

Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 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 Rawson and seconded by Godlew to add an agenda item for Land Request/Tree Clearing Proposal. Motion carried. Roll call – Supervisor Rawson – yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - yes, Trustee Lewis, - yes.*

Board Comments:

Treasurer Godlew: Treasurer Godlew reported that the final approval from Allegan County for property tax season has been received and was accurate down to the penny. These collected funds will be dispersed to the various township funds in the coming week.

Trustee Lewis: Trustee Lewis reported that the ambulance meeting would be April 16th.

Clerk Blackburn: Clerk Blackburn read a statement acknowledging April as Sexual Violence Awareness Month. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is available 24/7 at 1-800-656-HOPE or visit Rainn.org.

Citizens Comment:

Kris LaPoint – Speed limit signs on 56th St across the street from PHP have been missing for several weeks.

Vicki Lindsey – Asked about the status of the ball field cleanup around the fence line.

Tim Slais – Tim is running for 57th District Court.

Guest Speakers:

Christopher Burnett – Christopher is running for 57th District Court.

Approval of Special Board Minutes (Budget – 3/28/2026):

A motion was made by Rawson and seconded by Hatfield to approve the previous months regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

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 Blackburn and seconded by Hatfield 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: None.

Deputy Report:

Deputy Kevin LaForge reported there was 143 calls in the month of March. 88 of these were priority calls (an officer was required for immediate response). 22 traffic stops. 2 breaking and entering. Officer LaForge strongly encourages security cameras where available. 2 instances of Larceny. Office LaForge also emphasized reporting stolen property. Allegan County has backlogs of stolen property that have not been claimed – if you have verified serial numbers of equipment, this helps the officers to get this property back to its rightful owners.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Chief Zack Clark: We had a total of 69 calls, 50 of which were medical. Training for the month was our wild land fire refresher with Clyde FD. Search and rescue training was also performed. Two members flew down to Florida to do a final inspection of the new First Responder vehicle. Congrats to Randy Baker, he just passed his First Responder certification.

Code Official Report:

For March there are 8 open and active complaints, 3 of which were newly reported. 4 of them are pending letters going out to the property owners.

The complaint form is available on our website:

<http://www.leetwp.org/Forms%20File/complaint%20form.pdf>

Assessor's Report: None.

Ambulance Reports: The ambulance meeting would be April 16th.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 5 mechanical permits and inspections, 5 electrical permits and 6 inspections, 2 plumbing permits and inspections, 2 building permits and 9 inspections, with \$62,204.06, of value to the township.

Cemetery Report:

A.J. Canfield gave an update on cemetery plans for the upcoming summer.

The well point needs to be addressed and potentially replaced.

The fuse box also needs addressed.

The sheriffs will be sending work detail on May 16th and 17th. Contact the supervisor to volunteer to assist the cleanup of the leaf bags after the work details finishes.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 64 tickets collected and \$1,461.00 funds received for material disposal.

Lake Board: None.

Newsletter Report: Any additions to the newsletter should be to Trustee Hatfield by May 1.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Pullman Pride will be hosted on Saturday, July 18th 2026; Please reach out to Ann Hatfield if you are interested in volunteering or assisting with planning.

Road Committee Report: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Groundskeeping Proposal

Groundskeeping expenses are planned as follows:

Cemetery mows: \$500, Township Hall: \$45, Ball park: \$200, Fire Department stations: \$45; Cleanup around ball park fence: \$300.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Hatfield to approve the planned groundskeeping costs per mow and the one time cleanup fee for the ball field.

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

Ambulance Expense

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to approve spending up to \$1,100 to address the outstanding City of Fennville Invoice for the LIFE EMS building to address flooring.

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

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to amend the Ambulance budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year: item 210.651.956 with a proposed amount of \$1,100.

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

Salary Adjustments

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to adjust salary amounts as follows:

Sanitation to \$15/hr; Deputy Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer to \$20/hr; Assessor to the contracted at of 2.7% increase.

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

IT Infrastructure Upgrades

123 Net has hooked up the fire station and the township hall for fiber services. These services will be free to the township for the next ten years. Treasurer Godlew proposed upgrades to the internet services to support the new speeds as well as a VOIP phone service and Fire Department wifi improvements which over time will decrease costs due to the Frontier billing that between the FD and Township hall net near \$800/month currently.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to approve spending up to \$700 – to come out of 101.101.956 general fund.

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

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Blackburn to approve spending up to \$700 – to come out of 206.336.970 Fire Department.

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

Land Request – Tree Clearing

The board received a request from Jacob Tibbets regarding tree removal and or land sale. The tree removal parcels in question: 12-169-006-00 12-166-010-00
Acquisition of land requested for parcels: 12-166-010-00, 12-169-006-00, 12-162-004-00, 12-169-002-00.

The board discussed options and agreed to reach out to the township lawyer to confirm what next steps are available for either the tree removal and or sale of the parcels.

A motion was made by Blackburn and seconded by Godlew to approve the removal of trees pending authorization from a licensed and insured tree removal company and approval from the township lawyer; the township further authorizes the Township Supervisor to action any further agreements needed between the property owner Jacob Tibbets and the Township; further any attorney fees incurred by the township on this matter to be invoiced to the property owner Jacob Tibbets.

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

Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling \$126,749.74.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of \$126,749.74 presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call – Supervisor Rawson – yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes, Trustee Hatfield, - 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 8:25pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk