

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEELANAU COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023, AT THE LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER.**

**Proceedings of the meeting were recorded and are not the official record of the meeting. The formally approved written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.**

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Yoder who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Meeting was held at the Leelanau County Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suttons Bay, MI.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** S. Yoder, T. Nixon, M. Black, C. Brown, T. MacDonald  
B. Fenlon, M. Lautner (5:40), R. Brush, A. Trumbull, R. Miller

**Members Absent:** C. Noonan

**Staff Present:** G. Myer, Senior Planner

**Public Present:** None

**CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Nixon, seconded by Black, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried 9-0.*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Myer updated members on the recent tire and mattress recycling event along with the first Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection (HHW). Myer said 956 tires and 110 mattresses were collected on Friday and there were 390 participants on Saturday's HHW collection.

**CONSIDERATION OF APRIL 25, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion by Fenlon, seconded by Trumbull, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried 9-0.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

2024 -2029 CIP draft, and proposed projects

Yoder reviewed the changes to the document pointing out the new ranking system and mentioning that the recycling site map could be removed since the county does not own the recycling bins anymore. Myer stated that the Communication Tower Sites Map and the related information was all updated by Matt Ansoorge, Director of Emergency Management. Also, the older projects from 2016 could be removed from the document because they are six years old and nothing has been done with them. Also, there are "other" projects that the County Board requested be added to the document. They are not a county asset, more like money the county is obligated to pay. Yoder questioned how members wanted to handle these projects. For instance, the drainage district is something the county has to pay, but does not own. It doesn't pertain to the CIP, but the County Board wanted to see things like this in the document. Yoder said they are not going over the projects from previous years, those have already been ranked.

*(Lautner present)*

Fenlon stated he liked the document and rankings for the new proposed projects staff provided. Fenlon then questioned the patrol boat from 2016. Yoder said that has been in the CIP for quite a few years. Yoder said they could recommend that the old items from 2016 be removed from the CIP. They would need to be resubmitted again by each department head if they wanted the proposed project to remain in the document.

Brush commented that it seemed like a lot of projects for Parks and Recreation. There are other things that could be done around here that could have a little more return. He has no problem with the rankings.

MacDonald suggested dropping the old projects from 2016.

Miller mentioned the block retaining wall being ignored for another year; the damage is continuing to occur. Yoder stated that was from last year, so unfortunately, they can't do anything with it this year. He has no issues with the 2024 document or rankings.

Lautner said she didn't see any ranking she would necessarily ask to be changed. The proposed gazebo project will hopefully be in the Parks and Recreation budget next year. The other projects will "roll down" because they have way more projects than funding. The proposed loop is up to four times their annual budget, but it's a high priority for Parks and Recreation. The Lake Bluffs Drainage District will be paid for up front and will naturally go away. Lautner continued, addressing the 2016-02 Patrol Boat. The Sheriff has been allowed to apply for a grant for that boat and if he gets that grant, the county will have to pay the remaining portion of that. Right now, we don't have a boat capable or safe in the Sheriff's opinion, to go out into the Great Lakes. Lautner said they do have a responsibility of enforcing law on the two big islands and maybe Fox Island as well.

Nixon said he found it interesting that none of the 2024 proposed projects are ranked a 1. He doesn't have any major questions with the rankings. He would have given more emphasis to the Probate Office project because services are being somewhat handicapped because of the size of the office.

Black questioned the patrol cars budgeted for every year and asked if there a certain number required every year? Lautner said they are required if they choose to fund road patrol, which they do. Money goes into that fund from a mileage fee charged to the sheriff. Black then questioned how long they could ignore the retaining wall, is it a structural danger? Yoder stated that was rated a 1 last year and it is up to the County Board to decide if they want to move forward with it. Lautner stated that she would change that item to "in progress" because they have an engineer doing borings right now to gauge the depth of damage.

Brown said he ranked the IT project a 1, the Probate Office higher also, possibly a 3. The gazebo at Old Settlers he ranked a 2. Also, on the second page of the CIP, Jenny Romo should be Jenny Herman.

Trumbull commented that she was excited to see the Universally Accessible (UA) trail at Veronica Valley was submitted this year because giving people with mobility issues access to our parks is really important.

Yoder stated that item 2024-03, the Probate Office, staff ranked it without knowing the cost, this played a role in the ranking. Maybe the ranking will change if they can get a cost in the next month. Yoder continued, saying Brown ranked 2024-01 gazebo at Old Settlers higher, do members want to change that ranking? Fenlon would like to see it higher. Lautner said the biggest cost is the cedar shake roof, the flooring needs to be refinished, new vinyl lattice and new landscaping. Yoder asked for consensus to change the following rankings.

2024-01 consensus to change this ranking to a 2.

2024-03 consensus to wait until they get a cost.

2024-05 consensus to change this ranking to a 1.

Yoder asked about the remaining “other” projects, where do they want those? Nixon suggested an asterisk, stating “not county owned property but the county has an obligation to pay.” Fenlon suggested it could say “other obligations.” Lautner said the Board of Commissioners were looking for what projects they were already committed or obligated to. They wanted to include that information somewhere in the CIP so that it was readily available. She likes the idea of an asterisk.

Miller said there is a long list of county obligations, why are these certain items being listed and not all of the other obligations? Yoder said these are new items not budgeted for every year, but need to be paid. Miller said any new or one-time obligations could be listed here then. Fenlon said it is his understanding that some of them may be reoccurring obligations by the county. They are not owned by the county, but for ease of the County Commissioners, they want it in the CIP. Yoder said staff will work on the wording for the asterisk. Possibly: committed, obligated, non-CIP obligations. Members agreed to recommend removing the 2016 items.

Discussion ensued on the Great Lakes patrol boat.

## **REPORTS**

### Housing Action Committee

Lautner reported that they looked at ongoing projects and funding options at their last meeting.

### Parks & Recreation

Lautner said they are concentrating on a couple of projects at Veronica Valley this year. Because they have such a small pool of money, they have had to pick one park each year to concentrate on. They are adding a small bouncy toy for the young children at Old Settlers Park and hopefully a fieldstone bench in memory of John and Nany Lanham. Fish were purchased for the kid’s fishing day at Veronica Valley. Lautner said she appreciates the positive comments on the universally accessible trail because that is something that they have wanted to do for a long time. In conclusion, Lautner said three giant sequoia trees will be planted at Veronica Valley.

## **REPORTS from LCPC members**

Nixon reported that Suttons Bay Township has replaced their clerk, who is retiring, with the current deputy clerk. She will then be appointing the retiring clerk as her deputy. The township also held their annual cleanup day with Bingham Township on Saturday. Herman Park is currently closed because the parking lot being worked on as well as dog park and additional pickleball courts. They had to excavate 2/3 of the soil for drainage purposes. In conclusion, Nixon said they will be putting in a pump track. This is a circuit of rollers and banked turns for bike riders to race on.

Lautner said Solon Township held their parks clean-up day. They cleaned up and spread mulch in the playground, at the townhall, and at the river park. The kayakers that they have an agreement with cleaned up the river area.

**COMMUNICAITONS** – None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**STAFF COMMENTS** – None.

**COMMISSIONER & CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS** – None.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:32 p.m.