

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 8th, 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: *A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to amend the agenda to include an item for reimbursement for attendance at a BOE Conference. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

Board Comments:

Treasurer Godlew: Property tax season will be coming to a close, the due date for summer taxes is September 15th. Treasurer Godlew will be in the township offices 9am-5pm on Monday September 15th.

Clerk Blackburn: The Allegan County fair is ongoing this week. The Clerk also reported that she attended the Bureau of Elections conference held in Lansing on September 2nd and 3rd. She found it a very valuable learning experience with topics ranging from early voting, voter registration, FOIA, poll watchers and much more.

Citizens Comment:

Chris Kleinjans: Chris represents the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) and addressed the meeting on the county wide housing assessment. He reported that the county is short approximately 6,200 units of housing of all types. Chris had a call to action to gather housing stories around the community. For additional information including the executive summary, contact information has been provided to the Clerk.

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Rawson 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 Rawson and seconded by Blackburn 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.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Chief Zack Clark: we had a total of 60 calls. Training for the month was vehicle extrication and drivers training. Engine 16 is back in service after repairs. The new medical unit is anticipated to be completed in December.

Code Official Report: Code Official Olney reported that there were 11 open complaints, many of which have been cleaned up and he will be closing out with thank you letters soon. 3 went out in July, 1 in August, and nothing new has been reported yet in August. There have been no official citations reported this year.

Assessor's Report: Assessors report was read by Supervisor Rawson:
SEPTEMBER 2025 – ASSESSOR UPDATE TO TWP BOARD

Splits/Combinations/Lot Line Adjustments
No split approvals have been granted during the previous month.

Parcel Review

Property owners are encouraged to review their parcel record card. Verification of record card details assures that the physical attributes present on the parcel are properly reflected on the Assessment and Tax Rolls.

Property owners are highly encouraged to ensure that Lee Township has the correct mailing address on file for all property owners. Changes made to mailing addresses at the post office will not cause a change of mailing address on the Township records.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Lewis reported that the next meeting will be in October.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 6 electrical inspections, 6 electrical permits, 8 mechanical and plumbing permits, 6 building inspections, 4 building permits providing \$539,000 of value to the township.

Cemetery Report: None.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 102 tickets bringing in \$2,364.00.

Lake Board: John Van Gessel reported that the lake board sent out a request for bids, requests are due September 22nd for a 3 year contract for weed and invasive species treatment. The sediment, extent of vegetation and permitting is making it difficult to solicit work to be performed on the channel. There is a grant due on the 15th of September, the team has been collaborating with folks from the community to submit that grant. The lake board has proposed to the township creating a parks plan to allow the township to become eligible for certain grants in the future. This potential parks plan would not be needed for this September grant, however the parks plan would need to be on file with the state by February 2026 in order to be eligible for grants in 2026.

Commissioners Report: None.

Newsletter Report: Trustee Hatfield asked that if anyone has information they'd like to get into the newsletter, please reach out to her directly by the end of September.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: None.

Road Committee Report: Supervisor Rawson reported we had 3 roads that had gravel added, 103rd st, the county did a chip and fog seal. Clerk Blackburn reminded the board that we need to be coordinating what road work the board needs to coordinate with the county before the end of the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review Sexton/Record Keeper Proposals

Proposals were received by the board from 5 individuals and or companies. Each individual and or company was given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the board and answer any immediate questions the board had.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to table the final decision on choosing a Sexton proposal until a later date once the board has had adequate time to review proposals individually and reconvene to discuss and make a decision. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Trustee Lewis, - yes.

Updated Allegan County Law Enforcement Services Agreement

Supervisor Rawson presented to the board the new agreement proposed to the board. The main change is the price increase. Going forward the township will only be responsible for paying for the officer and will no longer be responsible for any payments related toward the car. The new rate will be \$107,032.66 annually; the board currently pays \$97,753.07 annually.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the updated contract between Lee Township and the Allegan County Sheriffs Office to provide law enforcement. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Trustee Lewis, - yes.

Public Hearing for Fire District

The board is proposing to assess 5.5 mills, based on the roll provided from the Assessor this will result in \$506,101.78 of revenue across the qualifying parcels in Lee Township. Written correspondence was read by Supervisor Rawson.

Public comments were received from Kris LaPoint and Patti Conway.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to assess 5.5 mills resulting in a revenue for the township in the amount of \$506,101.78 pending adjustments to the taxable value of the roll beginning winter of 2025. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes.

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to close the fire district hearing. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Reimbursement for Bureau of Elections Conference

Clerk Blackburn presented the hotel reimbursement request in the amount of \$221.48.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the reimbursement of the expense in the amount of \$221.48. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - abstained, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis – yes.

Deputy Report: Deputy Wasilewski reported 298 calls taken in August, 45 arrests, 20-25 of them being felonies.

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$116,472.32.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$116,472.32 as presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call - Supervisor Rawson - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes Trustee Lewis – yes.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk

Beautify Pullman Statement on Sidewalk Maintenance and Community Collaboration

Beautify Pullman sincerely thanks the Lee Township Board of Trustees for passing a motion to provide maintenance for proposed additional sidewalks. This important step demonstrates a shared commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of the many Lee Township residents who walk or bike as their primary means of transportation.

As we look ahead to winter months, we acknowledge the importance of keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice. However, we strongly encourage the Township to take a collaborative—not punitive—approach to winter sidewalk maintenance. A spirit of partnership and community support will yield far better outcomes than ordinances based on fines or new taxes.

Lee Township has had sidewalks for generations—historic photographs show them in place for at least 75 years. The newest sidewalks were rebuilt in the past three years. Yet, in all that time, there has never been a sidewalk-specific ordinance or millage. A review of five neighboring townships—Valley, Cheshire, Clyde, Casco, and Ganges—shows that while these communities may have sidewalks or reference sidewalk specifications in zoning ordinances, none impose penalties or fines for failure to clear sidewalks.

Throughout Michigan, communities have found creative ways to ensure safe winter access. Programs like *Snow Angels* and *Snow Match* pair volunteers with residents who need help shoveling. Some communities use Community Work Programs and Community Development Block Grants to fund snow removal for the elderly and disabled.

Lee Township is a place where neighbors help neighbors and where many visible improvements—like the Town Square, downtown landscaping, and the Pullman History Mural—have been accomplished without burdening residents with new taxes or fines. We believe snow and ice removal can follow that same model.

Rather than relying on penalties, let's continue building a culture of shared responsibility and mutual aid. With thoughtful planning and community-driven solutions, we can ensure safe sidewalks for all—while preserving the values that make Lee Township a place we're proud to call home.

