

## LELAND TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 19, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

The Old Art Building

111 S. Main Street, Leland, MI 49654

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Susan Och, Clerk Lisa Brookfield, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Trustee Clint Mitchell, Trustee Mariann Kirch.

**ABSENT:** 0

**GUESTS:** 79

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Och explained this is a meeting of electors. Electors are defined as anyone who resides in Leland Township.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Bob Schlueter moved to approve the agenda as presented; supported by Jim Blair. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**March 26, 2021, Annual Meeting:** Jim Blair moved to approve the minutes of March 26, 2021; supported by Keith Ashley. Motion carried.

### REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/DEPARTMENTS (Reports are available online)

1. Leland Township Fire and Rescue Department – Dan Besson, Chief  
Chief Besson reported that Leland Township has an outstanding crew. Some of the crew have mechanical knowledge and save the Township money by being able to repair vehicles and equipment. Safety checks are done on the vehicles and equipment regularly. Water sources are maintained and checked. The equipment and trucks are kept very clean. The community appreciates the work that they do; the department gets lots of compliments. The fire stations are designed to prevent sleep deprivation for the crew. The fire department has a lot of trainings and the crew studies building plans within the Township so they are very familiar with the structures. There was a question from the audience about how Leland Township Fire and Rescue partners with other townships on emergency calls. Chief Besson explained how that works.
2. Leland Township Sewer – Steve Patmore, Sewer Administrator  
The system is 30 years old and it needs to be upgraded and some equipment needs to be replaced. IAI operates the sewer system. The Township has extended their contract with IAI for another five years. The system processes on the average of 73,000 gallons of effluent a day. The system is running at about 80% of capacity. Phosphorous levels are improving since it is being treated. A project has been started to treat the hydrogen sulfide which causes the odor. They have found that calcium nitrate reduces the odor significantly. This project will be expanded this year. They are working on a permanent place to store the calcium nitrate. This year biosolids were removed from the lagoon. The plan is to remove the biosolids every 10 years. They have started on gravity sewer system for River Street. Mr. Patmore also cited other projects that were planned for the

coming year. IAI has completed a system assessment. The septic tank pumping is being done by a schedule. However, there is only one company that does pumping in Leelanau County and they are very busy. Also, the cost has gone up significantly. The Commission is working on a capital improvement fund to cover the next ten years. Mr. Mikowski complimented the work of the Sewer Commission. He also cautioned the Township in granting REUs to developers as the number of REUs is limited and they are meant for use by Township residents.

Another question was asked about the septic pumping schedule. Mr. Patmore explained that he was working on it; the difficulty is that there is only one pumping company in the area. The schedule works out to be about every 6 years. However, some households don't need to be done as often and there are others that may need it done more often. Consequently, pumping doesn't always get done as planned. If a resident is having a problem, they should call the Sewer Department. If pumping is needed, they will get it done as soon as possible.

Another question was about the capital improvement fund. Mr. Patmore explained that there is no set amount set aside in the capital improvement fund. Obviously, big projects will draw down the surplus in that account.

3. Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission - Molly Steck

Molly could not attend the meeting, so Mariann Kirch, the Board representative to the Commission, gave the report. Ms. Kirch cited the work that was done over the last year. The work that was done at Provemont Pond was paid for privately. The ice rink at Hancock Field was a very successful volunteer project. Also, the dugout at Hancock Field was repaired by a volunteer effort. They are currently trying to get funding for a land use study at Hancock Field. They have applied for the 2% funds from the Tribe. Bob Schlueter commented that work on the road ends, particularly Reynolds Street, needs to be a priority. There is work to be done on the beach assess and the parking.

4. Leland Township Harbor – Jeremy Anderson, Harbormaster

Water levels are down. Last year the sump was underwater and cracked. It has been repaired. The Harbor has new software for reservations and sales. They will now be able to track where the boats come from and manage their sales more efficiently. Security cameras were installed. They will need 1-2 dockhands this season. They will be dredging this year, but it is not known yet if the Army Corps will do it or the Harbor. A question was asked to where the spoils will go. The Township has a permit for the spoils. They also ask the shore residents if they want the sand on their beach.

5. Leland Township Planning Commission – Dan Korson, Chairperson

Dan Korson reported that it was an average year. He cited work that was done and permits that were issued. The Commission has been discussing lot coverage to try and come up with a better plan. They are also working on the Master Plan. Some of it has

been revised and they plan to have it done by the end of the year. The Planning Commission does not see a problem with short term rentals at the present. There are some rules in place. The state has been discussing regulations for short term rentals but hasn't come up with anything yet.

There was a question about lot coverage. The Commission is still working on it. They have some workable formulas and are making headway.

The relationship between the Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator was explained.

Other questions came from the floor about term length and the Popp Road recycling site. The Popp Road recycling center did not go through because the Board did not want to pay for work to establish it.

6. Leland Township Library – Mark Morton, Director

Mark Morton complimented Ken Hagstrom for his maintenance work at the Library grounds. The Leland Library has a partnership with other libraries in the area. They are doing more in-person programs. Library use is increasing.

Leelanau Community Cultural Center – Dan Lisuk, LCCC President

The building has been purchased from MSU. Their vision is to promote the arts, provide a meeting place for the community, and preserve the Old Art Building as a historical site. They will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building. 17 concerts are scheduled for this year. Tomorrow there will be a community outreach for Ukraine. Proceeds will go to the World Service Kitchen. There will be an auction of artwork from 2-5 p.m. There was a question from the audience about the solar panels on the roof. The panels do not directly provide energy for the building, but credits are given to the property which pays for the lights in the building. The solar array on the roof feeds into the grid. They are looking for a generator for when the power goes out.

7. Leelanau County Commission – Patricia Soutas-Little, Commissioner

There are two new recycling sites: at the Government building and at the Road Commission. There will be a mattress recycling, tire recycling, hazardous waste, and electronics recycling this year.

The bulk of the money from the ACT funds will go toward broadband services.

The Senior Services department works on prevention and has nursing back to their services. Labor contracts have been approved. Financially, the county owns a lot of properties and resources. They are putting together a plan for the maintenance of these.

8. Leland Township Assessor – Julie Krombeen

The Appeals process ended Tuesday. There were 16 petitions.

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – Susan Och**

This year the Township has gone through some major challenges. The pandemic being the primary one. Ms. Och stated other challenges as well. There has been a good economy in both villages. The census has gone up. The rise in property values does not result in higher tax revenue. Increased taxes would only be on new construction. The Township is getting \$216,000 in Covid funds. A millage vote in August will be for the Fire and Rescue Department.

Susan Och spoke about the salary compensation. The Salary Compensation Committee was an advisory committee. Asking for a salary increase is not a crime. It is the only way for a Township employee to get a raise in the Township government policy structure. The Clerk's job was described. The Clerk's position did not receive a raise in 2021.

Ms. Och described an incident at Van's Beach this year where 3 people were caught in a rip current. A person on the beach found the life ring and was able to save the 3 people. Ms. Och expressed her gratitude that the rope was coiled perfectly by the post so the person was able to get the life ring out to the victims efficiently. Ms. Och was thankful for the people who look out for the beach and made the rope ready to go. It is these types of acts that make our community great.

## **SALARY RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. Supervisor – Increase salary to \$26,000, Resolution R-22-06**

The Resolution R-22-06 to increase the Supervisor's salary to \$26,000 was presented to the public.

**ACTION:** Bob Schlueter moved to increase the Supervisor's salary to \$26,000; supported by Dan Lisuk.

**DISCUSSION:** Another motion was put out. Mr. Lisuk retracted his support of the first motion, and Mr. Schlueter retracted his first motion.

**ACTION:** Amy Bolmer moved to increase the Supervisor's salary to \$30,000; supported by Kathy Dawkins.

**DISCUSSION:** Larry Acker would like to see a job description. He has researched Supervisor job descriptions from other townships. Ms. Och described her role and also cited the services to manage that are unique to Leland Township: 2 unincorporated villages, sewer system, fire department, many parks, and the Harbor. She feels her job is to stay within the law and to look ahead on needed projects. The Supervisor is responsible for calling and running meetings, working with Ken Hagstrom on maintenance, working on labor contracts, recruiting people, and many other duties. It is a 30 hour per week job, at times up to 40 hours. Kathy Dawkins commented that she was surprised at what the Township workers do with the resources they have. Tony Borden commented that last year raises were voted down. He reiterated that the Board went with the compensation committee's recommendation except for the Clerk's

position. He feels that the Board voting for their own raises is a conflict of interest and the Compensation Committee is a government process. Cal Little commented that the public vote is for salaries, not total compensation. The Board prepares a recommendation and presents it to the constituency. He complimented the work of the Clerk. The procedure is state law. Others commented to get on with the vote, one position at a time.

Motion carried. (40 in favor, 20 opposed)

2. Treasurer – Increase salary to \$40,000, Resolution R-22-07

The Resolution R-22-07 to increase the Treasurer's salary to \$40,000 was presented to the public.

**ACTION:** Keith Ashley moved to increase the Treasurer's salary to \$40,000; supported by Jim Blair. Motion carried. (60 in favor, 3 opposed)

3. Clerk – Increase salary to \$44,520, Resolution R-22-08

The Resolution R-22-08 to increase the Clerk's salary to \$44,520 was presented to the public.

**ACTION:** Sue Lederle moved to increase the Clerk's salary to \$44,520; supported by Rob Stowe.

DISCUSSION: Karen Zemaitis made comment on an unsatisfactory experience she had with the Clerk in resolving a sewer problem. Mr. Patmore offered an explanation of the situation. Keith Ashley and others spoke complementary of the Clerk's position. The job changes all the time. The public was asked to respect the work of the Clerk.

Motion carried. (39 in favor, 22 opposed)

4. Trustee – Increase salary to \$6,000 each, Resolution R-22-09

The Resolution R-22-09 to increase the Trustee's salary to \$6,000 each was presented to the public.

**ACTION:** Jim Blair moved to increase the Trustees' salary to \$6,000 each; supported by Sandy Reardon.

DISCUSSION: The motion was countered with another motion:

**ACTION:** Gery Zemaitis motioned to increase the Trustee's salary to \$10,000 each; supported by Sue Lederle.

DISCUSSION: Keith Ashley was opposed saying this was more than County trustees were paid.

It was stated that the Trustee's job is to show up to meetings, exhibit a fiduciary responsibility, and be a link to the community.

Sue Lederle retracted her support of the original motion.

Gery Zemaitis retracted the original motion.

Motion failed. (10 in favor, less than 50% present to vote)

The original motion was made again.

**ACTION:** Jim Blair moved to increase the Trustees' salary to \$6,000 each; supported by Sandy Reardon. Motion carried. (57 in favor, 0 opposed)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Mikowski – He stated that the proceedings of this meeting was a travesty.

Linda Oosse – She complimented work of the township officials. She asked if there was training in regards to respect and dignity toward the constituents.

Patricia Soutas-Little – She said thank you for the increases in salaries.

**RECESS FOR BUDGET HEARING**

The meeting went into recess for the Board Budget meeting at 12:45 p.m. The Board returned to the Annual Meeting at 12:57 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Larry Acker - He had heard that there was some more money that would be coming from ARPA. Ms. Och responded that she was unaware of any more funds coming in. He also wanted to know what was the current status of the Harbor restrooms. Ms. Och responded that the current plan was to have the restrooms open from May 1 to October 31 and will be financially maintained by the Township. Maintenance beyond or before the given dates would have to be the responsibility of the local businesses. Mr. Acker also asked if the Planning Commission has considered expanding the restrooms. The Planning Commission has not currently discussed this idea.

Steve Mikowski – He expressed his disappointment that the Board has a lack of ability to deal with issues like the Township Hall and Provemont Pond. He also commented on the length of the terms of office of members of the Planning Commission.

Mary Lou Mikowski – She commented on the Harbor restrooms. The shops that are not connected to the sewer should be charged a fee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Ms. Garthe moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m.; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

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Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk