

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 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, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Lewis, Trustee Hatfield.

Members Absent: None

Agenda Amendments: None

Board Comments:

Trustee Lewis: Has been talking to individuals about a laundromat. He inquired after permitting and grant processes, stating that he was sent links and information about potential grants regarding private entities that may be interested in setting up a laundromat.

Clerk Blackburn: Reported that our previous Sexton and record keeper, Mike and Janice Curley have officially retired. New Life Property Care, specifically Megan Phillips has taken over Sexton duties for the township. Megan and Kathy have already been working well together coordinating the first set of plot sales and burials. Kathy thanked the Curley's for their dedicated service for over 30 years and wishes them well in retirement.

Supervisor Rawson: Reported that there was a break in at the township office. It was reported to the Sheriff. The Sheriff's department is actively investigating and we can't comment any further on that. If you have any information regarding the break-in, please contact the Allegan County Sheriff's office at: 269-673-0500

To report information about a crime anonymously, contact:

Silent Observer at 1-800-554-3633 or by email SilentObserver@allegancounty.org

The water system has been marked and we are in the process of getting documents and fees in order for the Miss Dig membership. Finally, information is actively being collected for the states required Transfer Station report.

Citizens Comment:

Lisa Galdikas: Thanked the Curley's for their service. Asked the board to set Halloween hours.

Vikki Lindsey: Asked about the ball field landscaping. Supervisor Rawson stated he will address this.

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 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.

Treasurer's Report: Treasures report was read by Treasure Godlew.

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

County Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Brad Lubbers:

- Consumers Electricity has officially sold all hydroelectric dams to Confluence Hydro and are in final negotiations. The intent is that the new company will maintain the dams to produce electricity and sell it back to Consumers Electric.
- We are conducting a project to create updated paper maps of the county.
- Satellite imaging of the county is ongoing. There is a proposal being presented to the board for Lee to pay for half of the cost of the imaging of our area.
- Electronic Recycling has now started 5 days a week at 640 River Ave in Allegan. Monday – Friday 8am – 3pm. Simply bring your ID or proof of residency in the county and this service is being offered free to residents.
- There was a TB case identified in Fennville. The person is OK. Contact tracing and appropriate documentation has been coordinated.
- Emergency management is in the process of switching to an active alert system. The intent is that as old Tornado Sirens become naturally decommissioned, the new active alert system will be the prevailing method of alerting residents to inclement weather.
- 123 Net is in the final phases of fiber installations. Unfortunately some companies have indicated they may back out of previous promises to fill gaps in the fiber available to residents. These companies indicated that it would be more advantageous for them to take the 2 million dollar fine rather than lose money on installing fiber to residents that were previously promised services. The county is working through coverage one address at a time.

Drain Commissioner Chris Machiela:

- Dropped of a new map of the township drains.
- Minor cleanup activities between 57th and 58th are ongoing this fall.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Chief Zack Clark: we had a total of 46 calls. Training for the month was annual hose testing.

Fire Prevention training for kids will be this coming Thursday 10/15/25.

Code Official Report: Supervisor Rawson reported that he has passed over another blight complaint.

Assessor's Report: Assessors report was read by Supervisor Rawson:

OCTOBER 2025 – ASSESSOR UPDATE TO TWP BOARD

Splits/Combinations/Lot Line Adjustments

Parcel 03-12-011-011-10 applied for 4 splits. The split application was received 08/27/2025. On 9/25/2025 a denial was issued. Parcel 03-12-011-011-10 has 2 splits to utilize. A new application is needed to apply for the 2 splits available.

Parcel 03-12-028-018-05 applied for 4 splits. The split application was received 09/24/2025. On 10/11/2025 an approval was issued.

700-007-00 – Purchased by Beautify Pullman fall 2025. Application for exemption received 09/14/2025. Review conducted, parcel qualifies for exemption under MCL 211.7o. Parcel exempt on 2026 Roll. \$22,027 in Headlee Losses. Using 2025 Millages the impact to Lee Twp will be as follows:

- Reduction in Operating Millage Tax collected: **Approx. \$22**
- Reduction in Road Millage Tax collected: **Approx. \$44**
- Reduction in Fire District Tax collected: **Approx. \$122**

EXEMPT PARCEL REVIEW:

At present most parcels exempt on the Lee Twp Assessment Roll do not have up to date applications and verification documentation on file with the Township. I will be sending out the first of 2 mailings requesting that a complete application for exemption be filed with the Township prior to February 13th 2025. This will allow for review and notification of determination prior to the March Board of Review. Any property owner that fails to file timely or is denied an exemption will have 50% of the market value of the property applied as New/Additions on the 2026 Assessment Roll. Any property owner that fails to file timely or is denied an exemption will have appeal rights to the March Board of Review.

CONNECT EXPLORER

Allegan County has sent out the details for the 2026 and 2029 flight participation information to local township Supervisors. I wanted to assure the Township Board knows that this resource is a vital tool in carrying out assessing functions. All township officials and staff can utilize these aerial images to carry out the functions of their position.

Deputy Report: Deputy Wasilewski reported 175 calls taken in September, still averaging 35-45 arrests, about half being felonies. Breaking and Entering is on the rise, Deputy Ryan advised everyone to keep their doors locked, report anything that looks suspicious. If something looks suspicious just call 911 to report.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Lewis provided statistics for the past quarter regarding Life EMS response times. A full copy of the report is available by contacting Trustee Lewis. The Fennville Emergency Services Committee has requested funding from the participating municipalities for new flooring in the building used for storage and central dispatch. The Township's portion of the cost would be \$1,833, payable at the beginning of the new budget year in April 2026. Lisa Galdikas asked why the participating municipalities are being asked to contribute to maintenance costs for a building owned by the City of Fennville. Trustee Lewis stated that he did not have the specific details but confirmed that he voted in support of the funding request. Lisa Galdikas suggested that the board review the five-year contract to determine the Township's contractual obligations.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 19 electrical inspections, 11 mechanical and plumbing permits, 12 building inspections, 4 building permits providing \$66,000 of value to the township.

Cemetery Report: Supervisor Rawson will be coordinating with the Sheriffs office for fall cleanup happening the weekend of October 18th.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 57 tickets bringing in \$1,332.00.

Lake Board: John Van Gessel reported that the lake board has received bids for a 3 year contract for weed and invasive species treatment and is in the negotiation phase. The board has contracted with Muckmen to identify the scope of the muck to be removed as well as weed removal. They've scheduled an October 22nd meeting where the assessment will be discussed. The board further encourages the township board to adopt a parks plan.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Hatfield will have the Fall Newsletter to the printers by November 1st.

Holiday Committee Report: Official Halloween hours for 2025 will take place from 5pm-7pm on October 31st.

Pullman Pride Report: Scholarship applications will open in December. Visit <https://alleganfoundation.org/scholarships/> for more information.

Road Committee Report: Supervisor Rawson will be gathering data on roads to propose to the board for resurfacing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution for Lee Township refusing to take ownership of former Oak Haven water system giving ownership responsibly to Streams of Light

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to adopt the Resolution that states that Lee Township is refusing to accept ownership of or operation, maintenance, and administrative responsibilities for said drinking water supply located on the Oak Haven Campus at 686 52nd St.

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

See attached resolution at the end of these minutes.

Eagleview Aerial imagery participation

Details of the 2026 and 2029 flight participation agreement were read by Supervisor Rawson. This imaging resource is crucial for our Assessor and other township duties. With reduced cost of aerial imaging, the proposal will now be imaging approximately every 3 years, down from 5 years previously. The county is covering 50% of the total cost and splitting the remaining cost among the municipalities.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Godlew to approve the recurring annual cost to Lee Township of \$953.34 and accept participation in the program coordinated by Allegan County.

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

Former library building agreement

Beautify Pullman has approached the township and offered to remove the building and repair the land it is sitting on at no cost to the township.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Blackburn to table this discussion until the Township Lawyer can verify transfer of the building.

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

Replacement lake board member appointment

Lake board member Casey Trusiak has resigned from the Lake Board. It has been recommended that the Township Board appoint Phil Santoro in Casey's place.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the appoint of Phil Santoro to the Lake Board.

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

Township office security maintenance and upgrade

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to pre-approve the purchase of security equipment, upgrades, and fixes for the Township Offices in the amount not to exceed \$7,500.

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

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to pre-approve the purchase of laptop equipment for the Clerk in the amount not to exceed \$1,000.

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

Board of Review alternate

Supervisor Rawson presented to the board the appointment of Todd Sollman to the Board of Review as our alternate. Todd has previously served the township both as Deputy Clerk and as an election inspector.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Blackburn approve the appointment of Todd Sollman to the Board of Review as an alternate.

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

Amending Cemetery Costs

Clerk Blackburn presented the proposed pricing updates that align with the new costs accepted previously by the board from the new Sexton service provider New Life Property Care, LLC. The new costs are attached to the end of these minutes. The Township will retain the cost of \$75 for the purchase of a cemetery plot for residents and \$500 for non-residents. Note that if there are any inquiries regarding the location of a plot, please reach out directly to New Life Property Care as the Sexton has the physical maps. Any inquiries on plot purchasing can be directed to the Clerk – for quickest response email is best. The costs outlined for Burials and Foundations will be considered 'pass-through' costs meaning these will be the costs directly charged to the coordinators of the burial and will be made payable directly to New Life Property Care. All plot sales will be made payable directly to Lee Township.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Hatfield to formally adopt the new pricing outlined under the document "Lee Township Interment Services Price Sheet" as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - abstained, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis – yes.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$142,473.73.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$142,473.73 presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis – yes.

Correspondence: Supervisor Rawson read correspondence.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Streams of Light International owns and operates a drinking water system serving Dak Haven campus, located at 686 52nd St., Section _____, Town _____, Range _____; and,

WHEREAS, Streams of Light International possesses the ability and willingness to continue effective operation and maintenance of said system; and

WHEREAS, Lee Township recognizes the need for effective and continued operation and maintenance of said system to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, Lee Township deems it impractical for the Township to own, operate, and administer this particular drinking water supply;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Lee Township refuses to accept ownership of or operation, maintenance, and administrative responsibilities for said particular drinking water supply. Lee Township endorses the application of Streams of Light International to continue these responsibilities under state permit.

Rich Pawson

Moved by:

Ann Hatfield

Supported by:

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of LEE Township at its meeting held on 10/13/2025.

[Signature]

Township Clerk

10/13/2025

Dated

Lee Township Interment Services Price Sheet

For inquiries and payments related to the services listed below, please contact the designated representative for each specific service as follows:

Plot/Site Purchases:

"Lee Township"

Clerk: Kathy Blackburn

P.O. Box 427 Pullman, MI 49450

clerk@leetwp.org

269-236-6485

Interments & Foundations:

"New Life Property Care, LLC"

Megan Phillips

P.O. Box 153 Otsego, MI 49078

NewLifePropertyCare@gmail.com

269-242-9766

Service Description	Weekday	Weekend	Major Holiday
Casket Burial	\$650.00	\$950.00	\$1350.00
Cremation Burial	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$700.00
Foundation Installation	\$0.45 per sq Inch 2" Border Required		
Snow Removal from Site	\$130.00 per hour		
Snow Plowing of Cemetery	\$100.00 per push		
• \$400.00 additional for any day prior to a major holiday. (New Years Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas) (\$200.00 for Cremation) • \$400.00 additional if it is after noon(12:00pm) on a Saturday or Sunday. (\$200.00 for Cremation) • After 2:30pm on weekdays, an additional \$50.00 per hour. • New Life Property Care, LLC must be given at least 36-hour notice prior to interment.			

For any inquiries or to schedule services, please contact us at your convenience.

Megan Phillips