

LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 11, 2022 – 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: 15

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 19, 2022 - Special Meeting

EVENTS:

Fishtown Preservation 5K

Great Lakes Fireworks contract

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 14, 2022 - Regular Meeting: Ms. Och noted that on page 3 the word “ordinance” should be changed to “plan”.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022 as presented and amended; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

March 18, 2022 – Closed Session Meeting

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2022 as presented; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Dawkins – Ms. Dawkins asked to read aloud her comment and have it part of the record:

“I am Kathy Dawkins, a resident of Leland Township. My public comment addresses Clint Mitchell’s letter to the Leelanau Enterprise on March 24, 2022, in which he represents himself as a Leland Township trustee.

Following are the comments made in this letter by Clint. I am addressing them in the order in which they were made.

“Annual meeting turned political rally”.

Any township annual meeting could be called a political rally as the definition is a meeting in which people show up to support their township.

“Pad her pockets with taxpayer dollars, while most residents weren’t looking.”

The definition of padding one’s pockets means you disapprove of them because they are making money dishonestly or unfairly. There was no dishonesty or unfairness occurring, unless you have evidence that the vote of the electors was dishonest or unfair.

“Och’s effort to rally a few dozen allies...appeared unseemly and underhanded”

If you had spoken to Susan or these few dozen allies, you would have found that Susan did no such thing. In fact, I and several others contacted people to let them know of the annual meeting. When has that become unseemly and underhanded? In fact, those other folks who voted for the raises may have shown up in response to the misleading and lying ads and post cards that circulated before the meeting.

“majority of residents were out of town”.

The 2020 Census shows 22,623 residents in Leland Township as of July 2021. Were 11,312 residents out of the township on March 19?

“Mob rule”

"Mob rule" is defined as large groups of people acting without the consent of the government. That did not happen at the annual meeting.

In commenting about the fiscal year starting on April 1 “It’s not just unfair to taxpayers; it’s purely political, and costly.”

Out of 11 townships in Leelanau County, 9 have their fiscal year run April to March, 1 township from July to June and another from Jan to Dec. Leland Township’s fiscal year of April to March has been this way forever. If this is a concern for you, why have you not addressed it before?

The votes cast on March 19 represented the will of the electors. For you to suggest otherwise is shameful and unethical. Your attack on Susan Och was not honorable nor respectful. Your behavior violated the Principles of Governance that you signed on January 31, 2022. You owe both Susan Och and the electors an apology in writing.”

Steve Mikowski - Mr. Mikowski presented his request to hold a referendum vote on the Leland Township Zoning Ordinance 96-1. This is his 307th request. He also asked the Board to correct a longstanding error denying a 17 ½ inch side yard setback variance.

Supervisor Och responded to Mr. Mikowski’s protest. During Ms. Och’s term, the original proceedings in this matter were reviewed. Ms. Och cited protocol that substantiated the action of the Zoning Board, the Board of Appeals and the Leland Board. Ms. Och added that she appreciates and applauds Mr. Mikowski for his attention to important issues and attending meetings.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

A report is on file at the Leland Township Office and is online. Chief Besson reviewed calls and activity for the month. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are available at the Fire Department. Work on the employee contract is finished. The contract includes reimbursement for up to \$2000 for training and a new wage schedule.

Planning/Zoning, Tim Cypher

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

Planning – There was no new business discussed at the April 6, 2022 meeting. A land use permit concerning a dog kennel was reviewed. The request was denied because all the information asked for was not presented. A discussion of a zoning amendment regarding character and square foot coverage was tabled. There was a brief discussion of the Master Plan. There has been no further direction from the state on short term rentals. Ms. Och asked if sidewalks and roadway improvement are part of the Master Plan. Mr. Cypher responded that it is part of the capital improvement plan.

Zoning - Income for the month of March was \$280. Mr. Cypher gave a summary of land use permits for the month. An annual report was submitted for the Annual Meeting in March.

Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

Ms. Och reported from an email from Jeremy Anderson. The rest rooms will not be open before the 15th. They are working on turning on the water and bleaching the wells. The Township, not the Army Corps, will be doing the dredging this year. It would be easier to put the spoils on the beach and then groom the beach. They do not have an answer yet on that matter. Reservations remain steady for the summer.

Sewer, Steve Patmore

A report is on file at the Leland Township Office and is online. Levels for the lagoon and other levels are normal for this time of year. IAI employee, Lin Maroff took another job. IAI has the position well covered at this time. A new technician has been hired by IAI. They are working on getting projects lined up for the year. The safety audit from IAI went well.

Parks & Rec

The minutes from the last meeting were distributed to the Board members. Mr. Hagstrom submitted a detailed list of what needs to be done this spring. Ms. Kirch raised the question of whether Parks and Rec is a committee or a commission. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

County Commission, Patricia Soutas-Little – no report

Assessor

Board of Review minutes were distributed to the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Garthe reported on income and expenses for the last month. It was not a sewer billing month and business was as usual. The Township has settled with the County for delinquent taxes and a check will be coming in. Mr. Mitchell inquired about legal bills being paid. Ms.

Brookfield responded that the bill had changed and will be paid. Mr. Mitchell also asked about a check that did not show up in the February or March reports. Ms. Brookfield will look into it. Ms. Brookfield requested that this type of question/concern be handled prior to meeting and she could provide an explanation or correct the matter.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; supported by Ms. Brookfield. 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.

Ms. Och has been talking to a lot of people about the sidewalk costs. In 2017, a contractor bid the job, but could not do the work. The cost is higher now. Paige Sykes called about speeding on M22. A lifeguard is available for this summer. The project at Sunset Shores continues. Ms. Och thanked Mr. Mitchell for representing the Township at the Hazard Mediation Meeting. A request was made to place rip rap at the shoreline of 308 Reynolds Street. This will be investigated according to the settlement agreement as rip rap generally causes erosion to neighboring properties. Ms. Och is working with the Road Commission in ranking areas of road paving that need to be addressed. Ms. Och will participate in the training to become a Michigan Asset Management Champion. Ms. Och will be out of town April 18-27 for a family matter.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request from Library Director Mark Morton to install a TV in the Munnecke Room.

The Library manages the Munnecke Room and the Township owns it. Mr. Morton spoke to the need of a smart TV and the advantages it will give to the Library and Township. This will be paid for by a patron donation and \$1,000 from the Library budget. Net Life Business Systems will be doing the work.

On another note, there will be a 4th of July parade and fireworks this year.

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to approve the Library's request to install a TV in the Munnecke Room; supported by Ms. Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

2. Facilities Committee recommendation to the Board.

Keith Ashley reported for the Facilities Committee. The report describing 7 options for a Township facility was distributed to the Board members. Ms. Kirch asked why the Harbor Building was not considered. Mr. Ashley responded that the committee could look into it even though parking would be a major drawback in that location. Mr. Ashley gave details about the available space at the fire stations. These would be the least expensive options. The Committee believes the best option would be to add on or build a new building on the Leland station property. Mr. Ashley gave details on how that could happen. Ms. Kirch asked about the Lake Leelanau Fire Station property. The land behind that building hold the septic tanks and a pond. Ms. Brookfield suggested that

the Fire Department would have to be in the conversation if a fire station space would be used. Ms. Och stated that land contracts could be used to purchase property and a meeting room large enough to include public attendance is important. The Committee considered leasing or buying a modular building to be placed at Grove Park. A modular building would cost about \$100,000 with utility hook-ups extra. Mr. Ashley asked the Board to review the options and decide on an option(s) that is viable and the Committee will investigate it further.

Chief Besson spoke in opposition to the use of space at the fire stations. His experience is that emergency services and Township offices in the same building do not work out well. Chief Besson spoke of the Fire Department needs, the nature of their 24/7 work, and likely possible expansion of the Fire Department in the future.

Mr. Mikowski suggested that this discussion should continue in a special meeting rather than at the Board meeting.

3. Authorize Supervisor Och and Fire Chief Besson to sign CBA with IAFF

Ms. Och reviewed the highlights of the contract.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to authorize Supervisor Och and Fire Chief Besson to sign CBA with IAFF; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried. (5,0)

4. Authorize Supervisor Och to draft ballot language for August 2022 fire millages.

Ms. Och explained 2.1 mils (reflects a 0.3 increase) for Fire Operations and renew 0.5 mils for Fire Equipment and Training. A handout was distributed to the Board members.

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to authorize Supervisor Och to draft ballot language for the August 2022 fire millage; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

5. Leelanau Community Church, Drow Field

Cindy Kacin represented Leelanau Community Church in this request. The church would like to put up a tent to hold evening revival meetings on July 26-30. A land use permit request and insurance documentation were submitted to the Board. The church will set up chairs under the tent, have porta-johns available, provide security, manage clean-up after the event, and use water barrels instead of stakes for the tent.

The Board had concerns about the integrity of the grass being degraded for baseball games. It was decided that a location beyond the outfield would be appropriate for the tent. There are also other forms that need to be completed and a safety inspection.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to approve Lake Leelanau Community Church's request to use Drow Field for a tent revival event during July 26-30 provided that the tent and any large stationary structures are located beyond the outfield fence; supported by Ms. Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

6. Leland Township Credit Card Policy.

The Credit Card Policy document was distributed to the Board members.

ACTION: Ms. Garthe moved to approve the Credit Card Policy as presented; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (4,1). Mariann Kirch opposed.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS – None

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 March 15, 2021 to April 11, 2022; supported by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

CORRESPONDENCE

The National Register has listed Fishtown Historical District as a historical area.

BOARD COMMENT - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Ashley – Mr. Ashley state that the Facilities Committee will take a tour of the Harbor Building and report at the next meeting. The Board could then decide the next step.

Lisa Brookfield - Ms. Brookfield is concerned about Harbor Building because of parking and is not worth investigating.

Steve Mikowski – He stated that he appreciates that the Supervisor discussed his two requests. He gave further information about how his requests were handled. He also is opposed to Township buildings on the property of Grove Park because it is used a lot as a park. He cautioned the Board about inflation.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.; supported by Ms. Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

The next meeting is May 9, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk