

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**  
**Committee of the Whole – Wednesday, January 19, 2022**  
*Approved 04/18/2023*

*Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video). The video of the meeting can be found at the following link:*  
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2246#video>

Meeting called to order by Chairman William J. Bunek at 10:00 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.

Roll Call:	District #1	Rick Robbins	PRESENT
	#2	Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT
	#3	William J. Bunek	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5	Patricia Soutas-Little	PRESENT
	#6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Guests present.

Public Comment:  
None.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion:

Continued Review of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal Funding and Proposals:

Administrator Janik gave an update on the guidelines, and stated that he and Chief Deputy Treasurer Darcy Weaver participated in a webinar last week. Janik said that the big news is that he learned that the way the Federal Government is calculating the revenue is more complicated than revenues versus expenses and they now have made it easier.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Darcy Weaver stated that the new final rule takes effect on April 1, 2022, and that with the new rule the Board can continue to use the formula or up to the ten million as revenue replacement. Weaver said that the Board could choose now to use the full \$4.2 million under the revised guideline.

Administrator Janik commented that it means the Board has much more flexibility this way; however, you cannot use it for Post Employment benefits, Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) payments or debt. He said that basically, the County has the flexibility to use the \$4.2 million, since it is under the ten million guidelines because they are so flexible. Janik explained that when Weaver does the ARPA reporting that she would simply report it as lost revenue.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Weaver said that the reporting has been broadened making it easier on smaller counties. She said that the next installment should arrive in July of 2022.

Commissioners received the following requests and discussion ensued:

- Cedar/Maple City Lions Club: Commissioner Lautner gave a brief update.
- Empire Village: Administrator Janik stated that no one was able to be present today.

- Glen Lake Association: Administrator Janik stated that no one was able to present today.
- Suttons Bay/Bingham District Library: David Dillard, Glen Lake Community Library member, and Marty Ramsdall, Suttons Bay/Bingham District Library member, present and gave a brief update.

Administrator Janik updated the Board that the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department lower-level design has not progressed much because the individual has been out of the office for a couple weeks. Janik said that he should have something next week. He stated that he received a late request from the Discovery Center & Pier. Janik did inform them that the request was made after the deadline and that it was a Board decision if the request would be allowed. No Board action taken.

Administrator Janik said there was a Maintenance Department request for cleaning carpets and stated that the request should go through the regular budget process. Janik continued that there has not been a commissioner request on behalf of the Leelanau Youth League or the Power Book Bags.

Chairman Bunek asked the Board if they would like to invite either of the groups for January 31, 2022 or not? Commissioner Lautner requested that they be moved forward.

Administrator Janik stated that this morning he received communication from the Leelanau County Early Childhood Center and Commissioner Soutas-Little explained that the communication stated the request for ARPA Funds is being withdrawn, because another grant has been secured.

Commissioner Soutas-Little gave a brief update regarding the current status of the Broadband Project and stated that at the next meeting next week there will be a presentation given from the data collected so far. Audience member Frank Siepker, Cherryland Electric Cooperative Engineering and Operations manager, was invited to give an update to the Board and stated that he has been working with the LIFT Committee and also with some third-party participants in looking for viable providers who can bring fiber to homes. Commissioner Soutas-Little thanked Siepker for attending today, for the partnership, and Cherryland's willingness to step forward and assist.

Commissioner discussion ensued regarding the current and possible proposals of more tower sites.

Next meeting dates/agenda items:

Chairman Bunek stated that there is one date already scheduled and asked if another meeting needs to be set or if there are any agenda items that the Board would like added?

Administrator Janik confirmed that for the next meeting he will try again to get into contact with the Village of Empire and the Glen Lake Association. The next meeting will have the Government Center options for the lower level, Emergency Management Director, Matt Ansonge, regarding Leelanau County Tower options, and the LIFT presentation.

Chairman Bunek called for a five-minute break at 10:42 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Chairman Bunek stated that the next meeting after the Special Session on January 31, 2022, will be scheduled on February 8, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. and will be a Special Session, so that decisions can be made.

Chairman Bunek requested each Commissioner to prioritize where they would like to see the ARPA funds allocated.

- Commissioner Lautner commented that she has four (4) priorities she would like to see with the first being a tower on this campus; fiber options for the County; Government Center heating and cooling; Solon Township for \$36,000.00 and Empire for \$55,000.00 for water projects. She would also like to see the health loop at Myles Kimmerly Park.
- Commissioner Rushton said she supports the Broadband project and also the tower projects.
- Commissioner Allgaier stated that she would like a large portion of the funds to go to Broadband, housing allocations, water projects and unmet needs to help those that are struggling.
- Commissioner Wessell said his priorities are fiber, towers and housing for a total of \$3 million. He also would like to see \$600,000.00 for housing and \$600,000.00 for unmet needs.
- Commissioner Soutas-Little stated her thoughts today are solidly the Broadband Project as much as we can, housing assistance, and in with regards to unmet needs that Safe Haven is a good choice.
- Commissioner Robbins said his choices are Broadband and housing.
- Chairman Bunek would like to see fiber and towers at the top of the list.

Administrator Janik explained there could be funding allocations coming in the future from the State of Michigan; however, it is unknown at this time when or if it will happen because there is no plan.

Commissioner discussion ensued regarding a Housing North position and not creating positions but to be contractual.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Chairman Bunek adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

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William J. Bunek, Chairman  
Leelanau County Board of Commissioner

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Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk  
Clerk, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners