

LELAND TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, March 18, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
The Old Art Building, 111 S. Main Street, Leland
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: 32

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Och explained that this is a meeting of the electors. All motions are advisory except for the salary resolutions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Changes:

Mark Morton will provide a written report. The Trustee salary should be \$6,300 instead of \$6,500. Kama Ross's report will be #2 in the Reports section instead of #8.

ACTION: Ms. Dawkins moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended; supported by Dan Lisuk. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 19, 2022 (Annual Meeting): Kathy Dawkins moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2022 as presented; supported by Cal Little. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/DEPARTMENTS (available online)

1. Leland Township Fire & Rescue Department – Dan Besson, Chief
This is Dan Besson's sixth year as Leland's Fire Chief. Monthly and yearly stats are in the report. The slogan for the Fire Department is "to be better tomorrow than we were yesterday." Core values of the department are "Competence, Caring, and Compassion." Chief Besson puts a main focus on training and preparation. He explained how they use shift training. They train twice a year at the Regional Training Center and employees are encouraged to attend conferences. Firefighter safety and mental health is an important concern of the department. Help is available. He listed the out of Township areas where Leland Township provided assistance.
2. Leelanau County Commission – Kama Ross, Commissioner
Ms. Ross represents Centerville and Leland. She serves on Parks and Rec and two sub-committees of Parks and Rec. She also serves on the Solid Waste Council, the Board of Public Works, and the Dam Authority. She serves on the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLA) and the Lake Leelanau Community Association (LLCA). She has a passion for the senior citizen populations in the County. She provided an update on the broadband internet which is planned to be launched in the spring. Updates can be found on the County website. A juvenile detention facility is being planned for the County. They want to keep troubled youth at home instead of sending them out. Drainage problems are being worked on and the Schomberg drain is going forward. She mentioned recycling efforts and dates for the recycling of electronics and mattresses. The Dam authority has been reconfigured. The master plan for Miles Kimberly Park is being redone.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

A question was asked about short-term rentals. Ms. Ross fully supports the need to look into this problem.

A question was asked about the need for a juvenile detention center. The Family Court is citing a need for one and they anticipate the number of juveniles needing this support will continue to grow. State funds would pay for it. Another person asked why they don't use the jail. Ms. Ross reported that the jail was considered but was not adequate.

3. Leland Township Sewer – Steve Patmore, Sewer Administrator/Jim Redmond, Commission Chair
Mr. Patmore reported that running the sewer system is a team effort. IAI has been contracted and the Clerk and the Treasurer help with the billing and administrative work. The system is 30 years old and this year was busier than normal for repairs and maintenance. The lagoon levels are good and the phosphorus levels are decreasing. They have been working on reducing the hydrogen sulfide odor. The chemical treatment that was tried this year reduced the odor significantly but the cost of the chemicals is going up and its use is labor intensive. Charcoal filters and charcoal refills are available to residents. Mr. Patmore reviewed the work that is planned for this coming year. Financially the sewer Department is in good shape. However, the cost of septic tank pumping has increased significantly. A rate study is currently being done. It is anticipated that sewer rates will go up as well as new customer fees.

Jim Redmond encouraged people to volunteer for the Sewer Commission.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

It was asked if there is a regular schedule for septic tank inspection and pumping. It is mostly done through call-ins for problems. Mr. Patmore also spoke about the lifespan of a charcoal filter and replacement charcoal is available.

Steve Mikowski commented about depleting the amount of REU's available.

There was also discussion about the effect of short-term rentals on the sewer system.

4. Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission – Mariann Kirch
Work is being done to make a plan for Hancock field to maintain baseball and sustain soccer use. Mariann Kirch explained various grants that are being sought. She reviewed the projects and park needs that have been budgeted for this year. She thanked Kama Ross for her interest in Leland's parks and rec and Ken Hagstrom for his service. She is working with the Chamber to help support the maintenance of public restrooms.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Larry Acker commended the committee for attending to the residents' needs. He asked if a professional grant writer could be hired. There is no funding for that at this time.

Interested residents were encouraged to attend a Parks and Rec workshop on April 12.

5. Leland Township Harbor – Jeremy Anderson, Harbormaster

A lot of fuel was pumped this last year at the Harbor and there were no spills. Dredging is scheduled to start April 14. The Army Corps is doing a study on the breakwater.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Marianne Kirch asked where the paid parking would be. Jeremy Anderson described where it is planned.

Leland Township Planning Commission – Dan Korson, Chairperson

Mr. Korson was absent. Clint Mitchell offered comment on the Planning Commission. They have been working on a new master plan. They are reviewing lot coverage in residential areas.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Steve Mikowski commented that the new building in Lake Leelanau is out of character for the area. It is also using 5 REU's instead of 1 REU used for the previous building. Ms. Och responded that it will look better with siding and landscaping.

Cal Little commented that the bump-outs in Lake Leelanau should be landscaped. Right now they are a hazard. Steve Mikowski commented that the bump-outs are difficult for large trucks to navigate around. Lisa Brookfield commented that the bump-outs have helped to slow down traffic and they help pedestrians to cross the street. Cindy Kacin commented that the LLCA is taking on the project of landscaping the bump-outs. Attention will be given to not have plants that grow too high whereby motorists vision would be obstructed.

6. Leland Township Library – Mark Morton, Director

A written report will be provided.

7. Leelanau Community Cultural Center – Dan Lisuk, LCCC President

The building is now owned by the Cultural Center. You don't have to be a member to use the building. There is a new executive director, Sarah Mills. Sarah Hartley is the new program director. New stage lights were installed. They will be upgrading the sound system. Josh Davis will be featured on April 15. There will be a dance recital on April 30. The Artists' Market is in July. Every Tuesday there is an art workshop and fellowship. On Wednesday evening, Jim Redmond hosts an open jam session. The Cultural Center does not cost the taxpayers anything.

8. Leland Township Assessor – Julie Krombeen

This year's Board of Review was wrapped up last Tuesday. The Board has 3 members and an alternate. 17 petitions were presented this year. The next meetings will be in July and December.

Keith Ashley elaborated on the disabled veteran tax cancellation. This has to be applied for every year. There is no compensation from the state. He asked if the transfer of a property from a person to a trust generates an uncapping of assessed value. It does not.

Another asked if home values are affected by road conditions. Ms. Krombeen responded that values are determined by past sales in the area.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Mr. Milkowski asked for a Clerk and Treasurer report. He also noted that there is not a report from the Facilities Committee. Ms. Brookfield responded that the state is still rolling out the requirements of the election laws. There will be an effect on the voting process. Ms. Garthe responded that her report would be just numbers. She did comment on delinquent taxes. Keith Ashley gave comments about the Facilities Committee. Their job was to come up with options for a location of Township offices. They have considered over 20 options and after presenting to the Board, they are down to five options. The Board has indicated that they do not want to lease or rent a property. A building would cost about \$500,000. Mr. Mikowski commented that

the public would oppose a building at Grove Park. Cal Little commented that the Grove Park property would still be a park but with a building on it. He urged the community to communicate with the committee. Meetings are posted. Larry Acker suggested that there may be an opportunity for grant funding.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Ms. Och commented that the Board is working in an inadequate space. There is no privacy. If a resident comes in to speak to someone about a problem, everyone in the one room is privy to the conversation. She commended the election workers for holding 3 flawless elections. The volunteer Facilities committee has worked very hard evaluating over 20 properties. There is an ongoing capital improvement and rate study. New fire equipment has been acquired. The Harbor is utilizing new technology. Big projects are the seawall and the drainage on Pearl Street. An asset management plan is being developed in order to adapt and plan for the future. The Township needs to maintain proper fund balances. Ms. Och discussed what she anticipates the Township will accomplish. To do all of this, we need community involvement.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mike Hartigan commented that an extra millage is for a very specific thing. Rich Rossman commented about Oxford Road. The Road Commission has said that it has to be reconstructed and it will cost about \$200,000. The Road Commission would pay \$100,000 of it. It could be funded by a special assessment. The Township needs to formulate a plan for the road.

Asphalt has a life of about 35 years. The money is not coming from any other level of government. We may need an ad hoc committee to research the feasibility and possibilities.

Cal Little is opposed to a special assessment.

Steve Mikowski commented that a small percent of taxes goes to funding roads. The Road Commission has a responsibility to keep roads safe. He spoke further of the history of road funding.

Kathy Dawkins commented that the special millage that was turned down was not for any specific projects.

Mr. Mikowski commented that he questioned why the Township has a need to have an interest in the Munnecke Room/Library.

Keith Ashley commented that the building plan calls for a meeting space that is smaller than the Munnecke Room.

Rich Rossman commented that the people need an answer to what is going to be done for the roads. ACTION: Rich Rossman moved that the Township develop a specific plan now to fix all the roads that need repair in the Township; supported by Larry Acker. Motion carried. (32 in favor, 0 opposed)

Bruce Dunn commented that the motion was needed as a matter of record.

Mr. Mitchell commented that a plan is being worked on now. There has been a discussion with the Road Commission. Anything that is done has to be coordinated with the Road Commission. The Road Commission is doing an analysis. Mr. Mitchell commented that we should be looking at Centerville Township and how their roads are being repaired at Sugarloaf.

Ms. Brookfield commented that the budget can be modified. There is still time to do a millage this year.

Ms. Och commented that it is up to Leland Township to prioritize the roads that we want to do.

Kathy Dawkins suggested that a committee be set up to make a plan to repair/reconstruct roads and report to the Township.

ACTION: Kathy Dawkins moved that the Township Board will set up a committee by June 1 to do the following: review the repair and maintenance needed of Township roads, to effect a plan to the previous motion, coordinate with the Road Commission, and report monthly to the Township Board; supported by Maive Tropi.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Lisuk asked if an extra voted millage could be a result of this committee. The answer is yes.

Ms. Brookfield commented that this committee would slow down the process because the Board has started this process.

Motion failed. (3 in favor, 20 opposed)

There was a person who commented that this was discussed at a Board meeting and a Budget meeting and Mr. Mitchell did not comment about the work that he has done with the Road Commission. Mr. Mitchell said he could not comment during the public comment.

There were further comments about the process.

Kathy Dawkins commented about the poor communication about this issue. She suggested that all the information be put on the website.

Larry Acker asked if the Township had a professional to help understand how ARPA funds could be used for infrastructure. Ms. Och answered that the Township gets a lot of information about that.

Ms. Brookfield commented that ARPA funds were used for part of the sidewalk work and some for Parks and Rec. In the budget, you will see it coming in and going out through the general fund.

SALARY RESOLUTIONS

1. Supervisor – 5% increase to \$31,500

ACTION: Alan Campbell moved to approve the 5% increase of salary to \$31,500 for the Supervisor; supported by Mike Hartigan. Motion carried. (16 in favor, 1 opposed)

2. Treasurer – 5% increase to \$42,000

ACTION: Kathy Dawkins moved to approve the 5% increase of salary to \$42,000 for the Treasurer; supported by Geno Miller. Motion carried. (20 in favor, 0 opposed)

3. Clerk – 5% increase to \$46,746

ACTION: Sandy Thomas moved to approve the 5% increase of salary to \$46,746 for the Clerk, supported by Kathy Dawkins. Motion carried. (20 in favor, 0 opposed)

4. Trustees – 5% increases to \$6,300 each

ACTION: Mr. Mikowski moved to raise the Trustees' salary to \$7,200 each; supported by Sandy Thomas.

DISCUSSION

Someone asked who pays for the extra increase in the motion. The budget would have to absorb the extra amount.

Mr. Mitchell would not support the increase. He feels the 5% increase is sufficient.

Mr. Ashley commented that \$7,200 is more than a County Board trustee gets.

Motion carried. (13 in favor, 7 opposed)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Campbell commented that we have 3 piers in the County and we have no great fishing opportunities on those piers. One million dollars has been funded to study the Harbor pier. If it is going to be redesigned, let's make it accessible to fishing.

The meeting was recessed at 1:23 p.m. for a break and the Budget Hearing.

The Annual meeting was reconvened at 1:41 p.m. after the Budget Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski commented that the building plan for offices should have a larger meeting room and then maybe sell the Munnecke room. He also commented that the Road Commission has the jurisdiction for the safety of the roads. It has to be clearly established who owns the roads.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 p.m.; supported by Ms. Garthe.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kacin

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk

Date Approved