

Solon Township Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 10, 2020 7:00 P.M  
ELECTRONICALLY  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83650093306?pwd=OWZZNHBTdWY2VXISRXJkeEdCcFJrdz09>

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Passcode: 327078

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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 Steve Yoder and Trustee Pat Deering.

Guests present by electronic remote access: Mary Taylor, Kelly Claar, Samantha VanderVlucht, Chris Comeaux, Ron Novak, Interim Fire Chief Andy Doornbos, Mary O'Neill, Julie Kradel, Melinda Lautner, Erich Lautner and Brayton.

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

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the agenda with additions under New Business: C. Cedar Chamber of Commerce and D. Andy Romzek. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to approve the November 12, 2020 regular meeting minutes with a correction under 8. Committee Reports, third bullet: should read extracting instead of distracting. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. Public Comment**

Julie Kradel commented it has been 37 days since the election has been certified, and there are still political signs still displayed in Solon Township. Ms. Kradel read from Solon's Zoning Ordinance regarding Article 32 Signs Section 32.09 – 8 and asked what the board was going to do to have the Zoning Administrator expedite the removal of these signs. Jim Lautner thanked her for her comment and will bring this to the Zoning Administrator.

**6. Correspondence**

- Received and completed a FOIA from Doug Fierberg.
- Received a letter from the Cedar Chamber of Commerce which each board member received a copy.
- Received a flyer from MTA with information regarding New Official's Training.

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

Jim Lautner asked if the winter tax money has come in. Joan Gauthier said some money has come in, and will start putting money in the accounts. TCF Checking \$4,856.28, TCF Bank General Savings \$2,750.37, Total Funds

Available: \$7,606.65, TCF Bank Road Improvement Fund \$5,343.64, TCF Fire Fund CD \$6,677.62, TCF Fire Fund Savings \$161.74, Total Fire Sinking \$6,839.36, TCF Sidewalk Fund \$4,408.92, TCF Cedar River Marina Project \$21,913.49, TCF Oleson Foundation Grant/Playground Equipment \$10,000.23, total other Township Funds Available: \$48,505.64 - Total Current Assets: \$56,112.29. Voucher #'s 13846-13876 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

## **8. Committee Reports:**

Steve Yoder reported the Planning Commission met Via Zoom on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. All board members and four guests were present.

- Agreed to not recommend putting a moratorium on future rezoning requests based on the township attorney's recommendation
- The members would like an updated Master List with all of the Appointed Official's names and when their term expires
- Worked on Section 24.08 and .09 of the Zoning Ordinance
- Steve Yoder followed up with the comment on signs. The Supreme Court had a ruling on this some years ago where you cannot regulate what is on the sign; you can only regulate the size of the sign and where it is placed. They cannot touch the political signs because of free speech rights. They are working on modifying this in the Zoning Ordinance.

Kelly Claar reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at the Solon Township Hall. All members and two guests were present.

- Thanked the board for the porta jon being placed by the river.
- They placed a collection can at the recycling site to collect returnable cans that has proven to be successful.
- There are a lot of historical items in the Solon Schoolhouse. Kelly is working on purchasing used filing cabinets from Leelanau County for \$20.00 each.
- They are working with Larry Fleis from Fleis and Vandenbrink to develop a vision for the parks. Every five years the Parks Plan has to be updated. That will need to be complete by 2022.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

Mary Taylor has been approached by an individual that is considering donating \$20,000.00 - \$50,000.00 to the parks. The person wanted to know how they would know if it would be used for specific park projects. Joan Gauthier said that donation would go into the fund they would donate to, and would be used for that purpose.

Kelly Claar asked about putting up a plaque for someone that donates. Jim Lautner said it was never brought up before, and it would be something that would need to be discussed. The township is not up to maintaining the plaques.

**Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.**

## **9. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Township Hall/Repairs**

There was nothing to report.

### **1. Cherry Capital/Wi-Fi**

A proposal has still not been received from Tim Maylone from Cherry Capital.

## **B. Parks**

### **1. Recycling Site**

Jim Lautner said Ron Novak is working on placing a pole at the recycling site for the camera to be set up there.

Joan Gauthier said it is a complete mess behind the recycling bins. There has been a lot of stuff thrown into the woods and a lot of paper too. Jim Lautner said he will contact Trudy Galla.

### **C. Fire Department**

Chris Comeaux said it has been a great three years, and thanked the township board for being willing to stand by him with all of the progression that he had proposed knowing that was needed and knows he is leaving the fire department in a good place for the next chief to come in. As of November 8, 2020, Andrew Doornbos stepped in as interim Fire Chief. Chris Comeaux said he will miss working with us, and it will be the last meeting that he will be in uniform. The board thanked Chris for all of his hard work.

Chief Doornbos said he has been the Operations Chief for the last 1 ½ years, and stated everything is continuing on as it has. It will be June or July before the ALS Class will start. He is very excited to have this opportunity.

Chris Comeaux said at the Centerville Township board meeting last night, Commissioner Patricia Soustas-Little reported they are pushing for curbside recycle pick-up.

Melinda Lautner said the Solid Waste Council is working on rewriting their plan, but right now Leelanau County is too rural.

### **D. Cedar River Project**

Kelly Claar submitted the application to the Grand Traverse Band requesting \$34,000.00 for a boat wash station.

### **E. Cemetery**

This item will be taken off the agenda temporarily.

### **F. Snowplowing**

Shirley Mikowski did contact Schaub Outdoor Services, and they will continue snowplowing the recycling site and the township hall. Shirley will be in contact with them again to get a price and an updated Certificate of Liability.

## **10. New Business**

### **A. Appointments**

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Steve Yoder to appoint Don Parker, Al Rosinski, Brent Parker and Laura Tarsa as alternate to the Board of Review for a two year term ending in 2022. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to appoint Brett McDowell to the Board of Appeals for a three year term ending 12/31/2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to appoint Pat Deering as the board representative to the Board of Appeals term ending 11/20/2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Steve Yoder to appoint Michelle Wilkes to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending 12/31/2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to appoint Steve Yoder as the board representative to the Planning Commission for term ending 11/20/2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to appoint Rich Nachazel as Sexton for one year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to appoint Shirley Mikowski as Township Hall Custodian for one year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Steve Yoder to appoint Ron Novak, Kathleen Hughes, Zach Baker, Kelly Claar, Mary Taylor and Brett McDowell to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a one year term ending 12/31/2021. Motion carried 5-0.

### **B. Solon Township Facebook Page**

Steve Yoder asked the board to consider Solon Township having a Facebook page. He feels it would be useful in getting information out to the township residents. The township board will need to appoint an administrator for the page. Steve has looked into policy and asked the township attorney about policy. Steve wants to have policy so it does not get out of hand. Mary Taylor said the Parks page is set up so they cannot receive comments. Pat Deering said comments would be useful in receiving input from residents. Joan Gauthier said she would help, but does not want to be the sole administrator. Steve and Joan will work on this together.

### **C. Chamber of Commerce**

Joan Gauthier brought up the letter received from Pam Novak, President of the Cedar Chamber of Commerce, stating the Chamber does not have the funds to continue paying for the mowing of the ball parks or the three porta jons. Joan understands about taking over the mowing of the ball parks, but not the three porta jons. The township board needs more information, and this item will need to be discussed at the budget meeting. Shirley Mikowski will get more information from Pam Novak before the budget meeting.

### **D. Andy Romzek**

Andy Romzek resigned at the last Planning Commission meeting. Andy believes his term expires in February, but his term really ends December 31, 2021. Joan Gauthier asked if we are going to place an ad for his position. Jim Lautner said we do not need to place an ad because he already has people on the list. Steve Yoder thought Andy was going to stay until the end of his term ending in 2021, but stated January would be his last meeting he will attend. Jim will contact Andy to make sure January is his last meeting.

### **11. Public Comment**

Julie Kradel addressed Steve Yoder's response to her first comment and she does realize that in October 1998 the Supreme Court did state that. Ms. Kradel said until the ordinance is changed, she wants the board to follow what the township's Zoning Ordinance says. It is important to follow the rules of the ordinance as written, and not what we want. Jim Lautner thanked her for her comment.

Joan Gauthier said this election has been nothing like any other election, and as far as she knows, the Presidential election has not been decided yet.

Mary O'Neill said the election will be decided on December 12, 2020, and has been certified by all of the states. Ms. O'Neill said regardless, the township Zoning Ordinance states all political signs are to be removed ten days after an election, and there are still some board members that still have political signs up, and personally feels it makes them look immature. Ms. O'Neill said Ms. Kradel's point is valid stating those individuals are violating the township ordinance. Jim Lautner thanked her for her comment.

### **12. Announcements**

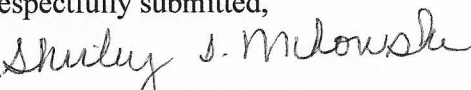
There was none.

### **13. Adjournment**

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shirley I. Mikowski/Solon Township Clerk

# SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: NOVEMBER 2020

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
11/18/2020	LUP 20-19	ZIMMERMAN	LAND USE	202019	10169 \$ 90.00
010-010-003-10	5967 E. WATERSIDE DRIVE	KITCHED ADDITION DECK & BATHROOM DORMER		907 S.F.	
11/22/2020	LUP 20-20	PARKER	LAND USE	202020	1548 \$ 50.00
010-035-008-30	13765 S. GALLAGHER RD.	ACCESSORY BUILDING/& LEAN TO		1,600 S.F.	

TOTAL \$ 140.00

SIGNED:

*Timothy A. Cypher*

DATE: 12/7/2020

TIMOTHY A. CYPHER  
SOLON TOWNSHIP ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
231-360-2557  
[TIM@ALLPERMITS.COM](mailto:TIM@ALLPERMITS.COM)