

**LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING Monday,
March 11, 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

GUESTS: 15

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Changes to the agenda: The February 15, 2024 (Special Meeting) has two corrections and will be taken out of the Consent Agenda. The Road Commission has a presentation and will present when Brenden Mullane arrives from another meeting. **ACTION:** Garthe moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None **CONSENT AGENDA**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 15, 2024 (Special Meeting)

March 4, 2024 (Special Meeting)

February 15, 2024 (Budget Meeting)

March 4, 2024 (Budget Meeting)

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; supported by Garthe. Motion carried.

February 12, 2024 (Regular Meeting) -Two word corrections were noted.

ACTION: Mitchell moved to approve the February 12, 2024 regular meeting, as presented and amended; supported by Garthe. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski - Mr. Mikowski presented his request to hold a referendum vote on the Leland Township Zoning Ordinance 96-1. This is the 330th 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.

John Popa – He reported that Lansing has passed a bill that takes away the right of the Township to approve solar energy. He reminded the public about what happened with the gravel pit in Kasson Township. The bill would allow commercial enterprises to build solar energy fields without Township approval. He has a petition for people to sign if they oppose this legislation.

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

Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

Andy Standard is retiring. The Department took delivery of an ambulance. The ambulance is parked outside this meeting if the public and Board would like to see it. The ambulance will be at the Annual Meeting as well. There was a structure fire last month. The department has continued with the voluntary standard physical for employees. There is a piece in his report that addresses the impact of staffing the Leland station.

The Board commended Chief Besson for his 7 years of service.

Planning/Zoning, Tim Cypher No

report for Zoning.

Mitchell – The Master Plan was finalized and zoning changes to residential were made.

The Master Plan was finalized and zoning changes were made to residential; both will go to public hearing.

Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

It has been quiet at the Harbor allowing them to get a jump on some maintenance. Work was done on the dredge. The door handles in the public restrooms were repaired and replaced. Application to the 2% grant was made for the dredging. There have been questions about when the public restrooms will be opened. Anderson reported that opening of the restrooms is a multi-stepped process that is weather dependent. He is anticipating the middle or end of April.

Sewer, Steve Patmore

IAI has terminated their services to Leland Township on Saturday. The Township will be handling the operation of the sewer system on their own. Mitch Gawrysiak (former IAI employee) was hired to be the operating technician of the sewer system. The Township has purchased a vehicle and they have phones and the computer from IAI. Phone numbers are the same. There are new email addresses. Steve Patmore and Mitch Gawrysiak need business cards. The lagoon is at a low level. Flows are average. The phosphorus level is down and trending in the right direction. It has been a slow month for call-outs. Administratively, things have been busy.

Parks & Rec – No report

The Parks and Rec survey is on the website and the paper forms are at the office. The next meeting is March 19.

County Commission, Kama Ross

Public comments, specific to the agenda, will be made at the beginning of the County meetings with a limit of 3 minutes. Public comments at the end of the meeting have a limit of 5 minutes. The code of conduct was approved with a vote of 6-1. The grant application for solar energy was submitted. There have been calls about the road construction in Traverse City and its impact on the travel of emergency vehicles.

The County has approved the Kitchen Compost program at Leland School. This will help them get a Green School qualification. Early Childhood is up for millage. The County is upgrading their audio system.

Leelanau County Road Commission - Brenden Mullane and John Popa presenting.

A consultant has analyzed the county roads. It would take 54 million to repair all our roads. Yearly rating of roads will help the Commission to keep up with road repairs. PASER, the road rating system was discussed. Leelanau County roads are in better shape than the state average. PASER ratings of 1 to 4 are expensive to repair. PASER ratings of 5 to 7 are the least expensive to repair. The goal is to keep roads at a 4 rating or above. The different types of road repair were discussed.

Bridges were discussed. Bridges are better than culverts for the wildlife.

Road millage is a big part of road funding. A fleet asset management plan was developed in 2022 and it is revised as needed. In 2027, emission standards will be stricter which will be costly. The Commission will be working on a facilities asset management plan.

Kirch asked about Oxford Drive. The Commission can only match 50% on local roads. Right now they cannot match 50% of any local roads. Their concern is more for the primary roads.

There was discussion about the RC spending their money on some local roads but Leland has not been able to get funding for any roads from the RC. Mitchell suggested that seasonal and tourist population should be factored into the formula they use to fund roads.

Och asked what steps that the Board should take to address this problem of our local roads. A SAD for specific roads is a place to start. Some creative coordination can be done as well. Marek Road was given as an example. At this time, the Road Commission is unable to match funds on residential roads in Leland Township.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Garthe reported on income and expenses for the last month.

ACTION: Mitchell moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; supported by 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.

The seawall cost is \$808,000. Och submitted a grant application through Congressional Discretionary Spending to help in this expense.

Garbage was dumped by Provemont Pond consisting of old tires and tv's. The William and Main project filed a case in court for monetary damages.

There have been complaints about not enough bathrooms in Leland village.

Och has a paragraph in her report on Parks and Rec maintenance. Mitchell wants Och to retract 3 statements/phrases as he stated that the statements/phrases are false. The statements/phrases of concern are: "...splitting up our maintenance needs in order to avoid putting services out to bid," "By sneaking around our own procedures...", and "...soliciting kickbacks...". Och stands by her comments explaining that her intent was to bring attention to how the public may perceive the Board's actions. Och maintains that the Board should follow their own policies.

Och has asked Ken Hagstrom to trim the lower branches off the pine trees that surround the Leland office. The branches can be a hazard in the case of a ground fire. Brookfield asked to meet with the Fire Chief about this first.

ACTION ITEMS

1. MLCC remote tasting room license application – Fishtown Beverage Co., 110 River St. A retail storefront is proposed in the building that used to be Two Fish Gallery. It will have upscale beverages and tasting.
ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the MLCC remote tasting room license application for Fishtown Beverage Co.; supported by Kirch. Motion carried.
2. Beechwood Cemetery work bee – Leelanau Historical Society
Leelanau Historical Society is proposing a one-day work bee to do pruning and clearing, and cleaning of gravestones. It would be funded by a grant.
ACTION: Mitchell moved to approve the one-day work bee at Beechwood Cemetery; supported by Garthe. Motion carried.
3. Resolution R-24-09 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption
This was drafted by Matt Ansorge. We would be eligible for FEMA funds if we ever have a disaster.
ACTION: Garthe moved to adopt Resolution R-24-09, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; supported by Brookfield.

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**

4. Resolution R-24-11, Allow protest to Board of Review in writing

The Township has allowed people to protest property assessment in writing or in email. This resolution will make it a formality.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to allow people to protest property assessment in writing; supported by Mitchell.

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**

5. Approve Grand Ave. and River Street sidewalk work

It was approved in the budget to do the M204 sidewalk work. An estimate is needed for the area that Mitchell explained. The Board will look at it again in April when an estimate is received from Gosling-Czubak for the defined area.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS - None BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The bills and accounts lists were distributed to Board members. Brookfield explained some of the expenses. There was nothing unusual for the month.

ACTION: Garthe moved for payment of bills from February 13, 2024 to March 11, 2024; supported by Michell. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Comments continue to come in about the lack of restrooms in Leland.
- Letter from Keith Ashley concerning the use of the Munnecke Room by the St. Peter's Episcopal Congregation.

BOARD COMMENT - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Dawkins - She commented that she is confused about the items read from the Supervisor's report and getting estimates for the maintenance work. She had questions about the procurement process. If Board members feel procedures are not being followed, it should be discussed at the time, rather than at a regular meeting. She often hears a heated discussion

at a meeting and the public is not aware of the policy that applies to the situation. She would like to see the supervisor's report on line.

Keith Ashley – He questions the use of the Munnecke Room by a church. Generally, churches may arrange to use a public facility until they can obtain their own facility. This church has been using this property since 1964. He is asking the Board to establish a policy. The Township could charge for the use. He wants the Board to research the law and make a policy that is fair to the people of the Township.

Steve Mikowski – He commented that the agenda did not indicate that the Road Commission presentation was going to be an hour. It would have been much better served as a special meeting. Large trucks do damage to the roads. Inequities need to be explored.

Kathy Dawkins - She thanked Keith Ashley for bringing up the use of the Munnecke Room by a church. It has been a topic for other townships. She appreciated the Road Commission presentation.

.ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Garthe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.; supported by Mitchell. Motion carried.

The Annual Meeting is March 30, 2024

The next meeting is April 8, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk