

Solon Township Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:00 P.M  
Solon Township Hall  
9191 S. Kasson St., Cedar, MI 49621

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: Supervisor Jim Lautner, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Trustee Steve Yoder and Trustee Pat Deering.

Guests present: Raymond Pleva, Mark Polinko, Chris Comeaux, Mary Taylor, Kelly Claar, James Claar, Dale Gauthier, Brett McDowell, Charles Smith, Karen Smith, Al Rosinski, Ron Novak and Adam Filler.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Pat Deering to approve the December 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. Public Comment**

Brett McDowell said there are several parks that are not correctly labeled on the website and that we should really get Wi-Fi at the hall.

**6. Correspondence**

- Joan Gauthier received a note from a taxpayer, Mr. Hesston, who is interested in becoming involved with the community.
- A Christmas card was received from the Leelanau Enterprise.
- An Intergovernmental Agreement was received from the Department of Equalization Department.
- A FOIA request was received from Nicole R. Graf, Esq. that is being addressed.

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

Joan Gauthier reported all of the accounts are under Huntington and we are getting service charges for any account under \$10,000.00. Huntington Bank Checking \$25,895.346, Huntington Bank General Savings \$102,771.50, Total Funds Available: \$128,666.84, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund \$5,324.41, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD \$42,711.90, Huntington Bank Fire Fund Savings \$493.16, Total Fire Sinking \$43,205.06, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund \$8,851.14, Huntington Bank Oleson Foundation Grant/Playground Equipment \$10,101.31, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project \$29,187.75, Total other Township Funds Available: \$96,669.67 - Total Current Assets: \$225,336.51, Parks and Recreation \$7,683.80. Voucher #'s 14216-14352 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Pat Deering to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

**8. Committee Reports:**

Steve Yoder reported on the Planning Commission meeting held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Six members and three guests were present. Lisa Rossi was absent.

- An application was received to put a nursery on the corner of 651 and M-72.

- Election of officers was held and remained the same as last year with Steve Morgan, Chair, and Todd Yeomans, Vice Chair.
- Comments were received from Leelanau County regarding the Zoning Ordinance. They are asking for the township board to give specifics of what they want in the Landscape Ordinance. Jim Lautner said it shouldn't take thirteen pages on how to plant a tree. There are too many restrictions on planting trees and having them placed in parking lots.

Kelly Claar reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met via zoom on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. There were two members absent.

- Reviewed and discussed the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2022-2026
- Working on having a tai chi open house
- A recent article in the Leelanau Enterprise had some inaccuracies.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

**Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.**

## **10. Unfinished Business**

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

There was nothing to report.

### **B. Parks**

#### **1. Recycling Site**

##### **a. Cameras**

Jim Lautner said the cameras are to be installed either January 13 or January 14, 2022. Jim read that the Solid Waste Council approved putting a recycling site at the Suttons Bay County Road Commission, and Solid Waste approved to pay 100% of the cost of any maintenance plus providing liability insurance.

#### **2. Solon Beach Park**

Joan Gauthier said the hole in the roof on one of the pavilions has been repaired but the building materials are still there. Jim Lautner will contact Corey Flaska, owner of Leelanau Construction.

#### **3. Boat Wash Station Locations**

Kelly Claar said the boat wash station locations have been marked with a blue tag, and they are waiting for permission from the township board before placing them. Jim Lautner said the person that does the maintenance and Ron Novak would have some idea where to place them. Pat Deering noted that they are portable and can be moved if needed. Ron Novak said they are working to get the boat wash stations placed to fulfill the grant money.

## **9. Public Hearing/5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2022-2026**

Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to close the regular meeting at 7:38 P.M.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to open the Public Hearing at 7:39 P.M. to receive public comment for the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2022-2026. Motion carried 5-0.

Andrew Filler from Fleis&Vandenbrink explained the purpose of the five year plan. It is to create an inventory of existing facilities and resources, identify community recreation and open space needs, and set a plan for action for a five-year period. It is a pre-requisite to be eligible to apply for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and Waterways Grants. There must be a 5-Year Plan on file with the DNR by February 1 of the year they intend to apply. To be eligible for Recreation Passport Grants, you must have an approved 5-Year Plan on file with the DNR in MiGrants by February 1, or submit a Capital Improvement Plan with the application. First, the board needs to approve the 5-Year Plan, and then are eligible to apply for grant funding. The design could be expanded as time progresses.

- Joan Gauthier found errors so will give her copy with the corrections in it to Andrew Filler.
- Kelly Claar asked if there was a maintenance estimate included with the plan. Mr. Filler said that would be included after receiving grant funding.
- Joan Gauthier was surprised to read that 30% of the township residents showed having a disability. Kelly Claar noted that the percentage came from the number of people that filled out the survey.
- Chris Comeaux believes that it does not necessarily mean that it is a physical disability.
- Jim Lautner noticed there were some discrepancies in the plan. The verbiage has been updated, but the board members have not received the updated copy.
- Ron Novak reviewed the plan and explained the changes that needed to be made and was concerned if they had been forwarded. Kelly Claar did forward his comments to Brian Rowley.
- Kelly Claar asked if it would be possible to have spiral bound copies made of the plan after it is finalized.
- Ray Pleva said the basic structures are there and recommended the board approve the plan.
- Jim Lautner said the township has to have a plan before any funding can be applied for.
- Joan Gauthier asked about the timeframe and dates for submitting for grant funding. Mr. Filler said once the plan has been submitted and accepted, funding can be applied for.
- Mary Taylor asked who will be submitting the plan. Mr. Filler said the clerk or sometimes their office will.

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to close the Public Hearing at 8:05 P.M.  
Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to open the regular meeting at 8:05 P.M. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **A. Resolution/5Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2022-2026**

Moved by Joan Gauthier and supported by Shirley Mikowski to adopt the Solon Township 2022 – 2026 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Resolution No. 2022-01-13. Upon a roll call vote; Deering “yea”, Yoder “yea”, Lautner “yea”, Gauthier “yea”, Mikowski “yea”, 5 “yeas”, 0 “nays”. Supervisor Lautner declared the Resolution is dully adopted.

### **10. Unfinished Business (continued)**

#### **4. Pavilion**

See under 2.Solon Beach Park.

#### **C. Fire Department**

Chris Comeaux/Fire Board Representative reported the following:

- The fire board changed their meeting day to the first Thursday of the month.
- A call for food poisoning came in and was recognized as carbon monoxide poisoning which saved two lives. Chris reiterated the quality of care the members are giving.
- They had 620 calls in 2021 which was 50 more calls than 2020.
- Had two structure fires last month.
- The staff was out just under 24 hours through the recent wind storm trying to remove downed trees. They had to purchase four chain saws.
- The staff completed 326 hours of training in December 2021.
- Chief Doornbos did a fire station evaluation that Chris reviewed.
- The roof is showing wear, and there are some leaks in the rear of the building.
- Railroad Avenue is a hazard for the trucks and ambulances pulling out. Chris said Railroad Avenue is not a road, and the board was asked if there is something that could be done on closing this road off to the public. People are driving too fast down that road. Joan Gauthier noted one of the problems of closing off the road would be the delivery trucks getting in back of the hardware store to drop off merchandise. Pat Deering suggested putting in cement barricades. Chris is going to ask Fire Chief Doornbos to draft a letter to the Road Commission and then present it to this township board for their approval.
- The garage doors will soon need to be replaced.

- The cement is starting to crumble around the drains, and they currently were only able to get one bid for \$174,500.00. Chris is looking for other bids.
- They want to update all of the lighting to LED.
- Much painting needs to be done.
- There is a gap in the Chief's office that you can see sunlight which needs to be repaired.
- The kitchen and living area flooring needs to be replaced and kitchen needs to be updated.
- The holding tank is too small for the building.

### **1. Fire Authority**

Chris explained that the motion made at the January meeting regarding a Fire Authority was written incorrectly. Chris made the motion that should have read moving toward a Fire Authority. This has already been addressed and will be corrected at the next fire board meeting. Chris explained that one of the advantages of a Fire Authority is making the fire department a legal entity. With the present Interlocal Agreement this department is being run identical to an authority. There is a meeting scheduled on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. for the supervisors. Chris will check to see if the meeting can be moved to a later time so Jim Lautner is available to attend. Chief Doornbos and Chris will also be attending.

Al Rosinski said in 1947 Solon and Centerville Townships began the fire department and Cleveland and Kasson Townships were serviced free of charge for seventeen years.

Kelly Claar agreed with Al Rosinski that Solon Township tends to pay for everything, and thanked Chris for being transparent.

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

#### **1. Buoys**

Ray Pleva reported that the DNR did not give approval to put the buoys in Cedar River. Larry Fleis and Brian Rowley will be contacting the DNR to pursue getting permission to put the buoys in the mouth of the river. If the buoys don't go in, and the grass continues to grow, the Cedar River will close itself.

Ray Pleva, Diane Pelak, Larry Fleis and Brian Rowley met with Representative Jack O'Malley, Senator Curt Vanderwall and Jamie Callahan via zoom to discuss the grant funding request of 1.9 million for the Cedar Waterway and Park project. They should know by March 1, 2022 if the township received the funding.

### **E. Sullivan St. Tree**

Pat Deering has not been able to contact Consumer's Energy about the tree on Sullivan St.

### **F. Appointment/Township Hall Custodian**

Shirley Mikowski shared with the board that she had sent the November Synopsis and the ad for appointments before Thanksgiving, and the Leelanau Enterprise never printed the notices, and they never explained why they did not print them. Jim Lautner asked James Claar if he understood what the job entailed and if he had any questions. James asked if it is possible to have time off in the summer for a family vacation. Joan Gauthier suggested not booking anything during that time. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Steve Yoder to appoint James Claar as Township Hall Custodian for one year. Motion carried 5-0.

### **G. Snowplowing**

Shirley Mikowski has not received a call back from Schaub Outdoor Service if they will continue to do the snowplowing for the recycling site and the township hall, but they are still continuing to plow.

### **H. Solon Schoolhouse/Windows**

Jim Lautner said it was only one window and the glass was not broken, but found the glass had fallen out into the snow. Jim put the glass back in and spackled around it.

### **I. ARPA Funds Report**

Steve Yoder attended the Leelanau County Board meeting on December 13, 2021 with Brian Rowley to discuss and present the two ARPA fund requests made by Solon Township. The main discussion was about the request made for

the sewer project and they seemed very receptive. The ARPA fund is the 4.2 million that Leelanau County is receiving from the state.

**11. New Business**

There was none.

**12. Public Comment**

Kelly Claar talked to someone at Cedar Hardware about ordering the address signs and would like permission to purchase the signs on the township account. Jim Lautner gave Kelly the okay to purchase the signs from the hardware store. Kelly thanked Chris Comeaux for all he does for the fire department, because she knows what it is like to be a volunteer.

Brett McDowell reiterated his earlier public comment and believes getting internet service at the township hall would improve the rent ability and would allow for zoom meetings. It would also allow the board members to have laptops at the meetings that could bring the meetings into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Centurylink and Spectrum are both available to the township for internet service. Mr. McDowell also suggested teaming up with Kasson Township to have a regional sewer system.

Ray Pleva noted that Larry Fleis and his team are working on a location for a sewer system with possibly hooking up with Sugar Loaf.

Jim Lautner said Larry Fleis is working on the best location for a sewer system.

**13. Announcements**

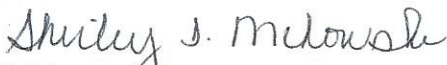
There was none.

**14. Adjournment**

Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Pat Deering to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shirley I. Mikowski  
Solon Township Clerk

# SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: DECEMBER 2021

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
12/31/2021 010-035-006-50	LDA 21-06 S. LAUTNER ROAD	DOWNING LAND DIVISION - SELLING LAST VACANT B-2 ZONING PARCEL	LAND DIV. LDA 202106		1702 \$ 50.00

TOTAL \$ 50.00

SIGNED:

*Timothy A. Cypher*

DATE: 1/7/2022

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

**2022 – 2026 Five Year Park and Recreation Plan  
For the  
Solon Township  
Resolution No. 2022-01-13**

WHEREAS, Solon Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2022 through 2026,  
and WHEREAS, the Solon Township began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities,  
and WHEREAS, residents of Solon Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan,  
and WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days,  
and WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 13, 2022, at a meeting held at Solon Township Hall at 7:30 p.m. to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Solon Township 2022 – 2026 Five Year Park and Recreation Plan,  
and WHEREAS, Solon Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Solon Township,  
and WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Solon Township Board voted to adopt said Solon Township 2022 – 2026 Five Year Park and Recreation Plan,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Solon Township Board hereby adopts the Solon Township 2022 – 2026 Five Year Park and Recreation Plan,

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Joan Gauthier  
Second offered by Board Member Shirley Mikowski

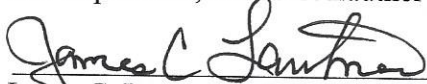
Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

Deering -	yea
Yoder -	yea
Lautner -	yea
Gauthier -	yea
Mikowski -	yea

Yeas – 5

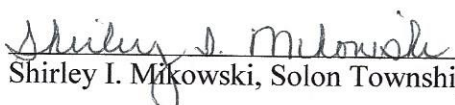
Nays – 0

The Supervisor, James C. Lautner declared the resolution dully adopted.

  
James C. Lautner, Solon Township Supervisor

CERTIFICATE

I, Shirley I. Mikowski, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Solon Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and original copy of said resolution and was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the Regular meeting of said Board held on January 13, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present, by a unanimous vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

  
Shirley I. Mikowski, Solon Township Clerk