

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 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, Trustee Galdikas, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Hatfield.
Members Absent: None.

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen commended all who ran in the recent election. He spoke about the death of Dean Kapenga, expressing the big loss to our Township and the County, and expressed condolences to the Kapenga family. He added, after working with Kapenga for the past several years, he is mourning the loss of a friend, who will be missed.

Clerk Friel gave an update on the August 6, 2024 election. She stated the election was a success, and that the team was able to wrap up by 11:00 pm. She informed that Lee Township had 9 voters for Early Voting, 129 absentee ballots processed and 223 in person voters on August 6th. She expressed gratitude to the team of election inspectors who ran a great election.

Citizens Comment: Dick Palmby expressed his disappointment in voter turnout at the recent election. He complimented the job being done by the Board and Ordinance Officer on getting many blight issues cleaned up. He voiced concerns regarding abandoned vehicles in the township, pointing out the potential for contamination to the ground.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the July 8, 2024 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 Hatfield to approve the July 8, 2024 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 Friel to receive the Treasurer's report as given. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Godlew. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: A report was read by Supervisor Owen, based on a submission from Deputy Godsey as he is currently at training. He stated that for the month of July there were 21 traffic stops, with 4 tickets issued. There were 66 dispatched complaints and assisted on 25 other complaints. The Township had 180 complaints during the month. He also informed that there will be a meet at the Pullman School on September 5th where MRAP, from the SWAT Team will be there. A request by Beautify Pullman to shut down North Ave for a bike event was also noted.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Zack Clark reported that for the month of July there were 60 calls, including 42 medical calls, 1 building fire, 1 no incident upon arrival, 1 rubbish fire, 2 smoke detectors, 5 canceled enroute, 2 gas leaks, 1 smoke scare, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 2 false alarms and 1 vehicle fire. Training for the month was drivers training, and completion of station clean up. Asking for funding to allow Dan Ciokiewicz Sr. to complete MFR training. He stated that Ciokiewicz, Sr., is committed to the

department, and was a former volunteer who lost his MFR certification due to moving to Florida for several years. He asked for the board to approve an expense of \$975 to cover the cost of the training.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the expense of \$975 to cover the cost of the MFR class for Dan Ciokiewicz, Sr. Roll call vote was taken. "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Code Official Report: Code Official Jeff Olney reported that for the month of July there were 8 open cases, and no new reports. He informed that the Vehicle Storage Ordinance is the 2nd highest reported ordinance issue and reminded that issues are only pursued if a complaint is filed with the Township. He encouraged anyone who sees an ordinance violation to report it to the Supervisor so it can be checked into.

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Owen read a report from Assessor Heather Jahr. He reported regarding the Audit, that all issues have been adequately corrected, except for the Residential and Agricultural Land Value Studies. He continued that a corrective action plan to remedy the issue has been submitted to and accepted by the State Tax Commission. This will be reviewed in 2025.

He updated that the BOR members terms will expire in January, 2025. Jahr asked that anyone interested in filling a position, please reach out. She also expressed her support for re-appointment of any current BOR members who wish to renew their position.

He reported 2 splits, which were both approved. One for parcel 03-12-031-017-00 for Lawrence Schackow and parcel number 03-12-012-007-01 for Geerlings Hillside Farm, LLC.

Jahr reminded residents that recording legal documents (deeds) may cause changes to the taxable value of a parcel. That in most cases legally altering ownership in any way will cause an increase in taxable value. The exemptions allowed must be claimed by filing a property transfer affidavit with Lee Township.

Ambulance Reports: None.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of July there were 10 electrical permits, 3 mechanical permits, 1 plumbing and 2 building permits, resulting in \$170,000.00 in improvements brought into the Township.

Cemetery Report: AJ Canfield reported that he purchased a new tool to help with weeds/brush. He suggested bringing in gravel and/or sand to fill big holes in the driveway. He stated that there are 2 groundhogs causing issues with headstones at the cemetery. He suggested taking care of them before they cause damage.

He requested the Board approve the expense to mow the vacant lot owned by the Township on 56th Street which he has been cutting at no cost.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the expense of \$45 per mow at the vacant lot owned by the Township on 56th Street. Roll call vote was taken. "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Godlew, Owen. Motion carried.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of July the transfer station brought in \$1,394 and 83 tickets, and that this included one free dump day.

Lake Board: Dick Palmby informed that Lower Scott Lake had the final treatment of the year on August 6th for treatment of algae, weeds and milfoil. He stated that the lake is in amazing shape, and thanked the board for making the right decision regarding care of the lake. He stated that the loss of Dean Kapenga affects the Lake Board, as he was a member of the board, and that there is currently no replacement for him.

Newsletter Report: None.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that just over \$3,000 was raised for the scholarship fund during this year's Pullman Pride Day events. The weather cooperated and activities seemed well attended. She thanked all that helped to coordinate the day and all who came out to participate and support. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in September with the committee to review and begin planning for next year.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh reminded that the County will be paving 56th Street from 109th Ave to Baseline Rd, at the expense of the County. He continued that the Township has approved to fund the paving of extended shoulders to enhance the community further. He provided a brief history of the Road Committees work for the betterment of Lee Township and thanked residents for supporting the road millage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Event: Supervisor Owen informed that a previously approved special event planned for a concert on August 10th had to be canceled. That the applicants requested using the application fee from the canceled event to apply to reschedule the same event for August 24th.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to allow for the cancelation of the August 10th event and rescheduling for August 24th. All voted "Aye." Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Events: Supervisor Owen informed that there was an application to hold 2 special events from the same group. A Rodeo to be held on September 1, 2024 and a Concert to be held on September 8, 2024. Information was provided that at a previous event approved for the same applicants, the police were called to break up a fight, resulting in 1 arrest. Discussion was had regarding the verbiage of the ordinance regarding the number of special events allowed by one applicant within 1 year. The ordinance states an applicant can have no more than 4 special events of a similar kind within a year's time. Which caused conflicting opinions regarding the type of event vs. the number allowed. The Board decided that clarification would be needed regarding how the ordinance was written.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve the September 1st Rodeo event and September 8th Concert event pending application payment is received by the Treasurer. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Trustee Galdikas suggested contacting the Sheriff's Department to request they get in contact with the event coordinators, making it clear that they understand the parameters of the ordinance, and that any violations will result in a citation.

Library Permission to Remove Structure: Supervisor Owen reviewed that the Board offered a \$1 annual lease to Pullman Free Library officials, as a result of State requirements that it cannot legally be funded by Township finances/ tax money, to which Library officials offered no response.

After researching it is unclear who owns the Library building, as there has been no deed located, but is understood that the Township does not own it, but does own the land it sits on.

Owen stated he was contacted by Michigan Township Services (building inspector) asking the for the Board's approval to remove the library building from Township property as they had received an application for a permit to move it from the Library officials.

He informed that the Township funded the expense of utility bills for many years, but when the State informed the Township that it is illegal for the Board to use tax money to cover these expenses, the Board reached out to Library representatives explaining the situation and requesting reimbursement for

payments moving forward. The utilities were put in the library's name. Since then, a Library representative contacted the utilities and had them shut off, however past due bills have not been paid. He added he received a letter from a library representative stating that they do not plan to pay the bills. Supervisor Owen made it clear that the Board is not asking for the library to be closed or for the building to be moved.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve the request from MTS, submitted by representatives of the Pullman Free Library, to move the library building, based on their desire. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Regarding the outstanding bills, Supervisor Owen will reach out to MTS to discuss how to move forward.

Transfer Station Discussion: Supervisor Owen spoke about complaints received regarding confusion around what can be used with dump tickets at the Transfer Station. Trustee Galdikas stated that it is clearly posted at the Transfer Station which items require additional fees outside of the ticket, and that she will check the website to be sure it is also clear there.

Water Hydrants Cemetery: Supervisor Owen reported that only one bid was received by Jensen's Excavating regarding the cost of fixing the 5 hydrants that are broken at the cemetery. He is still waiting for a bid to be provided by a second company.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to table the issue of Water Hydrants Cemetery until the September, 2024 meeting. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Dead Tree/Township Property: Supervisor Owen stated that it was brought to his attention that there is a dead tree on Township property that has the potential to become dangerous. He received bids from 2 local companies to remove the tree for safety concerns. C & R's Out on a Limb provided a bid of \$2,250.00 and Dave's Tree Service provided a bid of \$1,200.00.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve the bid from Dave's Tree Service for the expense of \$1,200.00 to remove the dead tree on Township property. Roll call vote was taken. "Yes" - Godlew, Galdikas, Hatfield, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

The Board requested that any residents who wish to help rectify issues in the Township please contact the Board before taking action, for liability reasons.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$116,116.37, which included four additional invoices for the General Fund.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$116,116.37, 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 9:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk