

LELAND TOWNSHIP SEWER COMMISSION
Friday, November 4, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
Leland Township Office
224 W. Main Street, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
MINUTES

PRESENT: Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Steve Patmore, Chair Jim Redmond

ABSENT: Frank Migda, Richard Roberts

STAFF: Gabe Walker, Allison Hubley-Patterson (Recording Secretary)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Redmond called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with the Pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved. Due to the absence of a quorum, today's meeting will constitute a work session.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Chairman Redmond stated that he no longer has a conflict of interest as he is not currently working for the Fishtown Preservation Society.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

The approval of previous minutes was postponed until the December 2022 meeting. Chairman Redmond inquired if we can also obtain previous sets of minutes that still need approval; Mr. Patmore replied, "Yes".

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

1. Treasurer (report on file in Leland Township Office)

Ms. Garthe reported that total income for October 2022 was \$69,555.61. This was for a partial billing month that ran from October 10th through October 31st. She has received some delinquent payments and some houses on the list have closed. There were no unusual bills for the month.

Chairman Redmond inquired about a payment to Williams and Bay Pumping. Mr. Patmore stated that there was a damaged septic tank at the school which was

taken care of; the school pays for the repair but the township paid for the initial pumping. Mr. Patmore explained that something was damaged when previous work was done but we will not go back and bill the school for this. Chairman Redmond and Mr. Patmore discussed that we have a good relationship with the school.

2. Sewer Administrator (report on file in Leland Township Office)

Mr. Patmore stated that he recently had Covid but conducted some outdoor work such as walking around the drain field, as opposed to working in the office. He was also on vacation last week.

We have run out of calcium nitrate and Mr. Patmore noted that the hydrogen sulfide levels have increased. He noticed that Duck Lake Road is back to normal. The calcium nitrate works but Mr. Patmore has asked the engineer to look into alternative oxygen treatments. Chairman Redmond asked Mr. Patmore to assemble a report that details how much money has been spent, how much things will cost for work that still need to be done, etc. Mr. Patmore agreed to work on this report and stated that although the calcium nitrate does work, it will be expensive, especially if it is used down at the harbor. Chairman Redmond asked Mr. Patmore to be sure to note in his report that we are experimenting with volume.

Mr. Patmore stated that they are receiving a lot of call outs regarding the biofilter. Mr. Walker noted that things are now running as they should be. The biofilter equipment problems were electronic in nature. The device was damaged, possibly during a thunderstorm.

Chairman Redmond asked Mr. Patmore about the cost of the screens; he replied that eight screens would cost \$1,600. Chairman Redmond inquired as to when we would have someone up to evaluate the biofilter screens. Mr. Patmore replied that he would work on arranging this in the next month or two.

It was discussed that the actuators are 30 years old and typically have a 20-year life span. Mr. Patmore commented that he does not want to begin replacing equipment if we do not yet need to do so.

With regard to the drain beds, bed #8 has most likely been leaking for a long time; Mr. Gawrysiak shut it off. Mr. Patmore stated that the bed may be damaged but he would like someone to look at it.

Mr. Patmore discussed the Thompson Street guide rails and seal replacement; he wants to work on this project yet this fall. The team believes that there is debris in the influent flow meter. This needs to be opened up so they can back flow the debris out. This is not critical but is a very important task that needs to be completed. Mr. Patmore added that he also had the valves inspected; these would not be very expensive.

Mr. Patmore discussed that the three lagoon aerators are in operation; a fourth one has been ordered. They were rotated counterclockwise and this seems to be helping with the duck weed. Mr. Patmore asked Mr. Walker if we have phosphorous levels yet for the month of October; Mr. Walker believes that we do have this number and it is just above one.

Mr. Patmore informed the group that on South Lake Leelanau Drive at the site formerly occupied by Samaritan's Closet, the building was recently purchased and the owner is planning a new business for this location. Mr. Patmore did not realize where the tank was but recently found it. There will be a site plan review for this property. He noted that the Northern Latitudes Distillery is also moving forward with their plans.

Mr. Patmore discussed the grant money that he was looking into; it turns out that this was actually a loan where a bond was required. As such, we will not be pursuing this means of funding. Chairman Redmond added that we do not have any major projects on the horizon at this time. Mr. Patmore will keep an eye out for other grants and stated that he did not apply for anything this year. He explained that the insurance company is offering up to \$3,000 in the form of grant money and he would like to apply for this; the money would be used for equipment to locate septic tanks. He plans to apply for this grant very soon.

3. Monthly Operations Report – Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc. (IAI)

Mr. Patmore stated that the Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc. (IAI) assessment report will be on the next meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Patmore summarized that there is a lot happening at this time but things have quieted down since the summer months. They fielded many questions during October in addition to addressing the issues at the Leland School and handling other matters. Mr. Walker added that they are hoping to reduce the number of call outs. Mr. Patmore did note that each year we have safety issues due to power outages or lightning and asked if we should be addressing this problem. He stated that we should ask about this and added that there would be a facilities assessment discussed at the December meeting.

Chairman Redmond asked Mr. Patmore if re-siding is a long-term goal. He added that we previously talked about a security fence; Mr. Patmore noted that this is an item on our list of long-term needs. Chairman Redmond stated that we want to do "reasonable security measures. Mr. Patmore concurred and commented that we do not want people climbing up there but also added that there do not seem to be any security issues there at this time. Chairman Redmond stated that we need to do our due diligence to guard against things like this from happening. Mr. Walker commented that Mr. Gawrysiak has a couple of trail cameras out in this area and did see a couple of gentlemen on the trail.

Mr. Patmore stated that Ms. Och is talking to a couple of individuals who may be interested in serving on the Sewer Committee. Ms. Garthe added that she has also asked a couple of people who are in the area on a seasonal basis but stated that she has been unable to find anyone who is interested in being on the Committee.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Chairman Redmond stated that Mr. Roberts will remain on the Committee until a replacement can be found but he did not want to commit further at this point. Chairman Redmond added that he does not have any issue with a commissioner serving in a part-time capacity if they can give their time when they are in the local area. There was discussion regarding the use of Zoom and it was determined that the commissioners would not be allowed to vote by way of Zoom; a quorum is needed at the meeting. Chairman Redmond stated that we do need to recruit for the Sewer Committee and added that anyone who is interested in serving must reside in the township. In the past, some individuals have wanted to be on the Committee but they also wanted to see the group address more than just sewer issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. **Please note the time change to 10:00 a.m.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The work session was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Hubley-Patterson, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Jim Redmond, Chair

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk