

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 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: None.

Board Comments: Supervisor Owen wished a Happy New Year to everyone, and also a happy birthday to his mother-in-law.

Treasurer Godlew spoke about the University of Michigan- championship game, and gave a cheer of support for the home team.

Citizens Comment: Harriet Rogalla raised concerns about previous paperwork submitted with former Lee Township Assessor, Kyle Harris.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owens and seconded by Galdikas to approve the December 11, 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.

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, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: Deputy Godsey reported that for the month of December he had 30 traffic stops, conducted 16 arrests, answered 20 calls for assistance, and dealt with 36 cases himself. He reported that he had not received stats for the township taken by other officers.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Supervisor Owen read in the absence of Chief Chamberlain that in the month of December, there were 38 calls, including 1 structure fire, 1 chimney flue fire, 1 fire alarm, 1 car fire, 6 powerlines down, 1 gas leak, 2 controlled burnings and 25 medicals. He stated that training was on downed firefighter rescue and search and rescue. He continued that they finished 2023 with 608 total calls, which was down from the previous year. He reminded that the fire department participated in the December Holiday Social, stating that the trucks looked awesome, and expressed gratitude to all who helped.

Code Official Report: Jeff Olney was unable to attend, but submitted a report to Supervisor Owen. He stated that for the month of December there were 7 ongoing complaints, 7 blight issues in process of clean-up, 1 new dangerous building, and 0 new complaints. He reported that Olney's hand is healing up well.

Assessor's Report: Heather Jahr asked that everyone be sure to update their mailing addresses with the Township Treasurer, to ensure their tax paperwork is delivered to them timely. She went on that inflation

is at 5.1%, and the maximum allowed 5% increase of taxable property will take effect this year. She reported that as she continues to work through issues left by the prior assessor, she believes personal property canvas has not been carried out in some time. She reminded that there are some exemptions available, but that they must be applied for in order to be granted. She continued that many businesses will be contacted regarding this concern. She stated that she visited many residents who submitted permit requests the within the past couple years. She asked that anyone who experiences a fire please let her know. She reminded that she is working to remedy many assessing issues, and asked for patience, as it will take some time to work through.

She stated that assessed values are adjusted every year based on Allegan County regulations. She listed the increases in value, commercial at 5.92% increase, Agricultural class at 14.85%, industrial did not change and residential at an increase of 16.31%.

Touching on the concern raised by Rogalla during citizen's comments, she reminded that her request had been denied based on inaccurate information, as they had previously discussed.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas stated that there will be an ambulance meeting on Thursday at 7 pm. She stated that she will also attend a meeting Wednesday at 9 am with our Fire Chief and LIFE EMS to discuss staging in Lee Township, to encourage faster response times in Lee Township.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of December, there were 9 electrical permits, 2 plumbing permits, 8 mechanical permits and 4 building permits, resulting in \$415,253.31 in improvements brought into Lee Township.

Cemetery Report: None.

Library Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of December there were 42 tickets and \$1,151 brought in.

Supervisor Owen spoke about concerns that have been received regarding the state of the Transfer Station's road, noting that there are large mud holes. He suggested repairs be completed after the frost laws are lifted, and asked the Board to consider this when planning the 2024 budget.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that copies of the newsletter are available on the Township website and at the community kiosks, in English and Spanish.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas informed that the downtown holiday lights came down after the new year, and reminded that the banners will be switched out in the Spring.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas reminded that scholarship applications are due April 14th, and are available online or at the local high schools. She stated that all 3 of last year's winners submitted their transcripts and are doing well academically.

Road Committee Report: Supervisor Owen reminded that Chuck in in Texas for the winter, but that he informed that at the annual Road Commission meeting it was decided that 56th Street will be paved this coming summer, from Baseline Rd to 109th Ave. He reminded that this is a primary County road, this will be paved at no cost to the Township. He reminded that this would not include 2' shoulders, but that this is an option for the Township to purchase and have done at the same time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Hall Renovations:

Supervisor Owen informed that renovations are underway at the Township Hall. He stated that the ADA bathroom has been plumbed and the concrete floor would be poured on Wednesday.

He continued new flooring needed to be installed throughout the hall. He presented 2 bids that compared apples to apples. The first bid from Gus' Construction co. LLC came in at \$7,950 for labor, and Cortez Flooring submitted a bid at \$7,862.12 for labor. Cortez Flooring also informed that they would be able to begin work on January 16th.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to hire Cortez Flooring, and approve the expense, not to exceed \$11,500 to cover labor and materials. Roll call vote was taken, Yes- Galdikas, Hatfield, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Moving on Supervisor Owen informed that previous leaks in the roof have left the ceiling tiles in sad shape. He presented quotes for 3 kinds of ceiling tiles to replace the current tiles, using the current tracks. He presented the options as Baltic Tiles, which are what is currently there, would cost \$1,216.26, Stonehurst, smooth tiles would be \$781.26 and textured, thicker and better for sound would be \$868.26.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the purchase of ceiling tiles, not to exceed \$875.00. Roll call vote was taken, Yes- Friel, Godlew, Owen, Hatfield, Galdikas. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Millage:

Supervisor Owen stated that ACRC submitted a list of their Top 10 concerns for paved roads needing repair in Lee Township. Based on their suggestions, the Board needed to decide which roads they would like to have bids created for. The road millage allows for paving of about 1 1/2 miles for paved roads, depending on the bids.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Galdikas to request bids for 58th Street, from 105th Ave to 106th Ave, 105th Ave from 58th Street to 56th Street, Fourth street from Ravenswood to Highland, and also for 2' shoulders for the 56th Street County planned project. All Voted "Aye." Motion Carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$104,412.09, which include a couple late additions.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Godlew to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$104,412.09, 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 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk