

**LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION – Monday, June 22, 2020**

Approved 4/20/2021

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and are not the official record of the meeting; the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

Meeting called to order by Chairman William J. Bunek at 9:00 a.m.

Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

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|------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Roll Call: | District #1 | Anthony Ansorge | PRESENT |
| | #2 | Debra L. Rushton | PRESENT |
| | #3 | William J. Bunek | PRESENT |
| | #4 | Ty Wessell | PRESENT |
| | #5 | Patricia Soutas-Little | PRESENT (via Zoom) |
| | #6 | Carolyn Rentenbach | PRESENT (via Zoom) |
| | #7 | Melinda C. Lautner | PRESENT |

Public Comment: Chairman Bunek announced the telephone number for the Public to call that wish to address the Board of Commissioners. No comments received.

Purpose of Meeting/Discussion Items –

Potential Campus Tower Update:

Emergency Management Director Matt Ansorge is present today. Also present are Tim Maylone, CEO of Cherry Capital Connection, and Brian Mitchell, a Northport resident who owns the Davis Road tower and works with Connect 186.

The following speakers were present via Zoom today and introduced themselves to the Board and audience:

- Max Machuta, Tower Consultant with Radio North;
- Ray Leppien, CFO of Agri Valley Communications;
- Jim Selby, President/CEO of Aspen Wireless;
- Tom Stephenson of Connect Michigan (contracted under Michigan Public Service Commission)
- George McClellan II, IT Director of Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos

Commissioners Lautner, Wessell, Bunek, Rushton, and Soutas-Little each commented regarding the purpose of today's meeting.

Administrator Chet Janik said that David Stoker with legal counsel Cohl, Stoker, & Toskey, P.C., will be planning to join the meeting today at 10:00 a.m.

Emergency Management Director Ansonge updated Commissioners on items relating to siting a potential tower on campus, stating the initial deadline was extended for the RFP as no proposals had been received. Two additional letters of intent have now come in and it is looking much more opportunistic this time around with letters of intent coming in quickly. He should have an update by the next Executive Board meeting.

Machuta answered questions from Commissioners and stated at this time he has not had any communication back regarding any carrier interest at this site. Discussion regarding carriers, possible tower structure on the campus and various items continued between Commissioners, Ansonge, Machuta, and Janik.

Commissioner Ansonge asked if the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has any interest in getting on the tower, to which Director Ansonge answered they have been included on all correspondence; however, he is not certain of their plan. McClellan was present via phone. McClellan stated that they do have a primary interest in fiber to the home right now and realize there will be a need to look at towers in the short-term to expand the footprint of what they are trying to do.

ISP (Internet Service Provider) Comment/Options:

Each ISP provided an update to Commissioners.

Tim Maylone with Cherry Capital Connection (marketing as Cherry Capital Communications) spoke regarding commissioner questions, comments or concerns handout answering questions from Commissioners (see handout link):
https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/commissioner_comment_06222020_work_session.pdf.

Maylone then discussed a handout map he provided (see link below):

https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/ccs_overview_20202021.pdf

Maylone said he would encourage all goals to lead to fiber in the community, as towers are designed to be short-term.

Stoker joined the meeting via Zoom and addressed a topic of legal concern over contracts and answered questions from Commissioners.

Mitchell addressed and answered questions from Commissioners.

Leppien spoke regarding fiber and access as well as answered questions from Commissioners.

Chairman Bunek called for a break at 11:03 a.m.
Meeting resumed at 11:08 a.m.

Stephenson addressed Commissioners, speaking of the group here today and options available. Covid is exacerbating the lack of broadband in rural America and that this group has done its homework to help the County reach the goal of citizens receiving internet.

Selby said he proposes as a citizen, as well as a Leelanau County business, that the best idea is a neutral host with infrastructure in a single shared network solution for all operators.

Commissioner Soutas-Little offered comment regarding Aspen Wireless.

Selby outlined his business and answered questions from Commissioners.

Discussion continued between Commissioners and meeting participants.

Maylone responded to questions from Commissioner Rentenbach in regards to township zoning.

Towers Colocation Agreements Updates/Options:

Director Ansortge updated the Commissioners on tower Colocation Agreements. Ansortge said there are leases that still need to be reconciled, which include AT&T, GT Band, Aspen Wireless, Cherry Capital Connections, and Agri Valley. He is looking to the Board for direction on how they would like to proceed with the fee structure and County attorneys would be utilized, as they should be to draft agreements.

Discussion ensued between Director Ansortge and Commissioners.

Federal Economic Development Administration Grant Update:

Commissioner Soutas-Little let the Board know that the survey will be extended for a few more days. The grant projection is to be completed for the July, 2020, Board of Commissioners meeting. She thanked the Board of Commissioners for their concerns and interest in the LIFT (Leelanau Internet Futures Team) Committee. The LIFT Committee has worked hard across the County and has helped to create a workable model for tower use. The County realized that a study was mandatory to obtain the information for providers, which took longer than anticipated, due to illness. If there are any Commissioner issues or concerns, please suggest them now so the grant is ready for proposal in July.

Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek announced the telephone number for the Public to call that wish to address the Board of Commissioners. No comments received.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Rushton thanked all who participated today.

Adjournment:

Move to adjourn by Commissioner Rushton.

Chairman Bunek adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

William J. Bunek, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Alison Middleton, Deputy Clerk for
Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk