

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14th, 2025

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 Rawson, Clerk Blackburn, Trustee Hatfield, Treasurer Godlew.

Members Absent: Trustee Lewis.

Amendments: None.

Board Comments:

Supervisor Rawson:

Our ARPA reporting has been successfully submitted, thanks to Scott Owen and Lisa Galdikas for their assistance.

There will be a memorial service for Raymond Russell held on May 4th from 2-5pm at the 109th Lee Township Fire Station.

Clerk Blackburn:

April is Sexual Violence Awareness Month, a time to speak hard truths and stand with survivors—loudly, clearly, and without hesitation. Far too many in our community carry the weight of harm done in silence. And while awareness is vital, what survivors need even more is action—support, justice, and a voice at the table.

I know it isn't easy stepping into a room where someone in power has harmed others. A convicted felon. A registered sex offender. I know how small your voice can feel in spaces where power protects itself. But I want you to know: you are not alone.

I'm here to be your voice in those rooms. I sit on a board where that reality exists, and I will continue to show up, speak up, and advocate for those who have been silenced for far too long. Being a public servant means standing in discomfort when truth demands it. And I will keep doing that work—for every survivor who was told to stay quiet, and for those still trying to heal.

If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out to trained professionals. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is available 24/7 at 1-800-656-HOPE or visit rainn.org. You are never alone.

Let's keep pushing for a community where survivors are heard, believed, and safe. Thank you.

Citizens Comment:

Shirley Kay:

April 26th from 10a-4p there will be about 15-20 honor society students cleaning the area around Pullman. If anyone else has any additional areas that they see may need attention, reach out to Shirley Kay or Pullman Pride.

Patty Conway:

Beautify Pullman is placing a free cupboard in the Pullman town square. It will be stocked with food and comfort items.

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the previous months regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to approve the budget meeting minutes from March 29th as presented. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasures report was read by Treasure Godlew.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Blackburn to receive the Treasurer's Report as given. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Treasurer Godlew - yes.

Commissioners Report: None.

Deputy Report: None.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Zack Chamberlain presented that for the month of March there were 43 total calls.

Training for the month was land fire training. Spring cleaning for the rigs was performed to get routine maintenance done for the year.

There are a few active leaks in the fire station roof. Zach presented the board with two quotes that they received to make repairs.

- Above the top roofing - \$5,700
- Lakefront roofing and exteriors - \$6,596.20

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve and move forward with repairs given the quote from Above the Top Roofing. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Treasurer Godlew - yes.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Rawson provided an update from Code Official Jeff Olney. There are 5 open reports, 4 of which are in progress and we are waiting on an update for the 5th.

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Rawson read the report sent by the Assessor Heather Jahr:

2025 BOR

The 2025 March Board of Review adjourned March 13th at 6:00pm. The Board of Review worked in a professional and cooperative manner to address appeals.

Notification of determination has been sent to all petitioners. Final reports have been sent to Allegan County Equalization and I am happy to report that the 2025 Lee Township Roll is in balance and equalizes with Allegan County. The 2025 Ad Valorem Assessed Value is \$209,042,200 and the Taxable Value is \$108,010,665.

Splits/Combinations/Lot Line Adjustments

- The following parcels have received approval for combination:
 - 12-213-013-00 & 12-213-014-00
 - 12-214-005-00 & 12-214-006-00
 - 12-028-004-00 & 12-028-006-00 & 12-028-006-10 & 12-028-009-00

- The following parcels have received approval to be split:
 - 12-020-008-50
 - Split creating 1 Child and 1 Parent parcel
 - 12-742-017-00
 - Split creating 1 Child and 1 Parent parcel

2026 Roll

At present the 2025 Assessment Roll is “set”. The only way a change in valuation or exemption status can be applied is through a Board of Review or State action. The 2026 Assessment Roll has been created and I am already working to carry out the assessment processes within it.

Forms

I would like to hold a basic training for the Township Board on the forms property owners may need to file with Lee Township. This would take 30 minutes or so and allow a general update to your knowledge about what is legal regarding principal, transfer of ownership, poverty exemption, qualified agriculture, etc. Perhaps I can attend the May Twp Board meeting and give an in person report, that way citizens would benefit from this information as well.

The board agreed that an information session with the assessor at the next meeting would be very beneficial for the board and constituents.

Ambulance Reports: Supervisor Rawson reported that the Ambulance meeting was postponed due to a gas leak in Fennville to April 24th.

Building Inspector’s Report: Building Inspector’s report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 6 build inspections; 1 build permit – with a value of \$65,500, 4 plumbing and mechanical, and 9 electrical inspections.

Cemetery Report: AJ will be working with the board to secure quotes for tree work around the cemetery, water repairs, and electrical updates including a locked fuse box or similar. Clerk Blackburn will be ordering new flags for the township including the cemetery.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 81 tickets bringing in \$2,598.00.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Hatfield stated that she needs any content for the newsletter by the week of May 26th to be able to send the newsletter to the printer for June.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Trustee Hatfield is hosting a planning meeting on April 21st. The meeting will be held at the PHP Building. Contact Ann for more details.

Road Committee Report: None.

Time Capsule Report:

Lee township has a time capsule that was buried at the turn of the century. Dan C is proposing to dig up the time capsule for the 25th year anniversary, collect memorable items from around the township and rebury the time capsule for another 25 years.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the unearthing of the time capsule, host a showing of the items there were in the time capsule at the May meeting, and to rebury the time capsule after the May meeting with new items collected from around the township by Dan. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Township Website – Treasurer Godlew presented that there are updated accessibility standards that are being required of local governments and it is time for a revamp of the township's website and domain.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to approve the work for updating the township website and domain at a cost not to exceed \$400 yearly and \$100 as a one time fee for FY 2025. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes

Salary Adjustments – Treasurer Godlew presented that as an outcome of our budget planning meeting, we have budgeted for a 10% increase in wages for salary and hourly workers – not including Fire or the Assessor. The Assessor will receive a standard 3% increase.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the increase in salaries for township employees. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes

Furnace – Supervisor Rawson presented two quotes to the board for replacement of the furnace and AC units at the Township Hall. The units have been in service since the 90's and have finally stopped working.

Quotes were presented from:

Hy-tec Heating and Cooling - \$7,850.00

Haven Heating and Cooling - \$10,708.00

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the work order for replacing the furnace and AC unit and to proceed with the quote from Hy-Tec Heating and Cooling. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Treasurer Godlew - yes

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$83,238.39.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$83,238.39. as presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Treasurer Godlew - yes

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk

UNOFFICIAL