

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 7:30 pm at the Lee Township Fire Department located at 5415 109th Avenue, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Amendments: None.

Board Comments: Clerk Friel reminded that the Presidential Primary will be held on February 27, 2024 at the Lee Township Hall. She continued that the 9 days of early voting will be held beginning on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Early voting will be held at the Fennville City Hall, 125 S. Maple Street in Fennville. She encouraged everyone to go out and vote.

Supervisor Owen gave an update on the construction at the Township Hall, stating that it will be completed in time for the February 27th election.

Citizens Comment: Carlos Lopez thanked Lee Township for providing him with knowledge about functioning within local municipalities, which has been useful in his new position as Appointed Mayor of Fennville. He stated that he is a friend of Lee Township.

Ben Lewis informed that there has been trash dumping near the intersection of 56th Street and 104th Avenue. He stated that the mess has been growing over the past few months.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the January 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 February 2, 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 –Galdikas, Hatfield, Godlew, Friel, Owen. Motion carried.

Treasurer Godlew reminded that tax time is now, and that winter taxes are due by February 14, 2024, and will be accepted at Lee Township through February 29, 2024. After which they will go to collections at the County, need to be paid at the County, with fees and penalties. He reminded that his office hours are Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 pm, Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm or by appointment. He stated that it is fine to leave payments in the drop box in the door of the Township Office.

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dean Kapinga spoke about emergency calls, stating that last year Allegan County took 49,180 911 calls. He informed that Allegan County has a call center taking calls 24/7, run by a team of people who are there to help people.

He spoke about an aquifer study held to check on pollution and the sustainability of water for the population. He invited anyone interested to join him and others for a meeting on April 23, 2024, from 4 pm to 7:30 pm at the Trestle Stop for a presentation on keeping our water safe.

He reminded that senior services are available for residents in Allegan County for a variety of services to seniors who do not have anyone to help them.

He finished with an update about the work being done to bring broadband throughout the County, thanks to an initiative started by Lee Township's broadband committee.

Deputy Report: None.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Zack Clark reported that for the month of January there were 78 calls, including 41 emergency medical calls, 3 carbon monoxide, 3 building fires, 4 service calls, 6 medical assists, 15 down power lines, 1 alarm sounding, 1 standby, 1 motor vehicle accident and 1 animal rescue. He stated that the training for the month was company training for getting equipment regrouped for storm calls. He informed that Lee 26 is now in service with focus at Station 2. He updated that the 3 people taking the First Responder's class are halfway done.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Owen reported based on a submission from Code Official Jeff Olney that in the month of January there were 10 ongoing complaints, including 10 blight cases that are in the process of cleanup. There were 3 new cases, and 0 official citations issued.

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that the March BOR will be held on the following dates: March 5, 2024 at 6:30, for an organizational meeting, March 13, 2024 from 2 pm- 5 pm and 6 pm- 9 pm for appeals and March 14, 2024 from 11 am- 2 pm and 3 pm- 6 pm for appeals.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported that there was a meeting last month, and Lee Township continues to have two times the number of calls than the other municipalities in our contract with LIFE EMS. She informed that LIFE EMS is working on dynamic staging, to track calls and stage their rig based on this, stating that they are using the Lee Township Fire Department as a staging location in hopes to reduce response times.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of January there were 3 electrical permits, 2 plumbing permits, 3 mechanical permits and 1 building permit, bringing in a total of \$14,000 in improvements to the Township.

Cemetery Report: AJ Canfield reported that things are looking good. The Allegan County cleanup crew has been secured for 4 dates. The original dates are scheduled for April 27th and 28th, with backup dates for weather reschedule on May 4th and 5th.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of December there were 24 tickets and \$645 brought in.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: None.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that scholarship applications are due April 14th and are available online or at the local high schools. She informed that the committee had met early that day, and Pullman Pride Day will be held the weekend of July 19-21. Events planned include the annual car show, craft fair, kids activities, live music, food vendors and more.

Road Committee Report: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Variance Request 937 57th St.: Monico Nunez was present to discuss his variance request, and Natasha Guzman, his granddaughter was there to translate. Mr. Nunez was requesting a variance to retain the location of the placement of his mobile home, which was placed within the right of way to the street. He informed that he placed the home where he did, rather than the documented planned area due to property lines and the septic and well location. He stated that the septic and well were existing on the property before the placement of the home.

Supervisor Owen asked why he did not get a new permit when he realized the original plan would not work?

Nunez stated that he was going to place a different trailer in the originally planned spot, but got a different, bigger trailer that would not fit there.

Supervisor Owen explained the process, and that in this case, someone got permits to do this correctly, and asked why he did not check with MTS for a new permit or regulations for a new/different trailer?

Nunez then stated that he is aware that he did not follow procedure, and asked what he needed to do?

Adding that the Health Department gave permission for the septic placement.

Galdikas broke down the timeline, stating that Nunez submitted the application in 2020, placed the building, then received the permit and paid the fee in 2023.

Nunez stated that he got the trailer, police told him to move it, then placed it where it would be beneficial.

Galdikas confirmed that MTS sent reminders to Nunez to get and pay for the permit, but that it was not done until after the work was complete.

Nunez stated that he did not have a translator at the time to read the notices, which were sent in English.

He stated that he could not find help that he could afford to move the trailer.

Galdikas stated that the board will need to hear from MTS and their reasoning for giving the permit 3 years after the application was submitted.

Nunez informed that he received a permit from the solar systems and was confused by the process, because he did not have help or guidance. Continuing that Michigan Solar Panels told him he had permission to do solar panels, so he assumed he was good to go with everything.

Owen stated that the board will need to confer with the attorney, stating that Nunez's request has been noted.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to table the request for variance at 937 57th St. All Voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Dust Control: Supervisor Owen informed that Allegan County Road Commission provided pricing for dust control for 2024, stating that each application will be \$18,000. The Township usually has 2 applications per year.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to approve the two applications of dust control as a cost of \$18,000 each. Roll call vote taken. Yes- Hatfield, Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Gravel Road Program: Supervisor Owen informed that Allegan County Road Commission provided suggestions for roads in most need of new gravel, to have bid for the cost to do so. Their number 1 suggestion for gravel application was 54th Street from 107th to 103rd, and second was 55th street from 109th to 107th. He also informed that if any residents have concerns with gravel road conditions, including washboard or other issues, to contact the ACRC, and they are very responsive to resolve resident requests.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to approve receiving bids to gravel 54th Street, from 107th to 103rd and 55th Street, from 109th to 107th. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Tax Lien Waiver: Treasurer Godlew requested the waiver of penalty for paying taxes at the Township after 2/14/24, and by 2/29/24, allowing residents to avoid the 3% penalty for paying after the required date.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Owen to approve waiver of penalty for the 2024 winter taxes. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$80,207.48, which include a couple late additions to the General Fund.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$80,207.48, with adjustments presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Godlew. 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 8:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk