Solon Township Board DRAFT
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 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 (arrived at 7:17 P.M.).

Board member absent (excused): Trustee Steve Yoder

Guests present: Dale Gauthier, Trudy Galla, Mary Taylor, Nancy Popa, Judy Janosik, Karen Smith, Charlie Smith, Chris Comeaux, Kelly Claar, Diane Pelak, Susan O'Conner and Mindy Hawley.

3. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the agenda with an addition under 11. New Business: C. Snowplowing. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Approval of Minutes
Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the October 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes with a correction under 8. Committee Reports: cross out *signs and there are signs posted.*
Motion carried 4-0.

5. Public Comment
There was none.

6. Grant Options/Mary Taylor
Mary Taylor explained there is an opportunity for a grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It can be from $100,000.00 - $1,000,000.00. It is not a matching grant but it is a reimbursement grant. The township would have to borrow the money and the grant funds would reimburse. There will be three opportunities that the township will have to apply for this grant. The first date is December 18, 2022 that the grant application will be due. The other two dates are in 2023 and have not been determined. A public hearing will not be required, but a resolution will need to be adopted. Mary suggested applying for this grant funding to have the tennis courts redone. Fleis&Vandenbrink drew up a cost estimate for the project in 2021 so Mary added a 10% increase to those costs. Mary also recommended adding a roof to the proposal that could save the Cedar Chamber of Commerce approximately $12,000.00 a year by not having to rent a tent for the Polka Fest. Joan Gauthier asked if anyone could assist her with this. Mary needs to be added to the DNR site. Shirley Mikowski has the access and will add her. Mary also needs the board's approval to begin the process of applying for the grant. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Pat Deering to give authority to Mary Taylor to begin the process of applying for the Spark Grant through the Department of Natural Resources. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Correspondence
- Received a FOIA request from Kaitlyn Powerski regarding the election results

8. Treasurer's Report/Authorization for Payment of Vouchers:
Huntington Bank Checking $180,449.63, ARPA Funds included in checking: $116,581.12, Available in Checking Account: $63,868.51, Huntington Bank General Savings $127,876.81, Total Funds Available: $191,745.32, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund $10,344.50, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD $42,721.65, Huntington Bank Fire Fund Savings $37,674.48, Total Fire Sinking $80,396.13, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund $13,285.55, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project $24,251.52, Total other Township Funds Available: $128,277.70. Total Current Assets: $320,023.02, Parks and Recreation $8,992.70. Voucher #'s 14725-14766 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.

9. Committee Reports:
Steve Yoder was absent, so there was no report on the Planning Commission meeting held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Kelly Claar reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. There were three members and one guest present.

- They are putting a purchasing list together of items that have had previous approval. Some of the items are game trail cameras, flame thrower (weed control), bleachers, bulletin boards, etc. Kelly will check with the clerk to find out what the remainder balance of the Parks Budget is.

Joan Gauthier asked about the bleachers from TCAPS. Kelly Claar said they were looking into this in July, the two that were in charge of these had deaths in the family and unfortunately someone disposed of the bleachers. Joan suggested the purchase of bleachers be added to the grant application. Mary Taylor said the grant could say for Park improvements instead of just tennis courts.

- Garfield Township is currently upgrading their Common Area which consists of 140 acres. You can see the plan on-line. Kelly suggested the township consider doing this with our parks.
- The Parks Committee is shrinking and looking for anyone that may be interested in being on the committee. There are presently four members with only three that are active.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

Jim Lautner received a letter of resignation from Mary O'Neill who no longer wants to be on the Parks Committee. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to accept the resignation from Mary O'Neill to no longer be on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

Grace Yoder has asked to be on the Parks Committee. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to appoint Grace Yoder to the Parks and Recreation Committee with the term expiring December 31, 2022. Motion carried 4-0.

Jim Lautner said there will be an ad placed for all positions and appointments will be made next month.

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

10. Unfinished Business
A. Township Hall/Repairs
There was no report.

B. Parks
1. Recycling Site
a. Cameras/Contract
Trudy Galla explained the recycling agreement will end December 31, 2022. Ray Pleva has been very helpful on finding a new site and the one site that is being considered is surrounded by wetlands, so this is going to take some time to get this site operational. The Solid Waste Council met last week and authorized Mrs. Galla to present the revised recycling agreement. The agreement includes an annual rental payment of $3,600.00 and this will now be

paid monthly. The agreement extends to December 31, 2023, and each party will have the right to terminate the agreement upon a minimum of a 14 day written notice to the other party. Joan Gauthier asked if they have looked into other sites in other townships and they have, but they would rather work with a government owned site instead of a private owned site. Jim Lautner said he wants the same deal as the Suttons Bay County Road Commission has, and that is the county pay for all of the maintenance costs and still pay the township a fee. Mrs. Galla explained that the Road Commission is a government owned site and they agreed to no lease payment. The township has paid for all of the gravel, grading and snowplowing and it is not just Solon Township that uses the site. It is a county program and the county should be paying for all of the costs. Shirley Mikowski said the township has been burdened with the cost of the recycling site for many years without any compensation from the county and has also taken a lot of grief. She agrees with Jim, that the county will need to pay for all of the maintenance and still pay the township. It looks like a junk yard with televisions, mattresses, deer hides, old meat, etc. left at the site. Mrs. Galla said there is a phone number to call and does not remember the last time she got a call from this township. Jim said there is no one there at night or the weekends to take the calls. Joan Gauthier said we never got the cameras that were promised and were supposed to be installed by March 2022. Mrs. Galla said she cannot offer anything else and asked if the board had a request that she can take back to the Solid Waste Council. The request is to have the county pay for all costs of maintaining the site and also pay the township a lease fee. Shirley said she will miss the recycling site if it is taken out, but is not willing to use any more of the township funds to keep it. Joan said she was in the hospital last year when this came up for a vote and even if she had been here, she would have not approved it then. There were several volunteers that were keeping it clean for a while, but it is back looking like a junk yard.

C. Fire Department

Chris Comeaux gave the following report:

- A fire started on October 6, 2022 in an approximately 675,000 square foot building that was used to store shredded paper pulp along with other uses. Fire conditions were still present on October 8, 2022, so assistance was requested from Michigan MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System). Two members were deployed through the Michigan MABAS Division 3701to Menominee and one member remained in Menominee for a full week. There were up to 50 departments from Michigan and Wisconsin that assisted.
- Two members recently graduated from Paramedic School that this department put through school. They are now preparing for state and national certification.
- There were ten ALS calls in October and seven of them were covered by our own staff.
- The fire board approved for the fire chief to order an ambulance and a new commander vehicle. The expected delivery for the new ambulance is two years and by the time the new commander vehicle arrives the one we have now will be five years old. When the new commander vehicle is received the present one will be a work vehicle for the department.
- Chris presented two proposals for replacing the entire roof on the fire department building. Centerville Township will also need to approve the cost, because they will be responsible for half of it. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve that Solon Township will pay up to $30,250.00 to replace the entire roof on the fire department building. Motion carried 4-0.

Joan Gauthier read in MTA about a fire department getting a green roof which may be something to look into. Joan also asked about the department hiring three new people and they are adding three new members.

Chris Comeaux added that we should be really proud of this department. We are one of the busiest departments in the county with a full staff that do an excellent job.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

Co-Chair Diane Pelak reported they continue to look for funding and are in full support of what Nancy Popa will be presenting this evening and the Leelanau Conservancy supports it as well.

E. Zoning Ordinance

Joan Gauthier said she has completed the corrections to the Ordinance and has forwarded them to Tim Cypher/ZA. Joan has also been looking for other townships/communities Landscape Ordinance to compare to this one and has not been able to find one.

F. Drainage District
There was no report.

G. Boat Wash Station/Cedar River
Nancy Popa is a member of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association and is chair of the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Committee. The six townships that have Lake Frontage on Lake Leelanau are each being asked to pay 1/6 of the cost to purchase a boat wash station that will be placed at Cedar River. The cost may range from $5,300.00 - $8,600.00. Centerville and Suttons Bay are in favor and Centerville has already adopted a resolution. Solon Township will be the owners and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association will maintain it. Jim Lautner shared his concerns on Solon Township having the responsibility in putting signs up and some at Perrins Landing. Solon Township does not have a maintenance crew to do that and Solon Township does not own Perrins Landing. The other concern Jim had was to adopt an Ordinance to make sure the boats got washed and Solon is not going to be responsible for. Joan Gauthier asked if Centerville Township will be putting in a boat wash station at their park. They will not need one at their park, but one will be put at the DNR Launch. Centerville will not be paying for it or responsible for maintaining it; the Lake Leelanau Lake Association will be maintaining it. Kelly Claar said the Parks Committee did their best to make sure there was an adequate boat wash station, they contacted the DNR and were given the specifications of the one that was purchased and is presently at the Cedar River. The boat wash station that is being proposed will need electricity and water. Kelly is also concerned that the Parks Committee will be responsible for maintaining the boat wash station. There are only three active members on the committee, and they all volunteer their time. Mrs. Popa said they are not asking the Parks Committee to do anything, but are asking for a financial commitment. The high pressure washer will blast off bacteria, viruses, microorganisms, etc. A Groundwater Discharge Permit will be required and without the permit, they will not be able to move forward. This boat wash station will also require electricity and a well. It was decided that the township board needs to see a plan drawn up of how the boat wash station will be placed at the river and what will be required before they can take action. There are presently four boat wash stations that the Grand Traverse Band and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association have paid for. Mrs. Popa asked how the board felt about the Lake Leelanau Lake Association having a long term lease and maintain it. The board is definitely in favor of that because this township will not be taking on the responsibility for maintaining it.

Any Other Unfinished Business:
Susan O'Conner from the NMRC rowing club shared how grateful they were that they were able to use the Solon Beach Park this year. She also gave an overview of their activities (see attached).
The contract and lease agreement has been updated and needs to be approved by the township board. This will permit them to store their equipment at the Solon Township Beach Park during the winter months. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the updated lease agreement with the NMRC rowing club that will permit them to store their equipment at the Solon Township Beach Park during the winter months for a lease fee of $50.00 per month. Motion carried 4-0.

11. New Business
A. Appointments
Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to place an ad in the Leelanau Enterprise seeking applicants to fill the positions for Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Parks and Recreation, Sexton and Township Hall Custodian. Motion carried 4-0.

B. L-4029
Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the Allocated Operational Millage amount of 0.5632 and the voted Fire/Ambulance Millage of 2.5000 to be levied December 1, 2022. Motion carried 4-0

C. Snowplowing
The board agreed to have Shirley Mikowski contact Schaub Outdoor Services to see if they will continue to snow plow the recycling site and the township hall this winter. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to hire Schaub Outdoor Services to snow plow the recycling site and the township hall for the 2022-2023 winter season. Motion carried 4-0.

Mary Taylor asked who is responsible for shoveling the walkway at the township hall. It is the responsibility of those that are using the hall for any of the free programs when they are there.

12. Public Comment
Judy Janosik asked about the snowplowing of the township hall parking lot because it had been mentioned that it had been plowed today, but the parking lot has a lot of snow. Jim Lautner said they had come in the morning to plow, but since then we had gotten more snow.

Dale Gauthier wanted to know who owns the fence at the Solon Beach Park. Jim Lautner said he is pretty sure the township does not own the fence and this will need to be looked into in the spring.

Joan Gauthier is so excited that David and Theresa Gersenson donated an old picture of Cedar that measures 2' x 4'. It just needs to be cleaned up a little bit and framed.

Mary Taylor reminded everyone that the Cedar Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Light up Cedar the Friday after Thanksgiving. The event begins at 5:00 P.M. Mary's Tai chi class will be decorating the outside of the township hall.

Joan Gauthier said she was very proud of the residents of Solon Township. It was the only township to vote down proposal 3 in Leelanau County

13. Announcements
There was none.

14. Adjournment
Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski/Solon Township Clerk

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: OCTOBER 2022

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT	CK.#	AMOUNT
10/21/2022	LUP 22-31	HOLDEN	LAND USE	202231	7734	$ 90.00
010-003-046-00	8351 S. SOLON PARK RD	DWELLING ADDITIONS PORCH DECK		840 S.F.		

TOTAL $ 90.00

SIGNED: Timothy A. Cypher DATE: 10/31/2022

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

Thank you for allowing us to use the park; we had a very successful summer!

- Solon Township Park use ranged from 8 hours per week to 12 hours per week. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings, and infrequent Monday evenings, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and infrequent Sunday mornings.
- We had roughly 20-25 rowers who rowed from Solon each week. Their schedules varied but they rowed an average of 2 times per week.
- When we surveyed participants, members indicated that they were either satisfied with their experience or it had exceeded their expectations. There were many comments praising rowing out of the Solon park location.
- We cleaned both buildings, and power washed the roof and painted the wood shed. We plan to do the same for the other one next spring.
- We cared for the park by regularly picking up garbage, sweeping the pavilions, raking leaves, and planting flowers.
- We always parked along the far fenceline to allow closer parking for others.
- Our members regularly shopped and gassed up at Cedar businesses such as Buntings, Cedar Hardware, and Cedar Tavern.
- We enjoyed getting to know the closest neighbors to the park. We threw a neighborhood picnic in July as a thank you for having us there.
- All the rowers appreciated how beautiful the park was maintained by Dale with the help of neighbor Randy.

Please view the following links for specific videos and images highlighting our summer:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLszrmt2Yci4fB2xTXAqhxu-jAu-IFqQ2s

https://youtu.be/781T6x94GH0

Our Youtube Channel has over 100 videos.
https://www.youtube.com/@northernmichiganrowing

Find us on Facebook and Instagram as well!