

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11th, 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, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Lewis.

Members Absent: Trustee Hatfield

Board Comments:

Clerk Blackburn: Gave thanks to the election inspectors that made the August election a smooth success and reported a successful board of canvassers meeting.

Treasurer Godlew: Reported that our annual audit is now complete.

Trustee Lewis: Mentioned his thoughts are with the family of a recent tragic accident, he reiterated upcoming training from MTA, he also reported Frontier being in the area to install Fiber services.

Citizens Comment:

Debi Laraway: <see statement attached at the end of the minutes>

Chuck Pugh: Commended Clerk Blackburn on her handling of the election.

Dan C: Gave a final report on our time capsule, it will be buried at the end of the week. We have 15 entries to add to the time capsule.

Vicki Lindsey: Asked the board to determine who is responsible for the ball field next door as it is quite overgrown and needs attention.

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

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

Approval of Election Commission Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the previous months election commission meeting minutes 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, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis, - yes.

Deputy Report: Deputy Wasilewski was busy and unable to attend the meeting though suggested he could potentially attend the meeting virtually if desired by the board.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Chief Zack Clark: we had a total of 44 calls. Engine 16 had to go in for repairs and we are awaiting final totals estimating the cost at around \$6,000-7,000.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Rawson reported that multiple cases are being worked on.

Assessor's Report: Read by Supervisor Rawson

2025 JBOR

The 2025 July Board of Review met Tuesday, July 22nd at 6:00pm to correct qualified errors identified on the Assessment Roll. 21 total qualified errors were addressed.

Splits/Combinations/Lot Line Adjustments

Parcel 12-034-002-00 has received approval to be split creating a 26 acre remainder parent parcel and a 10 acre child parcel.

Parcel Review

Property owners are encouraged to review their parcel record card. Verification of record card details assures that the physical attributes present on the parcel are properly reflected.

Ambulance Reports: Treasurer Godlew reported that our monthly bill has risen approximately \$300 per month and asked Trustee Lewis to track down why this was raised without notice.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 4 electrical inspections, 6 electrical permits, 11 mechanical and plumbing permits, 23 building inspections, 6 building permits providing \$1,477,158 of value to the township.

Cemetery Report: AJ has received reports of personal grave site ornaments being stolen from graves. AJ is working on getting bids sorted for the well work needed at the cemetery.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 81 tickets bringing in \$2,163.00.

Lake Board: John Van Gessel reported that the most recent treatment of the lake has wrapped up last week. There is still ongoing treatment of the channel. Local consultants aren't interested in the work for muck and sediment removal, the lake board is following up with a company out of Detroit for the potential of the work.

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Lubbers reported that the county passed their most recent audit. The pension fund is funded to 92%. FEMA exercises have been completed for the Holtec Power Plant restart. August 16th will be a Tire Collection event hosted at Casco Township.

On behalf of the Lower Scott Lake Board, a draft parks plan has been requested from the township board. The parks plan would aid in the ability of the Lake Board to apply for grants for remediation.

Newsletter Report: None.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: None.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh thanked everyone for the roads support on the recently passed millage to fund road improvements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lee Township Fire Service Contract for Valley Township

Chief Clark reported that we venture to Valley Township on average once a month to support. The newly drafted contract in summary includes a \$450 per month standby fee and a \$800 per incident fee which covers the first hour of the response. Further, Lee Township will not be called or expected to respond for medical emergencies unless requested by Life EMS or AMR EMS.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve the updated contract between Valley Township and Lee Township to provide Fire Services as presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Lewis - yes.

Election Inspector Wage Increase

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to increase election inspector and election chairperson pay to \$20 per hour and make that retroactive for the August 5th election activities and 7 inspectors that worked on that day. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Lewis - yes.

Sexton Interview Logistics

Clerk Blackburn plans to meet with the current sexton and record keeper, Janice and Mike Curley in order to accurately assemble a job description, responsibilities and coordinate posting the job position. The board will tentatively plan to hold open interviews during our regularly scheduled board meeting on September 8th.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to plan to schedule Sexton interviews during the September board meeting and to allow Clerk Blackburn to coordinate posting the job and handle communications on behalf of the board regarding this matter. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Lewis - yes.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$216,528.34. Note - \$142,485.33 of this was for the purpose of internal transfers.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$216,528.34 as presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Lewis - yes.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk

Beautify Pullman Statement on Sidewalk Maintenance and Community Collaboration

Beautify Pullman sincerely thanks the Lee Township Board of Trustees for passing a motion to provide maintenance for proposed additional sidewalks. This important step demonstrates a shared commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of the many Lee Township residents who walk or bike as their primary means of transportation.

As we look ahead to winter months, we acknowledge the importance of keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice. However, we strongly encourage the Township to take a collaborative—not punitive—approach to winter sidewalk maintenance. A spirit of partnership and community support will yield far better outcomes than ordinances based on fines or new taxes.

Lee Township has had sidewalks for generations—historic photographs show them in place for at least 75 years. The newest sidewalks were rebuilt in the past three years. Yet, in all that time, there has never been a sidewalk-specific ordinance or millage. A review of five neighboring townships—Valley, Cheshire, Clyde, Casco, and Ganges—shows that while these communities may have sidewalks or reference sidewalk specifications in zoning ordinances, none impose penalties or fines for failure to clear sidewalks.

Throughout Michigan, communities have found creative ways to ensure safe winter access. Programs like *Snow Angels* and *Snow Match* pair volunteers with residents who need help shoveling. Some communities use Community Work Programs and Community Development Block Grants to fund snow removal for the elderly and disabled.

Lee Township is a place where neighbors help neighbors and where many visible improvements—like the Town Square, downtown landscaping, and the Pullman History Mural—have been accomplished without burdening residents with new taxes or fines. We believe snow and ice removal can follow that same model.

Rather than relying on penalties, let's continue building a culture of shared responsibility and mutual aid. With thoughtful planning and community-driven solutions, we can ensure safe sidewalks for all—while preserving the values that make Lee Township a place we're proud to call home.

