

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**  
**Organizational Session – Tuesday, January 4, 2022**  
*Approved 12/13/2022*

*Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video). The meeting can be viewed at the following link:*  
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2236#video>

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.

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

Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek called for Public Comment.

The following individuals addressed the Commissioners in person:

- Eric Lind.

Approval of Agenda / Additions or Deletions:

*#001-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.**

Discussion – none.

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

Election of Vice-Chairman, One-Year Term:

*#002-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO NOMINATE WESSELL FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

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

**AYES – 3**      **NO – 4** **NOMINATION FAILS.**

*#003-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY RUSHTON TO ELECT LAUTNER AS VICE CHAIRMAN. SECONDED BY BUNEK.**

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

**AYES – 6**      **NO – 1** **NOMINATION CARRIES.**

Approval of 2022 Rules of Order and Procedure:

Discussion on the Rules of Order and Procedure and specifically on the Chairman removing items from the agenda.

*#004-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO INSERT WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR IN 6.3. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.**

Discussion.

**AYES – 3 (Wessell, Allgaier, Soutas-Little)**

**NO – 4 (Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton)**

**MOTION FAILS.**

Commissioner Wessell wanted to raise the question to see if we are willing to remove the Prayer from the agenda and doesn't have a motion. The meetings are long and there was the thought the prayer might bring some level of civility and it has been problematic. He personally would like to remove it from the agenda; however, he would like the conversation. The Chair has done a good job of managing it, but should be discussed if Commissioners want this continued.

Commissioner Allgaier commented that it certainly has caused a lot more dissention/fear/sadness than having prayer should. What was behind that was the disenfranchisement of those that attend service outside of the County. A man she is acquainted with that is Jewish and he stated to her that this is the first time he has felt unwelcome in his own home. The rules state that anyone is excluded from a congregation outside of the County and many attend outside of our County. That is just not necessary and seems like Commissioners are taking a step to exclude when you say that. Allgaier says that she was never in favor of this and says her own prayer at the moment of silence and always has. She is praying in her own way and has always wanted the moment of silence to last a little longer. If it is going to continue it needs to be removed to exclude those out of the County. It is a slap in the face.

Commissioner Soutas-Little agrees with Commissioner Allgaier's comments and would offer the same amendment if this is to continue, then she would like to add an amendment that we do allow clergy, who have members that are part of Leelanau County. Soutas-Little would like to hear from what other Commissioners have to say they feel and is fine with not continuing it.

Administrator Janik said that this is an organizational meeting and if you want to place it on the Agenda for January 11 if you are amending you could. Janik continued with comments.

Commissioner Robbins stated that he believes in prayer and voted for it. He did not expect the circus that has been going on, it is being fought over and takes up times. Robbins continued with comments on the issue and questions if he is doing the right thing. There is a lot of other things and Commissioners are continuing to argue over the same thing. Robbins said that Clergy have told him that they have been threatened in their own Community if they come and offer prayer.

#005-01042022 Organization Session

**MOTION BY WESSELL TO REMOVE PRAYER FROM THE AGENDAS. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion ensued with all Commissioners offering statements.

**AYES – 3 (Wessell, Allgaier, Soutas-Little)**

**NO – 4 (Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton)**

**MOTION FAILS.**

Virtual Participation, Article VI, Section F.

Commissioner Wessell would like to see it in compliance with State law and Administrator Janik offered additional comments. Chairman Bunek read the section.

**MOTION BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER TO ADD (TO VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION) “WITH ADVANCE NOTICE, IF AND WHEN ALLOWED BY STATE LAW”.**

Discussion – question as to clarification on State Law.

**SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.**

Discussion ensued on the topic with Commissioner Rushton offering comments in the rules that create confusion. Administrator Janik suggested waiting for a month on this and verbalized his reasoning.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN AND SUPPORT WITHDRAWN.**

Discussion ensued with Commissioners commenting.

Commissioner Robbins agrees if it is critical and the Commissioners get into a critical issue at 1:30, that a voice vote be taken and as long as it is a 7-0 we go on, but anyone objects it stops at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Lautner commented that she thinks it is an interesting concept and could be something to strive for and work towards as a goal of being out by a certain time. She continued about service to the County and always allows for a full day at the meeting and would need to think about this. The day can also be impacted when there are two hours of public comment and then three hours of business. Lautner expressed that she is torn on the idea.

Commissioner Soutas-Little does think it would help Commissioners be more productive and move along on the agenda and does understand some of Lautner’s concerns. She does question the productivity of Commissioners after 5-7 hours’ worth of meeting.

Commissioner Rushton would like to see the Commissioners consider this and doesn’t disagree with efficiency. She also suggested Commissioners consider consent votes for mundane issues. She would also like consideration on the Public Comment as the Commissioners offer two per meeting and are only required to offer one Public Comment. She offered that the first public comment be limited to what is on the agenda and the second one be for any comments that the public may want to address and that would allow for business to start earlier.

Discussion ensued with commissioners and Administrator Janik offering comments on time limits, public, consent agenda and opportunities to speak to Commissioners.

Chairman Bunek referenced the Airport Agenda and it is always consent and offered comments on how they do business.

Discussion continued about limiting public comment, the pros and the cons, how would that be impacted by ending times of the meeting and how would people know when to be present. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Bunek recapped topics of remote participating, meeting limit time is it just Executive and should it be a goal. Administrator Janik will work on language to bring forward as there appears to be consensus.

Clerk Crocker asked for clarification on the Public Comment – is it a goal or an actual change. An actual change can be done today. Administrator Janik wanted to follow-up on the Clerk's question for clarification. Discussion ensued about prayer, meeting ending time for Executive, Public Comment.

*#006-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHANGE THE FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT TO THREE (3) MINUTES AND MAKE IT FOR ISSUES ON THE AGENDA OF THAT DAY. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.**

*#007-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION AMENDED BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER LIMIT PUBLIC COMMENT TO THREE MINUTES AND THAT IT NOT BE RESTRICTED IN CONTENT. SECONDED BY ROBBINS.**

Discussion – Chairman Bunek explained the vote.

Vote on the amendment:

*#007-01042022 Organization Session*

**AYES – 4 (Wessell, Allgaier, Robbins, Soutas-Little)**

**NO – 3 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton)**

**AMENDMENT PASSES.**

Vote on the original motion with the amendment in place.

*#006-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHANGE THE FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT TO THREE (3) MINUTES ~~AND MAKE IT FOR ISSUES ON THE AGENDA OF THAT DAY~~ AND THAT IT NOT BE RESTRICTED.**

**SECONDED BY LAUTNER.**

**AYES – 4 (Wessell, Allgaier, Robbins, Soutas-Little)**

**NO – 3 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Second Public Comment:

*#008-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT THREE (3) MINUTES. SECONDED BY WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

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

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Wessell questioned consent agenda items.

Administrator Janik offered thought on consent agenda items and explained the process that the Chairman and Administrator determine items that are not controversial. Any Commissioners has the right to have the item removed from the Consent Calendar without debate.

*#009-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MOVE TO A CONSENT AGENDA AS DISCUSSED FOR THE EXECUTIVE AND REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2022. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER & WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

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

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Lautner commented on the potential of a Commissioner Comment right after the Public Comment at beginning of the meeting and it is an interesting concept. Along the same line as there are more people at the beginning of the meeting to share with the public, where the public is gone at the end of the meeting. It may be information, gratitude, community related and is proposing that.

Chairman Wessell's only concern that it is not intended to respond to public comment and to not get in an argument with the Public which would be an easy trap to get into.

Administrator Janik interjected that some Boards do have it for that purpose of responding to the public, but you never want to get into that debate. Obviously if someone is spreading falsehoods – intentionally or unintentionally, it is good as sometimes you cannot address it until the end of the meeting.

Discussion / comments ensued.

*#010-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADD COMMISSIONER COMMENTS TO FOLLOW THE FIRST PUBLIC COMMENTS. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE AND RUSHTON.**

Discussion – Commissioners offered comments that they need to be very careful with this and Chairman Bunek expressed concern that this not be turned into arguments. Chairman Bunek and Commissioner Allgaier expressed concern. Janik also offered comments.

**AYES – 5 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell)**

**NO – 2 (Allgaier, Bunek)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion on if Commissioners would be limited and one minute was discussed, although it cannot be enforced for Commissioners.

Brief recall of remote participation, goals of adjourning at 2:00 p.m. for Executive Sessions, Public Comment changed to three minutes, Commissioner comments after Public Comments, Consent Agenda.

*#011-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE 2022 RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.**

Discussion – none.

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

Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule:

Discussion on the proposed dates and potential conflicts. At the request of Chairman Bunek, consensus that the December 2022 meetings be changed to the first and second Tuesday of the month instead of the second and third.

*#012-01042022 Organization Session*

**MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY LAUTNER & RUSHTON.**

Discussion – none.

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

Executive Board	Tuesday, January 11, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, January 18, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, February 8, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, February 15, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, March 8, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, March 15, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, April 12, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, April 19, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, May 10, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, May 17, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, June 14, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, June 21, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, July 12, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, July 19, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, August 9, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, August 16, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, September 13, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, September 20, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, October 4, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, October 11, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, November 8, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, November 15, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, December 6, 2022, @ 9:00 a.m. move up 1 week
Regular Session	Tuesday, December 13, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m. move up 1 week
Organizational Session	Tuesday, January 3, 2023, @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, January 10, 2023, @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, January 17, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m.

Continuation of Monthly Update from Individual Departments and Agencies:

Administrator Janik commented on this and limit comments/presentations to 10 minutes and then will be much firmer. This to continue.

Commissioner appointments to Boards and Commissions, Committees, and Authorities:

Chairman Bunek would hope to keep all of the Commissioners appointments the same for Board and Commissions, Committees, Authorities, and Standing Committees.

#013-01042022 Organization Session

**MOTION BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES, AND STANDING COMMITTEES. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.**

Discussion – none.

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

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

9-1-1 Advisory Board	Bunek appointed
BATA (Bay Area Transportation Authority)	Robbins appointed
BLDHD Board of Health	Bunek appointed
BLDHD Board of Health	Soutas-Little appointed
BLDHD Environmental Health Board of Appeals	Allgaier appointed
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	Wessell appointed
Community Corrections	Rushton appointed
Land Bank Fast Track Authority	Wessell appointed
Leelanau Co. Family Coordinating Council	Allgaier appointed
Networks Northwest	Soutas-Little appointed
Northern Lakes Comm. Mental Health Authority	Wessell appointed
NMCAA (Northwest Mi Comm. Action Agency)	Allgaier appointed
Northwestern Regional Airport Authority *(NRAA)	Rushton appointed
Northwestern Regional Airport Authority *(NRAA)	Bunek appointed
Parks and Recreation Commission	Lautner, Robbins appointed
Planning Commission	Lautner appointed
Solid Waste Council	Lautner appointed
Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition	Rushton, Allgaier appointed

Commissioner Appointments to Standing Committees:

Included in the above motion.

Boards and Commissions Review	All Commissioners
Building & Grounds	Soutas-Little, Rushton
Construction Codes Authority/Building Safety	Bunek, Soutas-Little
Finance/Audit	Robbins, Lautner, Wessell
Senior Services Advisory	Bunek, Allgaier, Robbins
Union Negotiations	Bunek, Lautner

2022 Goals Discussion:

Discussion on goals and different topics, i.e., rescue funds, reorganization of Dam Authority and the Board of Public Works, options for jail facilities, Board of Health, facilities management, early childhood, housing, health department location, cell towers, broadband and others.

Administrator Janik will prepare a list based on the conversations.

Public Comment:

The following individuals addressed the Commissioners in person:

- John Stimpson, Leland Township and also on behalf of Home Stretch.

Commissioner Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Bunek adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

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William J. Bunek, Chairman  
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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