Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 10th, 2026

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:

Clerk Blackburn: A big thank you to all who participated in our recent election whether that was through early voting, absentee voting or election day. A thank you also goes out to our dedicated team of election workers: Lisa Galdikas, Tim Kotas, Todd Sollman, Diane Cabiness, Michelle Gibson, Joe Godlew, Judy Graff, Karen Jessen, Shirley Kay, and Mary Stap. Lee Township had 446 voters turn out for the August 2026 primary. Our next election will be Nov 3rd 2026 at the Lee Township hall with early voting taking place in Fennville City Hall from October 24th – November 1st.

Treasurer Godlew: Thanked Clerk Blackburn for a well prepared election.

Citizens Comment:

Debbie Laraway, Kris LaPoint, James Cleveland, others unidentified

Guest Speakers: None.

Approval of Special Board Minutes: None.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes:
A motion was made by Godlew 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 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: The dam in Allegan is still pending sale. Conservation millage verbiage has been approved for November's county ballot. FEMA is set up in Gun Plain taking applications for storm damage from the May/June bought of tornados. This is the 15th year of the Gun Lake Casino and in total they have contributed 226 million to surrounding municipalities during that time. Senior millage passed by a 2:1 margin in August. County passed the recent audit with a 24% remaining fund balance and a 93-94% funded pension liability in MERS.

Deputy Report: There were 173 calls received for July. Deputy LaForge thanked the public for their cooperation as this has directly lead to recent arrests in the area.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Chief Zack Clark: We had a total of 76 calls, 48 of which were medical. Training for the month was vehicle extrication training in which Life EMS also participated. Pancake breakfast was a success, thanks to all who came out!

Code Official Report:

Mr. Olney is actively working on two new complaints including one from Mac st. The complaint form is available on our website: http://www.leetwp.org/Forms%20File/complaint%20form.pdf

Assessor's Report: None.

Ambulance Reports: Report read by Trustee Lewis. Life EMS is proposing upped rates for transportation milage and offering additional services including blood transfusions. For more information, reach out to trustee Lewis.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 6 mechanical permits and inspections, 9 electrical permits and 8 inspections, 6 plumbing permits and inspections, 6 building permits and 5 inspections, with $373,270.00 of value to the township.

Cemetery Report:

A.J. Canfield reported the water and electric have all been addressed at the cemetery.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 71 tickets collected and $1,600.00 funds received for material disposal.

Lake Board: Phil Santorum:

As reported earlier, the Lake Board is looking at all of the requirements to hire a contractor to excavate the end of the channel near the dam. The estimated cost is approximately $10,000, and it appears that the Lake Board, not the Lake Association will fund the project. As discussed with the Township one tree must be removed in the Township park for excavator access, and the "spoils" (sediment and plant material), would be placed against the steep slope of the park for further landscaping in the spring. Any disposal would be first approved by EGLE as part of the permitting process.

Because work will be performed on the Township's property, the Lake Board is awaiting the Township's protective language for insertion in the work contract. For example, does the Township have minimum insurance requirements in such a situation?

On 7/29, the Lake Board's contractor was at the lake and reported: "I did not observe any milfoil, invasive species, or nuisance algae. There were some native pondweeds but they appeared to be below the surface and not causing problems. Most of it was well beyond 100 feet from shore where we can treat them anyway. I think the pondweed treatment done in early July helped. Based on what I saw, I don't see any urgent management needs."

Newsletter Report: None.

Holiday Committee Report: None.

Pullman Pride Report: Pullman Pride was a success and collected $2,036 for the pullman scholarship.

Road Committee Report: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Millage Rate and Annual Meeting

Treasurer Godlew presented a capital improvement plan for the fire and first responder units. The 10 year capital plan totaled $1,663,135. To support this and current operating expenditures, the proposed assessment is 4.75 mil. This is a reduction from the 5.5 that was set for 2025/2026. The capital plan includes contingencies for inflationary pressure, interest rates and a stabilization of the future fund balance. The purpose of this agenda item is for the board to agree on the proposed millage so that we can move to the official public hearing for the September board meeting.

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the proposed 4.75 mill special assessment fire district levy, and special public hearing to be held at the regular Lee township board meeting in September, and authorize the assessor and lawyer to prepare the roll for the September hearing.
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 $278,163.40.
*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the payment of the bills for a total of $*278,163.40 *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 8:22pm.
Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk