

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 13, 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: Clerk Friel, Supervisor Owen, Trustee Galdikas, Treasurer Lowery, Trustee Hatfield.

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen welcomed everyone, and spoke about the recent Super Bowl game.

Citizens Comment: Heather Friel read a comment submitted by Debbie Laraway, stating that Beautify Pullman has opened their new StoryWalk, which runs along the disc golf course. It starts in front of Pullman School, and combines a bilingual book for young children and a good walk for their parents. Each page is displayed on its own permanent display stand. The books will be changed out 4 times a year. She informed that they will be installing an exercise course along the trail in the spring or summer, to add further interest to the beautiful trail running alongside Scott Creek. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of this.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes as presented. 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 as given. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Hatfield, Lowery, Owen. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dean Kapinga reported on the number of 911 dispatch calls that came into the county in 2022. He continued that Allegan County is the 4th fastest growing county in the state. He reminded that the County hired 123NET as they continue to work on broadband throughout the County and that 123NET will be seeking grant funds for the project.

He informed that Consumers Energy was discussing eliminating the Allegan Dam. Many residents who live on the dam have concerns about how that would affect the value of their homes. He stated that they are looking to support hydro as a "green energy" source. They are looking to present their case to the state, as hydro is not currently recognized as a "green energy" source. He encouraged folks to Google Holtec Nuclear design, as they are looking at utilizing the old Palisades plant for a less expensive energy source.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of January there were a total of 134 calls, 34 of which were taken by him. The calls included 2 larcenies and 4 B&E. He reminded everyone to drive carefully.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain was not in attendance. Supervisor Owen read a report on his behalf. Owen updated that for the month of January there were a total of 48 calls, including a furnace malfunction, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 3 medical assists, 2 public agency assists, 1 public assist, 2 vehicle fires, 1 cancel enroute, 1 citizen complaint and 34 medical calls.

January training was on EMS and company training. He informed that they should have the new engine finished up by the beginning of March stating that it will still need to go back to the paint shop for some paint repair. They are looking forward to adding it to the fleet.

Code Official Report: None.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris informed that he is preparing for the March BOR. Stating that the Organizational Meeting will be held on March 7 at 2pm. The appeals will be March 13th from 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm, March 15 from 6pm-9pm and March 16 from 1pm-4pm. He reminded that these meetings will be Open meetings, but appointments can be set and will be honored over walk ins. He stated that Assessment notices will be going out around the first of March.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that a meeting was held on January 12th for the 4th quarter. She updated that in the quarter, there were 319 requests in the 6 municipalities covered with Life EMS, which resulted in 197 transports with an average response time for priority 1 calls of 10 minutes 1 second. Lee Township contributed 118 of the 319 calls made, and the Township with the next closest amount was Fennville with 54 calls. She stated that in 2022 there was a 7% volume loss from 2021. Contract fees with Life EMS is based on anticipation of how many calls they think they will have, so the volume loss could potentially affect the new contract which will begin August 2023. Life EMS will present a new contract later this spring for review.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of January there were 8 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit, 9 mechanical permits and 2 building permits, resulting in a total of \$3,500.00 in improvements to 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 is excited to report a community wide read, book title to be announced at a later date, for both adults and children. They are hoping to have physical copies and electronic versions available. The community wide read will culminate in a discussion led by Robert and Nicole DuShane at the Fall Festival.

She added that they have a new name, the Pullman Free Library. She informed that the Fennville District Library is our more traditional library, and the Pullman Free Library is privately owned and volunteer operated, and is here to provide reading materials, internet usage and movies. She stated that they will be holding a survey and discussing patron's needs as they go forward to be an even more relevant part of the community.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Lowery stated that for the month of January, the Transfer Station brought in \$1,425.00 and 37 tickets.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: None.

Holiday Committee Report: None

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that the committee met in January, and reminded that they meet the 4th Monday of each month at 3:30, and all are welcome. The meeting consisted of brainstorming ideas for this year's community celebration. Pullman Pride Festival will be held on Saturday June 24th. The Pullman Pride Scholarship deadline is April 14, and applications are available at the schools and on our website.

Road Committee Report: None. Supervisor Owen informed that at the Chuck Pugh will return to Michigan soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall ADA Bathroom Design: Supervisor Owen reminded that the bathroom renovation requires a plan with an architectural stamp. He stated that he received quotes from 2 architects, and presented their quotes to the board.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Owen to withdraw the previous motion to cover costs up to \$750.00, and replace with approval of expenditures up to \$1,500.00 to cover the drafting design by Michael Jarman, with the Architectural Stamp. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Lowery, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Waiver of 2022 Tax Penalty: Treasurer Lowery presented the board with a request to waiver the 4% penalty of tax paid after February 14th, as has been done in the past, allowing an extra 2 weeks for residents to pay their taxes without fees.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Owen to waiver the 4% penalty for taxes not paid by February 14, until February 28th, when they are collected by Allegan County. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Resolution for Salary Increase: Treasurer Lowery presented the board with a resolution for approval to use at the annual meeting to increase the treasurer’s salary from \$24,000.00 annually to \$26,000.00 annually. Discussion was had regarding the current salaries of all board members.

Trustee Galdikas proposed modifying the resolution to increase the Supervisor and Clerk’s annual salary to \$24,000.00 annually to match the Treasurer’s current salary, then consider annual increases at a later date which was supported by the community members. Supervisor Owen and Clerk Friel expressed reservations.

A motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Hatfield to accept the resolution presented by Lowery to request a salary increase for the treasurer to \$26,00.00 at the annual meeting. Roll call vote was taken: Yes- Lowery, Hatfield, Friel, No- Galdikas, Owen. Motion carried.

Land Division 0312-012-007-01: Kyle Harris presented the request for land split. Discussion regarding concerns with the split, including multiple mobile homes and their approval by MDARD regulations.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the split, pending verification of the status of the multiple mobile homes by MDARD. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$79,221.36.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$79,221.36, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Lowery. 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 8:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk