

May 2021 Supervisor's Report`

The two big challenges this month are the failed operations millage and search for new office space.

The failure of the ballot initiative is a setback. But with a turnout of only 34%, and a margin of only 132 votes, it is hard to frame this as a situation where "the people have spoken". The very expensive (but anonymous) Taxpayers of Leland Township campaign was registered as an LLC by Alexander Janko, but Mr. Janko failed to file the required campaign finance disclosures with the Leelanau County Clerk. The ads and the postcard were rife with misinformation.

We failed to take this threat seriously and there was no concerted effort to educate the public about this routine millage. I am recommending that we put the same question to the voters in August and fight the misinformation and by explain how our much-appreciated township services depend on this millage.

More information on the office space hunt:

Our current office space is 2,110 ft.². The landlord admits that it's unlikely that he can get his permits to build the new space before September. He is also waiting for GoslingCzuback to finish the drawings and site plan.

The owner at 25 S Lake Leelanau Drive is willing to give us a lease-to-own deal, but he would like us to act soon. The Town Board can commit to a seller financed arrangement without going to the electorate for approval BUT the limit for this financing would be 15 years. (Taking this parcel off of the tax rolls would result in a loss of \$73270 in taxable value, \$75800 in assessed value, and \$64 in taxes paid to Leland Township.)

It was suggested that Grove Park would be a good place to site a temporary or permanent Township office. It would be allowed there as a special use. A 2000 square-foot office requires 10 parking places and two handicap places. There is a well at Grove Park, but it is probably a shallow sandpoint well. We have no idea if it is potable water, or its capacity. The property itself goes back to the west more than we realized. It might be possible to locate a two-story Township office on the east end of the property and renovate the playground and tennis court while moving it more to the west.

We still haven't gotten a price on the office spaces behind Trish's dishes. I've been told that Dona Laskey has some office space in Leland, I will be investigating that.

The Connie Binfield Building has been sold to the Montessori School, which is expanding. There is no room there.

There is no requirement that the Township offices be actually located in the township.

COVID Stimulus Fund guidance is supposed to come out today. The funds are based on population, which could impact what Leland Township receives, as our 2019 population was only 1756 (down from 2043 in 2010). MTA suggests that we look at our COVID related state revenue sharing losses and take those funds off the top and then start looking at whatever COVID related expenses we experienced or continue to experience. These funds CANNOT be used to reduce taxes or operations beyond Covid related expenses. They will not be disbursed all at once, probably part this summer and part next summer.

Residents have been receiving letters about the **Schomberg Road drainage district**, which is moving forward. The township will be expected to pay into this district, as well.

There was a slight delay in opening the **public restroom at the Harbor** as it is now necessary to wait for two clean water tests 24 hours apart. The restrooms were opened and as soon as the harbor fuel line work and dredging was completed. They were opened late in the day on April 23rd. I have received inquiries about keeping them open all winter, but the Harbormaster informs me that this is not feasible due to the cost of heating and the risk of frozen pipes.

I met with the library board on April 21st and reminded them of the need for renovation of the **seawall at the library**. Although this information at four had been forwarded to them in March 2020 April 2020, it had pretty much passed under the radar as we all wrestled with Covid crisis. Although the seawall is under the separation agreement, a township responsibility, it makes no sense to renovate and build onto their building without a solid ground to build a pan. It would also make sense to complete the seawall work simultaneous with the construction at the library.

Karen Kirt organized a beach cleanup on **Earth Day**, with eighth and fifth grade students from Leland Public School participating. They scoured the north Breakwall and retrieved over 100 pounds of trash. I help them to weigh it and the results were sent to the alliance for the great lakes for their database

Lake Leelanau's new bridge design resulted in a buildup of **road gravel in the pedestrian walkways** on both sides of the bridge. I alerted the Road Commission to this hazard and their crews came out and shoveled off those walkways for pedestrian and bike safety.

The Sunset Shores project requires some new engineering drawings to satisfy the DEQ,. The DEQ is projecting a larger flow volume than our engineer originally figured. This means that the project will need another phase of treatment in the design, but this new design will make the footprint of the drainfield smaller. The new larger flow volume also means that the local health department is no longer involved in the permitting and we only need to get permitting from the state

I received an email from Andre Masse who wants to hold his **3V3 soccer tournament** in Hancock field again this year. This has been Andre's project, a fundraiser for diabetic equipment for children in underserved parts of the world. I've asked him to filled out the facilities use form.

