

LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 13, 2021– 7:00 p.m.
Leland Township Library, Munnecke Room
203 E. Cedar Street, Leland, MI 49654

MINUTES

PRESENT: Supervisor Susan Och, Clerk Lisa Brookfield, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Trustee Clint Mitchell, Trustee Mariann Kirch.

ABSENT: 0

GUESTS: 10

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Mitchell suggested to add discussion to the agenda about the sign at Reynolds Street. Ms. Brookfield noted that the settlement agreement did not specify the language of the sign.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to add discussion of the Reynolds Street sign to the agenda; supported by Ms. Kirch. Vote: 2 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion failed.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that recycling should be a discussion item on the agenda. Ms. Brookfield noted that Ms. Soutas-Little would be reporting on recycling in January. It was agreed that a discussion of recycling could be done under Old Business.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried (5,0)

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 8, 2021 (Regular Meeting) At the meeting, two spellings were corrected and a word, “signature” was eliminated on pg. 5.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the minutes of November 8, 2021 as corrected; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

November 22, 2021 (Special Meeting)

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Kuntz – She is opposed to the location of the recycling bins in Leland. She understood that the location would be temporary. Ms. Kuntz provided photos of what the site looks like on most days. There is a lot of litter, the bins are overflowing, and litter blows onto neighboring properties. The recycling location brings a lot of traffic. Pick-up of the recycling is noisy and lasts about 40 minutes. She played a recording of the noise. She would like the bins removed.

Greg Kuntz – He stated that the recycling site is not maintained. There has not been any snow removal and there are mounds of ice around the bins. There is no lighting. People park on the street. The situation poses a reliability risk for the township and the property owner.

Tim Eggert- He is in agreement with the Kuntz’s. He opposes the location of the recycling bins in Leland. He regularly has to pick up litter that has blown out of the bins.

Steve Mikowski – He reported a lot of noise at the Cedar recycling center. People who want recycling will go to the appropriate area.

He also felt the vacancy of a member of the Sewer Commission should be on the agenda under Old Business.

Mr. Mikowski presented his request to hold a referendum vote on the Leland Township Zoning Ordinance 96-1. This is his 303rd request. He also asked the Board to correct a longstanding error denying a 17 ½ inch side yard setback variance.

Mr. Mikowski stated his opposition to the building of bike trails in the Provemont Pond area. The land was deeded to the Township for use as a park. However, the sewer plant was built there. The area is 50% commercialized. He also stated that a replacement area for a drain field should be designated in the plans for the property.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

A report is on file at the Leland Township Office and is online.

Mr. Besson reported on highlights from his report: number of calls and overlapping calls, firefighter anniversaries, the aerial ladder inspection, their assistance with the ice rink, and the continued fire fighter contract negotiations.

Planning/Zoning, Tim Cypher

A report is on file at the Leland Township Office and is online.

Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

Ms. Brookfield reviewed a report submitted by email.

Sewer, Steve Patmore

A report is on file at the Leland Township Office and is online.

Parks & Rec

The Commission did not meet this month because of weather conditions. The bridge has been built across the creek at Provemont Pond. Maintenance (Ken Hagstrom) was able to work on the burn pile.

County Commission, Patricia Soutas-Little

Ms. Soutas-Little distributed her report to the Board members. The County will have two new recycling centers by the end of the year. One will be at the Government Center and the other will be at the Road Commission. The County is purchasing video cameras for all sites. One site has cameras and it has helped a lot in eliminating the dumping of non-recyclable items. The Broadband report shows the availability of internet service in the county. An interactive map will be available online in March. She has a list of the 2% grants that were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Garthe reported on income and expenses for the last month. It was business as usual. It was a partial sewer billing month and property taxes were mailed.

ACTION: Ms. Kirch moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A written report was submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. It is on file at the Leland Township Office.

There was a complaint about lawn markers being placed by property owner at the edge of pavement. The snow plows need to plow snow beyond the edge in order to have room for subsequent snow. Sunset Shores is in the process of getting the needed permits. When the permits are complete they will develop a timeline. In response to a public comment made at the November meeting, the Township has no authority to impose a tourism tax. Tim Cypher is in agreement with the Township to renew his contract for two more years. A draft capital improvement plan was posted on the website so the public can review the Township's current financial challenges. Ms. Och briefly discussed the APRA funds and revenue laws. (see Supervisor's report).

ACTION ITEMS

1. Purchase of 2022 Ford Road Rescue Ambulance from Emergency Vehicles Plus funded from 403 Station Bond Funds \$265,00.00

Chief Besson discussed the current condition of the ambulances and the specs for a chassis and rebuild of an ambulance. He submitted a report of what is being proposed and reasons for the items needed in the ambulance. He has received 3 bids.

Ms. Garthe discussed and asked questions about using line item 402 or 403 in the budget. Chief Besson offered an explanation.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford Road Rescue Ambulance from Emergency Vehicles Plus funded from 403 Station Bond Funds for \$265,000.00; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried (5,0)

2. Modify current union firefighter contract to allow a temporary one step increase to take effect for the pay period starting, December 20, 2021, and to end when the new contract is finalized.

Chief Besson discussed current contract negotiations. This agreement would bridge the gap until the contract is finalized. Documents describing the proposal were distributed to the Board members. Chief Besson discussed the estimated expense for the wage step increases. Chief Besson expressed his concern of not being able to attract good employees because of our low wage scale.

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to modify the current union firefighter contract to allow a temporary one step increase to take effect for the pay period starting, December 20, 2021, and to end when new contract is finalized; supported by Ms. Garthe.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kirch asked a question about the differences of EMT/ advanced EMT/ paramedic wages. Chief Besson responded.

Motion carried. (5,0)

3. Consider a buy back request from Barbara Rose for 5 graves in East Leland Cemetery. Cost to Township - \$750.

Ms. Brookfield discussed the particulars about this situation.

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to approve the buy-back request from Barbara Rose for 5 graves in East Leland Cemetery for \$750; supported by Ms. Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

4. Approve bid recommendation to contract Team Elmer's for the Leland Township Sidewalk project to begin early 2022 at the cost of \$230,589.00.

Ms. Och discussed the bids. The engineer has recommended the bid from Team Elmer's. It would be paid from the capital improvement fund. It was budgeted for this year and the funds will carry over to the next year budget. Mr. Mitchell discussed creative ways to pay for the sidewalks from different funds so money could stay in the capital improvement fund. This can be discussed in the budget meetings. Residential properties will pay 40% of their share and commercial properties would pay 80% of their share. Work would start around April 1 and end May 27.

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to approve the bid recommendation to contract Team Elmer's for the Leland Township Sidewalk project to begin work in early 2022 at the cost of \$239,589.00; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried. (5,0)

5. Renew contract with Township Planner, Larry Sullivan for a one or two-year option.

Mr. Mitchell suggested a 1-year contract as Mr. Sullivan's main role is to work on the master plan. Hopefully, it can be completed in a year.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to renew the contract with the Township Planner for one-year; supported by Ms. Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

1. Township Hall/Office Committee update

Ms. Brookfield reported. We have a complete committee and the first meeting is being planned.

2. Compensation Committee update

The first meeting was in November and they made great progress. Their next meeting will be January 6, 2022. They will get their draft to the Board by the end of January.

3. Recycling

Mr. Mitchell discussed the plans for the sites. He suggested a small site at the fire station although egress and ingress might be a problem. He would like to put together a site plan for the fire station. He feels that convenience is a high priority. The plan will comply with station requirements. Ms. Brookfield reported that the fire station was considered before and it was rejected. Mr. Mitchell is considering only 3 bins. Ms. Kirch suggested the corner of 204 and 22 by the pump station be used as a recycling site.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The bills and accounts lists were distributed to Board members. There was nothing unusual for the month.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved for payment of bills from November 9, 2021 to December 13, 2021; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Och has been passing on correspondence to Board members. Ms. Och reminded Board members to please pass on any correspondence they receive to the rest of the Board.

BOARD COMMENT

Clint Mitchell - He suggested Jim Atkinson for the Township office committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski – He asked for the location of the sidewalk work. Ms. Och responded.

He also asked for copies of the previous minutes of township board meetings to be available at the meetings. Ms. Brookfield stated the minutes are online but will bring some copies to the meetings. The times for the two new committee meetings are posted on the website. Mr. Mikowski stated that because of the Open Meetings Act, the time and location should be posted. He would like this information by email. These two new meetings are not such that would be under the Open Meetings Act. They can hold the meetings remotely if necessary. Ms. Kirch – She suggested that there be a press release of the sidewalk plan. Ms. Och felt that could be done. The map itself is not suitable for reducing and publishing.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

The next meeting is January 10, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk