

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2024

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: Supervisor Owen, Clerk Friel, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Galdikas, Trustee Hatfield.
Members Absent: None.

Amendments: Supervisor Owen asked to add Nate Sherman and Myrene Koch from the AC Prosecutor's office, and Frank Baker, AC Sheriff as guest speakers.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen thanked everyone for attending, and spoke about the recent Solar Eclipse.

Citizens Comment: Shirley Kay stated that a group of NHS students from Bloomingdale High School would be coming to clean up the town on April 20th from 12pm to 4pm. She asked that anyone with suggestions of areas in need of cleaning to contact her.

Guest Speaker:

Tim Remington, Bloomingdale Public Schools' BOE President spoke about Proposals 1 and 2 that will be up for vote on the May 7, 2024 ballot. He stated that Proposal 1 is a bond renewal, that will bring no tax increase to residents of the district. He continued that Proposal 1 would provide \$17 million toward facilities. He explained that they plan to use the funds with the purpose of keeping students and staff warm, dry, and safe. They plan to replace boilers, windows, fix door seals, replace roofs, upgrade entrances to provide secure double entry doorways and new site circulation and repave parking lots. He continued with explanation of Proposal 2, stating that it will provide \$15.4 million, and would bring a slight tax increase to district residents as for every \$90,000 in home value, tax rates would increase by \$7.50 per month. Proposal 2 would provide central air district wide, based on requests from a survey taken by district residents, a new gymnasium for Bloomingdale Elementary, a new bus garage/upgrade at Pullman Elementary and new bus loop.

Trustee Galdikas asked why the PES bus garage upgrade was included in Prop 2, and not Prop 1? To which Remington replied, it was how the money worked out. Further questions from Kris Lapointe inquired what attention the bus garage would receive if Prop 2 failed to pass. Remington stated that it would be considered with any overflow of funding left from Prop 1. He finished by encouraging everyone to go vote on May 7th, expressing the need for funding, as the last school bond passed in 2007.

Nate Sherman, from the AC Prosecutor's office introduced County Prosecutor Myrene Koch and Sheriff Frank Baker, both up for re-election in August, 2024.

Myrene Koch is running for re-election in August, 2024. She went on to explain her background of growing up in South Haven, how she has worked to give victims a voice, her involvement in multiple community programs, her life as a wife to an active and, now retired, member of the military, and their 4 children. She continued to report the 100% conviction rate in multiple serious crime categories, including homicide and child pornography. She stated that she is passionate about helping people, and that she wants to give back to her community. Regarding her opponent's accusations that they authorize too many cases, she explained that- that is not how it works. She continued that cases go through a series of checks and balances, which assure things work properly. She reported that they are fiscally responsible and competitive with the next closest populous counties regarding budget concerns.

Trustee Galdikas raised residents' concerns that people who commit crimes are not being held accountable for their actions. To which Koch informed that prosecutors do not set the sentences, and explained that cases are dependent on guidelines and base interventions, and that their recommendations are not always considered.

Frank Baker began by complementing Deputy Godsey on his work in Lee Township. He went on to say he has been Sheriff for 8 years, and is up for re-election in August 2024. He continued that he has 34 years of experience working at the AC Sheriff's office, with 3 prior years of experience elsewhere. He gave a history of his time with AC, and detailed his accomplishments, his service on the board at Safe Harbor and on other boards as he rose to Sheriff. He spoke about the GED program's success at the Corrections Center, and the career ready program provided to help reduce repeat offenders. He spoke about the implementation of body cams on all deputies, and the involvement of resource officers in 4 school districts. He stated that he does have an opponent, that he is running as a republican, and asked for support.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes: Supervisor Owen asked to strike Fire Department located at 5415 109th Avenue, and replace with Hall, located at 877 56th Street.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the March 11, 2024 regular meeting minutes as with suggested correction. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes:

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Godlew. He reported that the Township settled with the County with taxes for the past year, and that they were accurate to the penny.

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, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: Deputy Godsey reported that in March there were 158 calls, 35 were taken by him, as well as 35 traffic stops, and 19 subpoenas served. He reported a lot of animal calls, and that breaking and entering was still an issue. He requested that anyone troubled by this issue gather as much information as possible.

Trustee Galdikas brought up AJ Canfield's previous concern about suspicious activity at the cemetery, to which Godsey stated that he is on it.

He finished by informing that blight issues are picking up, and encouraged residents to report issues, stating that he is included on the emails.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Ted Chamberlain reported that there were 55 calls for the month of March, including 38 medical calls, 2 structure fires, 2 down powerlines, 4 medical assists, 1 spill, 3 trash/grass fires, 3 canceled enroute and 2 motor vehicle accidents. Training was on search and rescue, and he is still waiting to hear back on a quote from the insurance company, which asked for additional information. He explained that there is a bill for Engine 41 submitted for payment. The new mechanic that handled it found and fixed the ongoing issue, which has been there since it was built. He stated that it was completed for \$5,000 less than the next closest bid, which would not have resolved the issue.

Code Official Report: None.

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that the March BOR closed, and that Lee Township equalized. He gave an update on current tax situations.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas gave no report, stating the next meeting will be held April 11.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of March there were 5 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit, 8 mechanical permits and 2 building permits, bringing in a total of \$55,000 in improvements to the Township.

Cemetery Report: None.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of March there were 91 tickets and \$1,469.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that the next newsletter will go out in June, and that the deadline to submit will be next month.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the new banners will go up soon.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that scholarship applications are due April 12th, and that they need to be to the Township by Friday. Applications are available online or at the local high schools. She informed that the Pullman Pride Day planning committee has will meet on Monday at 4pm and that all are welcome to join.

Road Committee Report: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Variance 937 57th St: Supervisor Owen stated that a variance application was requested for the address in February 2024, regarding an application submitted in 2020. He stated that after due diligence of the board, there was not any reason found for a variance. He stated that consultation was had with the Township attorney, and a reason could not be found as to why the home could not be moved on the property meeting the right of way requirements to the road.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to deny the variance request at 937 57th Street, and give 90 days to move the mobile home to the proper and intended location with written notice from the building department to the property owner. All Voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Revision to Land Division:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godley to add a line item for the Assessor to approve or deny on the Land Division Application. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Road Millage Paving: Supervisor Owen informed that the cost to crack seal on Ravenswood and Highland would be \$5,000. The board reviewed the budget concerning available funding for roads.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to table the crack sealing until next month. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the expense of \$49,500 to replace the culvert on 58th Street south of 106th Ave. Roll call vote taken. "Yes"- Galdikas, Friel, Godlew, Hatfield, Owen. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve \$137,500 for resurfacing of 58th St to 56th St, and \$71,500 to resurface 106th Ave to 105th Ave. Roll call vote taken, "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Godlew, Owen. Motion carried.

Gravel Road: Supervisor Owen informed that it was estimated to cost \$21,000 to gravel 55th St from 107th Ave to 109th Ave.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Owen to table Gravel Roads until next meeting to assess the budget. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Transfer Station Gravel Work: Supervisor Owen spoke about the driveway issues at the Transfer Station. He read off bids from Jensen's Excavating, for \$24,768 and Boerman Environmental Excavating for \$18,270.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to accept the bid from Boerman Environmental Excavating for \$18,270. Roll call vote was taken, "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Resolution to abolish Annual Meeting of the Electors: Supervisor Owen spoke about the depleting attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Electors, stating that residents have not shown interest. He continued that the meeting has not been required since 1987, and that the board recommends to abolish it.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to abolish the Annual Meeting of the Electors. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$244,563.73, which include a couple late additions to the General Fund and Fire Department. She explained, with the help of Treasurer Godlew, that the large payment from the General Fund account of \$162,000.00, was not a payment, but a transfer of money to cover the initial payment to 123NET to initiate the broadband contract.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$244,563.73, with adjustments presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, 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 9:18 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk