

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Session – Tuesday, March 21, 2023**  
*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=2495#video>*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ty Wessell at 7:05 p.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

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

<u>Roll Call:</u>	District #1	Jamie Kramer	PRESENT
	#2	James O'Rourke	PRESENT
	#3	Doug Rexroat	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5	Kama Ross	PRESENT
	#6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Approval of Minutes:

*#080-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: EXECUTIVE SESSION, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023; REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023; LELAND DAM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*#081-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE SPECIAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 6 (Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Kramer)**

**NO – 1 (Allgaier)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*#082-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AND EXECUTIVE SESSION, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023. SECONDED BY REXROAT AND O'ROURKE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Agenda / Late Additions or Deletions:

Chairman Wessell said that he would request to move Consent Agenda Item #9a Updated Water Fountain Trail from the Consent Agenda to the Action Items portion of the Agenda. Wessell would also like to table BATA Board discussion until we have more information and the Administrator can speak to the Grand Traverse Administrator and how to work with them. Wessell also noted that a potential Closed Session for Attorney/Client Privilege Correspondence dated March 17, 2022.

Commissioner Lautner would request that Consent Agenda Item #7 – Youth Residential Treatment/Short Term Detention Facility be moved to the Action Items portion of the Agenda. Lautner would also like BATA to remain on the Agenda as she has questions about the process moving forward and move it down.

*#083-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY KRAMER.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comment:

Chairman Wessell noted that speakers are allowed up to three minutes. He requested that speakers be respectful, and the Commissioners will be respectful.

The following individuals spoke in person:

Bill Wiesner, Keith Beduhn, Eric Lind, and Stephen Mikowski.

The written comments can be found at the following link:

<https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2495#handouts>

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Communications, Proclamations, Presentations:

- **Road Commission Agency Update:** Road Commission Chairman Garth Greenan was present along with Road Commission Manager Brendan Mullane.

Opening comments by Greenan followed by a PowerPoint presentation and comments by Mullane, which can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/presentation\\_lcrc\\_03212023.pdf](https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/presentation_lcrc_03212023.pdf)

Greenan and Mullane responded to questions from Commissioners.

Consent Agenda Items:

Chairman Wessell read the following statement: The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one motion without discussion. Any Commissioner may ask that any item on the Consent Agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such request(s) will be automatically respected and will not need a second.

No requests were received to remove any items.

*#084-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY O’ROURKE.**

Emergency Management – Local 9-1-1 Surcharge Renewal:

*#085-03212023 Regular Session*

● **TO APPROVE STAYING STATUS QUO FOR THE ANNUAL SNC-500 COLLECTIONS AND REMITTANCE REPORT AND HAVE THE 9-1-1 DIRECTOR AND COUNTY CLERK DIGITALLY COMPLETE, SIGN, AND SUBMIT THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ONLINE AS REQUIRED.**

Sheriff's Office – Port Security Grant Application:

*#086-03212023 Regular Session*

● **TO AUTHORIZE THE LEELANAU COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY 2023 PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF A GREAT LAKES CAPABLE PATROL BOAT.**

Information Technology – Purchase of 10 Work Stations, Dell Technologies:

*#087-03212023 Regular Session*

● **TO WAIVE COUNTY BID REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 10 NEW DELL WORKSTATIONS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$15,026.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM DATA PROCESSING FUND #636.**

Drain Commission/Treasurer/I.T. – Special Assessment.Net Software Purchase, BS&A Software:

*#088-03212023 Regular Session*

● **TO WAIVE COUNTY BID POLICY AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.NET SOFTWARE FROM BS&A SOFTWARE OF BATH, MICHIGAN, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$18,600.00; FUNDS TO COME FROM THE DATA PROCESSING FUND/CAPITAL OUTLAY #636.000.000.970.000.**

Parks and Recreation Commission – Approval of Myles Kimmerly Park Conceptual Plan Proposal, Gosling Czubak Environmental Sciences, Inc.:

*#089-03212023 Regular Session*

● **TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2023, FROM GOSLING CZUBAK ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, INC., TO PREPARE A CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN OF MYLES KIMMERLY PARK, PENDING COUNSEL REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**

Leland Dam Membership Committee Appointments:

*#090-03212023 Regular Session*

- **TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF GARTH GREENAN (LEELANAU COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONER, TO SERVE EX-OFFICIO DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE) TO THE LELAND DAM AUTHORITY.**

*#091-03212023 Regular Session*

- **TO APPOINT RICHARD THOMPSON (ENGINEER CATEGORY) AND DREW WARNER (RIPARIAN CATEGORY) TO THE LELAND DAM AUTHORITY. [BOTH TERMS EXPIRE 12/31/2025]**

Solid Waste Council – Approval of EGLE Scrap Tire Grant Agreement:

*#092-03212023 Regular Session*

- **TO APPROVE THE SCRAP TIRE CLEANUP GRANT AGREEMENT WITH EGLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00.**

Administration – Indigenous Peoples Day Plaque Installation:

*#093-03212023 Regular Session*

- **TO APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF A PLAQUE ON A POST BEHIND THE RICK ROBBINS DONATED ROCK WHICH IS NEAR THE FLAG POLES.**

Administration – Proposed Restructuring Plan for the Finance/Accounting Offices:

*#094-03212023 Regular Session*

- **TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATOR’S PROPOSAL RESTRUCTURING PLAN FOR THE FINANCE/ACCOUNTING OFFICES, AS PRESENTED.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O’Rourke)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Action Items —**

Youth Residential Treatment/Short Term Detention Facility Update:

Commissioner Lautner stated that she is really concerned about the language and the motion “to accept and support” the revised Leelanau Family Court update. Lautner is not sure about the word “support” and she has no problem accepting the report. Lautner said that every day she becomes more concerned about Leelanau County’s liability in such a facility and does not want to be on record “supporting” this. She is willing to make a motion to accept and move on; however, she does not know the wishes of the Board. Brief comments continued.

Commissioner O’Rourke commented that he believes the revised document just had some amendments. The study has been all along to be state funded and he sees no problem.

Commissioner Allgaier agrees and this is just the process in hopes of obtaining the funding.

Commissioner O’Rourke added further comment on funding and if it cannot be afforded in the future, it is shut down. This is simply a concept.

Discussion about what was stated at last week’s Executive versus the February Executive meeting. The Clerk offered clarification.

Commissioner Lautner referred the Chairman to page six of the Executive Meeting minutes.

*#095-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT THE REVISED LEELANAU FAMILY COURT UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF A YOUTH FACILITY (A RESIDENTIAL/SHORT TERM DETENTION FACILITY) REPORT AS WRITTEN. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

Discussion – Commissioner Allgaier commented that she doesn't have a problem with that. Chairman Wessell asked the two Commissioners that have been working on this if that changes anything by taking the "and Support" out. Commissioner O'Rourke commented that he sees no reason to remove the word and continued that this will be state funded and that is what they are looking for. Commissioner Allgaier said it is to "support" their efforts. Commissioner Lautner added comments previously stated and she is fine with "fact gathering" and this seems to be open ended, and it may be the way she is reading the information. Lautner continued about statistics, percentages, and details that would need to be worked out. Lautner does not want this to come back financially on this County. Brief comments ensued.

*#096-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT TO CALL THE QUESTION. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

**AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*#095-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT THE REVISED LEELANAU FAMILY COURT UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF A YOUTH FACILITY (A RESIDENTIAL/SHORT TERM DETENTION FACILITY) REPORT AS WRITTEN. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

Discussion – none.

Voice vote on Motion:

**AYES – 2 (Lautner, Rexroat)**

**NO – 5 (O'Rourke, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer)**

Chairman Wessell called for a Roll Call Vote after the Voice Vote:

**ROLL CALL: Lautner – YES; O'Rourke – NO; Rexroat – YES; Ross – NO; Wessell – NO; Allgaier – NO; Kramer – NO.**

**AYES – 2      NO – 5**

**MOTION FAILS.**

*#097-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE REVISED LEELANAU FAMILY COURT UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF A YOUTH FACILITY (A RESIDENTIAL/SHORT TERM DETENTION FACILITY) REPORT AS WRITTEN. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion on clarification of the motion that is now on the table. Commissioner Lautner commented that increasingly by the day she is concerned about a project of this size and scope when we have steady decreasing number of youth in this County and she does not see that changing. She continued about declining youth, such a great program in the Probate Court and to get involved in a project this big concerns her. Lautner continued that she is hearing from

people outside of the County that are asking her “what are you doing” and continued with previously stated comments about accepting the report.

Chairman Wessell said that this does not commit the County to any dollars and commits us to the Court’s efforts to get a Youth Detention Center. If money were to be involved, it would need to come back to the Board of Commissioners. Wessell said again that this will not commit dollars and it supports the efforts of the Court in this and is why he will support this.

**AYES – 5 (Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, O’Rourke, Ross)**  
**NO – 2 (Rexroat/Lautner)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Building & Grounds Committee Recommendations – Water Fountain Trial:

Chairman Wessell said that he was listening in to last week’s meeting and noticed that the water fountain that was approved had no option for a fountain and it was just filling up the bottles. Wessell continued that there is an alternative in front of Commissioners and explained the information.

Discussion ensued that this alternative would serve everyone.

*#098-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TABLE THE WATER FOUNTAIN TRIAL. SECONDED BY O’ROURKE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O’Rourke)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Comments that the option in front of Commissioners today is much more environmentally friendly.

BATA Board Structure Discussion:

Commissioner Lautner has a lot of questions and has been busy on the phone with calls from other Counties who recognized what a bad deal that this could be for the County if we don’t have input on the decisions. She knows that she does not have the authority to call the County’s attorney. She knows that Grand Traverse County shares the same Attorney and they are talking to them, although she doesn’t know what they are asking. Lautner would like to hear from the County’s attorney or have the Attorney come and speak to us. Lautner would like to see the Articles of Incorporation for BATA. Lautner questioned how does the BATA Board Authority have the authority to change the Articles of Incorporation, change their Board Structure, and Leelanau County Board of Commissioners not have any say. That is her main concern. Lautner wants to know if there is going to be a joint meeting or should Leelanau Commissioners take the lead on our own and ask for a restructuring, can we get out of BATA and contract, and would that serve Leelanau County better? Should BATA privatize? Lautner continued that she thinks there are a lot of questions that need to be answered and expressed concern that the Board of Commissioners doesn’t have any authority on whether or not a millage request is put on the ballot. Lautner also commented on what she has “heard” on routes.

Chairman Wessell said that he knows others would like to speak and he would like Administrator Allen to speak as she has spoken with Grand Traverse County.

Administrator Allen said that she has talked with both the Attorney and the BATA Director Kelly Dunham and it is Allen's understanding that all future discussions will be put on hold for 60-90 days as Dunham will be out of the office. There will be a pause and when Dunham returns a meeting will be scheduled with the Authority members that have been appointed and there will be an opportunity for discussion at that time. There is currently no scheduled agenda or meetings at this time.

Commissioner Kramer commented that she wanted to address some of Commissioner Lautner's concerns and this would first be remedied by a conversation with all of us that is scheduled and planned. Kramer is aware that there are questions and a lot of misinformation. Before any action is taken, the facts need to be clarified and that will serve all well in moving forward.

Commissioner Ross stated that she supports Commissioner Kramer serving on the BATA Board and the other individual that represents Leelanau County. Ross believes that there should be respect for the process and those that represent Leelanau County at the table.

Commissioner Allgaier said that she wished she still had the letter and BATA does not report to the County Boards. The Director of BATA is absolutely paying attention. The County needs to make sure that we are maintaining our representation. Allgaier commented on the routes that are out there and also commented on Link On-Demand. Allgaier also spoke on routes that were eliminated during COVID due to lack of driving. Allgaier spoke very highly about Link On-Demand and you can utilize that from anywhere in Leelanau County in addition to the regular route.

Commissioner Rexroat wanted to echo Commissioner Lautner; however BATA provides a much-needed service. Rexroat questioned if the funding matches our service level. He does not know how it plays in the discussion and there seems to be many issues. Rexroat asked what the entanglement is with them, is it a life-time lease, what is the agreement.

Administrator Allen responded that there was a contractual agreement in 1996 and Commissioner Lautner interjected 1999. Allen continued with her understanding of BATA from the inception forward. Allen indicated that she has the documents on her desk and has not done a deep dive. Allen said anyone is welcome to see the documents.

Chairman Wessell said that he did speak with Executive Director Kelly Dunham and BATA has agreed to a pause as well as Grand Traverse County has agreed until there is an opportunity to sit down with the Boards of Commissioners and have a discussion regarding representation, budget, needs, and the Authority. Wessell likes the idea and wants to make sure the Administrator lets Grand Traverse County know that we would like to be at the table. Wessell does not know of any other need.

Commissioner Lautner said she is glad to hear that as it was not her understanding.

Chairman Wessell responded that that is what we would like to do. Lautner continued that when the Authority was formed it was either a 3-2 or 4-1 vote, as we were outnumbered and unfortunately this Board did it and that is when "we" lost all rights to put millages on the ballot and select them.

Commissioner Lautner continued with information she read in the “paper” and commented on “perks” she has “heard” about.

Commissioner Kramer said that it doesn’t apply to her as she is a Commissioner and Leelanau County pays her Per Diem, but they receive per diem. Lautner continued that she is concerned and she thinks it is a legal questions as we cannot accept “things” that her constituents cannot get.

Commissioner Kramer questioned if Lautner is referring to the “perk” that she just learned about was free rides and stated that she has always paid for many many years for her child to ride BATA to School and she continues to pay.

Commissioner Lautner continued with comments regarding the potential additional appointments to the BATA Board needing to be from Urban areas, the City of Traverse City, and continued with comments and quoting articles.

Commissioner Kramer said she believes that this is an opportunity for all of us to come together and really address Commissioner Lautner’s concerns and others concerns regarding the BATA Board makeup and how Leelanau is being represented. She also thinks that it is really important to not make knee jerk reactions when you don’t have all of the facts. This is an opportunity and she addressed Commissioner Lautner regarding the importance of the demographic makeup on that Board. Kramer continued that currently she is the only person on the BATA Board who represents a rider, and that is her daughter. Kramer believes that the Director’s intentions are altruistic and this is an opportunity to better represent Leelanau County.

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE [BATA] BOARD HOLD OFF ON A DECISION UNTIL A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF LEELANAU COUNTY, FULL COUNTY COMMISSION OF GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, AND THE FULL COMMISSION OF THE BATA BOARD. SECONDED BY O’ROURKE.

Discussion – Commission Allgaier suggested that it be “requested”, as the County Board does not have the authority to direct the BATA Board.

*#099-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT MODIFIED THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUEST THAT THE BATA BOARD HOLD OFF ON ANY DECISION / TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE FULL COUNTY COMMISSION OF LEELANAU COUNTY, FULL COUNTY COMMISSION OF GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, AND THE FULL COMMISSION OF THE BATA BOARD. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

Discussion – Commissioner O’Rourke commented that he has been listening and he understands that BATA Attorney is our Attorney. Commissioner Lautner commented that Grand Traverse County’s Attorney and Leelanau County’s Attorney is our Attorney. O’Rourke said that he has a problem with that. Commissioner Kramer asked O’Rourke, for a potential conflict of interest?

Commissioner Lautner commented on if Leelanau County can use Attorney Bonnie Toskey. O’Rourke believes that this is a conflict.



Administrator Allen said that “we” signed an agreement acknowledging that we use the same firm, but utilize different attorneys.

Commissioner Allgaier said that she was on the BATA Board for only six to seven months and the Board was totally apolitical. What the BATA Board is about is providing good service to the people, what do the people need and how do we do that. It was never Grand Traverse County vs. Leelanau County – it was never that at all. Is she concerned about the steps that Grand Traverse County Board made, yes she is – so those have to be made and discussed. What was just a Board about good service to people and that is where the idea of having a couple more people that represent demographics is about. She would not have been concerned about that, until the Grand Traverse County Board took the steps that they have.

Commissioner Lautner said that she previously sat on that Board and she was the only one concerned about the taxpayers of Leelanau County when she sat on that Board. She continued that sitting on that Board, the taxpayers of Leelanau County are paying a great deal of money and they need representation when it comes to funding. If it were funded differently, she would agree. Lautner thinks that Grand Traverse did a very wise thing in the very end because this application that she was reading from, you had until March 15 to apply/submit an application to the BATA Board and BATA was going to have their meeting on March 14 to appoint. Lautner continued that she is glad that Grand Traverse County got a hold on that meeting.

Chairman Wessell asked County Clerk Crocker to read the motion.

*#099-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT MODIFIED THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUEST THAT THE BATA BOARD HOLD OFF ON ANY DECISION / TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE FULL COUNTY COMMISSION OF LEELANAU COUNTY, FULL COUNTY COMMISSION OF GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, AND THE FULL COMMISSION OF THE BATA BOARD. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

**AYES – 6 (Rexroat, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O’Rourke)**

**NO – 1 (Ross)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*#100-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GO INTO CLOSED SESSION REGARDING ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED CORRESPONDENCE. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion – none.

**ROLL CALL: Rexroat – YES; Ross – YES; Wessell – YES; Allgaier – YES; Kramer – YES; Lautner – YES; O’Rourke – YES.**

**AYES – 7      NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Closed Session began at 8:08 p.m.

#101-03212023 Regular Session

**MOTION BY O'ROURKE THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESUME OPEN SESSION. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Open Session resumed at 8:17 p.m.

#102-03212023 Regular Session

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR ALLEN TO ENGAGE REHMANN AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY ROSS.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Review Of Financials:

Interim Finance Director Cathy Hartesvelt was present and responded to questions that were posed today and previously.

Special Reports by Staff, Commissioners, and Affiliated Agencies:

- Commissioner O'Rourke commented that he is on the Finance Committee for the Northwest Regional Airport Authority. He said that they are reviewing the airport insurance numbers and it is quite the learning curve. O'Rourke said that he serves on the Committee with Dan Jonkhoff and William Bunek.
- Commissioner Allgaier said that Brownfield received an EPA Assessment Grant, which is very competitive and difficult to receive. The Grant runs through 2025, she believes. Allgaier continued that it is to inform people, if someone has a fear that the land they want to sell has pollution of some sort. Those monies will help fund the discovery on that process. For instance The Old Mill in Glen Arbor used some of those funds. Some of those funds were used for Sugar Loaf from previous Grants. Brief comments continued about this and referred questions to Planning and Community Development Director Trudy J. Galla. Allgaier also referenced two events coming up on April 16 and April 17. She also referenced the blessing/dedication of the Habitat Home at the Maple City Crossing at 5:30 p.m. on March 22, 2023.
- Commission Rexroat stated that he attended his first meeting of Networks Northwest today. He was unable to stay for the full meeting as he needed to be back here. It was informative and he thinks it will be great to interface with nine other Commissioners from other Counties that serve on the Board.
- Chairman Wessell noted that Northern Lakes Community Mental Health are nearing closure on a new enabling agreement which will come to the Board of Commissioners for approval. He also noted that Administrator Allen will now be attending those meetings and Allen said that this week was to be her first meeting and it was cancelled.
- Commissioner Lautner asked Commissioner Rexroat to ask Matt McCauley [former CEO of Networks Northwest] about the list of a --- [employees that have company cars] she continued

that a lot of Council of Government or Networks Northwest have company cars and use company fuel and have to report their personal use, otherwise it is against the law. Lautner said that “we” asked for that list and it has not been received.

- Commissioner Allgaier noted that there have been 30 septic inspections.

No further reports.

Public Comment:

The following individuals spoke in person:  
Stephen Mikowski and Bill Wiesner.

The written comments can be found at the following link:

<https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2495#handouts>

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Ross would like to follow-up on comments Lois Bahle made at the prior meeting and her sharing earlier today wherein she called us to lead by example and Ross was also called by Phyllis Rebori who is a member of Dark Sky. We have an opportunity to turn off our lights this Saturday from 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. and it is a big thing to enjoy the night sky and she is proud to live in this County. Ross again encouraged Commissioners to lead by example.
- Commissioner Rexroat congratulated the Glen Lake Lady Lakers in Division 4 State Basketball Champions and also the Lake Leelanau St. Mary Eagles Boys Basketball Regional winners.
- Commissioner Lautner commented on being very proud of both teams. She also offered comments regarding lights in the County being 65% carbon free.
- Commissioner O'Rourke commented that Commissioner Lautner mentioned that we are not allowed to contact the County's attorney. He continued that if he had a questions, he would contact the Administrator or the Chairman. However, if at any time he feels it is necessary, he will contact the County's Attorney. O'Rourke is an elected official in his own district and requested to know if there are rules that prohibit this.

Chairman Wessell responded that there is precedence and that every Commissioner can contact the Attorney, they just go through the Administrator to make the contact and his understanding is that it is a request of the Administrator and the Attorney's office as they receive conflicting question and it needs to be a question of the organization. The Attorneys' Firm represents the County, not individual Commissioners.

Commissioner O'Rourke disagrees completely and he will still go ahead if he doesn't agree with the Chairman or the Administrator. He will also walk down and see Prosecuting Attorney Hubbell and wants to make sure that he stands alone representing his people.

- Chairman Wessell thanked Commissioner Rexroat for running the meeting last week. Wessell thanked all Commissioners as he believes things are going well. He appreciates the discussion, dialogue, agreement, and disagreement. Wessell invites fellow Commissioners to scold him when

he needs scolding. Wessell said in another month or two he would like to sit down and review the Rules of Order and see if any adjustments are needed and assess how things are going.

Approval of Financials —

Amendments & Transfers:

*#103-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2023 AMENDMENT #23-001. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*#104-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2023 FUND TRANSFER #23-002. SECONDED BY REXROAT.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Miscellaneous Fund Transfers and Amendments:

None.

Claims and Accounts:

*#105-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$233,121.67. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Post Audit Claims and Accounts:

*#106-03212023 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE POST AUDIT CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,284,187.18. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

Motion by Rexroat to adjourn. Seconded by Allgaier.

Chairman Wessell adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

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Ty Wessell, Chairman  
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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