

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2023 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: Kelly Claar, Chris Comeaux, Judy Janosik, Karen Smith, Charles Smith, Matt Biolette, Margy Klesae, Lisa Rossi-Brett, Rick Brett, Sarah Lautner, Johanna Novak, Mary O'Neill, Julie Cordano, Jane Eccleston, Melinda Lautner, Dale Gauthier, and Corey Flaska.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the agenda with an addition under 10. Unfinished Business: C. Fire Department 2. Budget. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the October 12, 2023 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comment

Mary O'Neill said it was a well run election and was a pleasure to work with Shirley Mikowski. Ms. O'Neill questioned the amount of registered voters Solon Township has because of the small number reported. They only reported the registered voters that live in the Glen Lake School District.

6. Parks Visioning and Planning Report/Matt Biolette

Matt Biolette from Fleis&Vandenbrink gave each of the board members a written report with all of the information that had been gathered from the three Parks Visioning and Planning Sessions. Mr. Biolette gave an overview of the report and some recommendations. The report can be viewed at leelanau.gov/solontwp.asp.

7. Correspondence

There was none.

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

Joan Gauthier reported that she recently renewed the CD's. Joan also transferred the \$5,000.00 to the Road Improvement Fund as budgeted and opened another CD for this fund. Huntington Bank Checking \$62,971.95, ARPA Funds included in checking: \$26,627.33, Available in Checking Account: \$36,344.62, Huntington Bank General Savings \$98,319.39, Huntington Bank General Savings CD (6 Month 4.2%) \$100,000.00, Total General Savings \$198,319.39, Total Funds Available: \$234,664.01, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund \$15,369.95, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD \$42,754.05, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD (6 Month 4.2%) \$40,000.00, Huntington Fire Fund Savings \$10,689.67, Total Fire Sinking \$93,443.72, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund \$15,530.56, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund (6 Month 4.2%) \$7,785.00, Total Sidewalk Fund \$23,315.56, Total other Township Funds Available: \$132,129.23. Total Current Assets: \$366,793.24, Non-Township Funds,

Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project \$10,027.69, Huntington Bank Cedar River CD (6 Month 4.2%) \$14,200.00, Total Cedar River \$24,227.69, Parks and Recreation \$11,046.55. Voucher #'s 15197-15234 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented.
Motion carried 5-0.

9. Committee Reports:

The Planning Commission meeting for November was cancelled so there was no report. Steve Yoder asked what the board's opinion is on the Planning Commission moving forward with ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units). The board agreed they should move forward and write something up.

Kelly Claar reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. There were six members and four guests present.

- The township attorney said AED's will not be a problem. They are working on getting signs made with information and maps.
- They had a plan of where to put the fencing and close off the park, but it is not ADA, so they are still working on that.
- Kelly was in contact with the DNR/Trust Fund Grant. It is an acquisition grant which would require a 25% match. The match would be approximately \$60,000.00 for the property in front of Vlack's Park. This will be a long process.
- Working on a contact or documentation sheet for the township hall which may be utilized for the parks programs.
- A maintenance program is needed to apply for a DNR Grant, so they are working on establishing one.
- Kelly will ask Trudy Galla to upload the Parks Visioning and Planning Report to the website. Kelly will also be forwarding the report to the township board.
- They partnered with the Cedar Chamber of Commerce and provided free popcorn and food for sale for the movie that followed the Trunk-or-Treat event that was held at the Solon Township Hall on Saturday, October 28, 2023. They will be providing food for sale for the Light Up Cedar on Friday, November 24, 2023.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

Joan Gauthier asked how the Trunk-or-Treat event went. Lisa Rossi-Brett said there was a good attendance downtown, but the movie was not well attended.

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

1. Doors

Three quotes were received for replacing the front doors of the township hall: Mitten Glass Co. - \$14,542.00, Northwest Commercial Door and Frame LLC - \$13,167.00 and Grand Traverse Construction - \$16,500.00 plus an additional \$600.00 to paint the doors. Steve Yoder worked with Mitten Glass Co. and highly recommends them because they responded in a timely manner. There were different color options and the board decided to go with black doors. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to purchase doors for the Solon Township Hall from Mitten Glass Co. in the amount of \$14,542.00 to be paid from the ARPA Funds. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Cement Work

The cement work at the township hall will be put on hold until spring.

B. Parks

1. Fence

Apple Fence Company is still very short staffed so there is no time frame when they will be removing the fence from the recycling site and installing it at the Solon Beach Park.

2. Bleachers

Joan Gauthier contacted Extruded Aluminum Corporation about paying for the dye for the bleachers and the township keeping it. Joan found out that the township will not be charged for the dye. The estimated cost for the bleachers has now been reduced to \$11,107.00 instead of \$13,852.00.

3. Diamond Dust

Alison Beebe sent an email asking if the diamond dust can be ordered in the spring instead of this fall. The fall has been very wet fall so the ball diamonds are too soft to put the dust on this fall. The board agreed it could wait until spring.

4. Vlack's Park

See under Committee Reports.

5. Solon Schoolhouse

There is no update.

C. Fire Department

1. Interlocal Agreement

Joan Gauthier forwarded copies to the other townships of the present agreement with the proposed language. The Interlocal Agreement expires in 2025.

2. Budget

The Cedar Area Fire and Rescue 2023-2024 budget amount for each of the four townships to pay is \$270,978.79 for operational and \$23,197.36 for Capital. The proposed budget for 2024-2025 is \$1,319,906.68 with each of the four townships paying \$301,476.67 for operational and \$25,517.10 for Capital. The proposed budget for 2025-2026 is \$1,385,902.01 with each of the four townships paying \$317,975.50 for operational and \$28,068.81 for Capital. The Solon Township Fire Millage is 2.50 which will bring in approximately \$320,000.00 in 2023. The millage ends this year so a new millage will need to be approved at the Annual meeting. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the Cedar Area Fire and Rescue proposed budgets for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

Joan Gauthier said the Leelanau Conservancy is not going to authorize the buoys.

E. Drainage District

Joan Gauthier said she received the assessment information for the Drainage District.

F. Cemetery

Zach Baker is diligently working on drawing up a new map of the cemetery.

G. Land Use Maps

Joan Gauthier said the maps do not give you the visual as seeing the property in person as proposed on the maps. Since Joan has seen the properties, she does not have a problem with the maps. Steve Yoder said he has been going through Citizen Planners through the county the past six weeks and discovered that if the density is included with the maps, it will lock everything up and would be a long process to amend. Steve's recommendation is to have the maps without the density tied in with the Master Plan and make it one document. The density should be added to the Zoning Ordinance. Joan said it would make sense for the Zoning Ordinance to dictate the density for PUD's. The board agreed to have Steve take it back to the Planning Commission and take the density out of the Future Land Use maps and put the density in the Zoning Ordinance.

H. Bunting's Road

A letter was sent to the Leelanau County Road Commission in October requesting a bid to improve the road behind Bunting's Cedar Market from their parking lot to Bellinger Road, but there has been no response to date.

I. Elections

1. Agreement

Michelle Crocker/County Clerk has completed the agreement for the county to hold the early voting there. The passing of proposal 2022-2 requires early voting (9-day voting) prior to Election Day. Each township has to approve it. This agreement will be a trial and can be changed in the future. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to approve Solon Township entering into the County Early Voting Site Agreement ("the Agreement") made between Leelanau County, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, MI 49682, and the participating municipalities in the county pursuant to Article II Section 4(m) of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and the Michigan Election Law, 1954, Public Act 116, MCL 168.720a et seq., for the purpose of operating joint early voting sites during the required nine days of early voting for Federal and State wide elections, and to authorize Clerk, Shirley Mikowski, to sign the agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

2. November/February

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 for the State of Michigan.

J. Streetlights

Shirley Mikowski contacted Lance Bice from Northern Sparks to repair the street lights. Shirley had contacted Consumers Energy last month and they did come out, but they do not take care of the lights that were purchased by the township. Rick Brett sent an email with what lights need to be repaired and Shirley has forwarded the information to Mr. Bice.

11. New Business

A. Appointments

An ad will be placed in the Leelanau Enterprise for the position of Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Parks and Recreation, Sexton and Township Hall Custodian.

B. Metro Act Right of Way/Permit Extension

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to extend the existing METRO Act Permit to Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Michigan ("AT&T") for a term to end on March 31, 2029. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Public Comment

Lisa Rossi-Brett said Light up Cedar will be held on Friday, November 24, 2023 from 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Santa will arrive and turn the lights on. The reindeer will arrive. There will be a scavenger hunt with all of the businesses. There will be a train, which is new this year. Then, Santa will move to the Solon Township Hall. This all is being funded by the Cedar Polka Fest.

Corey Flaska asked how the beautiful lights could be extended even further south of Cedar and adding additional sidewalks. Mr. Flaska also commented that he had pointed it out for the last two years that the density should be with the Zoning Ordinance and not included in the maps.

Mary O'Neill said she has been attending Planning Commission meetings for the past several years and knows how hard they have been working on the Future Land Use Maps. Ms. O'Neill said by admonishing them sends a bad message and respectfully asked to consider how hard they have been working on these maps.

Charlie Smith knows how contentious the maps have been, but he applauds all of the township board members for doing their jobs and taking direction. It is very encouraging.

13. Announcements

Joan Gauthier said the tax bills are being sent out.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski
Solon Township Clerk

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: OCTOBER 2023

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
10/27/2023 010-023-001-65	LUP 23-31 11486 S. LITTLE HAMPTON	PITRE NEW DWELLING GARAGE DECKS PORCHES	LAND USE	202331 7319	\$ 180.00 2,726 S.F.
10/30/2023 010-007-006-00	LUP 23-31 9464 S. CEDAR ROAD	NACHAZEL NEW DWELLING GARAGE DECKS PORCHES	LAND USE	202332 PENDING	\$ 180.00 1,950 S.F.
10/23/2023 010-023-008-00	LDA 23-02 6129 E. LINCOLN RD	COWEN LDA CREATING ONE LAND DIVISION	LAND DIV.	LDA 202302 PENDING	\$ 250.00

TOTAL \$ 610.00

SIGNED:

Timothy A. Cypher

DATE:

11/5/2023

TIMOTHY A. CYPHER
SOLON TOWNSHIP ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
231-360-2557
staff@allpermits.com



AT&T Michigan
Angela Wesson
METRO Act Administrator
54 N. Mill Street
Mailbox #30
Pontiac, MI 48342

October 23, 2023

Solon Township clerk
Shirley Mikowski
P.O. Box 253
Cedar, MI 49621

METRO ACT RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT EXTENSION

Dear Solon Township,

This is a letter agreement which extends the existing METRO Act Permit issued by the Solon Township/Leelanau County to Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Michigan ("AT&T") which expires on March 31, 2024. The extension is for a term to end on March 31, 2029.

If this is agreeable, please sign both copies of the extension letter agreement in the place provided below and return to AT&T Michigan at the address on this letterhead. Upon receipt AT&T will acknowledge and return one copy for your files.

Additional information regarding this renewal request may be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc>. Please click on Regulatory Information, Telecommunications, and METRO Act/Right of Way.

We would appreciate return of the signed copies within 30 days of receiving this request. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Ms. Angela Wesson via e-mail, AD3245@att.com or 248-877-9518.

Agreed to by and on behalf of the
Solon Township

By: *Jana Lentz*
Signature

Its: Supervisor

Date: 11/9/23

Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a
AT&T acknowledges receipt of this
Permit Extension granted by the municipality.

By: *Angela Wesson*
Angela Wesson

Its: METRO Act Administrator

Date: 10-1-23