

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 9th, 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.

Amendments: *A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to add an agenda item regarding hydrants at the cemetery. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

Board Comments:

Trustee Hatfield:

Trustee Hatfield corrected that only 2 individuals received the scholarship reported at the last meeting. The third applicant was not a resident of Lee Township and so was ineligible.

Supervisor Rawson:

Supervisor Rawson reported that the hydrants are now working at the cemetery.

Clerk Blackburn:

Clerk Blackburn reported that there is an upcoming DNR online auction of state-owned land. Allegan county's sale will happen on August 27th from 10a-7p. Details can be found on <https://tax-sale.info> or by calling 1-800-259-7470.

Citizens Comment:

Trish Kuhn:

Emergency Food Cupboard Update

An emergency food and personal care cupboard was open to the public in Pullman Town Square on May 3rd

It is stocked with shelf-stable food such as breakfast cereal and milk, soup, individual meals, fruit cups and fresh fruit, cereal bars, raisins, orange juice and water. It also has personal care items such as soap, shampoo, diapers and toilet paper.

The cupboard is accessed by residents every day, and it is restocked every day.

We want to thank donors who responded to a funding appeal, and PHP for a generous donation of food for the cupboard.

Kris Lapoint:

Memorial Day

Successful day with beautiful weather

Flag raisingle by Commander Jamie Austin and Veterans from the Pullman VFW, a speech by VFW Senior Vice Commander Bruce Webb and blessing by Pastor Mike Jones

A lunch was served to 260 residents followed the ceremony which was wrapped up in time for the parade.

We want to thank the Pullman VFW for bringing the community together for another wonderful Memorial Parade.

Public Safety Concerns

We have experienced some vandalism and disruptive visitors at Pullman Town Square this spring.

We will be making a significant upgrade of our camera/security system at the park this week.

We have discussed our concerns with the Sheriff's Deputy and raised concerns with the Sergeant. We have requested that cars parked at the Town Square for extended time periods be asked to move.

One significant concern is that when a disruptive person is in the park when our contract deputy is not on duty, it takes a long time for a sheriff to arrive.

The Sheriff has suggested that the Township request overtime patrols especially.

Debbie Laraway:**Farmers Market and Concert Series**

The opening day of the Farmers Market is Saturday, June 21st. The market will run on Saturdays from 9am to noon through August 30th. We have many food and craft vendors lined up for the market opening, and will also have live music, a book giveaway, lawn games and a balloon artist.

We invite all members of the township board to attend this community event on June 21st. The summer concert series opens on Saturday, June 28th with The Black River Band starting at 7pm and EL Buen Taco food truck serving food starting at 6pm.

Patty Conway:**Sidewalks**

As we mentioned at a previous township meeting, Beautify Pullman is in the process of identifying grants to fund building sidewalks in downtown Pullman. The grants will cover the entire construction cost.

An issue of the cost of sidewalk maintenance has arisen with one of the grants we are pursuing.

As background, some new sidewalks were built when the intersection of 109th and 56th was redone 2 years ago. Those sidewalks are on the road right-of-way of county roads. There is no agreement between Lee township and the road commission on the Longterm maintenance of those sidewalks.

On grant we are pursuing with Pullman Elementary School is a Safe Routes to School Grant which can provide funding for sidewalks between the school and Mystic View apartments. STRS requires that the road commission accept responsibility for long term maintenance of sidewalks.

The Road Commission wants Lee Township to take on the Longterm maintenance responsibility.

Sidewalks are very durable and do not require any maintenance for 20 to 40 years after being built. Fennville budgets \$5000 per year to maintain 6 miles of sidewalk. Our plan is about 3 miles in total, and about 1.2 miles for the SRTS section. So the maintenance cost would be \$1000 per year, to be incurred a few decades from now.

We recommend that Lee Township agree to accept the sidewalk maintenance responsibility from the road commission.

Scott Owen:

Offered a few pictures for the township time capsule and gave a tribute to Chuck Pugh and the 2025 BOR members.

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn 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 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:

Mr. Lubbers made an announcement of upcoming recycling events. June 14th there is a hazardous recycling event at Fennville city hall.

Scrap Tire Collection

Date:08/16/2025 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Casco Township Transfer Station

[123 69th ST](#)

[South Haven, Michigan 49090](#)

Allegan County Senior Expo

Date: 06/26/2025 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Event info:

<https://www.allegancounty.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/4106/18>

Storm damage from the May 15th storms – county wide total of damage was about \$2.2 million. This total does not include any agricultural losses. There were no serious injuries or deaths that we know of. Starting July 1st the process begins for potential reimbursement on costs due to the state of emergency that was declared. More info will be shared as time progresses.

There is an ongoing discussion of a parks millage of .25 (for every \$100,000 of assessed value, it would be \$25). The parks budget is currently approximately \$100,000 short every year for the operating budget and not including some capital improvements that need to be made.

Deputy Report: Deputy Wasilewski was on a call at the time of the meeting.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Ted Chamberlain: we had 60 calls for May. This was about 25 more than last month. The storms that rolled through contributed to about half of the extra calls received. There was 1 mobile property fire – this refers to camper/travel trailer fires. Ted provided a note that the rate of these have been increasing over the years.

Training last month was air pack training, search and rescue. The training involves search and rescue for inhabitants or other fire fighters and obstacle training.
The fire department now has a mailbox and will plan to retire the P.O. box 279.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Rawson provided an update from Code Official Jeff Olney. Many code issues are under investigation.

Assessor's Report: The Assessor's report was read by Supervisor Rawson:
June Assessor Report

AUDIT

The State Tax Commission has requested copies of the Lee Township Residential land value analysis. The land value analysis and documentation was sent to the State Tax Commission prior to the Memorial Day Holiday. Review of analysis is underway.

RECORDING DOCUMENTATION

I would like to remind all residents of Lee Township that recording legal documentation transferring ownership protects the rights of ownership and ensures communication from Lee Township, Allegan County, and the State of Michigan is received timely. Without a signed Deed or Land Contract ownership will not be changed on the Assessment or Tax Rolls

SPLITS

Parcel 03-12-020-008-50 has been approved to be split creating one Child and one Parent parcel.

Parcel 03-12-011-009-00 and parcels 03-12-011-008-10 and 03-12-011-008-30 are undergoing a split, lot line adjustment, and combination. However, ownership of the parcels is held in the owner's name (011-008-10 and 011-008-30) as well as the owner's trust (11-009-00). All parcels will need to be held in common ownership to complete the requested changes to lot lines.

RECORD CARDS

Property owners are reminded that all information held on the property record card, mailing address, structure dimensions, etc. are the responsibility of the owner to review and assure are correct. Assessor review is ongoing; however, it is always in the best interest of the property owner to assure attributes are correct.

Ambulance Reports: Ted explained how the coverage of Life EMS works and further explained that the Life EMS team does occasionally choose to sit at Lee Township's Fire Station. They move around the township to dynamically provide coverage for their areas of Allegan County.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 7 electrical inspections, 4 electrical permit applications, 6 building inspections, 9 building permits providing \$1,285,000 of value to the township.

Cemetery Report: AJ noted that he has received many compliments on the cemetery recently. While there were bumps with the storm cleanup, AJ thanked the efforts of Supervisor Rawson on

his personal efforts in assisting the cleanup efforts. The board commended AJ for his dedication to the cemetery.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 89 tickets bringing in \$2,551.00.

Lake Board: There was an invoice that came in for the lake board. The lake board approved algae and weed treatment in the cost of \$8,308.50, this will appear on this months township bills and will be paid from the lake budget item.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Hatfield is wrapping up final edits of the newsletter to be sent out in June.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: There will be one more meeting the week of July 1st to finalize plans.

Road Committee Report: Chuck Pugh using a Lee Township map illustrated water movement and how this impacts roads within the Lee Township borders.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire District Meeting

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to host the Fire District meeting on July 14th 2025 at 7p.m.. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

MTA Training Level and Renewal

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to purchase the Plus package of training offered by the MTA, and renew the MTA yearly membership for a total renewal cost of \$3,348.54. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

Maintenance of Sidewalks

As noted in the above public comments from the Beautify Pullman members, Beautify Pullman is looking to enter into talks with the Allegan County Road Commission about the grant application and construction of sidewalks in the Pullman area. Beautify Pullman is seeking the Township of Lee to officially claim responsibility for all future maintenance of the side walks. One of the grants in particular, in order to construct the sidewalks, required an entity to claim future maintenance. It is policy at this time of the Allegan County Road Commission to not claim responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks regardless of right of way positioning.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to table the discussion of sidewalks until the township lawyer can be consulted regarding risk and financial liability to the township for officially claiming responsibility for the sidewalks being

proposed. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

Overtime Hours for Deputy

1 hour of overtime pay is estimated at \$70. Currently we have \$100,000 budgeted for the fiscal year for police services and this is very close to the monthly costs of the office, we have not previously budget for any overtime for this year.

Members of Beautify Pullman described incidents that have happened over the course of the month. In one instance, their calls to the Allegan Dispatch number resulted in no response of an officer. According to the members of Beautify Pullman, deputy Ryan suggested that a potential would be for the township to pay for overtime hours to provide extra oversight of the downtown area. As a note – the deputy is contracted on a 75/25 contract meaning 75% of their time is spent inside of the township, if there is a call outside of the township that are allowed to respond within that 25% window – this includes any overtime.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to table the discussion of overtime hours until we have more budgetary information and information from Deputy Wasilewski. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$80,714.40.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$80,714.40 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 9:25pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk