

Lee Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 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 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Pullman, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Clerk Friel, Supervisor Owen, Trustee Galdikas. Absent: Treasurer Lowery, Trustee Hatfield.

**Amendments:** Supervisor Owen requested to add County Clerk Bob Genetski as a guest speaker.

**Board Comments:** Supervisor Owen spoke about the recent tragedy in our community. He requested thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Cindy Clouse.

Trustee Galdikas asked for prayers for Trustee Ann Hatfield, with her husband's recent health issues, and gave condolences on behalf of the board to Supervisor Owen with the recent loss of his sister.

Clerk Friel wished a happy belated birthday to Treasurer Lowery.

**Citizens Comment:** Pastor Carlos Lopez informed that over the holidays 379 people attended the coat drive they held, and that they were able to give out 600 gifts. He is grateful for the partnership built with Bloomingdale Public Schools. He reminded that everything they distribute is donated to them. He also mentioned the recent tragic event in our community, and in the past several years.

Kris Lapoint expressed her appreciation to the volunteers who put up and took down the Christmas decorations. She gave an update on behalf of Beautify Pullman, stating that they are working on bringing a farmer's market into town and have hired a market manager. BP is also working to bring music to the park.

Denise Medemar, Allegan County Drain Commissioner spoke on the location of the Drain Commissioner's office the courthouse and read legal requirements for the office. She expressed her opposition to moving the office from the in-town Courthouse location to the Dumont Complex out of town.

Jackie Warren spoke regarding her feelings about her interaction with board members and the Township Deputy after last month's meeting.

Ben Lewis questioned the bid process for the township hall improvements. He recounted his communications with ACRC's Craig Atwood regarding crossing arms at any crossing within the township, at no cost to the Township. He asked where to find blueprints for the turning lane project.

Kathy Hoffman, Lee Township Precinct Delegate, informed on the duties of her position, stating she attends County meetings as a representative of Lee Township. She has been working with People Helping People to arrange a public transport for day shift workers in Lee Township. She stated that anyone who is in need of transportation to a day shift job can contact Ann Hatfield at PHP to arrange a ride. The cost for transport would be \$2.00 each way, and pick up would be at PHP at 5:30 am. She stated that they are hoping to begin within the next couple weeks.

Trustee Galdikas spoke for Jeff Kruithof, of PHP, stating that they have been working on the Worship Center (formerly the Community Center), and the inside is almost complete. The cross will be going back up, after the lighting is complete, and they will have an open house soon. The food pantry is set to be complete in late spring.

**Guest Speaker:** Dean Kapinga, County Commissioner introduced himself, and shared his ties to the community. He complimented the community members for their involvement in the Township. He gave an update on last year's accomplishments. He noted the great need for reliable internet in our rural communities. He complimented Lee Township for their proactiveness on requesting support to provide

broadband coverage in the area. As the first Township to request with a real plan of action, the County will match Lee Township's ARPA funding of \$420,000.00 for broadband. He stated County ARPA funds will also go toward the resolution of water issues throughout the county.

He addressed the lack of space at the County Courthouse, and that with new positions moving in, they are considering moving any non-court services offices to the Dumont Complex, outside of town. He listed some services that are located there already, and informed that with Community Mental Health moving out, there will be space available to relocate other offices.

County Clerk Bob Genetski provided an annual report from the Register of Deeds Office. He pointed out the spike in activity in 2021 because of the housing boom. He spoke about the services offered at their office, including free military discharge paperwork filing. He emphasized that their office stayed open through all of the COVID shutdown. He spoke about the election services they do, and encouraged townships to start saving for new tabulators, as they will be due for replacement in the next 5 years. Stating that new ones cost \$3,100.00 when the last ones were purchased. He requested patience as Clerks and election workers navigate new election requirements. He expressed his opposition to moving services out to the Dumont Complex, specifically noting the inconvenience for residents and election workers delivering election results.

Commissioner Kapinga pointed out that elections would still be allowed to be held at the courthouse, to which Clerk Genetski stated that elections should be held at the County Clerk's Office.

Genetski finished by informing about the new Property Fraud Alert Service that is available in Allegan County. He provided pamphlets with more information.

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

Supervisor Owen requested to strike through page 4, in the motion made for the road millage, from "to 111<sup>th</sup>" to the end of the sentence, and replace with "from 109<sup>th</sup> Ave to 111<sup>th</sup> Ave and 111<sup>th</sup> Ave from 55<sup>th</sup> St to 54<sup>th</sup> St."

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated December 12, 2022, pending corrections. All voted: "Aye." Motion carried.*

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

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer's report was read by Trustee Galdikas in the absence of Treasurer Lowery.

Supervisor Owen informed that at the recent Allegan County Road Commission meeting it was decided to continue to contribute \$50,000.00 to local road work.

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

**Commissioners Report:** None.

**Deputy Report:** Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of December there were a total of 134 calls, including 2 breaking and entering, and 2 larcenies. He stated that it was a slower month, possibly due to the bad weather.

**Fire Department/ EMS Report:** Chief Chamberlain informed that for the month of December there were 66 calls, including 49 emergency medical calls, 3 vehicle fires, 5 cancel enroute calls, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 2 building fires, 1 alarm, 1 EMS calls, 2 medical assists, and 1 CO alarm. Training was for hazardous materials. In 2022 the department answered 696 calls. He stated that the department extends their thoughts and prayers to those involved in the recent tragedy. He asked that everyone consider the responders who deal with these tragedies, and keep them in your thoughts as well. Discussion was had about the departments rating for insurance and types of calls the department takes, as well as services available to responders in support of emotional wellbeing.

**Code Official Report:** Code Official Jeff Olney informed that for the month of December, 3 letters were sent out, 2 of which were taken care of quickly. He is working to learn more about the position. He informed that he does not do blight rounds, but responds based on complaints made to the Township Board. Olney suggested starting with a civil conversation between neighbors for any issues before bringing in an outside authority. The specifics of each ordinance can be found on the Township website. A concern was raised regarding the hours the Transfer station is open.

**Assessor's Report:** None

**Ambulance Reports:** None, next meeting will be on January 12, 2023.

**Building Inspector's Report:** Supervisor Owen reported in the month of December there were 10 electrical permits, 3 plumbing permits, 4 mechanical permits and 1 building permit, bringing in a total of \$107,000.00 in improvements to the Township.

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

**Library Report:** None

**Transfer Station Report:** None

**Lake Board:** None.

**Newsletter Report:** Trustee Galdikas updated that the next newsletter will go out in the spring.

**Holiday Committee Report:** Trustee Galdikas thanked the volunteers who took down the holiday decorations.

**Pullman Pride Report:** Trustee Galdikas informed that the first planning committee meeting will be held on Monday January 30 at 3:30 in the Township Hall for anyone interested in helping to plan this year's Pullman Pride Day which will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship applications are due by April 14 and are available on the Township website and at the local high schools. Three of the 2022 scholarship recipients have turned in their transcripts to receive their scholarship money, stating that although academics are not part of the scholarship requirements, all 3 recipients did very well in their first semesters.

**Road Committee Report:** None. Supervisor Owen informed that at the recent ACRC meeting they informed about the increase in cost for asphalt. Stating that the cost per ton in 2005 was \$27.26, and now is \$71.85.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Township Hall Door Repair:** Supervisor Owen informed that he received a couple quotes to repair the glass in the front door of the Township Hall, which was damaged by accident. He received 2 quotes, one of which was for \$740.00 and the other \$826.76. He also received a quote to replace the glass with an aluminum. That quote came in at \$1,515.00 and to replace the door completely at \$2,775.00. Chief Chamberlain stated that he has experience with this specific kind of work, and that he would research and provide a quote to fix the door himself, to help save the township money. Supervisor Owen informed the process of receiving quotes for any work done at or for the Township. Concerns were raised on if the Township Hall is being sold, to which the board replied that there is no plan to sell the building.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Friel to approve the cost to replace the glass with an aluminum panel in the front door of the Township Hall, not to exceed \$1000.00. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.*

**Annual Educational Convention Request:** Supervisor requested the board allow the expenditure of budgeted funds for attendance of any board member who wishes to attend the annual Michigan Township Association Conference.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve no more than \$1000.00 per board member to attend the annual educational conference. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Friel, Owen, Galdikas. Motion carried.*

**Gravel Road Program:** Supervisor Owen informed that the ACRC recommends to apply gravel to 108<sup>th</sup> Ave from 58<sup>th</sup> Street to 56<sup>th</sup> Street. He informed that the Township can afford to work on about a mile of gravel roads each year, and suggests we accept the ACRC's recommendation with the upcoming closure of 107<sup>th</sup> at 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to accept the recommendation of the Road Commission to fix 108<sup>th</sup> Ave from 58<sup>th</sup> Street to 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Roll call vote was taken: Yes- Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Motion carried.*

**Payment of the Bills:** Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$92,614.60.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$92,614.60, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –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 9:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk