

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 12, 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, Trustee Galdikas, Trustee Hatfield.

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen expressed appreciation to everyone in the Township for their patience in bearing with the construction downtown. He stated that the job is nearly complete.

Trustee Galdikas voiced her gratitude for the many nonprofits that work on behalf of Lee Township residents, including Beautify Pullman, who has put together the farmer's market and concert series, PHP for their contribution of the kids' summer programs, and the many food and item giveaways that are held.

Citizens Comment:

Dick Palmby spoke about a family who expressed interest at the LSL Association meeting, and previously at Township meetings, in purchasing a strip of lakefront near their home that belongs to the Township. He also voiced concern about lake frontage near the fire department that many families have taken upon themselves to install docks on, which he believes would be a liability to the Township.

Ilene Larson voiced her concern about the quality of tables provided in the pavilion at the Town Square Park, as one of the picnic tables collapsed over the past weekend with 3 people sitting at it, causing minor injuries.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the May 8, 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 Trustee Galdikas.

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

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dean Kapinga reiterated the compliment to local nonprofit work in the Township, and complimented the Board's diligent work to better the community.

He spoke about services provided by the Allegan County Health Department, and provided their annual report of services provided in the past year. He discussed the aquifer study done to understand how much water is available in the county. He stated that test wells were installed to check water quality.

He expressed concern with the many solar farms going up throughout the country using farmland, which could possibly affect crop production. He informed that Allegan County will be electing 3 new judges in the next year, to replace retiring judges. He informed that the tax rate was set by the county at 6.963 per 100 thousand dollars of assessed value, to cover county government (road commission, health department, juvenile system and more).

Kris Lapoint voiced concerns about there not being a sidewalk leading to the grocery store. To which Supervisor Owen stated that this was a question for ACRC or the Township, but clarified that the construction only included replacing sidewalks that were already there, and there was not a sidewalk to the grocery store before.

Ben Lewis has questions about the water table health in areas of Lee Township, and Commissioner Kapinga suggested checking at welllogic.com. Ben continued with a question about revenue sharing from the solar farm in

Lee Township. Supervisor Owen stated that the solar farm will be taxed as any other farm/business, but the outcome of the rate has not been seen to date. He clarified that there is no revenue sharing in place from the farm, but stated that they have made donations to local nonprofits and organizations.

Deputy Report: Supervisor Owen read a report submitted by Deputy Jackson stating for the month of May, there were 184 calls, 46 of which were taken by him. There were 7 breaking and entering calls and 1 larceny. He stated that there has been a rise in motor vehicle accidents with the improvement in weather conditions. He reminded everyone to drive safely and watch their speed.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain was unable to attend. Assistant Chief Kasinger informed that there was no report available, as the computer was down.

Code Official Report: Code Official Jeff Olney was unable to attend. Supervisor Owen read his submission stating that in the month of May there were 8 ongoing blight complaints. There is one in process of a citation, 3 being cleaned up, 2 new warning letters sent, 0 official citations issued and 2 waiting on ongoing police assistance.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris was not in attendance. Supervisor Owen informed that Kyle is doing his normal routine, and preparing for the July BOR, which will be held on July 18, at 1:00 pm.

Ambulance Reports: None.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of May there were 8 electrical permits, 2 plumbing, 6 mechanical and 4 building permits. Bringing in a total of \$182,600.00 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, stating that the library is working out the logistics of a summer reading program with Michelle Vorndran, Pullman School's Reading Specialist. She stated that they hope to keep the youngest residents at grade levels for reading, as many often drip after a summer off. She requested that anyone interested in reading with groups or individuals let her know at 269-236-6206 or 269426-0221, to work out a schedule.

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of May, the transfer station brought in \$1,972 and 52 tickets. Trustee Galdikas reminded that the next free dump day will be held this coming weekend, Saturday June 17 from 9am-3pm.

Lake Board: Dick Palmby gave an update. He began by complementing Commissioner Kapinga on his work with the board since his re-joining. He spoke about the weed harvesting done in 2022, and the mess it caused by triggering invasive species to spread in the lake. He continued that they are working with the state to apply a chemical to eradicate the weeds. They are hoping to see improvement by mid-July. He stated that there has been very little activity on the lake due to the poor weed control.

Deb Larson questioned when the Lake Board would hold their next open meeting, and expressed frustration with her inability to get into contact with the Lake Board. She had concerns with the care and treatment of the channel. Dick informed that the best way to stay informed on upcoming meetings is to regularly check the Allegan County Drain Commission website. He also informed that anyone can join the LSL improvement committee for a fee.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the Spring newsletter was sent out in May to all registered voters in Lee Township. She added that the newsletter included a list of activities planned for Pullman Pride Day, and announced the 3 winners of the PP Scholarship, Juanita Martinez-Martinez, Stephos Georgiou and Katelyn Jewett.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that scholarship winner Katelyn Jewett, who will be studying graphic design, plans to draw up ideas for new holiday banners.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that Pullman Pride Day will be held on June 24th, and to watch for postings on the Township Facebook page. She stated that schedules and maps, including trolley stops will be

available at the pancake breakfast at the Fire Hall. She encouraged everyone to participate, and invite their friends, to support our community and raise money for scholarships.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh expressed his happiness to be back and gave a report acknowledging the very dusty dirt roads. The first application for dust control has been completed. He reminded that 1 ¼ miles of asphalt will be laid this year on 55th Street to 54th Street, which is a big improvement from the tar and chip that was done before the board pushed for the road millage. He urged everyone to take a drive down 105th, which was repaved last year to appreciate the job well done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen updated that only two bids have come in for renovations. One bid to truss the roof for around \$66,000.00 and one bid to redo the flat roof for around \$30,000.00. He expressed concern with making a decision without having a competing bid for either job. He stated that no bids have come in for the other jobs.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to table the issue of Town Hall Renovations until the next meeting. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ambulance Service Agreement: Trustee Galdikas reminded that the current contract expired on August 1st. She provided information on the new contract's terms, stating that the new contract with Life EMS is a 5-year contract, and that the price will increase each year with a cost-of-living rate increase (not to exceed 6%). She also recommended that anyone who has not already signed up for the annual membership with LIFE EMS for \$59.99 with insurance and \$89.00 without insurance should consider doing so. Assistant Chief Kasinger stated that Lee Township EMS loves working with LIFE EMS.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to move forward with the 5-year contract with LIFE EMS. Roll call vote taken, "Yes"- Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Hatfield. Motion carried.

Treasurer Vacancy Appointment: Supervisor Owen informed that the board was required to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of former Treasurer Lowery within 45 days of her resignation. He noted that he had spoken to a few people about the position. He stated his recommendation was to appoint Joe Godlew, who had expressed interest in filling the vacancy, and completing the current term. The Treasurer and Clerk will have access to all financial accounts for Lee Township, per the banks' requirements.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to nominate and appoint Joe Godlew to fill the vacant Treasurer position, and complete the current term, expiring in November, 2024. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Appointed Treasurer Joe Godlew expressed his appreciation for his appointment, stating that he looks forward to serving the Township.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$116,069.16.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$116,069.16, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Friel, Owen, Galdikas. 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 8:38 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk