211 transports, for a 72% transport conversion. She informed that Lee Township continues to have two times the calls of the other 6 municipalities covered, with Lee township having 99 calls, and the next closest municipalities being Fennville with 47 and Ganges with 43 calls. She stated that they are looking to set up a block of time to post at the Lee Township Fire department to cut back response times. She finished by reminding that the new 5-year contract with Life EMS began August 1st.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of July there were 10 electrical permits, 0 mechanical permits, 2 plumbing permits and 2 building permits, bringing in a total of \$34,000.00 in improvements to the Township.

Cemetery Report: The board is looking for a representative to report on the cemetery.

Library Report: Clerk Friel reported based on submission from Debbie Laraway, that the library continues with its regular hours, but as always, looks for new volunteers. Anyone interested should contact Rob or Nicole DuShane via the Pullman Free Library Facebook page or Debbie Laraway at Pizza Plus or on FB Messenger. She stated that the DuShanes are planning a "book nook" where people can send requests through the Facebook page, then pick the book(s) up at their leisure from the book nook.

Transfer Station Report: For the month of July there were 101 tickets and \$1,852 brought in. A reminder that the last free dump day will be held on Saturday, September 16 for 2023.

Lake Board: Supervisor Owen stated that on 7/21/23 62 acres of the lake were treated, and that 80% of the lake is pretty clear, with nothing washing up to shore.

Newsletter Report: None.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the 2023 Pullman Pride Day was able to raise \$4,619.00, in addition to over \$3,000.00 of in-kind donations thanks to the committee members and their friends. She informed that the planning meeting for the 2024 event will likely be scheduled in October.

Road Committee Report: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen informed that the bids for replacing the Town Hall roof had been worked down to two options, which differed in price by only \$25.00. He explained the difference in materials proposed for use in each bid. He explained that both bids come with a 15-year warranty, that one would use TPO and the other PVC. Based on research, both materials serve well, but the PVC material may break down due to cold Michigan weather.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to accept the bid from Gary Roofing, for \$30,900, to replace the Town Hall roof using TPO materials. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

The board reminded that they are still looking for bids for the bathroom and storage closet and miscellaneous repairs within the Town Hall, and encouraged anyone who knows a licensed contractor to provide a bid.

NEW BUSINESS:

Master Plan Update: Supervisor Owen proposed that the next Master Plan meeting be held on September 18, 2023, at 6:30, in the Township Hall. All are welcome to attend the informal meeting, and discuss plans for the Township.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, including adjustments for late bill submissions for the General Fund and Fire Department Fund, totaling \$90,643.41.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills, with adjustments mentioned by the Clerk, totaling \$90,643.41, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Godlew, 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 8:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk