

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 9, 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.

Members Absent: Trustee Hatfield

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Trustee Galdikas spoke on behalf of the Board, thanking the volunteers who helped with the tire cleanup on October 7th. She gave a special thank you to the Lee Township Fire Department who showed up with many volunteers, and worked hard in the cold, rainy weather.

Supervisor Owen spoke about the change in seasons, and thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Citizens Comment:

County Clerk Bob Genetski: Spoke about the free property fraud program available through the County. He informed that circuit court records are now available online. He shared copies of the recent editorial he produced, regarding his opposition to giving Michigan's electoral votes to California. He gave a brief on the County's annual report, touching on many topics, including the record number of election inspectors trained in 2022, home births in AC, Veterans ID Cards, Land transfers and mortgage document records and an increase in passport applications in AC. He touched on Proposal 2, early voting, and encouraged the board to reevaluate the wages the Clerk is currently receiving, considering the 27 additional voting days that will be required in 2024.

Trustee Galdikas voiced her concerns about the County declining to host EV in AC, pointing out the challenge it will pose for small municipalities, like Lee Township, and the lack of resources available to us.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the September 11, 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 Friel to approve the September 11, 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 Owen to receive the Treasurer's report as given. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Godlew. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Dean Kapinga spoke about the roll of County Commissioner, what their responsibilities include, and how they are here to help residents in the county. He spoke about an upcoming fundraiser at The Links Golf Course, to raise money to help residents pay their utility bills. He spoke about the lower income housing crisis, and plans to help with that. He stated that AC works with the Michigan Association of Commissioners, as a resource to network with fellow commissioners, state-wide. He informed that the Allegan County Animal Shelter will once again be run by AC, after being unable to

come to an agreement on contract terms with the contracted company. He assured that it will continue to run as it has, with no changes to current procedures.

Deputy Report: Deputy Godsey reported that the AC Sheriff's Department has new uniforms that are black on black, and will be switching to black Tahoes as their new cruisers. He went on to report that there were 160 calls for the month of September. He alerted that there has been an increase in vehicle theft, and urged residents to take their keys out of their parked vehicles. He stated that he took 35 calls himself in Lee Township, and 105 calls throughout the County for the month, and that it was his official first day as the Lee Township assigned Deputy on October 9, 2023. He cautioned residents to be alert while driving, as the weather change will create the possibility for an increase in car/deer accidents. He encouraged anyone to stop and chat with him anytime, and let him know of any questions or concerns.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that they had a slower month in September, with only 42 calls, including 30 medical, 1 water/ice rescue, 1 swimming/ recreation area assist, 3 cancel in route, 1 rubbish fire, 1 brush/grass fire, 1 controlled burn, 2 alarms, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 CO detector, 1 no incident found upon arrival and 1 gas leak. Training was for PT and new BP cuffs. He stated that the pump and DOT testing is complete on all trucks. The Department has been working on completing regular vehicle maintenance on all vehicles. He asked the board to allow \$650.00 to be spent on fire prevention education for the students at Pullman Elementary.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve up to \$650.00 to be spent for fire prevention education. Roll call vote was taken, Yes- Galdikas, Godlew, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Owen reported on behalf of Code Official Olney, for the month of September there were 11 open complaints/violations, including 2 new blight complaints, 8 blight issues in process of cleanup, 1 vehicle storage issue in process. There were 0 official citations issued, and 1 complaint awaiting ongoing police assistance.

Assessor's Report: None.

Ambulance Reports: None, they will have a meeting later this month.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of September there were 10 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit, 8 mechanical permits and 5 building permits. Bringing in a total of \$129,422.57 in improvements to Lee Township.

Cemetery Report: Supervisor Owen introduced AJ Canfield, the new Cemetery Committee Representative. He informed that Mr. Canfield voiced concerns with mowing not being done, leading to his stepping up to help head the vacant position. Canfield informed that there have been concerns with water availability, offering a possible solution that he would be willing to take the lead on, tree branches that need taken care of, and a tree that needs replacing.

Supervisor Owen updated on the concerns with mowing not being done for Township properties, regarding a location change for the current contractor used. He continued that he will reach out to the current contractor to try to work out a solution. In the event a solution cannot be achieved, the Fire Department and Canfield are willing to take care of the mowing for the remainder of the season, until a bid can be put out for a new contract.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of September the transfer station brought in \$1,573 and 75 tickets.

Lake Board: None, they will be meeting on October 10, 2023.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that they are preparing to work on the fall/winter newsletter. She asked that any information be submitted to her by the end of the month. She stated that they plan on printing newsletters in early November, and hope to have them mailed out by Thanksgiving.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that the committee will be meeting on October 23rd, and that the event should be the same time as always, on the first Saturday in December.

Pullman Pride Report: None.

Road Committee Report: None. Supervisor Owen informed that the Allegan County Road Commission is aware of the culvert damaged on Nadeau Drive, and that the cost to repair is the responsibility of the ACRC and will be done at no cost to Lee Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen stated that he is still waiting for a 2nd bid for the HVAC system at the Hall. He continued to inform that the board had received 2 bids to complete many areas of concern within the Hall. Both bids include work for the same areas, but one was itemized, and included the cost per square foot of flooring. Concerns were brought up regarding the available funds, after the completion of a new roof and ADA restrooms. Noting that the additional renovations cannot be started until the completion of the restroom. It was noted that the renovations, especially the restroom needs to be complete in time for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election to be held in either February or March, 2024.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to table additional renovation approval until available funds can be evaluated. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halloween Hours: Discussion was had about the how late the sun is up, regarding when to allow trick-or-treating in consideration of the safety of all.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to set trick-or-treating hours for 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Other Halloween and fall events that will be available to residents were listed, including:

Trunk or Treat, on Tuesday, October 31 from 4:30-6:30, sponsored by the businesses located at 5581 109th Ave.

The VFW will hold Trunk or Treat on Tuesday, October 31, from 5 pm-7pm.

The Linking Center will have their Fall Festival on Thursday, October 26th, from 6:30-8 pm. They ask that anyone willing to donate a baked good for the cake walk.

Pullman Elementary School's Principal, Melissa Corona asked for volunteers to dress up and hand out candy on October 27th, at 9:30 am at the school.

Assessor Contract: Supervisor Owen informed that the Township's current contracted Assessor, APG, Inc., who has been the Township's assessing group for many years, provided a 60-day contract termination letter to the Board. The company employs the current Assessor, Kyle Harris. They offered support to the Board to continue working with Harris, if they so choose. Owen continued, stating that the board will need to consider bids for a new assessor contract. He vocalized assessing issues that will need to be wrapped up before the contract is up. He stated that there have been many concerns with the service provided by Kyle Harris, which continue to come up. Also, that the Board was recently alerted by the Department of the Treasury that the Township is not in compliance on an assessing standpoint, to which Harris has not responded, and allowed the deadline to lapse without resolution. This issue would be included in the issues that must be rectified by the end of contract date, which is December 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to terminate the assessing contract with Kyle Harris as of December 1, 2023, and hire a new assessor. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Fire Department Grant: Trustee Galdikas informed that Supervisor Owen and Fire Chief Chamberlain completed a \$10,000.00 reimbursement grant application to cover the cost of turnout gear. The deadline for submission for reimbursement is mid-December.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Godlew to approve the expense of \$10,000.00 for turnout gear, to be reimbursed using the Fire Grant. Roll Call vote was taken. Yes- Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Fall Cemetery Clean-up: Supervisor Owen informed that the fall cemetery cleanup with the Sheriff Dept inmates will be held on Sunday, October 29th.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the cost to post the fall cemetery cleanup date in the paper by October 29, 2023. Roll call vote was taken. Yes- Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, including adjustments for late bill submissions for the General Fund, Fire Department Fund and First Responder Fund totaling \$\$219,306.98.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Godlew to approve the payment of the bills, with adjustments mentioned by the Clerk, totaling \$219,306.98, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –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 9:02 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk