

LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2024 – 7:00 p.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

Quorum Present

GUESTS: 12

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the agenda as presented; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11, 2023 (Regular Meeting): Ms. Brookfield moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2023; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Ashley – He read aloud his written comment about MDOT paving plans (agenda item #1). He is opposed to bump-outs in the paving project. He is also in opposition to the building proposed for Leland. Bump-outs and the building are out of character for Leland. He believes the public will stridently oppose these plans.

Steve Mikowski - Mr. Mikowski presented his request to hold a referendum vote on the Leland Township Zoning Ordinance 96-1. This is the 328th month this request has been made. He also asked the Board to correct a longstanding error denying a 17 ½ inch side yard setback variance. This request has been made since 1983 at Planning and Township meetings.

He also read aloud his comment opposing the building in Leland.

Jim Atkinson – He commented on the proposed bump outs. He feels the streets may need to be widened in order to accommodate turning of large vehicles. He also noted that the street by the Fire Department is marked at 35 mph while the other side streets are marked at 25 mph.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – Reports are online and on file at the Leland Township Office.

Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

Chief Besson was absent as he was at the site of an active fire. His report was distributed to the Board. Ms. Och spoke of a recent training in fires caused by hybrid/electric vehicles that she and Chief Besson attended.

Planning/Zoning, Tim Cypher

Mr. Cypher provided a report to the Board.

The Planning Commission has a new slate of officers. There are new goals for the new year. Emphasis will be on the residential and commercial character of Leland, the Master Plan, dock usage, and short-term rentals.

Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

No report. The next meeting is Friday at 3:00 p.m. at the Harbor building.

Sewer, Steve Patmore

Mr. Patmore introduced Mitch Gawrysiak who is the candidate for the Operations Technician position. Flows are in the normal range. There is a new meter that measures more accurately than the estimates we used before. The sewer system is at about 70% capacity according to the flows. The lagoon is at 5.8 feet. The phosphorous level is at 1.22. We are receiving calls about the odor.

Parks & Rec

Tim Zywicki is the new chairperson for Parks & Rec. The next meeting is tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. The agenda will cover the 5-year plan and evaluating equipment for repair or disposal.

County Commission, Kama Ross

No report.

Assessor

A report was distributed to the Board. Leland's tax value is \$650,003,416.00. This year will be a Headlee rollback in taxes. It is estimated that Leland will have a 1% rollback after Board of Review.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Garthe reported on income and expenses for the last month. There was about \$9,000 that came in sewer funds. The General fund was business as usual. A lot of tax money came in.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A written report was submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. It is on file at the Leland Township Office.

Letters to sidewalk owners in phase 2 will be out soon. Betty Elliot sent in a request for sidewalk in a specified area that was not previously planned for a sidewalk. Sidewalks at intersecting streets with M22 are delayed at this time until decisions are made about bump-outs. This topic will be discussed again in February.

Asset management work – They are making progress but there is a lot to do. We have a cost for the Leland river seawall. The Sewer Commission has an excellent asset management plan. Ms. Och would like members of the Board to take the training program on asset management.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kirch requested that two errors in the Supervisor’s report be corrected: an error about notification of the Budget meetings, and a statement about the new attorney that was hired. Further discussion resolved the concerns.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Krista Phillips (MDOT) paving plans for M-22 in Leland Village.
Krista Phillips is a Operations Engineer for MDOT. She gave an update presentation of the M22 road project. A full survey has been done and soil borings have been completed. She explained the impact of rising costs on the project. The pavement will be resurfaced and ADA ramps at intersections will be installed. The MDOT will not impose bump-outs on Leland. There is a potential for TAP grant funds for parts of the road repaving projects. She explained the TAP schedule and deadlines for applications. MDOT would partner with Leland to apply for TAP grants. Storm drains will be examined by video and MDOT will do repairs but will not create anything new. There was a discussion with the Board and the audience about how to handle traffic at River Street in the summer (stop light, stop sign, etc.)
2. Leland Township partnership with MDOT for TAP grant funding of sidewalk and crossing amenities.
June 19, 2004 would be the deadline for a partnership plan with MDOT. A TAP grant may be used for the problem we have of steps by an intersection which is not ADA approved. The consensus of the Board was to wait until after the Budgeting meetings before determining participation in grant funding.
3. Hire Mitch Gawrysiak as Wastewater Technician; Approve job description Wastewater Technician – Steve Patmore
Mr. Patmore explained that the Township was in favor of hiring a technician in-house rather than contract out the operating services. The changes in Steve’s job will be discussed at budget time. IAI is in favor of this plan and would like it to take place as soon as possible. The Township would need a vehicle for the Sewer Commission. Different avenues for obtaining a truck were discussed. Mr. Mitchell would like to know the cost of renting and was in favor of buying a vehicle from the Road Commission. Steve Mikowski from the audience commented that keeping on with IAI would be the better way to go and cited his reasons for that.
There was a discussion that ensued with the Board, Mitch Gawrysiak, and the audience about this topic. No action was taken at this time.
4. Update of Sewer Administrator job duties – Steve Patmore
To be discussed at a later date.
5. Recommendation from Board on Wastewater technician truck.
To be discussed at a later date.

6. Authorize Clerk to apply for annual MDOT road closure permit.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to authorize the Clerk to apply for annual MDOT road closure permit; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried.

7. Renew MTA online subscription

The Board discussed their needs for the coming year and decided to subscribe to the Essentials program.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to renew the MTA Essentials online subscription for \$750; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried.

8. Farmland Preservation application(s) Lacross farms

Glen and Judy LaCross.

This is an application for an income tax deferment. The LaCross family qualifies. The Conservation District is not opposed.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to approved the Farmland Preservaton application(s) for LaCross Farms; supported by Ms. Garthe. Motion carried.

9. Resolution R-24-01 Leland School District Summer Tax Collection

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve Resolution R-24-01 Leland School District Summer Tax Collection; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried.

VOICE ROLL CALL: (not necessarily called in this order)

Supervisor Susan Och:	Yes	
Clerk Lisa Brookfield:	Yes	
Treasurer Shirley Garthe:	Yes	
Trustee Clint Mitchell:	Yes	
Trustee Mariann Kirch:	Yes	Motion carried. 5 in favor, 0 opposed

10. Resolution R-24-02 Northwest Education Service Summer Tax Collection

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve Resolution R-24-02 Northwest Education Service Summer Tax collection; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried.

VOICE ROLL CALL: (not necessarily called in this order)

Supervisor Susan Och:	Yes	
Clerk Lisa Brookfield:	Yes	
Treasurer Shirley Garthe:	Yes	
Trustee Clint Mitchell:	Yes	
Trustee Mariann Kirch:	Yes	Motion carried. 5 in favor, 0 opposed

11. Resolution R-24-03 Suttons Bay School District Summer Tax Collection

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve Resolution R-24-03 Suttons Bay School District Summer Tax collection; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried.

VOICE ROLL CALL: (not necessarily called in this order)

Supervisor Susan Och: Yes

Clerk Lisa Brookfield: Yes

Treasurer Shirley Garthe: Yes

Trustee Clint Mitchell: Yes

Trustee Mariann Kirch: Yes Motion carried. 5 in favor, 0 opposed

12. Payment to Tiffany – Library Seawall progress \$8,521.50

Since progress on this project has been delayed, Mr. Tiffany requested payment for work progress done.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve payment to Tiffany & Sons for Leland River seawall progress of \$8,521.50; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried.

13. RFP for legal representation for specialties not covered by Smith and Johnson

Ms. Och has concerns that the new attorney does not have experience in collective bargaining. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Board should continue to retain Brad Wierda until after budgeting and see how it goes, and then do an RFP for an attorney.

Collective bargaining skills can be part of the RFP.

No action was taken on this topic.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS - None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The bills and accounts lists were distributed to Board members. There was nothing unusual for the month.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved for payment of bills from December 12, 2023 to January 8, 2024; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Betty Elliot.
- Letter from Housing North.

BOARD COMMENT

- Ms. Kirch suggested that a notice of the Sewer Commission changes be put in with the next sewer bill. After discussion, it was decided to put a notice on the website.
- Ms. Garthe would like the speed limit signs in Lake Leelanau be looked at and corrected if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski – He stated that it is not the Sewer Commission’s job to communicate to the public. He also feels that meeting times are being changed too much. All Township meetings

should be at a previously stated time. He also stated that a lot of people do not have computers and cannot get information from a website. He has concerns about the bump-outs in Lake Leelanau. The sidewalk is unsafe. The bump-outs are not maintained and they are scraped up because of the snow plows.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.; supported by Ms. Garthe. Motion carried.

The next meeting is February 14, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk