

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 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, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Galdikas, Trustee Hatfield.

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Trustee Galdikas recognized the anniversary of 9/11, and expressed appreciation on behalf of the board for all who gave so much that day, including fire fighters, first responders and police officers.

Supervisor Owen requested a moment of silence in their memory, for 22 seconds; one for each year that has passed since the tragedy.

Clerk Friel gave an update on newly passed Proposal 2, allowing early voting in national elections. She stated that based on the decision made by the Election Commission, Lee Township will be joining with Fennville City, Clyde Township, Ganges Township and Manlius Township to hold the 9 days of early voting together, at Fennville City Hall. This, in effort to save the Township man hours and funding. She assured that election day will, as always, be held at the Lee Township Hall on election day(s), and absentee voting is also available to any who request.

Citizens Comment:

Dick Palmby: Thanked the board for all that they do, and for always doing the right things for the Township. He stated that he is pleased with the blight program, and the progress that has been made at 58th and 109th. He continued with a suggestion that any additional funding brought into the Township by the Solar Farm be used toward a continued effort to clean up the blight issues. He voiced concerns with the weekly siren sounding at different times, stating that other towns' sirens always sound at the same time. Regarding the Lake Board, he reminded that their money is managed by the Township, but is not Township money. He expressed concern about the timing of payments for Lake Board bills.

Kris LaPoint and Shirley Kay spoke on behalf of Beautify Pullman, reminding everyone that Lumberjack Festival will be held the upcoming weekend, September 15-17. They informed on the many events that will be held, including fieldtrips for Pullman Elementary School students on Friday, and axe throwing on Sunday. A full list of events was provided in a pamphlet, and can be found online.

Chris Machiela from the Allegan County Drain Office introduced himself, stating that he is new to the county, but not his field. He continued that he is making rounds to many AC municipalities, to meet board members in the area, so they can all work better together. He stated that he plans to run for Drain Commissioner in the next election cycle.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve the August 14, 2023 regular meeting 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 Godlew. He also reminded that Summer tax season ends Thursday, September 14, after that taxes will need to be paid at the county, and will include a late fee.

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

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: Deputy Jackson stated for the month of August, there were 168 calls, 27 of which were taken by him. Calls included 6 breaking and entering, 5 larceny, 2 automobile thefts and 35 auto stops. He suggested that in an effort to stop and/or catch theft issues, residents install trail cams. Without a photo of thieves, the department is in a tough spot finding the culprit. He thanked the Township for allowing him to serve and be a part of the community for the past 2 ½ years, and informed that he will be moving onto a new position. He introduced his replacement, chosen by the board, Deputy Michael Godsey. The Board elaborated that Deputy Jackson has been serving Lee Township for 2 ½ years, and has done an incredible job. They informed that he will be leaving Lee to move onto a new position in the county as a K-9 officer. As a gesture of appreciation for all the Jackson has done, the Board presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation, a gift for his new K-9 partner and provided donuts to mark the occasion. Deputy Michael Godsey introduced himself, stating that he will begin serving Lee Township after October 10. He stated that he is originally from Tennessee, where he served on a Sheriff's Department for many years, before moving to Hamilton with his wife, and working for Allegan County. He has been serving the Lee Township and surrounding areas for a year and half, so he is very familiar with our area. He stated that he is looking forward to getting to know the residents of Lee Township, and invites people to stop and visit with him, if they would like.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain was unable to attend, so Assistant Chief Kasinger reported that for the month of August, there were 61 total calls. The calls included 47 medical calls, 2 vehicle fires, 3 canceled enroute, 2 building fires, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 public service assist, 3 alarm soundings, a powerline down and 1 carbon monoxide incident. Training was for hose testing, where they tested 4,000 feet of hose. She also stated that the grass truck is in service at Station 2.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Owen reported on behalf of Code Official Olney, that there are 9 ongoing blight complaints, 6 are in process of cleanup, 3 have recently been sent warning letters, 0 have received official citations and 2 complaints are awaiting ongoing police assistance.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Kyle Harris was in attendance and informed that he is doing his usual things, and moved onto two splits to be voted on by the Board.

Regarding parcel number 0312-120-085-00, belonging to Bale/Laraway, everything meets requirements, except he is waiting on the tax certificate.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve the split for parcel number 0312-120-085-00, contingent on the receipt of the tax certificate. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Regarding parcel number 12-018-015-00 belonging to Clemons, working with Hamlin, Assessor Harris informed that everything meets requirements for the split.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve the split for parcel number 12-018-015-00. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Ambulance Reports: None

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported in the month of August there were 11 electrical permits, 3 mechanical permits, 3 plumbing permits, 1 demo permit and 3 building permits. Bringing in a total of \$50,600 in improvements to the Township.

Cemetery Report: The Board is looking for a representative to report on the cemetery.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of August there were 95 tickets and \$1971 brought in.

Trustee Galdikas reminded that the final free dump day for 2023 will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023.

Lake Board: No report. Dick Palmby updated that on 7/21/23 almost ½ of the lake was treated for weeds. They saw improvement in about 75% of the lake afterwards. He continued that on 9/22/23, they will reevaluate the lake. He finished by stating that the Lake Board will be meeting soon to plan for the coming year.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the next newsletter will come out around mid-November.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that the committee met earlier this year with representatives from Beautify Pullman, and will meet again in October sometime to plan the 2023 community holiday social.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that the committee will meet on October 9th, at 4pm, in the Township Hall. All are welcome to join and help plan.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh gave an enthusiastic report on the history of Lee Township's road millage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations: Supervisor Owen stated that the Township Hall has had many issues with heating and cooling. He reported that he received a quote to replace the entire current system. He is waiting for a second opinion before disclosing the details of the bid.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to table the Town Hall renovations- new heating/AC units- until a second bid has been received. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

He informed that weather permitting, work on the new roof should start by the end of the week, and should be finished by the end of next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant Resolution: Trustee Galdikas informed the Board recently applied for a \$5000 grant for Emergency Preparedness. The Board is currently working on a Par Plan Grant, which is due by Friday, to cover mitigation for possible loss exposure to the Township, which also covers ADA renovations. She recommended that the Board pass a resolution to request \$2500 from the Par Plan Grant to be used toward the ADA bathroom renovation project at the Township Hall. Supervisor Owen read the resolution.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to support the resolution to earmark Par Plan grant funds for ADA bathroom compliance renovations. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Approval of new Banners: Trustee Galdikas stated that the holiday committee is asking the board to approve an expense for new banners, beyond the \$400 budget that is never used. She informed that the current banners in town are at least 20 years old. A new design was created with the assistance of a recent scholarship winner who is studying graphic design. From experience, the committee has learned that canvas banners last longer than vinyl ones do. Trustee Galdikas provided a bid for 10 new banners at \$85/each, which is half the cost the previous company charged. She asked that the board approve an expense of \$902 to cover the banners, and stated that buying in bulk, rather than splitting up the order over two years, helps keep the cost down. She informed that the new banners would be up from March-October, and down during the holiday season, when seasonal decorations are up.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the expense of \$902.00 to cover the cost of 10 new banners. Rollcall vote was taken, Yes- Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel, Owen, Godlew. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, including adjustments for late bill submissions for the General Fund, totaling \$196,556.16.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Godlew to approve the payment of the bills, with adjustments mentioned by the Clerk, totaling \$196,556.16, as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Godlew, Galdikas, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None. Supervisor Owen reminded that Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:30pm will be the Master Plan meeting, at the Township Hall. All are welcome to join the conversation.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to adjourn the meeting. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk