

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 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, Trustee Lewis.

Members Absent: None.

Board Comments:

Clerk Blackburn:

Clerk Blackburn gave formal notice of breach of duty to Trustee Lewis. During the previous meeting on a vote to move forward a proposal for fire millage, Trustee Lewis abstained from voting on the measure despite not having any viable reason or conflict of interest in the matter. According to the MTA:

A board member who abstains from voting on an issue, unless there is a conflict of interest, is committing a breach of duty. Township board members should consider voting at a township board meeting a duty of office. When serving on a township board, there are restrictions on the times when a person can choose to abstain. A main reason to abstain is a conflict of interest. A legal conflict of interest is a financial or contractual interest in a matter before the board.

Supervisor Rawson:

Regarding the water system, we had a recent cut of power from our water system due to a cut electrical line. Luckily our water operator was on site at the time and took immediate action. Glenn Terry our water operator notified consumers energy, helped distribute and organize a water boil notice and got us back up and running with additional testing post the water getting turned back on.

Citizens Comment:

Sally Lacy:

Provided her thanks to Supervisor Rawson and our water operator for their prompt and thorough action.

Lisa Galdikas:

Provided a tribute and congratulations to Chief Chamberlain on his upcoming retirement. Lisa reminisced on working with the Chief over the past twelve plus years and applauded his service to the township and the great department he is leaving to the future generation.

Dan C: hung a time capsule tribute in the township hall

Scott Owen:

Gave thanks to Chief Chamberlain for his years of service.

Mitch Gibson:

Inquired about the rules on residing on campers. Treasurer Godlew clarified that according to state law it is illegal to permanently reside in a travel camper. We do have a

blight process and encourage residents to use the form to report issues to the blight officer.

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Godlew 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 Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the previous months special 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, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis, - yes.

Commissioners Report: None

Deputy Report: Deputy Wasilewski reported calls for the past few months:

April: 180 calls – roughly 35 arrests of which about 25 were felonies

For comparison, Casco had 61 calls and Fennville city had 50 calls

May: 192 calls – roughly 40 arrests of which about 20 were felonies

For comparison, Casco had 95 calls and Fennville city had 48 calls

June: 219 calls – roughly 35 arrests of which about 25 were felonies

For comparison, Casco had 107 calls and Fennville city had 54 calls

Deputy Wasilewski noted the uptick in assaultive crimes and advised to keep your car locked, be aware of your surroundings. There has been an increase in meth use in and around the township leading to an increase in crime recently.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Ted Chamberlain: we had 64 calls for June.

For training last month they toured the Warner camp. It was a good experience to go through the space and strategize how they'd perform rescues in certain scenarios.

There will be a pancake breakfast this coming Saturday, July 19th from 8a-11a.

Chief Chamberlain first joined the fire department when he turned 18. He worked his way up to assistant fire chief and served in that role for 20 years. He has spent the last 13 years as chief and he is looking forward to taking a step back and pass the torch over to Zach Clark. Chief Chamberlain will still remain with the department. The board provided many thanks to the chief for his dedicated service to Lee.

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

Assessor's Report:

Treasurer Godlew provided an update on the assessment roll audit that was being conducted by the State of Michigan. In 2023 our assessment roll was materially non-compliant and deficient. That means that the state could seize the roll from the township to fix it which could have cost the township upwards of \$100,000. The township took this

very seriously and hired Heather Jahr as assessor to help correct our deficiencies. Treasurer Godlew is happy to report that we have passed the recent audit and corrected many years of poor assessing practices in the township in such a short time while maintain professionalism and grace with our residents. Huge shout out to Heather and the hard work she has put in on this.

Supervisor Rawson read the report from the Assessor:

2025 JBOR

The 2025 July Board of Review will meet Tuesday, July 22nd at 6:00pm to correct qualified errors identified on the Assessment Roll. At present there are 16 Clerical Errors, 1 Poverty Exemption application, and 2 Property Exemption applications to be addressed.

Splits/Combinations/Lot Line Adjustments

- The following parcels have received approval to be split and have a child parcel combined with an existing parcel:
 - 12-011-009-00 (to be split) & 11-008-030-00 (to be combined with northern split child parcel)
- The following parcels have received approval to be split:
 - 12-017-003-30

Audit

I am pleased to announce that the PA 660 Audit of 2023 has been passed. The next PA 660 Audit will be carried out on the 2028 Assessment Roll. I am continually working to assure all substantial audit criteria are annually met.

Forms

I will be meeting with Trustee Ann Hatfield this coming Wednesday at approximately 5:00pm at the Lee Twp office to review the filing requirements for a number of assessing related forms. If you would like a refresher on filing requirements feel free to stop by.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Lewis reported that the ambulance services just had their meeting. The average Lee Township response time for P1's was 15 minutes and 24 seconds. Lee township will be expected to pay 12.5% of the upcoming roof repairs for the ambulance holding station amounting to \$3,720. This will come due in a couple of months.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 10 electrical inspections, 10 electrical permits, 6 mechanical and plumbing permits, 10 building inspections, 4 building permits providing \$200,000 of value to the township.

Cemetery Report: AJ reminded the board that we need to attend to the power at the cemetery. He also reported there may be a well issue with the pressure tank. The well ran for 15+ minutes at a time before it shut off. This could mean several things such as a pressure tank or a new well motor may be needed. AJ Suggested we get approximately 10 yards of topsoil to address some of the sunken areas to ease mowing in the area. There are also large swaths of the area where it would be good to get grass seed in addition to spreading top soil and seed on top of grave sites once they're covered. AJ wanted to bring to the boards attention that a recent grave was mounded higher than grade by about 3 feet and there is an open question on how we maintain the grave site going forward in terms of mowing, trimming etc.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 54 tickets bringing in \$2,240.00.

Lake Board: Clerk Blackburn provided an update from John Van Gessel:

The lake was treated again on June 16th and, unfortunately, we have the dreaded milfoil back and requiring treatment. We continue to evaluate lily pad treatment and/or sediment removal in the channel. The appearance and added cost of treatment of the milfoil and the fact that sediment removal will require sediment sampling, permitting and perhaps bidding means that any sediment work, if at all, would likely be next year, at the earliest.

The Lake Board is considering pursuing a Rural Readiness Grant through the Office of Rural Prosperity. We need to better understand the lake and its problems and use that information for longer-term planning. Patty Conway has spent some material time on the grant matter. Rural Readiness Grants provide up to \$50,000 and require a 20% match. If we were to be successful, the match could come from the Lake Board, the Lake Association and/or Lee Township (!!!???). The process of applying for a grant starts with a letter of intent which is due on June 30th. The Lake Association may be a joint applicant.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Hatfield wanted to give big thanks to Lisa Galdikas for helping her get the newsletter across the finish line.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Pullman Pride is taking place this Saturday. Come on out for raffles, food, car show and more! The full event listing can be found in our newsletter:
<http://www.leetwp.org/Newsletters/2025%20Spring%20Summer%20FINALs.pdf>

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh let the board know that the road committee is looking into the culvert near the transfer station on 55th Street at Barber Creek. The fire department won't drive their trucks across this culvert illustrating how in distress it is. Chuck also provided a reminder that August 5th is election day and Lee Township is offering to our voters a 2 mill continuation for road improvements in Lee.

Clerk Blackburn further gave an election update, we just appointed election inspectors and will be performing a joint public accuracy testing session on July 22nd at 10am at Ganges Township Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Proposed Sidewalk Maintenance

Supervisor Rawson obtained examples of ordinances from neighboring municipalities. If the sidewalks were to go in, Lee would need to adopt an ordinance of our own of which the board would need to adopt at a future meeting. The board would also be required to adopt a resolution to fund said projects under section 288a.

Treasurer Godlew emphasized that taking responsibility of this type means we agree for this in perpetuity including financial, management and enforcement responsibility.

Many board members discussed the potential need to have a central authority and or service provider for plowing and other maintenance.

Treasurer Godlew further suggested that the main path for funding such a maintenance task would be to form a special assessment district. For property owners that would be

interested in having sidewalks in their area, these property owners could follow the special assessment procedures to put this on the tax rolls.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Hatfield to provide township maintenance of proposed sidewalks in guidelines of MCL 41.288. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - no, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – no, Trustee Lewis – yes.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$204,096.02.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$204,096.02 as presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – 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 8:56pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk