

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 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 and Trustee Pat Deering.

Board member absent: Trustee Steve Yoder (excused)

Guests present: Ray Pleva, Doug Fierberg, Chris Comeaux, Mary Taylor, Kelly Claar, John Popa, Brendan Mullane, and Dale Gauthier.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Pat Deering to approve the agenda with an addition under 9. Unfinished Business: E. John Popa/Leelanau County Road Commission and move C. Fire Department between items 6 and 7. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Pat Deering to approve the May 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes with a correction under 9. Unfinished Business: C. Fire Department 1.MOU should read *and* Kasson Township *believes*. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Public Comment

Mary O'Neill said in the past she fought hard to keep the recycling site open, and was kind of upset with the board for trying to get rid of it. She has now come full circle and agrees to get rid of it. Ms. O'Neill asked the board to not sign another lease so our beautiful river and wetlands will be protected.

Doug Fierberg went through the Leelanau Guide and did not find one mention of Cedar and its township parks. The only thing that was listed is the Cedar Polka Fest. Mr. Fierberg agrees to get rid of the recycling site and said he would put money towards a pavilion that could have music playing 6-8 weeks in the summer which would help pour money into the businesses. He said he would be on a committee to help make this an incredible location.

Ray Pleva said he is working with Trudy Galla to relocate the recycling site.

6. Correspondence

- A thank you card was received from the Jesse Jackman family for the use of the township hall.
- Received a L-4029 for the Leelanau County 2022 Tax Rate

9. Unfinished Business

C. Fire Department

1. MOU

Chris Comeaux reported they are no longer considering the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). He told the fire board that we are not in the business of building a new building in Kasson Township. Chris has asked Chief Doornbos to put together a list of repairs and upgrades that should be done within the next five years. He was asked to prioritize the list, project what it will cost, and then present it to Centerville and Solon Township. We will either have to fix the building or build a new one.

Joan Gauthier asked about the new station that Long Lake Township is in the process of building. Chris said the cost of building that station started at 3.75 million and is now up to 4.5 million. Long Lake Township ran a bond proposal for it.

Chris explained that a committee is being formed to begin work on the Interlocal Agreement quarterly with two representatives from each township. Jim Lautner said he is interested to be on the committee, and Shirley Mikowski recommended Chris to be on the committee.

2. Strategic Plan

Joan Gauthier said she was surprised the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan includes a new building. Chris said that Kasson and Cleveland have the right to build a new station; the priority is to increase staffing at this station first.

They are hiring another full time employee. The part-time staff is not committing to a lot of hours. According to the contract, if they are forced to work a shift, they get paid double time. The budget next year will include another full time employee.

The operation is stable; the chief and the staff are doing a great job.

Pat Deering asked if the projected cost would be changing any of the footprint or upgrades and repairs. The floor of the old part will be one of the first things to address and the biggest cost. If there is anything cosmetic, that would need to be paid from the budget. Chief Doornbos is checking with the attorney of what is a capital expense.

Joan Gauthier asked if we could get the proposed costs before the next meeting.

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

Shirley Mikowski explained there was a big check written out for postage stamps because the postage rates are increasing in July and the stamps will be used for the elections and tax bills. Shirley just recently found out that approximately 1500 new voter cards will have to be sent out because of the district change so postcard stamps will need to be purchased. Huntington Bank Checking \$105,419.06, ARPA Funds included in checking: \$59,983.54, Available in Checking Account: \$45,435.52, Huntington Bank General Savings \$252,779.64, Total Funds Available: \$298,215.16, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund \$10,324.50, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD \$42,711.90, Huntington Bank Fire Fund Savings \$37,654.48, Total Fire Sinking \$80,366.38, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund \$13,265.55, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project \$24,238.90, Total other Township Funds Available: \$128,195.33. Total Current Assets: \$426,410.49, Parks and Recreation \$8,005.70. Voucher #'s 14504-14538 were submitted for payment. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented.

Motion carried 4-0.

1. QuickBooks

Shirley Mikowski explained that the 2019 QuickBooks subscription is expiring at the end of May and the new subscription will include a cloud service that will allow the clerk and treasurer access to QuickBooks remotely. There will no longer be an annual fee for payroll. The monthly service fee will be \$145.82. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to upgrade QuickBooks with a monthly service fee of \$145.82. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Committee Reports:

There was no Planning Commission report because Steve Yoder was absent.

The Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

- Kelly Claar reported that the Spring clean-up Community Event had four committee members and five members of the public. They picked up trash in the ballfields and the recycling site. They weeded and mulched in front of the township hall. The leftover items that were purchased for the cleanup are being stored at the township hall. Cedar River is a hidden gem and it is not possible to get all of the trash out of the swamp by the recycling site. This is not a good place for the recycling site. Joan Gauthier said she never saw the recycling site look that clean.

Mary Taylor gave the following report because Kelly was unable to attend:

- There are different needs at the different parks. Each member will be a liaison for one park.
- The once a year detailed inspection of the playground was done and it was in great shape. There is not as much mulch needed as originally requested. The suggestion is to have the parks assistant inspect the playground once a week.
- The boat wash stations were installed.
- They have started to collect returnables once again to raise funds for the parks, but there are a number of committee members that do not want to help with this.
- They will be supporting the Cedar Chamber of Commerce Movie Night with refreshments asking for donations. The first movie night will be on June 17, 2022 and is free.
- About 20 yards of mulch will be needed that may cost approximately \$725.00. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to purchase mulch for the playground with cost not to exceed \$725.00. Motion carried 4-0.
- They would like to purchase two game cameras to put up in the parks. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to purchase two game cameras for the parks with cost not to exceed \$150.00. Motion carried 4-0.

Dale Gauthier wanted to know what happened to the dock at Vlack's Park and no one knows where it went.

Dale Gauthier said the rowing club put up cameras at the beach park and the neighbor Randy Herman lets them use his Wi-Fi. Kelly Claar said the rowing club had not been in contact with her. They have been working with Dale, so he will be their contact person. The rowing club would like to paint the out buildings at the Beach Park. Dale has authority to charge paint at Cedar Hardware. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to authorize the NMRC rowing club to paint the out buildings at the Solon Beach Park. Motion carried 4-0.

Joan Gauthier said the rowing club did a great job cleaning up the Solon Beach Park.

- They would like permission to request to have a food truck on the park property during adult and children's ball games. They will prepare a proposal that would contain language requiring a percentage of profits to be given to the parks/township program. Jim Lautner said the Parks Committee could go ahead and research it.
- Leelanau Pines has a sign on Solon property down from the recycling site. Jim Lautner will ask Tim Cypher/ZA to look into it.
- A sign 'Lefty's Field of Dreams' has been put up on the grub shack without permission. Jim Lautner will ask Tim Cypher/ZA to look into it.
- The neighbor is parking his truck and pontoon on the township hall parking lot. It appears the only way the neighbor can access the pole barn is township property. Jim Lautner will ask Tim Cypher/ZA and the township attorney to look into it.
- Ron Novak gave a check to the township from the Cedar Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$232.00 to pay their share for the diamond dust that was recently delivered.
- Ron Novak asked if it would be okay to brush hog the old dump site that he does once a year and the board agreed to have Ron do that and to charge the gas at Bunting's.
- Some of the committee members met with lead persons of the ball leagues to have better communication regarding maintenance and the use of the ball fields. Jim Lautner said the ball leagues should communicate through the Parks Committee.

Joan Gauthier said the broken bench needs to be removed before someone gets hurt.

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Schoolhouse.

Pat Deering said that when the mulch is delivered, they will pick up the broken bench.

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

9. Unfinished Business (continued)

A. Township Hall/Repairs

Joan Gauthier said there is some cement that needs to be repaired on the outside of the township hall and asked if anyone could do the job or do they have to be insured. A person does have to have liability insurance to do work on the hall unless they are employed by the township.

B. Parks

1. Recycling Site

a. Cameras

Joan Gauthier did email Trudy Galla about the cameras. The county has spent a ridiculous amount of money on these cameras. The cameras are now hooked up to Trudy Galla's laptop, but they cannot get clear pictures because the trees are in the way. Joan said the county has breached their contract and will contact Trudy. The county also has to find another IT person because Ron Plamondon is no longer with the county. Joan also said there is a smaller green container at the recycling site that is full of water and is locked up. Jim Lautner said that a family with disabilities has a key and the small container was put there because they could not use the regular containers.

Ray Pleva did get a price of \$979.60 from the Leelanau County Road Commission to grate the road. There would also be an additional cost of \$100.00 for additional grading. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Jim Lautner to approve to have the Leelanau County Road Commission grate the road by the recycling site for the cost of \$979.60 and as needed when called for an additional cost. Motion carried 4-0.

Joan Gauthier said the ground has sunken in by the ball field where Williams & Bay drove to service the porta jon. Shirley Mikowski will call them to move the porta jon so it can be serviced from the gravel side.

Pat Deering asked if the Leelanau County Road Commission could take care of the tree on Sullivan Street in Cedar. Brendan Mullane, Manager, said the Road Commission can not touch the tree because of the power lines that are running through the tree, but will contact Consumers Energy to get them to do it he just needs the information. Pat will get the information to him.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

Ray Pleva reported that a letter has been drafted to send to the Leelanau Conservancy that will need to be signed by Jim Lautner. A time will then be set up to meet with the Leelanau Conservancy that would be facilitated by Larry Fleis. Mr. Pleva said the meeting was not going to be opened to the public so the board members cannot attend. A member of the Parks Committee cannot attend as well. Anyone can attend as a private citizen but cannot speak on behalf of the township. The Leelanau Conservancy is not allowing the placement of buoys in Cedar River that would direct the motor boat traffic. The meeting would be to work with them in reaching an understanding about how important it is to place the buoys in that it may help the water levels from rising.

Ray Pleva heard from State Representative Jack O'Malley about the grant funding. The state is presently working on the budget, so Mr. O'Malley will know what funds might be available for the River Project once the budget is done.

There is going to be an Alzheimer's Fundraiser on Saturday, June 18, 2022 beginning at 11:00 A.M. Mr. Pleva asked that the porta jon be pumped the night before. Shirley Mikowski said she would put in the request, but could not guarantee it would be done.

E. John Popa/Leelanau County Road Commission

John Popa introduced Brendan Mullane who has been the manager of the Leelanau County Road Commission for almost two years. Mr. Popa gave a brief overview of the Leelanau County Road Commission budget which is almost \$9M. It costs almost \$1.5M to keep the trucks running and \$.5M for the shops. It costs \$.25M for fuel. A written report was provided and can be found at leelanaucountyroads.org

Brendan Mullane said the Road Commission has two shops; one in Suttons Bay which is the headquarters and one shop in Maple City. They have four mechanics, two in each garage and seven staff. They are five or six drivers short. Mr. Mullane said \$5-6M comes from MTF which is the gas tax that's collected, approximately \$1M comes from a contract with MDOT to maintain their roads and about \$1.6M comes from the millage. Two pieces of new equipment are coming in with one being a four speed loader and a new tractor that has a mower that replaced a 1994 tractor. Joan Gauthier asked when they were going to start mowing and they will be starting in the next couple of days. Joan asked about painting the stripes on the road and if they paint the parking lines in Cedar. They will be starting soon in striping the roads, but they don't paint the parking lines. In the past Larry Bruckner painted the parking lines. The union contract has been settled. They can now hire without a CDL license. They will be doing fifty miles of chip seal this year.

10. New Business

A. Fire Millage Proposal

Shirley Mikowski missed the deadline in getting the Fire Millage Proposal on the August 2, 2022 ballot so there needs to be a new motion to put it on the November 8, 2022 ballot. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve placing a proposal of 2.50 mills for the Fire and Ambulance Support that will be collected for the next two years (2022 and 2023) for the township contribution to the Fire Department on the ballot of the November 8, 2022 General Election. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Brighthouse Retirement Plan

Shirley Mikowski explained that the retirement plans with the Brighthouse Life Insurance Company for Donald Parker and Albin Rosinski have not had any money added to their accounts since 2004. Shirley is asking the board to make a motion so she can request these plans be surrendered. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to surrender the plans for Donald Parker and Albin Rosinski with the Brighthouse Life Insurance Company. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Resolution/Road Closures

Moved by Shirley Mikowski and supported by Joan Gauthier to adopt Resolution# 2022-06-09 to authorize the Cedar Chamber of Commerce to close Railroad Avenue on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 7:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. for a Car Show, and on Sunday, August 28, 2022 from 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. for a Craft Fair. Close Bellinger Rd between Tower Rd. and 651, Valley Rd and Novak Rd. on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M. beginning at 651 and Bellinger Rd. for the Run 4 the Kielbasa with the approval and support of the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department and Cedar Area Fire and Rescue Fire Chief. Upon a roll call vote; Deering-yea, Lautner-yea, Gauthier-yea, Mikowski-yea; 4 "yeas", 0 "nays". Resolution dully adopted.

D. Sports League Agreement

Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the Property Use Agreement for Sports League Activities for the Cedar Chamber of Commerce Summer Youth League with Misty Porter being the applicant for the use of the ball fields from June 9, 2022 – August 20, 2022 for \$1.00. Motion carried 4-0.

E. Elections

Shirley Mikowski told the board that she and her Deputy Barb Brooks attended training on May 31, 2022. She is working on sending out approximately 400 Absentee Ballot requests and has been trying to order envelopes to send them out, but due to a paper shortage, they are out of the official envelopes and are having a difficult time finding the right envelopes. Training for the election inspectors is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2022.

11. Public Comment

Joan Gauthier wanted to know if it was settled on who was mowing the ball fields. Todd Yeomans mowed the ballfields last year and then mowed them a couple of times this year because the grass was getting too long and the baseball season was starting. Kelly Claar said her husband James will be mowing the ball fields, and he will be taking the mower to Tractor Ed's to have pre-season maintenance. James Claar had also wanted to know if he was to do the weed whipping, and he can use the township's weed whipper that is in the storage garage. James was also concerned about the weeds, and he was told he could charge what he needs at Cedar Hardware to spray the weeds.

Kelly is concerned that anyone has access to the storage garage and would like better locks put on the door.

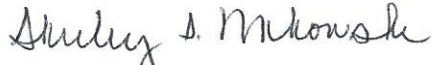
12. Announcements

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 9:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shirley I. Mikowski/Solon Township Clerk

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: MAY 2022

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
5/10/2022	LUP 22-10	DEAN	LAND USE	202210	203 \$ 145.00
010-023-005-06	6100 E. GALLAVIN RD.	NEW DWELLING COV. PORCH DECK		2,290 S.F.	
5/10/2022	LUP 22-11	BITTNER	LAND USE	202211	1060 \$ 150.00
010-005-065-00	8994 S. KASSON ST.	FOOD TRUCK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY - BUSINESS		213 S.F.	
5/11/2022	LUP 22-05 REVISED	DOUCETTE	LAND USE	202205	8426 \$50.00
010-011-011-00	6879 E. BIRCH POINT RD	ADDED SWIMMING POOL		528 S.F.	
5/31/2022	LDA 22-03	HAYES	LAND DIV.	202203LD.	4311 \$50.00
010-019-011-00	2549 E. KASSON ROAD	LAND DIVISION			

TOTAL \$ 395.00

SIGNED:

Timothy A. Cypher

DATE: 6/6/2022

TIMOTHY A. CYPHER
SOLON TOWNSHIP ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
231-360-2557
TIM@ALLPERMITS.COM

Solon Township
Resolution No. 2022-06-09

WHEREAS, the Cedar Chamber of Commerce wishes to close Railroad Avenue on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 7:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. for a Car Show and on Sunday, August 28, 2022 from 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. for a Craft Fair. Close Bellinger Rd between Tower Rd. and 651, Valley Rd and Novak Rd. on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M. beginning at 651 and Bellinger Rd. for the Run 4 the Kielbasa.

WHEREAS, the roads will be closed within the time frame of the Cedar Polka Fest sponsored by the Cedar Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Solon Township Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Solon Township Board has approved by resolution to authorize the Cedar Chamber of Commerce to close Railroad Avenue on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 7:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. for a Car Show and on Sunday, August 28, 2022 from 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. for a Craft Fair. Close Bellinger Rd between Tower Rd. and 651, Valley Rd and Novak Rd. on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M. beginning at 651 and Bellinger Rd. for the Run 4 the Kielbasa with the approval and support of the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department and Cedar Area Fire and Rescue Fire Chief on this day of June 9, 2022

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

Upon roll call vote, the following voted: Deering - yea
Lautner - yea
Gauthier - yea
Mikowski - yea

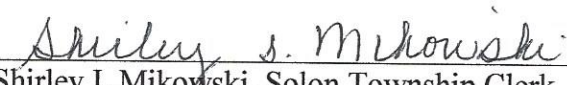
Yeas - 4
Nays - 0
Absent - 1

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 was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the Regular meeting of said Board held on June 9, 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