

Lee Township  
Regular Meeting Corrected Minutes  
March 11, 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 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

**Amendments:**

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to strike Gravel Road Program from the agenda, under unfinished business. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

**Board Comments:** Supervisor Owen stated that in the approved minutes from the February 2, 2024 Special Meeting for Assing details and policies it was printed that the guidelines were suggested by the County, but should have stated the guidelines are suggested by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. He also stated regarding the approved minutes that the 20% has always been endorsed by Lee Township.

Trustee Galdikas gave an update on the Township Hall improvements, stating that the work was completed in time for the February 27, 2024 election. She gave a special thank you to those who made it possible, including McKellips Construction, Roland Electric, Gary Roofing and Cortez Flooring. She shared that the cost to complete everything so far was \$60,932.84, funding that was earmarked for this job after the sale of the former Lee Township Community Center. She pointed out that the board was able to save \$12,600 by doing demo and labor themselves as volunteers, and by using donated items. She continued that tuck pointing HVAC and new asphalt in the parking lot are still on the list of things that will need to be done, and that it will cost about the same amount to complete these things. She thanked everyone for their patience as the work was being done.

Clerk Friel gave an update on the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary, stating that Lee Township processed 301 ballots on election day, including 206 in person voters and 95 absentee ballots. She thanked the election inspectors for their hard work and commitment to a successful election. She stated that early voting went well working with the 4 other municipalities. She was disappointed to inform that the turnout for early voting was not abundant, and did not reflect the amount of time and funding it took to hold the 9 days of early voting.

Trustee Hatfield reminded that Senior Bingo is held at the Linking Center on Thursdays at 10 am. That there will be a job fair at the Linking Center on March 22, from 10 am- 2pm, and an Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm as well.

**Citizens Comment:** James Dyer, a member of Allegan County Lake Shore Clean- Up, offered their services to Lee Township for roadside cleanup. He stated that they have volunteers who do the work, and ask that post clean-up they be allowed use of the Transfer Station to dispose of what they collect. He provided information about the work they do, stating that they are working with Allegan County to get more involved.

**Guest Speaker:** None.

**Approval of Regular Board Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the February 12, 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 Galdikas to approve the February 17, 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 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 was out, due to illness. He submitted a report to Supervisor Owen, stating that in the month of January there were 150 calls, 53 of which were handled by him. He reported that in the month of February there were 24 traffic stops, 14 dispatch complaints and 13 assists on complaints.

**Fire Department/ EMS Report:** Zack Clark reported that for the month of February there were 62 calls, including 43 emergency medical calls, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 missing person search, 3 down powerlines, 1 controlled burn, 5 medical assists, 1 alarm, 1 cancel enroute, 1 gas leak, 1 illegal burn, 1 brush fire, 2 structure fires and a motor vehicle fire. He stated that training for the month was on ice rescue, despite there being no ice. He informed that day shift fire fighter training is complete, and that Andrew Cadwell is working on his own. He congratulated Amy McCune on completing MFR training, bringing the department to 11 licensed MFRs.

Trustee Galdikas brought up concerns about dangerous buildings around the Townships that have burned down, but not yet been demolished and cleaned up. She asked for assistance from the FD to follow up on these.

**Code Official Report:** Code Official Jeff Olney reported that in the month of February there were 13 ongoing issues, mostly for blight. Many of which only need a second check, as they are in the process of cleanup. He continued that 5 new letters were sent out, and 1 letter is pending, to be sent. There were no new tickets.

**Assessor's Report:** Supervisor Owen reported that the March BOR will be held on the following dates: 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 gave no report, stating the next meeting will be held April 11. She did update that the ambulance has been staging in Lee on and off.

**Building Inspector's Report:** Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of February there were 9 electrical permits, 2 plumbing permits, 2 mechanical permits and 5 building permits, bring a total of \$82,700 in improvements to the Township.

**Cemetery Report:** AJ Canfield reported that there has been an issue with theft and drug use at the cemetery. He requested more patrol be scheduled in the area. He continued that he is looking into ways to eradicate an invasive cacti issue that has spread around the cemetery. He thanked the anonymous volunteer who picked up down limbs and stacked them neatly.

**Library Report:** None.

**Transfer Station Report:** Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of February there were 44 tickets and \$1,118 brought in.

**Lake Board:** None.

**Newsletter Report:** Trustee Galdikas reminded that the next newsletter will go out in June.

**Holiday Committee Report:** Trustee Galdikas informed that the new banners will go up next month. She informed that the VFW will host an Easter Bunny event, with food, March 23 from 1pm-3pm, all are welcome.

**Pullman Pride Report:** Trustee Galdikas reminded that scholarship applications are due April 12<sup>th</sup> and are available online or at the local high schools. She informed that the committee has met, 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:** Supervisor Owen informed that Chuck should return by next month. He reminded that 56<sup>th</sup> Street, from Baseline to 109<sup>th</sup> Ave will be resurfaced by the county, at no cost to the Township, but the Township did elect to cover the cost to widen the shoulders, allowing for safer walking areas for residents.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Revision to Land Division Document:** Supervisor Owen discussed the Land Division Application, and pointed out a correction that needed to be made.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to strike line #1 on the Land Division Application, and replace with "Submit with application an official copy of the "Land Division Tax Payment Certificate Form" with approved signatures from county treasurer and drain office. This form can be obtained from the Allegan County Treasurer's office." All Voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

**Broadband Contract:** Tim Kotas gave an update on the Broadband initiative, He informed that Bloomingdale Communications would not be able to complete the job, as originally planned, as they were unable to obtain the additional funding needed to offset the ARPA funds from Lee Township and Allegan County.

He continued that 123NET has submitted a contract, which had been reviewed by the Board, to complete the job at the same cost as initially planned with Bloomingdale Communications. He reminded that this specific job will provide broadband to more than 600 homes in Pullman. The contract indicates a hopeful completion date of June, 2025, but an obligatory completion date by June, 2026.

Supervisor Owen suggested requesting free broadband to the Township, as we currently receive free WIFI through i2k.

Kotas informed that the contract being discussed will cover a small area in Pullman that was not included in jobs planned through other companies due to false claims made by Frontier that they already provided coverage in the area. He stated that North and South Pullman will receive broadband through Mercury Wireless, West of the tracks will be covered by Midwest Energy, and all other areas will be covered by the County's project.

Supervisor Owen thanked Tim Kotas for his dedication and hard work to the issue of providing Broadband to our community.

*A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the contract for broadband with 123NET, pending the request to provide coverage to the Township at no cost. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Free Dump Days:**

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Friel to approve continuation of holding free dump days for the Township, to be held on Saturdays, May 18, 2024, July 13, 2024 and September 21, 2024. Roll call vote taken, "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Godlew, Owen. Motion carried.*

**Tax Payment Collection Options:** Treasurer Godlew stated that he received many requests through the tax collection season to offer payment online with credit card. He explained that after discussion with BS&A, the program used to collect taxes, they offer an option that would integrate with our current software. He stated that they offer an option to pay using ACH/E-Check, with a fee of \$1.50 per

transaction to the Township, or a fee of \$3.00 per transaction to the tax payer. They also offer an option to pay using credit/debit cards, with a 2.8% + \$0.50 fee per transaction. If this option became available, he continued, the option to pay in person with cash or check, with no fees, would still be available. He informed that BS&A provides secure payment processing through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor, and they would directly deposit all payments, sans fees (which go directly to them, not the Township) into the Lee Township tax account.

Trustee Galdikas offered that fees for credit card payments are a common occurrence, and that she believes any fees accrued should be covered by the payee. Reminding that there is an option to pay with no fees, with cash or check.

Clerk Friel asked if the fees for online payment would surpass the penalty fees encountered for paying taxes late? To which Treasurer Godlew informed that the late payment fee would exceed the online payment fees, providing a less expensive option if last minute payments are necessary.

*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Galdikas to approve an online tax payment option, with required fees being the responsibility of the tax payer. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

**Payment of the Bills:** Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$253,845.74, which include a couple late additions to the General Fund. She explained, with the help of Treasurer Godlew, that the large payment from the First Responder's account of \$175,000.00, was not a payment, but a transfer of money to an interest earning account.

*A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$253,845.74, with adjustments presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Galdikas, Godlew, Friel, Hatfield, Owen. 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 8:16 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk