

LELAND TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

March 30, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Leland Township Library, Munnecke Room

203 E. Cedar Street, Leland, MI 49654

MINUTES

PRESENT: Supervisor Susan Och, Clerk Lisa Brookfield, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Trustee Clint Mitchell, Trustee Mariann Kirch.

GUESTS: 22

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Amendment: Mariann Kirch noted that the Parks and Rec Commission should be listed as the Parks and Rec Committee.

ACTION: Kathy Dawkins moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended; supported by Brian Fenlon. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 18, 2023 (Annual Meeting)

ACTION: Shirley Garthe moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2023; supported by Kathy Dawkins. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Leland Township Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

A Goals and Objectives document and the Fire Department's Annual Report was available to the public. Chief Besson led a participatory activity to illustrate how quickly the Fire Department responds to structure fires and how quickly people must leave a burning building. People should leave a burning building within 2 minutes. Overlapping calls with other townships were explained.

There were 463 calls last year. Three full-time workers are staffed per day. 15 people are needed for a full structure fire.

Chief Besson passed around and explained various pieces of equipment. The new ambulance was also parked outside for people to view.

1. Leland Township Sewer, Steve Patmore, Sewer Administrator

The Annual report is online. Operationally, levels and flows have been good. There is enough capacity in the Sewer Development area for the future. The department has been treating phosphorus levels for the last 19 years. They are currently using calcium nitrate to combat odor, while still looking for alternative methods.

Equipment is evaluated and replaced/repaired as necessary. In the past, operations and maintenance was contracted from IAI. This year the company did not want to continue the contract without a significant increase in cost. Mitch Gawrysiak is now the Operations Technician and Steve Patmore is the Sewer Administrator, employed by Leland Township.

Septic pumping is now being done on a as needed basis. Filters are provided for every home.

The Commission is working on a capital improvement plan.

Sewer rates were adjusted.

Steve Patmore is working on an open house of the Sewer Plant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski noted that the Sewer Commission does not have a quorum of members.

Brian Fenlon asked about the duties of a sewer commissioner. Mr. Patmore explained. Ms. Och reported that the Township received an application for a sewer commission position.

2. Leelanau County Commissioner, Kama Ross

Point Broadband has crossed the Narrows. They are currently working on the east side of Lake Leelanau. The County has hired an interim administrator, Richard Lewis. The BOC is creating a materials management plan. The Solid Waste Council has set dates for solid waste recycling. There will be a public workshop on Earth Day that will discuss micro-plastics.

The BOC approved a millage for the Road Commission of .5 mills and a Senior Citizens millage of .134.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski asked when the County will be accountable for the wasted money spent by the BOC. Ms. Ross explained current processes that are being used to correct past problems.

3. Leland Township Parks & Rec Commission Committee, Tim Zywicki

The committee has all new members since October. The committee was able to reinstate the lifeguard for this summer. So far there has been 186 responses to the survey. Spring work will be done at Provemont Pond. There is dock damage at Nedows Bay and Suelzer Park. A new trail is being added at Provemont Pond.

4. Leland Township Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

Mr. Anderson spoke on maintenance/repairs and dredging at the Harbor. The Army Corps of Engineers can no longer dredge the Harbor in a timely manner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mariann Kirch asked about the repair of the sinks in the public bathrooms. Mr. Anderson explained that the doors and latches were repaired. The faucets cannot be fixed until the water is turned back on. Parks and Rec is responsible for the repair of the sinks.

Parking meters are working great. The Harbor is self-funded, so the parking fees help. There was a question about how the parking fees are enforced. Mr. Anderson reported that they now have a kiosk for payment which is helping.

5. Leland Township Planning Commission, Clint Mitchell

They have updated the Master Plan and the character amendment. The Master Plan was approved. There will be a public hearing in May. There may be some adjustments to the character amendment.

The Main Street application was denied.

There are new cell towers at the southeast end of the Township.

The Bluebird development was approved.

New officers were elected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mikowski commented on the approval of the new building in Lake Leelanau. He is also concerned about a section of the new sidewalks which is hazardous to blind people.

Ms. Kirch remarked on the siding on the new building in Lake Leelanau; that it is not the same siding as what was proposed. It was explained that changes in a proposal are considered as major or minor.

6. Leland Township Assessor, Julie Krombeen

A written report was available. The taxable value for Leland is \$64,922,430.00. The assessed value went up by 19.87%

7. Leland Township Library, Mark Morton

A written report was available.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Township is very happy to have their own building for their offices.

The Township maintenance person was injured and has not been working for a year. He is now back to work.

The administrative fee was instituted because of large expenses of the Township such as the \$700,000 needed for the seawall repair. 5.2 million dollars will be needed to bring all roads to a good condition. To repair a road that is rated a 2 (such as Oxford Drive) costs \$600,000 a mile to repair. We have infrastructure challenges that we did not have before. The Township does not have the budget to fund the needed work so the Township has to consider all funding strategies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mikowski suggested that Oxford Drive could be converted back to a gravel road. He is opposed to the administrative fee which added \$165,000 to the budget.

Kathy Dawkins reported that a majority of townships in Michigan have an administrative fee. More is required of our townships.

Ms. Och further explained the administrative fee.

SALARY RESOLUTIONS

1. Supervisor – 5% increase to \$33,075

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mikowski verified that the Clerk and the Treasurer receive additional payments from the Harbor for administrative duties.

This is true, it is a stipend, and not part of their salary.

ACTION: Brian Fenlon moved to increase the Supervisor's salary to \$33,075; supported by Keith Ashley. Motion carried.

2. Treasurer – 5% increase to \$44,100

ACTION: Lisa Brookfield moved to increase the Treasurer's salary to \$44,100; supported by Paige Sykes. Motion carried.

3. Clerk – 7.5% increase to \$50,250 (additional mandated duties 2.5%)

ACTION: Kathy Dawkins moved to increase the Clerk's salary to \$60,769 (reflecting a 30% increase) due to extra duties required by the State constitution for the election process; supported by Brian Fenlon.

DISCUSSION

There was a lot of discussion about this motion. Ms. Brookfield explained the extra work required for elections. Other townships have approved similar increases for their Clerks. Ms. Dawkins has researched the extra duties of the Clerk because of the election rules and it is a lot. Some townships have deputies to help with the workload. Leland's deputy is part-time. Mr. Mikowski stated that the state should bear the additional cost. However, the State is not required to fund what is man-dated. Some stated they would like to see a detailed report of these extra costs. A stipend was suggested. Stipends cannot pay for a statutory duty. Kirch suggested that the number of elections is not consistent. There is always at least one election each year. Mr. Fenlon stated it was unreasonable to think a person should take on more work without compensation. Some expressed they would consider less than 30%, perhaps 20%.

The vote for the motion on the floor was 7 in favor, and 8 opposed. Motion failed.

ACTION: Keith Ashley moved to increase the Clerk's salary to \$50,250 (due to additional work because of election duties); supported by Steve Mikowski.

Vote: 8 in favor, 6 opposed. Motion carried.

4. Trustees – 5% increase to \$7,500 each

ACTION: Brian Fenlon moved to increase the Trustees' salary to \$7,500; supported by Keith Ashley.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

RECESS FOR BUDGET HEARING

The meeting was recessed at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk

Date Approved