Lee Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 9th, 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, Treasurer Godlew, Trustee Lewis, Clerk Blackburn, Trustee Hatfield
Members Absent: None

Agenda Amendments: None

Board Comments:

Clerk Blackburn: We hosted a successful election with the help of an amazing crew of election poll workers. A huge thank you out to everyone who dedicates their time. Lee had a total of 1051 voters with a breakdown of 243 AV voters, 143 early voters, and 665 election day voters accounting for a turnout of 34.47%.

Treasurer Godlew: Big thank you to Tim Looman, Lisa Galdikas, Tim Kotas, Bonny and Jim Gross for putting up the holiday decorations around town.
Thanked Clerk Blackburn and all the election workers for hosting a successful election that requires long hours and attention to detail.
Winter 2026 tax bills are being prepared. Summer tax bills are considered late and can be paid at Lee Township through the end of February. As of March 1st 2027, all 2026 taxes will become delinquent and will need to go through the Allegan County Treasurer.

Trustee Lewis: Read through the Lee election results by race. Trustee Lewis asked if it was possible to find out who owns the natural gas lines running through the township.

Supervisor Rawson: Recognized veterans day is coming up and thanked all veterans for their service. The transfer station submitted their annual report to the state recently. 424 tons of trash and 25 tons of recycling were disposed of throughout the year.

Citizens Comment:

Kris LaPoint - dropped off a copy of the well water reporting that Beautify Pullman has assisted in pulling together.

Guest Speakers: None

Approval of Special Board Minutes: *A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the October Election Commission meeting minutes as presented. All voted "Aye." Motion carried.*

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.

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

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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, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis, - yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield - yes.

County Commissioners Report:

County budget has been passed.
County transportation over the past few years, there has been an increase in usage by about 10-15%, meanwhile funding supplied by federal and state vehicles have reduced. The county will be seeking new grants and funding sources to support future demand.
Parks continue to be a shortfall in the budget. Adjustments in funding and or a millage needs discussed to account for the continued shortfall.
Old Allegan road in Saugatuck has been reopened.
The county conservation district did pass by 56% yes to 44% no.
There have been reports of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Commissioner Lubbers reported that the county sheriff's office does not collaborate with ICE. Any questions related to that can be directed to the sheriffs offices in Allegan.
Clerk Blackburn asked about the Flock cameras stationed in the township operated by Allegan County Sheriff's office and asked the commission to clarify if Federal agencies like ICE have been given access to the Allegan Flock network. Commissioner Lubbers explained that the guidance they have been given is that Allegan County Sheriffs have a strict set of rules before being allowed to use the Flock system. Any questions can be directed to the Sheriff's office.

Deputy Report: There were 195 calls received.

Fire Department/ EMS Report:

Chief Zack Clark: We had a total of 47 calls, 30 of which were medical. Training for the month was wrapping up hose testing. The fire department participated in the trick or treat event at the Linking Center. Fire prevention month was last month, kids from the elementary school got to tour the fire department. The department has been asked to bring Mr and Mrs Clause to town on December 5th for the holiday social.

Code Official Report:

Mr. Olney is actively working on 1 new complaint and actively following up on 8 requests.
The complaint form is available on our website:
http://www.leetwp.org/Forms%20File/complaint%20form.pdf

Assessor's Report: None.

Ambulance Reports: Trustee Lewis read the quarterly report from the Life EMS meeting held in October. For more details, reach out to Trustee Lewis. Life EMS is planning updates to the chimney in the main Fennville building that they use and are planning to request funds in the coming months - the initial total estimate is $6,200-$7,400 to be split across the participating municipalities. A maintenance fund is also being set up and a funds request/vote is expected in April in an estimated amount of $500 per participating municipality.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector's report was read by Supervisor Rawson. There were 15 mechanical permits and inspections, 8 electrical permits and inspections, 2 building permits and 27 inspections, with $93,545.00 of value to the township.

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Cemetery Report: AJ Canfield reported thatcleanup of unsightly decorations and artificial decorations for fall cleanup has been started and will be ongoing. The building at the cemetery has been locked now that the water has been blown out and turned off to prevent freezing of the lines. The ordinance can be found here: http://www.leetwp.org/Ordinance/TOWNSHIP%20ORDINANCE%20NO%202020.pdf
AJ requested the board look into funding for refreshing the driveways at the cemetery. AJ proposed to the board purchasing plastic cross memorial markers for certain gravesites that are no longer properly marked. Clerk Blackburn emphasized that while that would be a nice gesture, there is no way for us to tell the denomination of the person that is interred and the township should not be adding items to a gravesite on our own volition. If any person wishes to identify an unmarked gravesite or has questions about whom may be interred in a given site, our Sexton New Life Property Care has the records and maps as to where individuals are interred.

Transfer Station Report: Transfer station report was read by Treasurer Godlew. There was a total of 101 tickets collected and $1,888.00 funds received for material disposal.

Lake Board: Meeting at 4pm on Wednesday October 14th.

Newsletter Report: Newsletter has been sent to the printer and will be mailed shortly.

Holiday Committee Report: Lisa Galdikas reported that the lights around town have been updated to LED and will be turned on by Thanksgiving.

Pullman Pride Report: Scholarship applications will open December 1st and be made available online: https://alleganfoundation.org/scholarships/

Road Committee Report: Supervisor Rawson will be presenting the list of road projects available for work at the December meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Allegan County Drain Commission Invoice

A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Rawson to approve the drains assessment invoice for $3,100 to be paid in the October bills report. Roll call – Supervisor Rawson – yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes, Clerk Blackburn - yes, Trustee Hatfield - yes.

Luminous Energy Battery Facility

Procedural note - the location was incorrectly reported in a previous version of draft meeting minutes - the corrected address of the proposed location is 781 55th Street.

Supervisor's Statement

Update on the Proposed Battery Energy Storage Facility

I would like to provide an update on the proposed battery energy storage facility in our township.

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A foreign developer called Luminous Energy is proposing a 200-megawatt battery energy storage facility on the Jeffery and Christina Vanderkuyl property, located at 781 55th Street. The facility would consist of large industrial battery systems connected to the electrical grid. As many of you may recall, this project was first discussed at our November 11, 2024, board meeting.

The Township Board has serious concerns about this proposal, including public safety, fire hazards, the ability of our fire department to respond to an emergency, the size of the facility, its proximity to neighboring homes, and potential environmental impacts. The environmental concerns are significant given its location near lakes, wetlands, and groundwater resources.

Our community has historically chosen to remain a township without zoning. Unfortunately, this lack of zoning, combined with recent changes in Michigan law under Public Act 233, significantly limits the Township's ability to regulate or prevent a project of this nature.

The state law does, however, establish several procedural requirements that the developer must follow before submitting an application to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

One of those requirements is that the developer must offer to meet with township officials. I attended that meeting late last month and directly communicated the Board's concerns to the developer.

Another requirement is that the developer hold a public information meeting. The developer has indicated that this meeting will take place in early December. As of now, we have not received confirmation of the date, time or location. We will share this information at the office and online as soon as we receive it.

I cannot emphasize enough how important this meeting is. **We strongly encourage every resident to attend.** This is an opportunity to learn more about the project, ask questions, and make your concerns known. Members of the Township Board will be attending to do the same.

Please spread the word. Tell your neighbors, friends, and family. It is extremely important that our community is informed and that residents participate in this process.

In the meantime, the Township is actively working with our legal counsel to evaluate our options and protect the interests of our residents.

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. Again, I strongly encourage everyone to attend the developer's public meeting and help ensure that others in our community know about it.

Rich Rawson

Lee Township Supervisor

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Payment of the Bills: Presented by Clerk Blackburn, totaling $68,458.74.
*A motion was made by Godlew and seconded by Hatfield to approve the payment of the bills for a total of $*68,458.74 *presented by Clerk Blackburn. Motion carried. Roll call – Supervisor Rawson – yes, Treasurer Godlew – yes, Trustee Lewis – yes, Clerk Blackburn - 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 8:28pm.
Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Blackburn, Clerk

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