

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2024 7:00 P.M
Solon Township Hall
9191 S. Kasson St., Cedar, MI 49621

DRAFT

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Jim Lautner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Supervisor Jim Lautner, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Trustee Steve Yoder and Trustee Pat Deering.

Guests present: Charlie Smith, Judy Janosik, Mary Taylor, Christina Deeren, Kim Smith, Mary O'Neill and Jonas Yoder.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the agenda with an addition under New Business: F. NMRC Lease Agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the February 15, 2024 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Correspondence

- A FOIA was received from Citizens from Electoral Justice that has been completed.
- Two FOIA's have been received from American Transparency.
- Steve Yoder received a letter from Betsy Coffia.

7. Treasurer's Report/Authorization for Payment of Vouchers:

A reimbursement check was received from Glen Lake for the election held in November in the amount of \$2,067.54. Joan Gauthier is checking with Leelanau County on how to handle the non-sufficient check she received for taxes. Huntington Bank Checking \$40,958.41, ARPA Funds included in checking: \$26,627.33, Available in Checking Account: \$14,331.08, Huntington Bank General Savings \$108,390.11, Huntington Bank General Savings CD (6 Month 4.65%) \$102,100.00, Total General Savings \$210,490.11, Total Funds Available: \$224,821.19, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund \$10,380.17, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund CD \$5,000.00, Total Road Improvement Fund \$15,380.17, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD \$42,754.05, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD (6 Month 4.65%) \$40,840.00, Huntington Fire Fund Savings \$258,556.81, Total Fire Sinking \$342,150.86, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund \$15,545.62, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund (6 Month 4.65%) \$7,948.48, Total Sidewalk Fund \$23,494.10, Total other Township Funds Available: \$381,025.13. Total Current Assets: \$605,846.32, Non-Township Funds, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project \$10,037.66, Huntington Bank Cedar River CD (6 Month 4.65%) \$14,498.20, Total Cedar River \$24,535.86, Parks and Recreation \$12,008.95. Voucher #'s 15307-15343 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Pat Deering to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Committee Reports:

Steve Yoder reported on the Planning Commission meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. All members and six guests were present.

- They approved to keep the budget at \$14,000.00.
- A Public Hearing will be held on April 2, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. to change the language for density in the Zoning Ordinance.
- Joan Gauthier was the acting recording secretary for the meeting. Joan and Shirley Mikowski worked together getting the public notice published for the upcoming Public Hearing.
- They made some changes to the Land Use Maps.
- They are waiting on the hiring of a Zoning Administrator before moving forward with the Master Plan.

Mary Taylor reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

- Working on establishing structure for the committee and trying to break down the needs for the parks. Will possibly assign different committee members on different needs for the parks, and hopefully get volunteers to help them.
- The 5-Year Park Plan will need to be updated by 2025.
- Most grants need to be submitted by April. The deadline was missed this year.
- The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall. (A written report from Kelly Claar is also attached.)

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

1. Well

Shirley Mikowski contacted B&Z Well Drilling to check out why there is so much air in the lines.

B. Parks

1. Fence

There was no update.

2. Bleachers

Joan Gauthier said the bleachers should be done and ready to be picked up by the end of April.

3. Vlack's Park

Mary Taylor said they are waiting for warmer and drier weather before they go and measure for a fence. Joan Gauthier asked if the plan is to hire David Bradshaw to engineer the project, and it is.

4. Beach Park/Dock

Joan Gauthier got the following prices from three different contractors to install the dock in the spring, and take it out in the fall. Leelanau Cut Above: \$600.00 to install and \$600.00 to take out. Nick Niergarth: \$480.00 to install and \$480.00 to take out. Grand Traverse Maintenance: \$380.00 to install and \$380.00 to take out. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the price of \$760.00 from Grand Traverse Maintenance which includes installing the dock in the spring, and taking it out in the fall at the Solon Beach Park. Motion carried 5-0.

Joan requested that funds be allocated in the budget to clean up the limbs at the Beach Park. She also mentioned that there are some deep ruts in the road to the Beach Park. The major reason the road is in such bad shape is because of the heavy trucks that used the road with the construction that took place over a year ago. Jim Lautner said he will check with the township attorney on who is responsible for the cost of repairing that road.

C. Fire Department

There was no report.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

There was no report.

E. Drainage District

There was no update.

F. Cemetery

Zach Baker is diligently working on drawing up a new map of the cemetery. Shirley Mikowski noted with the closing of the roads, they will need to be filled before any lots can be sold.

G. Bunting's/Road

Steve Yoder talked to Brendan Mullane, the manger for the Leelanau County Road Commission, and told Steve he forgot about getting a bid back to us. He also said they are very low on funds and are not able to do the 50/50 where they pay 50% and the township pays the other 50%.

H. Streetlights

Shirley Mikowski said the streetlight by Brenda Bugai's has been repaired. Lance from Northern Spark Electric said he would look into installing some type of screen or diffuser on the streetlight by Mr. O'Neill's home.

10. New Business

A. Resolution/Street Closure

The resolution will be adopted at the next meeting.

B. Pension Anniversary Date/Change

Shirley Mikowski spoke with Tara Scherf from Municipal Retirement, the township pension provider, about the township anniversary currently in February. Salary resolutions are done in February, so if there should be an increase to a salary, the increase would not be included because the township pays in advance. Ms. Scherf recommended moving our anniversary date to April or May. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to change the township pension anniversary date from February 1 to April 1. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Zoning Administrator/Accept Resignation

The township board received a resignation from Tim Cypher as Zoning Administrator effective February 29, 2024. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to accept the resignation of Tim Cypher as Zoning Administrator effective February 29, 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Zoning Administrator Hire/Appoint

An ad was placed in the Leelanau Enterprise to fill the position of Zoning Administrator. One response was received from Christina Deeren who submitted a letter of interest along with a resume for the position. Ms. Deeren is a township resident and gave a brief history. She was an assessor and has experience working in the field of zoning and planning. She also has been a recording secretary. She believes in serving the community and to get back with people as soon as possible. She is employed full time, but said she is a workaholic. She has looked up the forms and the Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Deeren would like to work as an employee of the township, and would like to work at this position for a while and do a little research before determining how she should be compensated. Steve Yoder asked if she could be the planner along with the zoning administrator and also asked about the recording secretary. Ms. Deeren said she would do all three positions. As an employee, she will need a computer for township use. Steve recommended hiring as an interim and make a permanent decision at the May meeting. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to hire Christina Deeren as Interim Zoning Administrator until May 9, 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Special Meeting/Annual Meeting

Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to have a special meeting on March 23, 2024 following the annual meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

F. NMRC Lease Agreement

The lease agreement with NMRC (Northern Michigan Rowing Club) is up for renewal. The lease agreement includes the use of the park from May to October, with a monthly lease fee of \$100.00 and to help maintain the park. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the lease agreement with the Northern Michigan Rowing Club for the use of the Solon Township Beach Park from May 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024 for a lease fee of \$100.00 per month. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Public Comment

Mary O’Neill inquired about the letter received from Betsy Coffia. Steve Yoder responded that the letter contained information about the state regulating windmills and solar panels. Ms. O’Neill asked the board to take action by writing letters, joining with other townships and adopt a resolution to protect township rights.

Jim Lautner said representatives from the Michigan Township Association attended all of the hearings on behalf of the townships.

Mary Taylor shared how excited she is to see a bobcat and something happening on the corner property in Cedar.

Jonas Yoder is very grateful the township board hired a Zoning Administrator and honors the board for that.

Judy Janosik asked how much control does the state have regarding the windmills and solar panels. Jim Lautner said the state does all of the sightings for windmills and solar panels.

Mary Taylor asked if the regulation would affect the tax base. Joan Gauthier does not know at this time.

12. Announcements

There was none.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski
Solon Township Clerk

Our last Parks meeting was 3 committee members, 2 committee members excused, 1 unexcused, and no public. It was held on 2/20/2024.

We have been working on drafting a parks ordinance and trying to determine some items we might be able to purchase before the end of the year. We need to confirm that the dollar amount in the parks budget is approximately \$12,000?

We need an update on the bleachers delivery and plans for installation.

We would like to request an update on the meeting with the board and the chamber.

Additionally what an agreement with the adult softball leagues would look like, and potentially a meeting with the league contacts, parks, and a member of the board again to draft an agreement for this upcoming season.

As a committee we agree that there is a need to have a member of the board attend our meetings so that we can operate together more efficiently and not spend board meeting time rehashing items.

Our next parks meeting is going to be moved to Monday March 25th 6 pm at the townhall.
Public welcome.

Kelly Claar

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2024

| DATE | PERMIT # | NAME | USE | RECEIPT CK.# | AMOUNT |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| 2/28/2024 | LUP 24-02 | KANITZ | LAND USE | 202402 | 5247 \$ 90.00 |
| 010-011-001-10 | 7043 E. BIRCH POINT RD. | ADDITION & ATTACHED GARAGE | | 1,500 S.F. | |

TOTAL \$ 90.00

SIGNED:

Timothy A. Cypher

DATE: 2/29/2024

TIMOTHY A. CYPHER
SOLON TOWNSHIP ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
231-360-2557
TIM@ALLPERMITS.COM