

Lee Township Board of Trustee's
Regular Meeting
1485 W. Olson Rd.
Midland MI 48640
January 17, 2022
(Approved)

Supervisor Gustafson called the meeting to order at 7: 00 pm. Pledge was said then roll call was taken. Trustee Rippee, Treasurer Stewart, Supervisor Gustafson, Clerk Dawson, and Trustee Henry were present, as well as numerous residents.

- **Approval of Agenda:** Treasurer Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda with the clerk's additions. (General: \$1,201.70 Fire \$292.00 Solid Waste \$7.50). Supervisor Gustafson 2nd said motion. Roll call was taken. Trustee Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes. A yes motion carried.
- **Guests:** Commissioner Glasser gave a brief County Report.
- **Minutes:** Treasurer Stewart made a motion to approve minutes from the December 13, 2021, as presented. Supervisor Gustafson 2nd said motion. Roll call was taken. Clerk Dawson: yes, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee Henry: yes. A yes motion carried.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Stewart presented the monthly Treasurer's report, then made a motion to approve said report. Supervisor Gustafson 2nd motion. Roll call was taken. Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes. A yes motion carried.
- **Approval of bills:**
 - **Fire:** Clerk Dawson made a motion to approve the Fire payments in the amount of \$3,320.88 (With \$594.00 for fire dues). Ach payments of \$340.99. Supervisor Gustafson 2nd said motion. Roll call was taken. Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes, Supervisor Gustafson: yes. A yes motion carried.
 - **Payroll:** Clerk Dawson made a motion to approve Payroll as presented in the amount of \$13,533.73. Treasurer Stewart 2nd said motion. Roll call was taken. Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes. A yes motion carried.
 - **Solid Waste:** Clerk Dawson made a motion to approve Solid Waste in the amount of \$14,533.87 but the correct amount is \$14,411.62. Treasurer Stewart 2nd said motion. Roll call was taken. Trustee Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes. A yes motion carried.

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- **General:** Clerk Dawson made a motion to approve General in the amount of \$2,514.24. Ach in the amount of \$1,882.99. Treasurer Stewart 2nd said motion. Roll call was taken. Clerk Dawson: yes, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee Henry: yes. A yes motion carried.

- **Fire Report:** Clerk Dawson read the report as Chief Amrozowicz wasn't in attendance. Supervisor Gustafson spoke about the Training and Grant information.

- **Planning Commission:** Richard Payne gave the report.

- **Code Authority:** Trustee Rippee gave a brief update.

- **Code Enforcement:** Supervisor Gustafson gave a brief update.

- **Park Update:** Deputy Supervisor Lamee gave report on tree trimming and cement at the main building. Residents requested more than 1 quote.

- **Hall/Cemetery Update:** Clerk Dawson stated we took possession of 6 benches for the Chapel. Kane Inman is working towards Eagle Scout.

- **Correspondence:** Supervisor Gustafson read a letter from Mr. Frederick (Fritz) Schroeder in lieu of the Board of Review Committee. (attached)

- **Unfinished Business:**
 1. **Trees:** already covered
 2. **Committee Position:** Supervisor Gustafson made a motion to appoint Ms. Becky Grice to the Planning Commission effective January 17, 2022 – December 31, 2024. Treasurer Stewart 2nd said motion. Roll call: Trustee Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: no, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes. Motion carried.

- **New Business:**
 1. **FOIA Policy Update:** Clerk Dawson read the first paragraph of said document. She stated that the Supervisor not the Clerk is the FOIA Coordinator. Treasurer Stewart made a motion to approve the form. Supervisor Gustafson 2nd said motion. Roll call: Clerk Dawson: no, Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: no, Trustee Henry: no. Motion failed. After discussion of the form stating Clerk/vs/ Supervisor, Supervisor Gustafson made a motion to approve with the correction of Supervisor being the FOIA

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Coordinator not the Clerk. Treasurer Stewart 2nd said motion. Roll call:
Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee
Henry: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes. A yes motion carried with the correction.

2. **Lawn Care Bids:** The Township is seeking bids for 2022 season. Clerk Dawson will post it on the Web Site.
3. **Budget Meeting Dates:** First meeting was set for February 3, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Township Hall.

Public Comment: Opened at 8:35 pm. Ms. Rose Pieprzyk spoke during this open time. She ended her statement, with a request to have her statement recorded in the minutes. I have attached said statement. A few other residents asked questions in reference to the "stimulus" the correct title is "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)". Did we receive it? Yes, we received the first installment. ~~Another asked why Trustee Rippee was at the hall the December 29, 2021, when she was under quarantine.~~ Ken Bennett asked if the SLFRF could be used to help residents with their portion of the Larson Drain? The Supervisor stated no. Deputy Treasurer stated broad band would be a good thing to use the monies on. Closed at 8:46 pm

- **Any other Business:** Treasurer Stewart made a motion to appoint Deputy Treasurer his designee to be able to collect taxes at least the last day without penalty on any give tax cycle and at least 1 day during December 25- December 31. These are the State mandated times a Treasurer is required to be available for tax collection. Supervisor Gustafson 2nd said motion. Roll Call: Supervisor Gustafson: yes, Treasurer Stewart: yes, Trustee Rippee: yes, Trustee Henry: no, Clerk Dawson: yes. A yes motion carried.
- **Adjournment:** As there was no other business Treasurer Stewart made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Gustafson 2nd said motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

Your Public Servant,

Laura Dawson *Clerk Dawson*
Lee Township Clerk

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To: Lee Township, Midland Board

Subject: Board of Tax Review Compensation

During 2021, the Daily Mtg Compensation for Tax Review Board was reduced in July and December to \$50.

The only reference I have found in your public minutes was in the July 12 minutes under the Planning commission report by Mary Spraul, item 2. "Fee Schedule Adjustment" – Due to a drop in the Meeting Fees dropping from \$80.00 to \$50.00 Kristy made a motion to adjust the Special Meeting fee from \$400.00 to \$250.00 to reflect the new price of per Diem for meetings. Bill seconded said motion. Roll call vote all -yes. A yes motion carried.

As chairman of the Lee Township Tax Review Board, resident's first step in contesting personal or property taxes levied by assessor, I wish to raise the following points:

1. The Tax review board is not part of the Planning Commission.
2. It is like the local extension of state treasury and buffers the state tax tribunal from potential irate property owners that simply may not understand how property taxes are levied or influenced by home sales.
3. All three members accommodated Pandemic Mtg Criteria during the 2021 year to minimize exposure while still maintaining public access hours, only to have pay cut by 38%.
4. The 3, State of Michigan Treasury Dept Mandated Meetings, require a minimum of 6 hours before dark and 6 hours after 3pm on another day, as well as the organizational mtg.
5. All members are current on MTA training, now required every other year.
6. The 2022 minimum wage in Michigan is now \$9.87.
7. \$50.00 for 6 hours mandated by state is only \$8.33/ hr!
8. Un-employment rate is \$7.50! Point is, our compensation is closer to UIA than Min wage.
9. I urge you to think about if you value the experience of this group, consider a more reasonable amount of compensation.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick 'Fritz' Schroeder

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1/19/2022

To: Laura Dawson, Lee Township Clerk

I am submitting the notes from my statement made during the Public Comment section of the Lee Township Board meeting on January 17, 2022.

I want my entire notes to be a matter of public record and included in its entirety in the published meeting minutes of the township. I expect to see it kept with the township records and published within the meeting minutes on the Lee Township website. Thank you.

Notes for public comment at Lee Township board meeting 1-17-2022:

First comment regards a sign containing profanity (FU—masks) that was addressed at the December 2021 Lee Township meeting.

Supervisor, Kristy Gustafson suggested and asked residents in attendance if anyone wanted to help her trespass and deface the sign on the resident's property.

1.) I find this out of line for an elected official to publicly address at a township meeting. This is the same supervisor who let everyone know that her tires were slashed and her horses were let out.

2.) I'd also like to know what the purpose was to call my husband and myself out at the same meeting in December 2021. Your comment offended us. Were you trying to make fun of us? Were you trying to bully us? Were you trying to intimidate us?

These two instances are a misuse of power by a township official and shouldn't be accepted or tolerated by residents.

I believe there is a township resident who feels they are well versed in diversity and inclusion and how to engage with people in an inclusive and proper manner. You may want to contact that person for help with this.

I would like my statement to be noted in the minutes, please.

And for the record, we will never have date night on a township meeting night. Not because we don't like date night, it's because we lack faith and trust in a couple (not all) board members to do their job equally and fairly for all township residents.

Rosemary Pieprzyk

Lee Township Resident

This is from Michigan Townships Association:

“Authorities & Responsibilities of Michigan Townships”

2020 Edition

Pages 164-165 “**Correcting Minutes**”: **MCL 15.269** states that, “The public body shall make *any* correction in the minutes *at the next meeting* after the meeting to which the minutes refer.”

That’s it. There’s only one opportunity ever to “make any corrections” in a set of minutes. “One bite at the apple.” Even if the board does not vote to approve the minutes at the meeting where the minutes may be corrected, the minutes stand as approved.

Changes should be limited to **correcting typos or clarifying ambiguities, they should not “Change History.”** If a board thinks better of a motion to approve at the last meeting, the minutes are not the way to fix the problem. The minutes will show that motion. The board may be able to reconsider or repeal that motion at a subsequent meeting but should consult with its attorney for specific guidance on whether and how to do so.

If something was omitted or entered incorrectly in the minutes and a correction was not made at the next meeting, then a township board may address the matter at a future meeting and then include the correction or explanation in the minutes of that meeting. But the minutes of the original meeting cannot be changed.

MCL15.269 goes on to require that the corrected minutes must ‘show both the original entry and the correction. “This is accomplished by drawing or typing a line through incorrect text (not Blacking it out) and handwriting the new text above it or typing the new text in ALL CAPS.

Submitted by Clerk Dawson

Monday February 21, 2022

In reference to January 17, 2022, Minutes

Rosemary Pieprzyk’s request to have her statement presented during Public Comment, entered into the January 17, 2022 minutes within the body of her letter.

Voted on February 14, 2022