

Supervisors Report December 2022

Much of my time this month has been spent on researching the seawall issue and Spark grants. I have sent you my email exchanges with the DNR about the PARK grants and with EGLE about the seawall permitting process. I have also been keeping the Library Board, the Historical Society, and the Leland chamber apprised of these developments.

Although Jim Tiffany will be at the Monday board meeting to answer questions, I will not be there as I have been diagnosed with Covid and I am quarantined until Tuesday. I was hoping that board members would forward any questions to me so that I could send them to Jim. We do need to have a pre-application meeting with EGLE to figure out what is possible from a permitting standpoint and whether we can proceed in stages. My questions for Jim are as follows:

1. It seems that we will lose some valuable real estate if we wait for the wall to fail before planning a response. How long do we have?
2. If we were to plan this project in tranches, how would that affect permitting?
3. Does it make sense to move ahead with permitting when we don't yet know how to fund this project?
4. Public opinion favors maintaining this area for day docking of boats. To obtain a SPARK grant, we would need to frame this project as a marina. Robyn Schmidt has told us that boat docking would require a marina permit, which would be subject to a 120 day review if requested. How does this affect the timeline?
5. EGLE is going to require us to provide toe stone or similar at the base of a new wall. The water depth in winter varies between 2 feet and six inches, with the water level approximately 2 feet below the top of the existing wall. In the summer, the dam raises the water level by one foot. Is it possible to have a broadside dock under these conditions, either over the toe stone or over a riprap shoreline?
6. Have you done recent work on any similar projects?

I hope that you all will ask my questions, as well as your own, and consider a motion authorizing me to execute the professional service contract in your board books, hiring Mr. Tiffany to guide us through the pre-application hearing process. Having knowledge of what we can be permitted to do is an essential part of pursuing funding and is a legitimate use of our Capital Improvement Fund. Investing the \$4500 to start this process will enhance our chances of attracting grant funding. It would be nearly impossible to attract grant funding if we don't even have the beginnings of a plan.

Planner position I have also been in contact with Clint, Tim Cypher, Dan Korson, Robert Parker, and Sara Koprinski of Beckett Raeder. The challenge was to handle the work formerly done by Larry Sullivan. Clint will give you an update on that at the meeting. Sara will be sending

me their standard rate sheet and contract for handling the Lafave zoning issue, which Larry Sullivan had been handling after Tim Cypher recused himself.

Sidewalk payments have been coming in and I have requests for payment plans from five property owners. One property was classified as commercial in error, one bill was returned for bad address, and a handful will require more follow up. Any still unpaid or with no arrangements made will go on the tax bills in November 2023

Martin Graf at Gosling Czubak left me a voicemail this week about phase two of the sidewalk project. He will be adding the “mudslide” area on River Street across from Fishtown to see what needs to be done there. This likely will not be ready to go out to bid until spring.’

I wanted to share the link to the United Way’s ALICE report. [You can download the 2021 report here.](#)

January will be a busy month. As far as I know, there will be only one election in 2023, in May. Ballot wording for any millages that we want to put in front of the voters for this May election is due by Tuesday, February 2nd. This millage, if passed, would be collected in November, 2023 and would fund fiscal year 23-24.

Last summer I circulated a very rough 3 year budget projection, in hopes of sparking a conversation about what level of millage it takes to support the services that our constituents expect. Inflation has taken off since then, affecting most of those line items. We will need to be getting together in January to address this challenge, as well as our annual budgeting.

You will notice from the Assessor’s Report that taxable value increases are capped at 5%. Tax rates will be rolled back that same amount, so this will not result in increase tax revenue.

Sunset Shores Although we walked the proposed pipeline path with Marie Korson last month and she seemed to be satisfied that her questions were answered, she wanted to delay actually signing the agreement and accepting the check until the surveyor finished writing up the final easement description. This is done, and I hope to get the proper papers signed and give Marie her check before I leave town next Sunday.

One piece of good news is that our Qualifying Statement has been accepted by the State of Michigan, which means we are authorized to issue municipal securities. We will need this for the Sunset Shores project as well as to finance a new township office.

Streetlights Consumers Energy has provided me with logins to three different programs purporting to control six different streetlights in the village of Leland. I was able to figure out how to use two of the programs. I will not do much with this until I have a conversation with Par Plan to figure out our liability if we start adjusting lights. We have also not been told whether we will realize cost savings for using less electricity.

