

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**  
**Special Session – Wednesday, May 25, 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=2347#video>

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ty Wessell at 10:00 a.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Chairman Wessell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:	District #1	Rick Robbins	PRESENT
	#2	Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT
	#3	Lois Bahle	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5	Patricia Soutas-Little	ABSENT (arrived at 10:06 a.m.)
	#6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Public Comment:  
None.

Commissioner Comment:  
Commissioner Allgaier said her heart is with the people of Texas right now.

Chairman Wessell stated that he wanted to thank Matt for all his work with putting together the brochure.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action:  
County Administrator Hiring Process:  
Matt McCauley, CEO, Networks Northwest was present before Commissioners.

The handout can be viewed at the following link:  
[http://leelanau.gov/downloads/handout\\_marketing\\_packet\\_05252022.pdf](http://leelanau.gov/downloads/handout_marketing_packet_05252022.pdf)

Commissioner Lautner asked McCauley if he has heard of any interested parties on or off the street? McCauley stated that yes, he has heard of a few local candidates interested.

Commissioner Soutas-Little arrived at 10:06 a.m.

Chairman Wessell stated that his preference it to start with brochure.

McCauley went page by page of the brochure with the Board and answered Commissioner questions. McCauley said that he will be mentioning all cities, towns, townships and villages as much as possible. He stated he thinks the brochure is to show the flavor of the County and it is not meant to be an exact definition. Commissioner consensus to mention more about Elmwood Township. McCauley released the Ideal Candidate page to the staff and did receive responses

back that summed up what is already printed. He commented that sometimes a document like this for candidate review will have general parameters of what the general contract would look like. He gave an example of that it could be a three year with a one-year probation; however, it could most certainly remain silent. Commissioner consensus to include contract language, and McCauley will look into the regional standards to compare to.

Commissioner discussion ensued in regards to setting the salary wage for the candidate.

Interim Finance Director Darcy Weaver supplied the Board with a salary handout that can be found at the following link: [http://leelanau.gov/downloads/ss\\_benefits\\_05252022.pdf](http://leelanau.gov/downloads/ss_benefits_05252022.pdf)

*#157-05252022 Special Session*

**MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISH A SALARY RANGE OF \$95,000.00 TO \$116,000.00 FOR THE POTENTIAL ADMINISTRATOR POSITION. SECOND BY ROBBINS.**

Discussion – none.

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

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Wessell said that both Commissioner Lautner and McCauley have cautioned the Board that we must say we are willing to negotiate but not have a conversation about what we are willing to because it sets the Board up and a lot depends on the candidate. Wessell stated that there is commissioner consensus that no single Commissioner will negotiate on behalf of the Board or discuss salary without the full Board.

McCauley stated he would like Administrator Janik to look into receiving a legal opinion on if the Board can have a residency requirement of 21 miles.

Chairman Wessell directed Administrator Janik and Human Resources Director Weaver look into to getting a ruling from legal counsel before next week's meeting.

McCauley suggested that within the candidate packet that the Board list a Leelanau County liaison, so that candidates can ask questions and to also include a deadline if they want to submit questions. Chairman Wessell stated that the Human Resources Director will be the liaison, who will be representing the Board.

Commissioner Lautner left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

McCauley stated that if the candidate would like for initial interviews, that they may request to do over Zoom; however, the second interview would be in person and the County will pay for travel expenses if there are any. Chairman Wessell stated there is Commissioner consensus to implement McCauley's interview suggestions.

Chairman Wessell stated that the next Special Session meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

McCauley said that at the next meeting there will be items specifically that will need Board approval, such as the job description.

Chairman Wessell requested of Human Resources Director Weaver to email the County Administrator job description to all the commissioners.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Comment:

- Commissioner Allgaier thanked McCauley for all his hard work.
- Commissioner Soutas-Little said that Agri-Valley was here yesterday and Monday with their open house and it went incredibly well. There was a great turnout and they had so many emails that they can hardly keep up.
- Chairman Wessell stated the checked with legal counsel and Janik on the ability of the Chairman of the Board to call a recess, and found out that the Chairman does have the ability to call for a recess. He said that if the recesses is challenged before recess happens then there must be a vote of the commission. He can call one but if someone calls a point of order then the vote occurs and it must be a majority to allow the recess to continue.
- Commissioner Rushton asked Chairman Wessell if he posed the question that if a recess is called when there is a motion on the floor can a recess be taken?

Chairman Wessell replied that the question he asked was if he was uncomfortable as chair with the conduct of the meeting in regards to disrespect and issues expressed that should not be that it is his prerogative to call for a recess. He said that as a board member you can always challenge it. Commissioner Rushton said that she believes that is exactly what she did.

Adjournment:

Chairman Wessell adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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Ty Wessell, Chairman  
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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Alison C. Middleton, Admin. Deputy County Clerk  
for Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk