

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:00 P.M.
ELECTRONICALLY
Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567902480?pwd=c1laQkZ0MzUvREE3cDdSSWNldy9QZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 6790 2480

Passcode: 192382

or

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 875 6790 2480

Passcode: 192382

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Jim Lautner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present by electronic remote access: Supervisor Jim Lautner, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Trustee Ron Novak and Trustee Steve Yoder

Guests present by electronic remote access: Mary Taylor, Mary O'Neill, Samantha VanderVlucht, Dan Leach, Fire Chief Chris Comeaux, Julie Kradel, Stephen Kostyshyn, Brayton Farr and Tim Cypher/ZA.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to approve the agenda with additions under New Business: A. Update on M-72 Intersection, B. Election Report and C. October Meeting. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor James Lautner read the agenda as required when a meeting is held by electronic remote access.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ron Novak and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the July 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes as written. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comment

Mary O'Neill noted that the sign on the township hall needs to be painted. Shirley Mikowski noted that was going to be done several years ago when the exterior of the township hall was to be painted, but could not find a carpenter to do the repairs needed before the painting could be completed. Shirley did ask Ms. O'Neill if she found a carpenter that would do that kind of work, to send them her way.

Julie Kradel wanted to know what the pushback Melinda Lautner is receiving because she wanted to include abortion in the anti-racism resolution being proposed by the county based on what she read in the Leelanau Enterprise. Jim Lautner said Melinda Lautner did not want to include that in the resolution, but suggested Ms. Kradel contact her to get the facts.

Ron Novak noted that public comment is not for questions and answers. Public comment is for comment by the public.

6. Correspondence

- Received L-4029's from TCAPS and Glen Lake
- Received a FOIA from True to Vote from Texas

7. Treasurer's Report/Authorization for Payment of Vouchers:

Ron Novak asked about the \$395.00 the township pays to the City of Traverse City for Hazmat Fees. Chief Comeaux explained that this department does not have the equipment to handle any large spillage, and would take twenty years to purchase the equipment that the City of Traverse City has. Chemical Bank Checking \$1,919.81, Chemical Bank General Savings \$110,748.39, Total Funds Available: \$112,668.20, Chemical Bank Road Improvement Fund \$5,343.47, Chemical Bank Fire Fund (Northwestern Bank) CD \$6,676.77, (Chemical Bank) Savings \$161.73, Total Fire Sinking \$6,838.50, Chemical Bank Sidewalk Fund \$10,192.59, Chemical Bank Cedar River Marina Project \$21,544.43, total other Township Funds Available: \$43,918.99 - Total Current Assets: \$156,587.19. Voucher #'s 13656-13709 were submitted for payment. Motion by Ron Novak and seconded by Steve Yoder to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

8. Committee Reports:

Steve Yoder reported the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August was cancelled because two members were not able to attend.

Mary Taylor gave the report that was prepared by Kelly Claar on the Parks and Recreation Committee on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 held at the Cedar Community playground.

- Plants have been planted at the Solon Beach Park, but more are needed, and a thank you for trimming around the park sign. It is now more visible from the road.
- There is a list of maintenance recommendations for the parks. For Solon Beach Park, put caps on the ends of the ladders on the dock, and have porta jon moved by the fence. For Vlack's Park, trim trees and remove dock, and increase trash service, especially at the ball park
- Mary Taylor gave a grants update: still waiting to hear from the Michigan Masonic and hoping to apply for a \$100,000.00 grant through the Rotary (not a Seed Grant) for the maintenance of the parks.
- Kelly Claar met with Trudy Galla to obtain addresses for our park facilities and locations. Kelly needs a letter or an email from the township board to work with the county to obtain these addresses which could be helpful when applying for grants. This would also be helpful when searching on Google to find the parks.
- Kelly also discussed with Trudy Galla the possibility of the county hosting a curbside pickup so it could potentially reduce the illegal dumping at the recycling site. Trudy Galla has been looking into it, but because of the cost, each township would need to contribute approximately \$10,000.00 and would rotate turns.
- The committee is requesting the board to hire Brent Garvin to dismantle and leave the dock on site, and the committee will find a place to store or recycle it.
- Mary Taylor is project leader for the playground and is continuing to work on obtaining a SESC permit, and is working on raising funds to remove old equipment and install new.
- The pop cans continue to come in, and there is a deposit tonight in the amount of \$180.00.
- Cedar Marina Zoom Public Input Meeting is August 24, 2020 at 7 pm. A thank you to Ray Pleva for donating his rock that has been placed by the river in Cedar Community Park.
- The next meeting is on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm onsite at Vlack's Park.

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

There was nothing to report.

1. Cherry Capital/Wi-Fi

There was no update.

B. Parks

1. Recycling Site

Joan Gauthier said she took pictures and called Trudy Galla. Steve Yoder was approached on how dirty it is at the recycling site and referred them to Trudy Galla.

Joan Gauthier was told the trash tote by the ball park had tipped over and had dirty diapers in it. Ray Pleva and Kelly Claar picked up the trash. People are dropping off their personal trash in it.

Ron Novak received a call from Molly Steck at the Planning Department, and she informed Ron there is a possibility that there is grant funding available to purchase trail cams at no cost to the township.

C. Fire Department

Fire Chief Comeaux gave the following report:

- Thanked everyone for their continued support of the department, and was grateful that all four township millages passed.
- The new engine is scheduled to be delivered by the first or second week of September.
- The department is in the final running to obtain a Type 3 Wild Fire engine, and should know by November or December.
- The Fire Chief applied for the Firehouse Sub Grant for \$35,000.00 to obtain a 16 foot flat bottom boat.
- Waiting to hear if the department received the SAFER Grant that will offset the cost of hiring additional staff.
- Applied for the AFG Grant for approximately \$50,000.00 to purchase ten sets of turnout gear.
- The three commercial doors are rusting and need to be replaced. There is concrete that needs to be repaired. There are three bids out to repair the concrete. These costs will be paid out of the Operating Budget.
- Staffing is back to a high number, the most since he has been Chief with one more that is in the process of being hired.
- Two members are being sent to fire school in the fall.
- The fire board will be discussing on how our in-house paramedics will go through the Munson paramedic training in January.
- Thank you to Mr. Lautner and the board for staying on top of the M-72 intersection.

Chief Comeaux shared that Chet Janik is hosting a zoom meeting on Friday, August 19, 2020 at 10:00A.M to discuss the possibility of getting reimbursed for the expenses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Comeaux said his department incurred approximately \$5,000.00 due to this which he hopes to recover.

Ron Novak asked the Chief if he had attended the Road Commission meeting regarding the barrels by the station, and the chief was unable to attend, but plans to attend one.

Ron Novak shared his concerns of the volume of water pressure at the station when he was filling his containers to water the flowers at the welcome signs. Chief Comeaux said the hose line by the tool room would have filled the container in thirty seconds, and will show Ron the next time he comes to the station.

D. Cedar River Project

Joan Gauthier shared an email that just came in from Ray Pleva that the bridge is painted and all of the lumber has been delivered. Ron Novak thanked Joan for all of her help in ordering the supplies.

E. Millage Rate

This item will be moved to the Budget meeting.

F. Sidewalk

Ron Novak said Novak Masonry has completed the job, and did an excellent job. They did leave some barricades to protect it from traffic until it is completely cured. An invoice is needed before payment can be issued, so Ron will contact them to get an invoice. Ron Novak got a cost of \$1,100.00 from Novak Masonry to repair the sidewalk that

was damaged when they were moving the rock which Ray Pleva said it would be paid for out of the Cedar River Marina Project Fund. Jim Lautner said the \$1,100.00 should come from the Sidewalk Fund instead of the Cedar River Marina Project Fund because there is enough money in that fund, and that is all the fund can be used for. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to pay \$1,100.00 from the Sidewalk Fund for the repairs of the damaged sidewalk. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

Jim Lautner asked Ron to have them send a separate invoice for the repair work.

G. Flynn v Solon Township

Jim Lautner said that mediation is set for August 25, 2020 to be held at the Lake States Building. Jim Lautner, Joan Gauthier and Ron Novak will attend. Ron Novak asked if he could receive a per diem for attending and Jim Lautner said he would.

H. Planning Commission

Jim Lautner noted since Edie Glynn resigned from her position to the Planning Commission it needs to be filled. Jim has received seven or eight letters/phone calls for this position, and his recommendation and nomination is Meg Paxton. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Ron Novak to appoint Meg Paxton to the Planning Commission to complete the three year term ending December 31, 2022. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

I. Cemetery

Shirley Mikowski has not contacted Zach Baker on how to proceed in changing any one of the road(s) into plots, but will before the next meeting.

Shirley Mikowski received a call from Edna King concerning the cemetery. Mrs. King asked the township to consider dressing up the cemetery a bit by adding fencing at the entrance(s). Jim Lautner asked the board members to go look at the cemetery to get ideas of what can be done before the next meeting.

10. New Business

A. Update on M-72 Intersection

Jim Lautner has been in contact with Krista, and it has been determined a light is needed. A signal study and a traffic count will be done. It was approved in Lansing, and the recommendation from M-DOT is to install a regular stop light which will be installed some time next summer. It would take until 2026 if they were to put in a round-about. They are going to redesign the intersection yet this summer by redrawing some of the lines.

B. Election Report

Shirley Mikowski reported that 402 ballots were mailed out for the August Primary, and 339 ballots were returned. There were 583 ballots processed the day of the election with 244 voting in person. In 2016, less than 320 ballots were processed. At present there are approximately 470 requests for absentee ballots, with an anticipation of maybe 600 requests for the 2020 November General election. Shirley just received an email from the Michigan Bureau of Elections about a grant program to purchase another tabulator with the state covering half of the cost. Shirley will bring that information to the next meeting. The state also paid for sixty percent of the absentee envelopes that were ordered for the Primary Election.

C. October Meeting

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to change the October meeting from October 8 to October 15, 2020. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

11. Public Comment

Mary Taylor suggested looking into recouping election equipment costs as COVID-19 related. Shirley Mikowski explained that purchasing additional election equipment would not be related to a COVID-19 recovery cost.

Mary O'Neill said that she has been attending township board and Planning Commission meetings on a regular basis, and that at least five of the other applicants for the Planning Commission position have also been actively

attending these meetings as well. Ms. O'Neill wanted to know what the wisdom was in appointing someone who has not been engaged in the township and whom she does not remember seeing at meetings. Ms. O'Neill felt that it was a poor choice for Solon Township, and will let the constituents know about it. Jim Lautner stated that it is the supervisor's choice of who is appointed.

Chris Comeaux shared how very disappointed he is with some of the words that have been used in the past by some of the elected officials in the county. The words that were used were full of hate, and words cannot be taken back. Mr. Comeaux said in his position he cares about everyone. The citizens of this township and this county need to really think about who we are electing, and who are on the boards currently, and those people need to think about what they really stand for.

Mary O'Neill supported Mr. Comeaux's statement.

12. Announcements

There was none.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley I. Mikowski/Solon Township Clerk

Shirley I. Mikowski

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: JULY 2020

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
010-500-009-00	7/31/2020 LUP 20-09 6781 E. FOUCH ROAD	LAMMERS	LAND USE COVERED PORCH ROOF EXTENSION	202009 428 S.F.	1377 \$ 120.00
010-200-011-00	7/31/2020 LUP 20-10 8683 SCHOMBERG RD.	DEFILIPPO	LAND USE DETACHED CARPORT	2020010 150 S.F.	1667 \$ 40.00
010-027-001-00	7/31/2020 LUP 20-11 5815 E. HOXIE ROAD	BUTZ	LAND USE ACCESSORY BUILDING	202011 2,400 S.F.	5524 \$100.00
010-005-013-00 010-005-013-20	7/18/2020 PLA 20-02 8362/8400 S. SCHOMBERG	LASKEY / LASKEY	PROPERTY ADJUSTMENT PROPERTY LINE ADJUSTMENT		1130 \$100.00

TOTAL \$ 360.00

SIGNED:

Timothy A. Cypher

DATE: 8/11/2020

TIMOTHY A. CYPHER
 SOLON TOWNSHIP ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
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