Supervisor’s Report, February 2021

The February 4 press conference by the governor and the health department announced that in person meetings will not be allowed until after March 29, 2021. I am therefore making plans to conduct all budget workshops, the March Board of Review, and the March 27 Annual Meeting via Zoom.

There will be some technical challenges for each of these events. Ideally the budget workshops should involve screen sharing with a live document that can be filled in as we work. The March Board of Review will require us to pull property cards from the computer files and screen share them. (March Board of Review has been plagued by printer problems in recent years; screen sharing might actually be easier.) The annual meeting poses its own challenges. Our Zoom license is limited to 100 participants. Although our in person meetings have never attracted more than 100 participants, Zoom meetings might bring in many more. We will have to plan for an extended license. The format of the Annual Meeting allows any qualified elector (anyone who is registered to vote in the Township) to speak from the floor, make motions from the floor, and vote on motions. I think that the Zoom format can handle this, but it involves using features that our electorate may not be familiar with. I am scheduling a “dress rehearsal” on March 20th at 10 am to help myself and others get ready for the Annual Meeting.

Once we are able to meet in person again, we should be planning to continue broadcasting our meetings via Zoom or a similar platform, as Covid will not disappear overnight and we will still have constituents who are not comfortable in a crowded room. I have been working with Mark Morton at the Leland Library to find the best solution for this.

Budget hearings are scheduled throughout February.

I completed a street light survey and found nine street lights that were either out or were “cycling“, turning on or off again repeatedly in preparation for failing. I reported they straight to Doug DeYoung, our representative at Consumers Energy. He noted that we have opted out of the LED program for the time being, so he was looking for ways to get the current ones fixed instead of replaced by LEDs. One of the new LEDs is no longet operating, apparently dispatched by Annie Oakley.Glen Arbor’s new supervisor told me that they are paying a reduced rate to adopt the LED lights. We need to check whether we are getting a reduced rate on the ones that we have.

Our board of review members are all signed up and completing the required training from MTA. I also have been taking advantage of the training.

Karen Kirt and I did online training with the Michigan DNR to better understand how to apply for grants through their system. This covers the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Recreation Passport program, and the Land and Water Conservation Program.

Karen and I have also been working on distributing the RFP for Hancock field. The deadline for submitting proposals is February 11. Parks and Rec plans to meet on February 24 to look at proposals. A recommendation will be made to the town board in time for the March meeting

I have been comparing notes with Centerville superintendent supervisor Jim Schwantes about road work policies. He feels that it takes at least a year to get special assessment districts ready for didn’t roads and subdivisions. The first step is to pass a road repair ordinance. I will pass on Centerville‘s ordinance for our board to consider.

We had a regular meeting of the Supervisors of the townships of Leelanau. We heard a presentation on financial oversight. Most of the recommendations that were made are things that Leland Township is already doing.

I have been working with the soccer group that got the grant for Leland Public School to do some work at Hancock field to make sure that everything is done correctly and with the proper permits. The outfield fence was taken down before the snow fell. Our disposal of property policy requires us to advertise and take bids on anything with more than $1000 in value. I believe that the fence is not that valuable, and could be sold or disposed of without beds. There is some question about the baseball scoreboard, as removing the scoreboard is not part of the motion that the Town Board approved last summer.

After concluding mediation last September 27 in the Reynolds Street lawsuit, I finally this week received a draft of the agreement that was supposed to be drafted immediately. I am still studying it but I find a lot of big and small items that have been changed since that meeting in September. We also have a new board since September. I am not sure that we still have an agreement that the town board can approve. I will be discussing it with our insurance company appointed attorney, Brad Wierda, this week. If requested, I will arrange a special meeting so that the entire board can discuss this with Mr. Wierda.

I have received a request from Lake Michigan property owners north of Reynolds Street who would like to have dredging spoils deposited on their beaches. The two regulating agencies, EGLE and the Army Corps of Engineers, were both under the impression that people did not want dredging spoils on their beaches. I am collecting emails from the affected property owners and working with Eagle and the Army Corps to get our permits in line so that we can help these folks. Doing so would save the township time and money.

Two issues need to be addressed before summer. Our parking ordinance was rescinded sometime back and has not been replaced. Also golf carts are not legal in Leland Township on the roads unless this board decides to adopt an ordinance allowing the operation of golf carts. ([See the law here](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%283yg3tzc3ew0wyjbyg1lf2e02%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=mcl-257-657a#:~:text=(15)%20A%20golf%20cart%20shall,highway%20or%20highway%20or%20street.).) If we’re not going to do that, then we should notify Summer residents that they should not bring their golf carts to Leland. We have a list of people who came to Township board meetings a few years back asking us to pass a golf cart ordinance. When the board last considered this, it seemed that there is no way to license or insure a golf cart in Michigan at this moment, so it would not make sense to welcome golf carts.Regardless of what the Town Board would decide, golf carts are not allowed on M-22 or M-204, except to cross the roads and to use the bridges to cross the waterways.

We have been working with Networks Northwest to add the Five Year Harbor Facilities Plan to the Five Year Recreation Plan, as required to receive funding through the State Waterways Commission’s grants for addressing the effects of high water. We are [high on the list,](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/2020WaterwaysGrants_712472_7.pdf) just needing the paperwork completed.

We still have openings on the Sewer Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. I am also looking for a few residents of each village to look at and draft plans for parking.

It’s not too early to be looking for lifeguard candidates for Nedows Bay this summer. Candidates must be at least 16 years old, and able to pass a certification class. Please let me know of any prospects.

It has been a very busy month, despite the quiet weather. It seems that more people are getting Covid vaccines, although the supply is very constricted. We all need to hang in a bit longer and watch out for each other through the winter.

Susan Och

231-409-2889