

Lee Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Pullman, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Rawson, Clerk Blackburn, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Hatfield, Trustee Lewis.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Amendments:** None.

**Board Comments:**

Trustee Lewis:

Sonia McNamara is exploring the possibility of starting a 4-H club in Lee Township. Anyone interested in this initiative is encouraged to reach out.

Trustee Lewis proposed that the township consider eliminating the 749 minimum ordinance, suggesting it may be illegal. He referenced a state statute that allows for 250 square feet for a two-person dwelling and 450 square feet for a four-person dwelling.

Treasurer Godlew inquired whether there was a legal opinion to support this claim. Trustee Lewis indicated he has the information on his phone and, upon further request, agreed to look into it further.

Trustee Lewis also suggested that the township investigate whether there is sufficient water capacity to support a laundromat. While no business had directly inquired about water capacity, he believed it would be beneficial for the township to determine whether such a business could be supported.

In response, Clerk Blackburn noted that without an active inquiry from a development company, it might not be an efficient use of township resources. She clarified that if a business were to inquire, the responsibility would fall on the developer to work with state agencies, such as EGLE, and permitting authorities, rather than the township, unless the business was seeking to connect to the township's water system.

Trustee Lewis intends to continue his inquiry and engage in further discussions about the township's water system.

**Citizens Comment:**

Chris LaPoint: Noted the flag status of half-mast needed to be observed

Carlos Lopez: Welcomed the new board as Mayor of Fennville

Glenn Terry: Spoke about the township's water system being re-branded as a type 1 water system by the state. He spoke about his knowledge with managing these types of systems and gave the board tips and things to think about in the coming months with regards to payment for testing and managing a fair and equitable water system.

**Guest Speakers:** None.

### **Approval of Regular Board Minutes:**

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

**Commissioners Report:** County Commissioner Brad Lubbers presented the commissioners report. Gale Dugan was elected as chairman and Scott Beltman as vice chair.

123Net update: Lee Township is scheduled to be completed by 9/30/2025 however this is just an estimate. Commissioner Lubbers expressed that if there were members of the community looking for fiber access sooner than the expected date, it may be possible to contact 123Net to have you connected to an existing fiber line that is close to your home that was laid by another provider (for example, MEC). Reach out to 123Net if interested.

Holtec Palisades has plans to re-start the nuclear power plant by fall of 2025. This could also be a boon to the local population regarding electricity generation.

**Allegan County Clerk:** Bob Genetski presented the 2023 annual report, gave an overview of voting turnout for Lee Township in contrast to Allegan County. Clerk Genetski also emphasized the county wide resource for being alerted of fraud in the register of deeds office – more information can be found here: <https://www.allegancounty.org/departments/register-of-deeds> Finally Clerk Genetski wanted to remind constituents of the move of the Register of deeds office, the new address is:

#### **Register of Deeds**

3283 122nd Ave.  
Allegan, MI 49010

**Deputy Report:** Supervisor Rawson read the report from Deputy Godsey. For December in Lee Township there were 133 total calls. 17 traffic stops, 3 citations, 43 complaints taken in Lee, 22 assists on complaints.

**Fire Department/ EMS Report:** Chief Ted Chamberlain reported 35 calls for December. They still finished 5 calls more than they had in total for 2023 despite having a reduced volume for the last quarter of 2024. The department participated in training for incident location mapping during December. 630 calls total for the year of 2024, approximately 400 are reported as medical calls.

**Code Official Report:** None.

**Assessor's Report:** Heather Jahr: Emailed report read by Rawson:

### **January Update to Lee Township Board from Assessor**

- **BOR**

December Board of Review met on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> to correct qualified errors on the Assessment Roll. Five parcels had corrections made. The Lee Township Board of Review members have been registered for the bi-annual Board of Review Training required by the State Tax Commission. This training will be held February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The 2025 Poverty Exemption Guidelines will need to be approved by the Lee Township Board for use by the Lee Township Board of Review in determining approval for all 2025 Poverty Exemptions.

- **Splits**

There have been no additional actions approved since the December Township Board Meeting. All Splits, Combinations, and Lot Line Adjustments approved in 2024 have been input to the 2025 Assessment Roll.

- **Omitted Property**

As I work to review and correct the Lee Township Assessment Rolls I am finding instances where real property (homes and outbuildings) that have been constructed and never valued on the Assessment Roll. I am also finding instances where real property was demolished or removed from a parcel and is still being valued on the Assessment Roll. Please note when these errors are found they will be corrected. All property owners are encouraged to review their parcel record cards in order to verify the attributes held on the parcel record card are reflective of the parcels physical attributes.

- **Mailing Address and Record Card**

Please help notify property owners that if there is a change to the mailing address for a parcel the property owner must notify Lee Township in order to update the mailing address in the Assessment and Tax Records.

**Ambulance Reports:** Trustee Lewis was not able to attend the meeting, there is no report.

**Building Inspector's Report:** Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 8 electrical inspections, 6 building inspections, 2 building permits; Improvement value to the township of \$22,418.00.

**Cemetery Report:** None.

**Transfer Station Report:** Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. A total of 37 tickets were collected for a total of \$1,812.00.

**Lake Board:** None.

**Newsletter Report:** None.

**Holiday Committee Report:** None.

**Pullman Pride Report:** Trustee Hatfield reported that 2 of the students have submitted transcripts for their scholarships to get paid. Reminder to the public that more information can be found at the Allegan County Community Foundation. Applications should be available at the school.

**Road Committee Report:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Review insurance quote from VFIS and Glatfelter public entities:

A revised quote from VFIS was presented, with estimated savings. The 2023 total was approximately \$71,000, and the new quote totals \$41,852. Between now and the next meeting, the township board will review the policy coverage. Rich will arrange for legal counsel to review the policy changes. The Fire Department has indicated they are satisfied with the proposed changes and coverage. The need for a review arose after the Fire Department's premiums increased significantly following a firetruck incident.

*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to table this business until the next meeting. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Water system operator:

The water system has been re-branded by the state as a Level 1 water system, and a new operator needs to be selected as the previous operator cannot meet the increased obligations. The previous operator recommended Glenn Terry for the position. Three potential candidates were considered: Glenn Terry, Brian Boss, and Andrew Bilsky. Glenn Terry provided a quote of \$400 per month, excluding testing lab costs. Brian Boss quoted \$750 per month, also excluding testing lab costs. Andrew Bilsky did not provide an official quote but expressed willingness to take on the role if no other options were available due to his distance from the township.

*A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to Hire Glenn Terry as Lee Township's water operator. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

2025 poverty tax exemption guidelines

*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve updated poverty exemption guidelines including changes for 2025. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

Winter property tax late fee waiver

A resolution was presented to the board by Treasurer Godlew. The Resolution proposed that the late fee imposed on winter property tax payments made between February 15-February 28, 2025 be waived. This waiver of late fees only applies to winter property taxes collected during the period of February 15 – 28, 2025.

*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to approve and adopt the proposed resolution. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

**ACH electronic funds transfer resolution**

A resolution was presented to the board by Clerk Blackburn. The Resolution proposed that the township be authorized to enter into ACH and electronic payment agreements to applicable vendors. This resolution is enabled through Michigan law, Public Act 738 of 2002. Along with the resolution, an ACH policy was proposed to regulate the ACH agreements the township may enter into.

*A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to approve and adopt the proposed resolution and ACH Policy. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

**Salary resolution for clerk**

A resolution was presented to the board by Clerk Blackburn. The Resolution proposed increasing the salary of clerk to \$28,000. Treasurer Godlew proposed tabling the resolution until our budget meeting where we could discuss the changes to the budget alongside any other salary resolutions that may be proposed.

*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to table this business until the budget meeting in March. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

**Payment of the Bills:** Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$367,794.37.

*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$367,794.37. as presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.*

**Correspondence: None**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk