

**LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION – Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

Approved 6/15/2021

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 Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the moment of silence was dispensed with by Chairman Bunek, as it was recited and held at the prior Public Hearing.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	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.

Approval of Agenda / Late Additions of Deletions:

Chairman Bunek called for the approval of the agenda. Commissioner Soutas-Little commented that she would like to offer a late addition. She understands that the Health Department did not receive the amount of funding for COVID reimbursement and that they are struggling with finances. She would like to put it on the agenda and simply pass it through to next week and have the Administrator check back with the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department to see if additional funding is needed. The request for the late additional was seconded by Commissioner Wessell.

Chairman Bunek and Administrator Chet Janik suggested that the requested be placed as Action Item #11B.

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek stated the telephone number to call for any individuals wishing to make public comment. The following individuals spoke during public comment either in person or via telephone:

- Betsy Johnson (email) read by Commissioner Allgaier.
- Ellen Fred, Cedar.
- Nancy Flannigan, Cedar.

Communications, Proclamations, Presentations —

Administrator Update:

- County Administrator Chet Janik commented that there are always changes and acknowledged Ted Klumpp for his years of service to the County as an electrical inspector.
- Janik commented on honoring first responders, although we cannot do that in person, he would like to add it to the next agenda to present a resolution. Janik is hopeful that it can be done in person in 2022.
- Janik updated Commissioners on the Cares Act money and the request for reimbursements received from seven townships. Janik thanked Executive Assistant Laurel Evans and Deputy Account Clerk Johanna Novak for their work on this reimbursement.
- 9-1-1 / Emergency Services Director Matt Ansoerge commented on the purchase of expanding their 9-1-1 capabilities. Ansoerge explained the equipment that can be used in the mobile unit that can be used the same as if they were in the center. He has had numerous dispatchers that have tested positive for COVID. He continued with the Next Gen purchase and the availability to work from another location if necessary. Ansoerge responded to questions from Commissioners regarding portability, fire departments' CAD system, and back-up.

Janik asked for clarification and Ansoerge responded as to what Fire Departments received.

- Ansoerge gave an update on the COVID vaccination. The Health Department's website was down for a bit. They are in phase 1B and are scheduling appointments as they receive the vaccine and supply is what is driving the scheduling. The EMTs and EMS personnel have been vaccinated. They are now opening it up to the Sheriff's staff, fire personnel, and moving on to seniors 65 and older.

Janik said that the best thing to do is go online and fill out the application instead of calling the Health Department.

Ansoerge responded to questions from Commissioners on how to let people know that their application has been received. Janik responded that Senior Services employees received their vaccinations last week due to the food delivery and having direct contract with the Senior population. Janik and Ansoerge responded to questions regarding which brand of vaccination is being received, storage capabilities, the speed of administering the vaccination, funding, and use of volunteers.

- Janik updated Commissioners, taking the personal feelings out, is masks. From a legal perspective, in the past two weeks he has been on numerous calls with other Administrators, our legal counsel, and our insurance carrier. We have the right to mandate the requirement to wear a mask of anyone entering the building; however, we cannot deny them services. There have only been a few cases of anyone refusing to wear a mask, we are also providing them. People are being met in the Commissioners' meeting room. There have not been any cases of denied services, due to failure to wear a mask. All employees are required to wear a mask unless they have a medical condition– the County did approve a procedure for this. Employees must also complete daily forms. Two employees had legitimate, documented exemptions from the mask requirement. Janik continued with comments. As elected officials you have the right

to come to the meetings and you can be requested to wear a mask, but we cannot mandate it. It is strictly a decision up to that individual. Comments continued and Janik will keep Commissioners up-to-date. Any citizen that feels the State mandates are not being followed, they have the right to file a complaint with the Sheriff's Department or Prosecutor. Discussion and comments ensued.

- Janik commented on the Airport Authority and the legal opinion from Attorney Karrie Zeits and he will place this on the February agenda. By the first of March, the Board will need to appoint people to the Airport Authority. Janik noted that Commissioner Rushton and citizen appointee Steve Plamondon are the current appointees to the Airport Commissioners and what they are recommending is that you temporarily reappoint them and you have one more seat to appoint for the Authority. Janik referenced the Commission and responded to questions from Commissioners.

Drain Commissioner Update:

Leelanau County Drain Commissioner Steve Christensen was present regarding his update. There are four current Drainage projects: Schomberg – both Leland and Centerville Townships are affected by this and necessity was found; South Bar Lake Drain – a necessity was found, so it can move forward; Timberlee Drain – Elmwood Township and Solon Township – a necessity was found so it can move forward; Lake Bluffs Drain – Solon Township, necessity found so it can move forward. Christensen continued with his presentation and the process to follow. Commissioner Lautner questioned the Lake Bluffs Drain – will that affect the North side of the road also and P.E. Brian Cenci responded.

Commissioner Soutas-Little requested a five-minute break @ 10:03 a.m.

Conservation District Update:

Executive Director of the Conservation District Buzz Long was present via Zoom to give an update to Commissioners. Long offered additional comments after the presentation and responded to Commissioner questions. Commissioners offered compliments on the video.

<https://www.leelanaucd.org/about.html>

Action Items —

Conservation District, 2021 Work Orders —

Long was present via Zoom for the items before Commissioners.

Conservation Education and Technical Assistance Work Order #1 – January 1, 2021:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF THE 2021 CONSERVATION DISTRICT WORK ORDER #1, CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,343.00; FUNDS TO COME FROM #101-630.280-801.000. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Work Order #2 – January 1, 2021:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF THE 2021 WORK ORDER #2, SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL; FUNDS TO COME FROM THE COLLECTION OF COUNTY-APPROVED PERMIT EROSION FEES. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)
NO – 0 RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Water Quality Monitoring Work Order #3 – January 1, 2021:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF THE 2021 WORK ORDER #3, WATER QUALITY MONITORING, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00; FUNDS TO COME FROM #101-630.280-801.000. SECONDED BY RUSHTON, WESSELL, & ROBBINS.

Discussion – Long responded to questions on testing types and location.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)
NO – 0 RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Leelanau County Sheriff's Office – Transfer of Ownership of Sheriff's K-9 Dog:

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF NICO TO DEPUTY GREG HORNKOHL UPON NICO'S RETIREMENT FROM THE LEELANAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE K-9 UNIT, WITH DEPUTY HORNKOHL ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COST OF CARE, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1.00. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER & SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins)
NO – 0 RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Leelanau County Sheriff's Office – Advance Correctional Healthcare Contract Renewal:

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE FOR INMATE MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,901.72, PENDING REVIEW AND APPROVAL FROM CORPORATE COUNSEL, AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN SAME. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – Corrections Lt. Todd Roush responded to questions regarding what care is offered through this contract, if costs are billed out for reimbursement. Roush also stated that this is strictly medical; psychological care is through Community Mental Health. Brief comments followed.

**AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins)
NO – 0 RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Sheriff Mike Borkovich commented that the Attorney for the Grand Traverse Band would like to renegotiate their bed contract with the County. He understands that the County Administrator and the Board of Commissioners must be involved in this. Further information will be coming.

2021 Board Goals:

Administrator Janik restated that the objective was to receive prospective goals and he distributed what he has received through yesterday.

Commissioner Wessell doesn't know how you want to move forward and this is a critical issue and he would like to have a separate session set aside to discuss just goals. He would like to do that within the next month or so.

Commissioner Lautner commented that last month she stated, as they are elected, Commissioners have their constitutionally directed direction. They have their own goals, directives and responsibilities. "We" might also run with more extra or obvious things that we promised our constituents we would do on half of the County and that is why she has been against setting goals that one Commissioners may not want to work hard towards or is in the best interest of a certain segment.

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT FOR 2021 THE BOARD (OF COMMISSIONERS) DOES NOT ADOPT GOALS AS A WHOLE. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – Commissioner Lautner continued that "we" would work hard to bring to this Board the direction, "we" want to bring forward. Lautner gave an example of her sitting on Recycling and Housing Action Committee. There is some direction that will come from those boards that she will fight hard for. Lautner continued with comments and does not think it is necessary to do Board goals.

Commissioner Wessell commented that he doesn't even know how to respond. Every Board and every organization, every school district he has been involved with has goals. Absent of goals, we are running around in a circle. It is not a question of whether or not we should have goals, but what should the goals be. Wessell continued with items that the Board has committed to and you could base goals on. Comments continued with examples of goals; he cannot argue loudly enough that we must have goals.

Commissioner Allgaier stated that she was elected to be proactive, not reactive. If we have no goals, we have no direction. She does not just want to be reactive. She does support goals on housing, and she thinks all agree that that is something that we can do. She continued that we have committed to certain things on anti-bias. If we have four to five things that we have all committed to and that is our goal, it provides movement and direction. Allgaier said she has never been part of an effective organization that has not had goals.

Commissioner Robbins stated that he agrees with Commissioner Wessell that we must have goals. "Goals are for voters and agendas are for Special Interest Groups." He continued that "we" need to be careful. Robbins did the math and he remembers the Administrator saying four or five goals and there are seven Commissioners and he looked at Commissioner Wessell's sheet and there are five or six goals and they only have 12 meetings a year. How do we determine goals and all come together? What are we going to pursue and we are only elected for two years and for the first year, he is just trying to learn the job? Comment continued.

Commissioner Soutas-Little said Commissioner Robbins made some good points. We should take from the list things that we have agreement on. Internet is one issue that we are all in

agreement. She continued that she tried to select items that she believes there is agreement on and specific items that she believes that they can do and commit to. She would think Internet, and Septic should be on the list as well as housing.

Commissioner Wessell does not deny that we cannot have 21 goals. He thought the exercise we were asked to participate in was to submit five to six goals each and then we were going to discuss amongst all of us that we would like to adopt as five or six goals. He does see overlap. Wessell said he doesn't believe that there isn't anything on this list that Commissioners couldn't make a difference on if Commissioners established a goal and unanimously worked toward. Brief comments continued.

Commissioner Rushton said that typically what she sees that is most effective is there are core groups that bring the items forward to the Board for discussion. She doesn't know why we need to usurp the work of others; it seems to be redundant to her. Let them do their work. Rushton continued with comments.

Commissioner Lautner referenced Commissioner Rushton's comments. She commented on redundancy and the Commissioners are already working on everything mentioned and it would be redundant. She also talked about goals being unanimous and it only takes one person to say no and we wouldn't have goals. She has sat on very successful boards that don't have goals and this Board is one of them. Until six or seven years ago, goals were not set and she doesn't see goals being unanimous and doesn't see a reason to "beat a dead horse." Setting goals will create division on the Board. She didn't come here with an agenda, but she does have her own goals that she will work towards.

Comments from Commissioners continued.

ROLL CALL: Lautner – YES; Robbins – YES; Rushton – YES; Soutas-Little – NO; Wessell – NO; Allgaier – NO; Bunek – YES.

AYES – 4 NO – 3

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Review of Anti-Bias Resolution:

Lengthy discussion and comments on Anti-Bias ensued between Commissioners.

MOTION BY WESSELL THAT WE HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR WORK WITH A COUPLE OF COMMISSIONERS THAT YOU (JANIK) AND MR. BUNEK AGREE AND COME BACK WITH A RECOMMENDATION MOVING FORWARD. SECONDED BY ROBBINS.

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION/MOTION TO ADD TO COME BACK WITH THE DIRECTION FOR THIS TASK FORCE, IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IS THIS TASK FORCE GOING TO DO, WHAT IS THE DIRECTION.

Chairman Bunek attempted to restate amendment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rushton seconded the amendment.

Discussion followed and Clerk asked for clarification.

*Commissioner Lautner restated her amendment and then withdrew the amendment.
The second to the amendment was withdrawn by Commissioner Rushton.*

Additional discussion continued.

Commissioner Wessell withdrew his motion and Commissioner Robbins withdrew support.

Brief comments ensued.

2021 Board Rules of Order and Procedure:

Janik reviewed the changes/revisions as requested and commented that these were approved at the Organizational meeting, so no action was needed today.

Information Technology-Renewal of Barracuda Essentials Maintenance from Rehmann:

IT Director Ron Plamondon was present before Commissioners.

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO WAIVE ITS POLICY ON BID REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM REHMANN FOR RENEWAL OF THE BARRACUDA ESSENTIALS MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT; FUNDS TO COME FROM DATA PROCESSING FUND #636. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – Plamondon responded to questions and stated the contract is the same as the previous year.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Information Technology-Update/Renewal of Duo Authentication Subscription:

Plamondon presented the proposal to Commissioners and responded to questions as to why the Fire Departments are requesting access to CAD, who is paying for it, will they be billed back and is it necessary. The local component is not ready for activation at this time and Plamondon requested that the current renewal be approved as that is time sensitive. Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE \$3,600.00 TO RENEW THE SUBSCRIPTION TO DUO FOR DUAL AUTHENTICATION SOFTWARE; FUNDS TO COME FROM FUND #636. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion ensued as to why the Fire Departments would need to have access to the County's CAD system and if they are request this, it needs to be billed back. There are concerns with allowing the outside access. Questions regarding where the extra funding would come from for the Fire Departments to gain access. It was determined that it is not time sensitive for the outside agencies to have access and it is something that can be done at a later date.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Building Safety – Request to fill Secretary Vacancy:

Janik updated Commissioners on staffing and that the Building Safety Secretary Wanda Couturier has transferred back to the Register of Deeds Office, which has created a vacancy in

Building Safety. They are requesting to fill the position and also noted that they are under the current approved staffing levels.

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ALLOW THE BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT TO FILL THE VACANT SECRETARIAL POSITION. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Building Services Committee Recommendation – Late Fees:

Administrative Secretary/Building Inspector Amber Weber was present on behalf of Building Safety. Janik explained the request before Commissioners. Both Weber and Janik responded to questions from the Commissioners.

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE THE AFTER-THE-FACT BUILDING PERMIT FEE POLICY AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – brief comments offered.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins.

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Building Services Committee Recommendation – Construction Board of Appeals, Deadline for Appeals:

Weber present and Janik offered comments on the item before Commissioners. This is a revision to add a deadline date, as the policy does follow the law and is a state procedure.

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE THE LEELANAU CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS PROCEDURAL RULES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Janik acknowledged Weber on her efforts during the Appeal process and the obtaining of documents. Commissioners also thanked Weber for all of her work.

Leland Dam Authority – Dam Gate Assembly Update:

Administrator Janik spoke to the issue. Leland Dam members (Drain Commissioner) Steve Christensen and (Road Commissioner) John Popa present, both via Zoom. Discussion ensued on safety, bidding, and the process.

MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAIVE THE BOARD POLICY ON BID REQUIREMENTS AND ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM FISCHER CONTRACTING TO PERFORM THE FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE GATE LOCK-OUT ASSEMBLY FOR THE LELAND DAM AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$40,900.00; FUNDS TO COME FROM FUND #805. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – County Clerk Michelle L. Crocker responded to Commissioner Rushton regarding the fund. Discussion that there should be a decision as to where the additional funding is going to come from. Commissioner Lautner expressed concern with the additional funding and is the County going to continue to fund this and offered comments on the assessment district.

AYES – 7 (Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

County Clerk – MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum:

MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FORWARD THE MERS DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN ADOPTION AGREEMENT ADDENDUMS TO THE REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – brief.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Chairman Bunek called a brief recess at 11:59 a.m.

Chairman Bunek called the meeting back to order at 12:06 pm

Administration – Temporary Emergency Leave Policy Recommendation:

Administrator Janik began that most units of government will be dealing with this topic this month. In April of 2020, the Federal Government adopted the Federal Cares Act wherein employees could get up to 10 days paid leave due to COVID related issues – exposures, sickness, and so forth. Those days expired on December 31, 2020. The County did abide by that in 2020, with 19 employees eligible to take some time off due to testing positive or direct exposure. Of all the employees there were only four employees that took the 10-day maximum. The challenge is that since January 1, 2021, three employees have tested positive – one is back to work and two are still out. There are others that have been directly exposed. With the policy passed last May, the challenge is that those days have expired, and what do we do now. All employees must check out the health/wellness survey daily. Janik further explained. So, what do we do now with employees that test positive or have direct exposure? Without a policy in place, those employees must use their vacation or personal days. He has already received questions from people that may be less than honest if they have to use their vacation time if they have been exposed. Janik does not want individuals coming to work that have been exposed and expose others because people do not want to use their vacation time. He is not going to say it will happen, but he was on conference calls with other Administrators about this same concern. Janik presented Commissioners with a draft policy that was written by the County's Attorney for multiple clients to extend the 10 days further until March 31. Janik explained that each contract has varying leaves of absences based on hire date and which labor contract the employee is under. The overtime cost would be minimal here in the Government Center, but there could be overtime within the 24/7 offices/departments.

Janik responded to Commissioner questions regarding the number of days for isolation/and or quarantine, number of days utilized/available.

Commissioner Rushton questioned getting tested and can it be mandated? Administrator Janik said with direct exposure they need to be either tested or quarantine. Janik referred to the

policy and what is stated. Discussion/comments also on the length of time you need to wait prior to testing with direct exposure and how long it can take to get the results. Discussion also followed on indirect exposure.

MOTION BY WESSELL TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE THE LEELANAU COUNTY TEMPORARY LEAVE POLICY (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4) THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.

Discussion followed.

AYES – 7 (Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little)
NO – 0 **RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Administration – MMRMA Renewal:

Administrator Janik explained the renewal before Commissioners.

MOTION BY ALLGAIER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO WAIVE THE POLICY ON BID REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE 2021 RENEWAL OF PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE BETWEEN LEELANAU COUNTY AND MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (MMRMA), IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$226,299.00; FUNDS TO COME FROM #101-930.965-954.000. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell)
NO – 0 **RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Administration – Septic Records Update:

Rob Herman, Equalization GIS Analyst was present before Commissioners. Janik stated that Herman just sent via email a PDF of a map. Janik gave an update from last November 2020 until today. Right now, those records have been placed on a digital map. Herman was now present and explained the records he received and what he has done to get to this point. Administrator Janik said that they are looking for guidance as to how Commissioners would like them to proceed.

MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MOVE THE CONVERSATION OF SEPTIC RECORDS UPDATE TO NEXT WEEK'S MEETING. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion –none.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins)
NO – 0 **RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.**

Health Department Funding:

Commissioner Soutas-Little commented that there may or may not be an issue here, she just thinks that it is an opportunity based on comments made to her regarding finances for Administration of COVID-19 inoculations. She asked if Administrator Janik could speak with Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department Director Lisa Peacock to see if there is an issue, and if there is, does it need to be addressed.

Commissioner Rushton commented that the Health Department knows that when they have issues, they can always come to this Board, especially in a situation like this. She would have

thought if they had a financial crisis, she would think that the first place they would start is here.

Commissioner Soutas-Little said that she has had some communication with Mrs. Peacock and she believes that they are discussing this internally. She thinks that the Health Department does try to be very fair in what they do and get by with what they can.

Brief comments ensued.

Review of Financials:

County Clerk Crocker responded to questions on financials as did Administrator Janik and Chief Deputy County Clerk Jennifer L. Zywicki.

Special Report by Staff, Commissioners, and Affiliated Agencies:

None.

Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek stated the telephone number to call for any individuals wishing to make public comment. No public comment received.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Soutas-Little commented that there was a lot of discussion about not making certain groups special and that we as a Board should not be encouraging that as brought up by Commissioner Lautner. Soutas-Little feels that there is a bit of irony here regarding wearing a mask because some folks on this Board feel that they shouldn't comply with wearing a mask because they are an elected official, implying that they are special. That is why they don't need to do the simple thing of wearing a mask or there are Commissioners who are protecting their own health and have an exemption from their doctor to not wear a mask like some of the employees do and have chosen to attend meetings in person instead of via Zoom. This troubles Soutas-Little, as her husband is going to be undergoing a major surgery and given the opinions of mask wearing by those on this Board, she will attend meetings via Zoom so that she doesn't bring COVID home. Soutas-Little did acknowledge that Janik, Evans, and Zywicki, they are all employees and they don't have that option, even though they all wear their mask. Michelle Crocker, who is an Elected Official, who is dedicated to ensuring and providing what this Board needs, attends these meetings even though she has concerns about being confined in this space where there is large and small droplets in the air for 4-5 hours at a time and people are not wearing masks. Soutas-Little is very pleased that seven out of the ten people in this room feel the responsibility to wear the mask. She hopes that the three Commissioners that won't will reconsider the message that they are sending to the employees and she will not bring this up again.

- Commissioner Rushton wanted to point out that we all got the memo. Rushton continued that is number one, we all have the right to make a decision in that regard. She continued that when she comes into the building she wears a mask, when she steps away from her desk she wears a mask; however, during the course of the meeting she doesn't wear her mask. For her it is very difficult to discern on several occasions what people are trying to say and she doesn't wear her mask during session because she wants people to hear what she is saying. She continued that we early on implemented the partitions for those sitting in the audience. She

appreciates those wearing a mask and that is your right, that is your choice. Rushton continued that as the memo informed us, if we were uncomfortable, we had the right to attend meetings via Zoom. Rushton concluded that she wanted to point out that just because we don't wear a mask for every second of every hour during the Board meeting doesn't mean we don't consider the people that are working in the building. We do.

- Commissioner Wessell commented that this is not about a mask, it is about the decision not to have goals. One of the books he likes to read to young kids is, *Alice in Wonderland*. Wessell read a paragraph: *"Would you tell please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal where you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much care where—" said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat. "—so long as I go somewhere," Alice added. "Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough."* Wessell commented that Commissioners needs goals to tell us where we are going. Without goals we will be walking in all different directions. He does hope this is revisited in the near future that some goals can be agreed on, so that we are not saying that as long as we keep moving and talking, we are making progress. We all belong to the Michigan Association of Counties and the NACo, we pay a lot of money for our membership and we send people to Washington to the conference and to places in Michigan for conferences and both of those associations say that good membership is working toward collective goals. Brief comments ensued.

- Commissioner Rushton commented that she read *Alice in Wonderland* years ago and she thanked Wessell for entertaining them for the moment. She continued that she thinks that Wessell has a narrow view on what we were talking about when it came to goals. It is not that as we move forward, we won't have goals, she believes that number one, Commissioners are not ready to agree on any goals and most of the goals presented, like she previously said are redundant. Commissioners have been working on every one of the goals that have been presented. She continued that what she thinks we are talking about is structuring in a different format from what has been done historically and opening up the door so that not only these goals will be reviewed throughout the year, but that Commissioners will be able to add goals as we move forward and see the need in the community.

- Commissioner Allgaier commented that she appreciates that there is Plexiglas here and it is great for short interactions. If you spend a significant amount of time with people, the droplets in the air have time to accumulate. She continued that it is about being respectful of each other and being mindful of the health of those that are forced to be with us. Wearing a mask is not just for me, it is for you, so she hasn't made her final decision. Until she can be vaccinated, she is strongly considering attending future meetings via Zoom.

Amendments and Transfers:

None.

Claims and Accounts:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,823.84. SECONDED BY RUSHTON & WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Post Audit Claims and Accounts:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF POST AUDIT CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,710,300.82. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)

NO – 0

RECOMMENDATION CARRIED.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Bunek at 12:54 p.m.

William J. Bunek, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk
Clerk-Leelanau County Board of Commissioner