

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 12th, 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:

Ann presented the Pullman Pride scholarships whom each will receive \$1,000 each. There were three recipients. Ann expressed her excitement for the recipients and their bright futures.

Trustee Lewis:

Trustee Lewis expressed his ask to the board to open up the proposal for developers or land owners to be able to put tiny homes on their property. According to trustee Lewis, Towns like Portage, Fennville, and Holland have already done this. Trustee Lewis would like to start a dialog with natural gas that runs through Lee Township.

Clerk Blackburn:

There will be an election upcoming on August 5th. There will be a ballot item regarding Lee Township's road millage as well as the Fennville School Districts bond issue.

Citizens Comment:

Shirley Kay:

We had a successful cleanup with students from Bloomingdale high school, she also expressed her thanks to Supervisor Rawson for assisting in picking up the bags of trash.

Jeff Kruithof:

People Helping People is building a community playground. It is a nature playscape meant to fit with the natural environment of Pullman. It is being built for the afterschool and summer programs. When it is not in session, the space will be open to the public. The space will be offered for rent – specifically the pavilion space, the playscape will not be offered for rent. This space is being paid for by the States Arsenic cleanup grant through EGLE. Please contact PHP for more details. Their website: <https://phppullman.org/>

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

Treasure Godlew proposed an updated wording for the salary adjustments to clarify that the salary adjustments were not made for the board. Clerk Blackburn proposed an update to Zach Clark's name under the Fire Department report.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Hatfield to approve the previous months regular meeting minutes as presented with changes. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes: None.

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 presented preliminary results of the county survey that came in with 280 respondents. Highlights includes: Improvements areas included: economic outlook, transit services, county customer services, and internet access. Declines included: feeling of public safety in their community, recreational services including parks, emergency preparedness. Mr. Lubbers wanted to further expand on the recreational services. The parks are primarily funded through the slots from the casino. As of now, we are operating at about a \$100,000 shortfall per year. Currently this is being funded through general funds. There are options to increase this funding in the future through millages and other proposals that are being discussed by the county.

Regarding community action board, the HeadStart budget in D.C. is potentially under fire. Mr. Lubbers expressed his desire for members of the public to contact your legislative members to show support for these programs like preschool, head start, and daycare funding.

Bob Genetski has been awarded the sunlight award from the state recognizing him for the election speed and accuracy of results. He is one of about 10 clerks from the state to receive the award.

Deputy Report:

Deputy Wasilewski will be presenting total for April at the next meeting once everything is totaled. The Deputy will plan to be in attendance for the Memorial day parade for the 26th at 2pm.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Zack Clark: we had a total of 44 calls. 23 were medical calls.

Annual physical agility test training was held for the month of April. They also did communication training for proper radio usage.

Ray Russel's memorial was held recently. Ray started with the fire department in 1977 and served for 48 years including serving as our fire department president.

The previously approved repairs for the fire station will take place on May 13th.

Code Official Report:

Supervisor Rawson provided an update from Code Official Jeff Olney. There are 6 open blight complaints and 3 more pending a follow-up.

Assessor's Report: None.

Ambulance Reports:

There was a roofing proposal for \$30,000. Fennville is planning to cover \$15,000 of the replacement. The remaining funds needed will be split between the 6 represented townships.

Trustee Lewis said that the Team gave previous Trustee Lisa Galdikas high praise in pushing for the ambulance location closer to Lee Township.

Building Inspector's Report:

Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 7 electrical permits and 7 electrical inspections. There were 4 building permits – with a value of \$357,285 being added to the township.

Cemetery Report:

AJ has mowing of our township properties started for the year. The community cleanup was very successful however the trash bags remained and were not yet picked up from the street.

AJ noted that Mike and Janice Curley are planning to retire in a few months and he is looking for the support of the community to take over that position.

Transfer Station Report:

Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 76 tickets bringing in \$2,024.00.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report:

Trustee Hatfield stated that she needs any content for the newsletter by the week of May 26th to be able to send the newsletter to the printer for June.

Holiday Committee Report:

Lisa Galdikas gave a report:

The Township Summer Welcome banners have been put up along 109th st and 56th st.

The VFW sponsored Memorial Day parade is Monday May 26th at 2pm. Anyone interested in participating should contact the VFW.

Reminder to the VFW to put the flags up along 109th st.

Pullman Pride Report:

Trustee Hatfield is continuing to host planning meetings. There is a raffle being planned for stations around the event this year and the drawing will be at the VFW. We still need vendors so if you know of anyone interested, please contact Ann for more details.

Pullman Pride will be hosted on July 19th.

Road Committee Report:

Chuck Pugh showed his encouragement for voters to get out and vote for the road millage on August 5th. Chuck gave a history of the road millage, it was started in 2009 and went for 2 mills for 3 years and has continued through now. We have 24 miles of asphalt in the township. He also emphasized the upgrades that took place on 56th street as an example

of what our road millage funds can be used for. He finally emphasized that this effort of our township using our own road millage funding for projects, showed the county of Allegan that we were willing to work with them on roads and over the last 15 years this has made a positive impact on the county's involvement in our road projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Millage Renewal – Clerk Blackburn introduced a resolution to the board with wording to add our road millage proposal to the August 5th ballot.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the ballot resolution for road millage for Lee Township to appear on the August 5th ballot for Lee Township, Allegan County. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

Proposed sale of property to 123.net – Deputy Supervisor, Tim Kotas presented to the board. In November 11th, 2024, the board at that time approved starting discussions and negotiations with 123.net on the sale of a property just across the street from the township hall. The benefits of a sale include having another business in the area of Pullman, generating revenue from property taxes on a piece of property that is currently not being levied against, added safety and integrity of the fiber lines local to the area as 123.net will be able to install improvements and infrastructure including generators to keep fiber up in case of power outages. Tim presented an overview of the negotiations, including comparable land. The land totals about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. The estimated property address is between 860-846 56th st. The proposed sale amount is \$20,000. This exceeds comparables for vacant land in the area. The township lawyer has reviewed all documents as it pertains to the sale and has no concerns at this time.

A reminder that 123.net may in the future be interested in leasing additional property such as the ball field next to the township hall to help facilitate staging and install of fiber in the local area. This would be addressed through a separate discussion to happen at a later date.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the sale of the $\frac{3}{4}$ plot of vacant land at approximately 860-846 56th st for the amount of \$20,000. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

Seek quotes for electrical box replacement at cemetery shed –

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve the process to request quotes and work orders for the electrical box improvements and potential replacement at the cemetery. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Seek quotes for tree removal at cemetery –

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve the process to request quotes and work orders for the tree removal at the cemetery. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Discuss need for an approved limit for emergency maintenance at Cemetery –

Three may already be a limit that exists to allow the supervisor to make emergency approved funds in the amount of \$200. Rawson will follow up.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to table this item. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Hydrant Leaks at cemetery –

A.J. reminded the board that the well was surging the last time that the well was looked at recently. There was discussion on potentially locking the hydrants and or locking the access to the well pump so that the well pump can be shut off during winter time to prevent future leaks at the hydrants.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Blackburn to approve the process to request quotes and work orders for the hydrant leaks and potential replacement and electrician inspection of the well. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$151,155.85. Treasurer Godlew provided clarification that there were 2 internal transactions that moved money between accounts internal to Lee Township, leading to an actual bill total for the township of \$34,325.72.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$151,155.85 inclusive of the internal transfers 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 8:35pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk