

Lee Township
Special Budget Meeting Minutes
March 29th, 2025

The Special Budget Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 10:00 am at the Lee Township Hall, located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

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

Members Absent:

Trustee Lewis arrived at 10:05am

Amendments: None.

Citizens Comment:

Scott Owen

Mr. Owen stated that he was supportive of the new board and looked forward to working together.

State of the Township: The supervisor presented a state of the township address.

Relevant Reports

Treasurer Godlew: Treasurers report of general financial health was presented by Treasurer Godlew.

Budget Discussion

Fire

Chief Ted Chamberlain offered his discussion on the fire and EMS budgets. He recognized the amounts that were actively in the Fire's savings and explained and offered to the board a 5-10 year capital outlay plan of expenditures. These included but weren't limited to:

- Extrication tools (estimated at \$65,000),
- Self-contained Breathing apparatus (estimated at \$120,000),
- Station 2 upgrades (estimated at \$65,000 with labor provided in part by fire staff),
- Brush truck upgrades (estimated up to \$175,000),
- Station 1 upgrades (estimated at \$20,000),
- Lee 25 Rescue/medical truck replacement and refurbishment (estimated in total at \$402,500)

The Chief explained that while the near term 1 year fiscal budget does not account for many of these items, these are actively being planned on the long term 5+ year action plan. He wanted to stress to residents of Lee Township the importance of proper fiscal planning and the reasoning of the budgeted millage and savings. The chief also presented the average cost per run for the Lee Township Fire dept. as compared to many neighboring Fire departments. The per run cost for FY 24-25 based on the budget was \$741.54 with there being a total of 633 runs. For comparison the Town of Fennville had a rate of \$792.62 per run with a total of only 434 runs.

The final proposed revenues were: \$ **591,478.64**

The final proposed expenses were: \$ **492,265.38**

EMS/First Responders (FR)

Chief Ted Chamberlain explained that we will be pulling nearly all of the previously accounted for budget line items from the FR budget into the Fire budget. The outlier in this case is the Life EMS contracting that is paid on a monthly basis – accounting for approximately \$55,000 per year. This line item will remain in the FR budget for at least the next 2+ years as the monies in those accounts can only be used for EMS activities as that was what the original millage was dedicated towards. The millage and revenue stream for this portion of the township budget will expire this year.

The final proposed revenues were: \$ **161,852.32**

The final proposed expenses were: \$ **55,000.00**

General Fund

Treasurer Godlew lead the board through the line items proposed by members of the board.

The final proposed revenues were: \$ **671,644.08**

The final proposed expenses were: \$ **610,030.00**

Lower Scott Lake

Treasurer Godlew lead the board through the line items proposed by members of the board.

The final proposed revenues were: \$ **76,573.15**

The final proposed expenses were: \$ **76,000.00**

Roads

Treasurer Godlew lead the board through the line items proposed by members of the board.

The final proposed revenues were: \$ **266,480.96**

The final proposed expenses were: \$ **263,000.00**

General Appropriations Act

A resolution was proposed to establish a general appropriations act for Lee Township for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. A summary is offered here. The millages proposed were:
General property tax on all real and personal property within the township upon the current tax roll:

1.0225 mills or less for the general fund,

2.000 mills or less for Roads,

6.500 mills or less for Fire Department

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to adopt the General Appropriations Act as given. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.

Budget Amendments

A budget amendment resolution was proposed to make final adjustments to the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget as amended during discussion. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.

Clerk Salary Resolution

A salary resolution was offered by Clerk Blackburn to raise the salary of the office of Clerk to \$28,000 from the current rate of \$21,000.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Rawson to adopt the salary resolution for the office of Clerk in the amount of \$28,000 per year. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Clerk Blackburn - abstained, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis - yes.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk