

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 14, 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: Trustee Galdikas spoke on behalf of the Board, giving condolences to the Hardester/Owen families regarding the loss of Scott's mother-in-law, Dee. She also stated that the Decker and Mills families are in the thoughts and prayers of the board members.

Clerk Friel reminded that the General Election will be held on November 5, 2024 at the Township Hall. Early voting would be held from October 26 through November 2 at the Fennville City Hall, 125 S Maple Street in Fennville. The public accuracy testing would be held on Thursday, 10/17 at the Fennville City Hall. She stated that absentee ballots are available to anyone who would like one, and can be applied for online at the Secretary of State website, or by emailing the Township Clerk directly.

Supervisor Owen thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Citizens Comment: AJ Canfield thanked the EMS responders and everyone who helped his daughter the past week. He informed that she is stable and home, and extended thanks on her behalf.

Dan Ciokiewicz urged the Board to complete the tuck pointing on the Township Hall.

Guest Speaker: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Hatfield to approve the September 9, 2024 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 Hatfield to receive the Treasurer's Report as given. Roll call vote was taken: Yes –Galdikas, Godlew, Hatfield, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: Deputy Godsey was not in attendance, but submitted a report to Supervisor Owen. He stated that for the month of September he responded to 28 calls, including 18 traffic stops, resulting in 5 tickets, 6 subpoenas and 4 criminal arrests.

Fire Department/ EMS Report: Chief Chamberlain reported that for the month of September there were 46 calls, including 26 medical, 2 medical assists. 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 rubbish fire, 3 false alarms, 2 down powerlines, 6 canceled enroute, 1 alarm, 1 no incident on arrival and 1 fire. Training for the month was for hose training. Although it is a lot of work, doing this themselves saves the Township a lot of money and the team does a great job. He reminded that Fire Prevention for the school will be held on October 17th. He stated all are welcome to attend, stating that the event goes on the entire school day.

Code Official Report: Trustee Galdikas reported that Code Official Jeff Olney was unable to attend the meeting due to an accident his wife had. He submitted a report that 3 new letters went out, 2 for blight and 1 for single family ordinance. Two citations were issued, one for vehicle storage, which a Consent Agreement was signed for and is in the process of cleanup, and one for Single Family Ordinance. There were still older incidents that need checked up on, and Deputy Godsey is handling additional single family dwelling ordinance cases.

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Owen read a report from Assessor Heather Jahr.

Regarding BOR, all current members have committed to continuing their positions.

He informed of approved splits for parcels 12-024-035-11 and 12-027-017-00. Approved combinations of parcels 12-184-007-00, 12-184-009-00 and 12-184-010-00.

Jahr is coming across many instances where residents are trying to transfer ownership but have no legal documentation verifying they own the property. In order for proper ownership to be reflected on the assessment/ tax rolls, chain of title must be verified; adding the Allegan County Register of Deeds office does not assure ownership verification.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Galdikas reported and update from the 3rd quarter ambulance committee meeting. During the 3rd quarter, there were 522 calls, with 331 transported. Of those calls 106 were from Lee Township. She updated that Life EMS is running a pilot program with Saugatuck Township, including the all north side calls, which increased the # of calls responded to in that municipality to 230 this quarter. The pilot program appears to have affected the response time for Lee Township in that the rig is busier and not able to stage in Lee as often. The average call time response for all municipalities in the contract is 11.22 minutes, but for Lee Township specifically was 15.26 minutes. The response time for Lee Township is also related to the location of the call taken within Lee. There was an increase in calls for Allegan County in general this quarter. She continued to inform that Life EMS is the first team to use LifePak 35 monitor/defibrillators which features the innovative cprINsight analysis technology which helps improve CPR performance by reducing chest compression pauses during sudden cardiac arrest cases.

Building Inspector's Report: Supervisor Owen reported that in the month of September there were 6 electrical permits, 9 mechanical permits, 2 plumbing permits and 6 building permits. Brining a total of \$462,000.00 in improvements to the Township.

Cemetery Report: AJ Canfield reported that there are lots of leaves down and just a few small branches in the cemetery. He informed that the water project hasn't started yet, but Supervisor Owen informed it will start any day. AJ continued that he noticed a new waterline break when the water was left on, located near the flagpole.

Transfer Station Report: Treasurer Godlew reported that for the month of September the Transfer Station brought in \$1,729 and 58 tickets. September also wrapped up the final free dump day for the year.

Lake Board: None. Dick Palmby stated that the 2022 harvesting has cost \$90-\$100,000.00 to rectify. Continuing that the lake looks great, it is clear and beautiful. He reminded that in 2023 the Lake Board approved a 2-year project, so no meeting is planned for funding approval. He stated that he has plans to speak with the current Drain Commissioner regarding tax roll changes before her retirement.

Newsletter Report: Next issue will go out end of November. Trustee Galdikas asked that if anyone wanted something printed in the newsletter, please let her know.

Holiday Committee Report: Trustee Galdikas stated the Township and Beautify Pullman plan to hold the annual holiday social at the Town Square on Saturday December 7th. More information will be shared at next month's meeting. She stated that the VFW will hold a holiday event with Santa on December 14th

from 1-3 pm. Their event will provide gifts for kids up to age 12. She continued that the VFW is trying to collect gifts for teenagers, and welcome donations.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Galdikas stated that applications will be provided to local schools by December 1st, and will be available on the Township website from December 1- April 14. She stated that the committee met to discuss the next event, and discussed other ways to raise money outside of one weekend. More discussion is needed to plan for 2025.

Road Committee Report: Supervisor Owen informed that Cuck Pugh has headed back to Texas, but before he left he created an areal map of the township roads to be hung in the Township Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Halloween Hours: Supervisor Owen suggested that trick-or-treating be held from 5-7 pm as normal on October 31st. Trustee Galdikas informed that on Halloween there will be many events to attend, including PHP's Fall Fest from 6-8 pm, VFW's trunk or treat from 6-8 pm and Sigil Metaphysical and MFS Reelplay's trunk or treat from 4-7pm.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to approve Township trick-or treating hours from 5-7 pm on October 31, 2024. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Fall Cleanup: Supervisor Owen informed that dates have been secured with the AC Work Crew on 10/26 and 10/27. He reminded anyone who has decorations on graves that they wish to save, please remove them before these dates, or they will be removed during cleanup. AJ Canfield offered to bring a trailer to the cemetery to help with hauling bags.

Shredding Approval: Trustee Galdikas read quotes from 3 companies who offer professional, secure shredding services. Southwest Michigan Shred quoted \$6.50/banker size box, plus a \$95 truck fee. Data Guardian quoted \$6/banker size box, more for bigger boxes plus a \$50 trip fee. Rapid Shred quoted \$6/banker size box, \$9 for bigger boxes and no other fees. To save money the Township would opt for haul away shredding, rather than onsite. She anticipates the cost to be between \$600 and \$700.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve Rapid Shred to provide shredding services to the Township for documents that have exceeded their retention period at a cost that does not exceed \$700. Roll call vote was taken, "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Supervisor Owen gave a thank you to Treasurer Godlew, Assessor Heather Jahr and Trustee Galdikas for the extensive work done to sort and cleanout expired documents.

Cemetery Improvements/Gravel: Supervisor Owen presented the board with 2 bids from 2 companies for repair of (options 1) pot holes and improvements to the outside driveway and (option 2) one including the price to gravel the center drive. Bids from Jensen's Excavating came in at (OP1) \$3,358 and (OP2) \$17,058. A bid from Boerman came in at (OP1) \$3,040 and (OP2) \$8,350.

Treasurer Godlew informed that after the expense to fix the hydrants at the cemetery, the cemetery budget would have \$1,920 in available funds for projects. He reminded that the newly discovered leak should also be considered for an increased cost adjustment of the planned project.

AJ Canfield suggested the Board consider renting equipment to do a small fix on the driveway, until more funds are available to truly fix it. He stated that he believed rental equipment could be secured for around \$400, and that he would be willing to do the work himself. The Board stated that they would pay him an hourly rate to do the work.

Dan Ciokiewicz suggested adding a little gravel or crushed asphalt each year to work to build it up.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen to approve up to \$600 for rental equipment and \$20 per hour to pay AJ Canfield to complete a temporary fix for the cemetery driveways. Roll call vote was taken. "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Friel, Owen, Godlew. Motion carried.

Insurance Renewal: Supervisor Owen spoke about the Township's insurance bill, and the substantial increase in cost provided in a recent bid from the current provider, BHS. He stated that in the last year the price increased by \$10,000, and over \$30,000 since 2021. He informed that Supervisor Owen and Treasurer Godlew met with a representative from VFIS, a new insurance provider, to receive a second quote on coverage, however adjustments were still needed on that quote. It was noted that the Township insurance premium renewal came due October 1 and the grace period for payment will expire before the Board is able to compare both bids properly. In order to remain covered, it was suggested that the Township remain with BHS, until the Board is able review the bid from VFIS. Supervisor Owen stated that the Board can cancel coverage with BHS at any time, and payment would be retroactive to reimburse unused funds.

Fire Chief Chamberlain stated that he reviewed the offer from VFIS, and believes it to be impressive, compared to our current provider.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Godlew to renew the current coverage with BHS Insurance with the option to change carriers at a later date. Roll call vote was taken. "Yes"- Hatfield, Galdikas, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Friel, totaling \$68,361.26.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$68,361.26 as presented by Clerk Friel. Yes –Galdikas, Hatfield, Godlew, Owen, Friel. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Supervisor Owen read 2 letters. One from Richard Orawiec requesting to be considered for the Township BOR. He listed his credentials.

The second letter came from Doug Bale, requesting he be considered for the Township BOR, listing his reasons for qualification.

Supervisor Owen stated that the current BOR members have committed to retaining their positions.

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Friel to adjourn the meeting. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Friel, Clerk