

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing – Tuesday, December 15, 2020
Approved 12/30/2020

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.

Public Hearing called to order by Chairman William J. Bunek at 6:30 p.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 was led by Chairman Bunek, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:	District #1	Anthony Ansoerge	PRESENT
	#2	Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#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 (via Zoom)

Purpose of the Public Hearing:

Chairman Bunek stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is for Public Comment on the proposed Airport Regional Authority. Cherry Capital Airport Director Kevin Klein and Attorney Karrie A. Zeits of Sondee, Racine & Doren, PLC, were both present via Zoom.

Administrator Chet Janik outlined the process/procedures to this point. In March of 2019, Klein came to both Leelanau County and Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners. Klein discussed the possibility of reviewing their governance structure. At that time both County Boards appointed Committees to work with Mr. Klein. From Leelanau County it was Commissioners Rushton and Bunek, and Administrator Janik. They met from April – November of 2019 and they came up with proposals, as well as the pros and cons for a Commission versus an Authority. There was dialogue in January-February 2020 to work out the specifics between the two County Administrators (Chet Janik for Leelanau County and Nate Alger for Grand Traverse County) and Klein. There was a joint meeting scheduled in March of 2020, and due to COVID that was canceled. The dialog between the Administrators and Klein continued. There was a joint meeting with the two County Board of Commissioners back in October 2020 and Janik believes that Grand Traverse County had their Public Hearing the first week of December 2020 and passed the Articles of Incorporation as proposed and moved to go forward. Leelanau County is having their meeting tonight for potential action following this Public Hearing.

Klein commented that he appreciates all of the hard work and effort that has been put into this.

Janik noted that this is the time for the Public to ask questions and noted that County Clerk Michelle L. Crocker did receive an email question.

●Crocker read the question from Bill Ross: "Good evening, I am in favor of the change in airport governance and have but one question: How will General Aviation, based at the airport, be affected by the change in governance?"

Klein responded that General Aviation is a very important part of the airport and he explained the operation between the Airport and Northwestern Michigan College and expanded on his comments. Klein addressed the timeliness of attending to issues and making decisions. He does not see major impacts to the General Aviation tenants or their operations with the potential change.

Chairman Bunek announced the public number to call for questions and or comments.

It was noted that this Public Hearing has been advertised as a Zoom meeting so citizens can Zoom in.

Commissioner Ansorge asked about procedure and he has already made his comments known and will have that discussion during the Regular Session meeting of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Wessell questioned the three-year terms and that the documents states that they will be staggered. Janik responded that the terms will be all appointed at the same time with phased in expirations allowing for the staggering to occur. Chairman Bunek noted that if there were Commissioner appointments, they would be yearly.

No calls or comments were received from the Public.

Adjournment:

Chairman Bunek adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

William J. Bunek, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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