

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 14, 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, Trustee Hatfield. Absent: Treasurer Lowery

Amendments: Clerk Friel asked to add budget adjustment approval to the agenda.

Board Comments: Trustee Galdikas expressed condolences on behalf of the board to Jim Rawson and his family following the passing of his mother.

Citizens Comment:

Charlotte Goodell had questions about the scheduled hours ACRC would be working on the road construction in town and gravel roads used as detours.

Supervisor Owen reminded that all questions and concerns regarding the road project should be directed to the Allegan County Road Commission. He reminded residents that citizen comments is not a Q & A and questions should be directed to the supervisor via email or during office hours.

Pastor Carlos Lopez invited all to the Food Commodity this Wednesday at Pullman Elementary School, where they will be giving out food and Telemon will be holding a job fair. He stated that Beautify Pullman will be there and Sam Bale will be there regarding public transportation opportunities to and from the Holland area.

Ben Lewis asked about the budget for the proposed renovations to the Township Hall. He asked if any requests have been put out for railroad crossing bars to be installed at any of the crossing currently without in the Township.

Guest Speaker: Teresa Kline of the Fennville District Library spoke about the services offered to the community through the library. She informed that FDL is part of the Lakeland Library Cooperative. She listed several services offered by the library including WIFI hotspots, board and video games, tablets with literacy materials, many clubs, bilingual services and many others. She expressed that all services offered are free to the community, and stated that there are also mentors available to first generation college students who would like guidance on how the process works.

Carol Dawe, a representative of the Lakeland Library Co-op, gave details of the services offered and those shared with other libraries within the co-op. She discussed the library's strategic plan and explained things they do and resources they share throughout the co-op. She informed that the Cooperative is funded my property tax millages.

Dave Harn and Ray Spalding, Project managers of the Allegan County site from EGLE and Scott Jones from the Allegan County Health Department spoke regarding the "Former Pullman Orchard," location which includes the Mystic View Apartments, and the recent discovery of elevated arsenic levels in the soil there. They answered questions and wrote down questions they could not answer at this time to follow up with. They informed that notices had been given to the residents on safety precautions they should take. They stated that the wells have been tested and passed the state requirements for arsenic levels. Because the wells passed the requirements, they are not currently testing water at the site. They suggested anyone with concerns with their water can have samples sent to a lab of their choice throughout the state for around \$20-\$30.

They noted that the elevated levels at Mystic View came to light based on testing done by the owners, which they shared with the State. They reported that the levels discovered in the soil at Mystic View are abnormally high and are likely due to over application to the former orchard. They informed that arsenic is a basic element, so it does not last forever. They finished by stating a meeting will be held on April 6

from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm to discuss the issue in depth and answer any questions residents may have. They requested that residents submit their questions ahead of time so they can be best prepared to answer everything. Questions can be emailed to the Township Supervisor.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the February 13, 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 –Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson reported that for the month of February there were 133 calls, 28 of which were taken by him. Those calls included 3 breaking and entering, 1 larceny and 31 traffic stops.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that for the month of February there were 50 total calls, including 2 structure fires, 4 fire assists, 2 outside fires, 1 smoke investigation, 11 powerlines, 1 medical assist, 1 cancelled enroute, 1 citizen complaint and 27 medical calls. Training for the month of ice rescue, which went really well and had thin ice to make a realistic experience.

He reported that they are finishing up on the new Engine 17 this week, and are hopeful to have it in service by the end of the week. Continuing that the crew at station 2 is up to 6 volunteers, 4 of which live near the station, and that they are feeling good about getting the station up to speed.

The Chief submitted an insurance option to the board that he has been looking to review. He asked that the board take a look at it and consider it as an alternative option for insurance.

Code Official Report: Jeff Olney reported for January and February following his absence at the last meeting. He informed that there are 10 open complaints, mostly for blight. He stated that there is 1 complaint in process of citation that has not been issued yet, 4 issues are being cleaned up, 3 issues that are within the 30-day period and a couple that they are still waiting on. A reminder was given that any concerns of blight or other ordinance violations can be submitted to the board by completing the Complaint Form available on the Township website and then forward to Supervisor Owen.

Assessor's Report: Kyle Harris was not in attendance. Supervisor Owen reported that Kyle is busy with Board of Review currently, which he also does for other municipalities. He reminded that BOR will be available for appeals on Wednesday from 6-9pm and Thursday from 1-4 pm.

Ambulance Reports: None.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of February there were 5 electrical permits given, 2 plumbing permits, 5 mechanical permits and 3 building permits. Resulting in \$68,600.00 in improvements brought 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 Pullman Free Library will be working on developing some surveys to understand how to better serve the residents. Important goals for the summer will be to develop a summer reading program, working with the reading specialist at Pullman School. They also have a large number of children's and youth books donated by Janie Rawson. They intend to get them into the hands of children this summer to continue their reading out of school, as they did last year. She expressed gratitude for Nicole and Robert DuShane for volunteering and encouraging others to do the same.

Transfer Station Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of February, the Transfer Station brought in 24 tickets and \$911.

Lake Board: Supervisor Owen stated that a lengthy report was submitted by the Lake Board, summing it up by stating they had finished their contract with American Dredge and are still working with Solitude for the coming season.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the Spring newsletter will come out mid to late May.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

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 noting the committee is working on a shuttle service so residents can park and catch a ride to the different locations throughout downtown.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen reminded that an architect has been secured to design the ADA Compliant bathroom. When the plans are complete the board will be accepting bids from interested local contractors. Discussion continued, listing concerns to be considered in the renovation, including the roof, floors, kitchenette and an absent voter counting room and election storage. Supervisor Owen reminded that the Township Hall can only be used for Official Township and Committee meetings and elections, as it is written into Township regulations. In response to Rita McSpadden's suggestions to hold children's programs or community education programs at the Township Hall, recommendations were made to connect with the local school, Linking Center (including former Community Center which is available to rent) and the Fennville District Library.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cemetery Clean-Up: Allegan County crews will be out on April 22nd and 23rd to clean up the cemetery. Follow up clean-up dates are scheduled for May 6 and 7th. Dates have been set in anticipation of the Memorial Day celebration held at the cemetery. If more dates are needed, we can reach out to the county. Pastor Lopez informed that improvements will be brought to the celebration, including shade tents with water availability.

Free Dump Days: The Board agreed to the suggested 3 Saturday dates for this year's free dump days to be: April 23 (Earth Day), June 17 (in preparation for Pullman Pride Day) and September 16 (World Clean Up Day).

Ben Lewis expressed compliments for the great work being done at the Transfer Station by Jim Rawson.

Budget Adjustment Approval:

A motion was made by Friel and seconded by Galdikas to approve permission to make necessary revenue and expense adjustments to the current budget to predicted actual in order to prepare proposed 2023-2024 budget for the Annual Budget Hearing on March 25th. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$47,996.58.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$47,996.58, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, 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 8:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk