

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2020 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 7:14 PM. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Supervisor Jim Lautner, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Trustee Ron Novak and Trustee Steve Yoder

Guests present: Mary Taylor, Kelly Claar, Rick Brett, Lisa Rossi Brett, Robert Robinson, Judy Robinson, Mary O'Neill, Charlie Smith, Karen Smith, Judy Janosik, Christine Jacoby, Charlene Verschaeve, Doug Fierberg, Samantha VanderVlucht, Dale Gauthier and Tim Cypher/ZA.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the agenda with an addition under New Business: C. Kasson Street Safety Issue. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Ron Novak to approve the September 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comment

Doug Fierberg said he owns a horse farm on South Lautner Road and was going to give comments on the Bob Robinson zoning request, but will wait until the next Public Comment on the agenda. Mr. Fierberg gave condolences to Jim Lautner and his family on the loss of his mother.

Brett McDowell gave condolences to Jim Lautner and thanked the board for everything they do. Mr. Mc Dowell shared his concerns that communication with the township board members is getting lost and would like the township board emails made available to the public. He also noted the meeting dates are on the website, but not on the calendar. Shirley Mikowski said she does not know how to get the dates on the calendar. Mr. McDowell offered to help her.

6. Correspondence

- Received a FOIA from Bob Robinson on September 21, 2020 that has been completed
- Received a FOIA from Bob Robinson on October 14, 2020 that has been completed
- The last Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Recycling is on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the Leelanau County Government Center. An appointment is required.
- The Lake Leelanau Association handbook is available for purchase.
- All board members received the letter notifying us that the approval of extension for the Audit and F-65 Reports has been approved with a due date of November 2, 2020. Shirley Mikowski explained the extension was required because the auditors, Tobin and Company, were backed up with tax deadlines because it was moved to July because of COVID-19.

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

Joan Gauthier said she will be transferring the funds to the General Fund from the Sidewalk Fund knowing there are no more bills. TCF Checking \$31,363.97, TCF Bank General Savings \$30,749.82, Total Funds Available: \$62,113.79, TCF Bank Road Improvement Fund \$5,343.55, TCF Fire Fund CD \$6,677.62, TCF Fire Fund Savings

\$161.73, Total Fire Sinking \$6,839.35, TCF Sidewalk Fund \$10,192.75, TCF Cedar River Marina Project \$21,913.30, TCF Oleson Foundation Grant/Playground Equipment \$10,000.06, total other Township Funds Available: \$54,289.01 - Total Current Assets: \$116,402.80. Voucher #'s 13746-13784 were submitted for payment. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Steve Yoder to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Committee Reports:

Steve Yoder reported the Planning Commission met on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and all board members were present. They were scheduled to meet via zoom, but orders changed that required them to meet in person. Steve had his computer so was able to accommodate those that were meeting via zoom. There were six guests present and eight via zoom.

- Public Comment regarding the Robinson Project
- Approved to propose changing the Future Land Use Map to include more commercial zoning along the M-72 Corridor
- The Planning Commission decided to combine separate the two projects; Robinson and Flaska. The Flaska project was approved 6-1 and the Robinson project failed 6-1.
- It was requested that a moratorium be put on further rezoning requests until the Zoning Ordinance is complete
- No one in the Planning Commission wants to be on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Kelly Claar reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at the Solon Schoolhouse. All members were present with one guest.

- The committee is planning a special event to be held at the Solon Schoolhouse, and would like the approval of the township board before contacting Don Parker that neighbors the schoolhouse. The board was in agreement for them to move forward.
- All of the property markers of the schoolhouse were located. The committee will be taking inventory of everything that is in the schoolhouse, and will move it to a drier place; the township hall.
- The pop can drive raised another \$250.00 at the ribbon cutting, and there is now a can chained to the Pavilion for the drive.
- Kelly continues to work on the addresses for the parks.
- Mary Taylor said the playground project is on hold until spring.
- Kelly noted that the Parks Committee has raised over \$2,000.00, and wanted to be assured that the money raised will go to the parks. The board assured her it will.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

Shirley Mikowski is concerned that the outside light was not on when she drove by last night, and will be checked into.

1. Cherry Capital/Wi-Fi

A proposal has still not been received from Tim Maylone from Cherry Capital. Jim Lautner said Representative Jason Allen is working on obtaining grants for areas that do not have Wi-Fi.

B. Parks

Shirley Mikowski saw two different vehicles on two different days stop by the trash receptacle and take garbage out of their vehicles and drop it into the trash receptacle.

Brett McDowell asked to be on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Motion by Jim Lautner and seconded by Joan Gauthier to appoint Brett McDowell to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

1. Recycling Site

Joan Gauthier asked if Jim looked into the township getting out of the recycling agreement. Jim Lautner said the Solid Waste will be installing a camera at the recycle site and will be paying for it. They have also found a way to prosecute those that are dumping stuff that is not recyclable. Joe Hubbell can and will prosecute with a \$1,000.00 fine. Ron Novak added they are working on adopt-a-recycle site having people volunteer to be on site to guard against stuff being left that is not recyclable. Joan Gauthier noted that this recycling site is a big cost to this township and asked if there was a date when the camera will be installed. There is no date at this time.

C. Fire Department

Fire Chief Chris Comeaux and Dan Lach could not attend the meeting because the fire board was meeting tonight. Kevin Mikowski gave the following report:

- There have already been 100 more calls than last year at this time.
- There was a large structure fire in Kasson Township. There were five tankers, two fire chiefs and thirty five firefighters at this fire.
- Calls this year have been overlapping by 21%.
- The new engine is in service.
- Our back-up ambulance is in Glen Arbor.
- The smoke detector program has been suspended due to COVID-19.
- They are hoping to begin scheduling appointments for assessment of properties through the Wild Land Urban Interface Program.
- Northflight is merging with MMR.

D. Cedar River Project

Mary Taylor said the committee met on October 1, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. They reviewed the ribbon cutting ceremony and there was a great write up in the Leelanau Enterprise about it. They are looking into ways to stay connected to the community. They are getting a cost proposal to update the 4x8 sign by the river with the project name changed to Cedar River Waterway and Park. The Facebook and webpage will have to be updated with the new project name. The committee will be meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. at the Solon Township Hall. The Seed Grant has been opened again, and Mary wanted to know if she could move forward with applying for this grant. Jim Lautner said yes because the board had already approved this. The Seed Grant will also put us in a category for the Thriving Community Grant for \$50,000.00.

E. Flynn v Solon Township/Settlement

This item will be taken off the agenda.

F. Cemetery

Shirley Mikowski contacted Zach Baker, and the soonest would be November before he could work on possibly turning some of the roads into additional cemetery plots. Shirley also went and took pictures of the fencing, but could not find the same fencing anywhere on-line. Jim Lautner suggested sending pictures to the Apple Fence company.

Jim Lautner told the board that Larry Bruckner recently passed away, and Mr. Bruckner was the head of maintenance. Dale Gauthier has been working with Mr. Bruckner and was asked if he would consider taking the position, which he agreed to. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Steve Yoder to appoint Dale Gauthier as head of maintenance. Motion carried 4-0. Gauthier abstained.

10. New Business

A. Election Budget/Equipment

Shirley Mikowski told the board that there is not enough in the Election budget to cover the November Election, and asked that \$5,000.00 be moved from the Planning Commission budget to the Election Budget. Jim Lautner stated that this year's elections have been very costly. Shirley Mikowski said even though we were reimbursed for the

March Presidential Primary, it still has cost the township because of all of the extra election workers and training needed.

Shirley Mikowski told the board since the September meeting, another grant opportunity came up where she asked Jim Lautner for the go ahead to apply. The township was awarded \$5,000.00 from Center for Technology which covers almost the entire cost of a new tabulator. The total cost for a new tabulator is \$5,295.00 plus \$650.00 for shipping costs. The cost to the township will be \$945.00. This amount includes the \$650.00 to ship the tabulator. Motion by Ron Novak and seconded by Joan Gauthier to accept the Grant Funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Center for Technology, and payment of \$945.00 for the remainder cost for the purchase and shipping of a new tabulator. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to move \$5,000.00 from the Planning Commission Budget to the Election Budget. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Bob Robinson

Bob Robinson said the reason he wanted to be on the agenda is because he thought the township board would have a meeting set up to discuss the findings and facts of the Robinson and Flaska Properties/Projects. Mr. Robinson noted that each meeting begins with the Pledge of Allegiance which ends with "*liberty and justice for all*". The Flaska and Robinson properties are identical except Robinson property is zoned B-2; the Flaska property is zoned B-1. The Robinson's property is not prime farm land. All the Robinsons are asking for is justice. Judy Robinson added that the first time the Planning Commission voted on their project, it was approved by a unanimous vote. The second time it was approved by a 5-2 vote, and the third time it was turned down by a 1-6 vote. She wanted to know what changed? Why was there a drastic change? Why weren't they treated the same? Why was there a winner and a loser? They do not begrudge Mr. Flaska at all, and are here to make the township board aware that they want to be treated equally, that the properties are very similar. They have been extremely cooperative and patient for the past 26 months and are taxpayers in this township. They are not just from Traverse City, but are four generations from this township and feel very strongly that they were wronged and want it revisited.

C. Kasson Street Safety Issue

Ron Novak explained that he met with Keith Moore from the Leelanau County Road Commission at the crossroad and crosswalk in Cedar. The crossroads placed at a ninety degree would lose parking spots. Mr. Moore suggested not to have painted boxes for parking spaces from Whitman Street to the township hall because they are not ten feet wide. He also noted that the stop sign is too low coming from Maple City direction. There are also two stumps in the road right-of-way by the apple shack. Mr. Moore will see if they can take care of the stumps. While they were doing the study, they watched people roll through the stop sign and not make complete stops. Ron is going to request that the Leelanau County Road Commission repaint the stop bars to make people more aware that they need to stop. Mr. Moore suggested that the township board do a study and suggested to have 25 mile per hour speed limit for the norm for the Village of Cedar. Ron will contact the township attorney on how to change this. Mr. Moore asked about the line of barrels by the fire department. Kevin Mikowski said the county put the barrels up because of the safety issue there; it is so the fire department can get their truck out safely because people come flying with their vehicles through Railroad Avenue.

11. Public Comment

Charlene Verschaeve lives on Schomberg Road and feels it is a good idea to slow traffic down, and agrees with the barrels by the fire department. She also shared that it was exciting to see the bridge repainted, and thanked all that were involved for their hard work. Ms. Verschaeve commented on the Robinson and Flaska projects, and the vision for Leelanau County. She does not want to see the growth on M-72, but wants to see the smaller towns regenerated, Cedar expanded with smaller plots and affordable housing. She also stated that every year she reads Flaska's have a lot of properties that have delinquent taxes, and are presently delinquent on 56 properties.

Doug Fierberg is a lawyer and knows what justice means. Justice does not mean you have to have a road named after you. The Robinsons won unanimously the first time, but not all of the neighbors were notified. It came in front of the township board, and they sent it back to the Planning Commission to look at the Master Plan. He too was there for

the past 26 months and saw how the process was done by the Planning Commission. They played by the rules, voted it down 6-1, and that was lawful.

Corey Flaska stated that he has never been delinquent on his property taxes, and is completely caught up to date.

Mary O'Neill said it would be a shame to remove the recycling site from Cedar because that is a big reason why people come to Cedar, and suggested getting the Cedar Chamber of Commerce to help finance it. Ms. O'Neill also suggested moving the Solon Schoolhouse to the 40 acres owned by the township. She also suggested to the board to consider angle parking in Cedar because it has been proven that it slows traffic down.

Mary Taylor said, as the newly elected Vice President of the Cedar Chamber of Commerce, that their funds come from the Polka Fest, and because there was no Polka Fest this year, there is no money in the coffers to help out.

Judy Janosik asked the township board to use a sound system for the meetings so they can hear better. It will be looked into before the next meeting.

Mary O'Neill believes it may be time to reconsider looking into a sewer system for Cedar.

Christine Jacoby said that she attended a Planning Commission meeting about a year ago when 50-100 people opposed both the Robinson and Flaska projects. She was very surprised at the Planning Commission meeting that the Flaska project was approved, and heard a woman state why people should even attend if their voices are not heard. Ms. Jacoby is concerned that we are going to have a Chum's Corner right here in this township. She was reading the Master Plan, and what caught her eye was "*the preservation of rural character*". She further commented that they buy the agriculture property cheap with intention to turn it into commercial.

Kelly Claar works for the Natural Resource Conservation Service which is a federal agency that provides grants to farmers. She noted that as important farming is, it is very difficult to make a living at it. There are lots of big farms in this county that will soon be up for sale. They cannot sell it as a farm because no one can afford to farm on it. We want the rolling hills and farming, but it does not pay. If you want things to look and be a certain way, than you need to get involved.

Judy Robinson noted a Planning Commission member showed a map of Solon Township that showed a lot of green. We do want to preserve it, and feel we are not spot zoning. It is going to happen, and it should happen on the M-72 Corridor.

Samantha VanderVlucht reiterated that the first vote was 7-0 in favor of the rezoning, and the second time they voted it was 5-2. The Planning Commission did their due diligence with the help of the Zoning Administrator. There is middle ground; you cannot get the farm land back, and you can still have tax revenue with agriculture.

Bob Robinson stated that green is not money for the schools.

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 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shirley I. Mikowski/Solon Township Clerk

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
9/16/2020	LUP 20-14	COLBY	LAND USE	202014	1338 \$ 165.00
010-032-006-20	3320 E. TRAVERSE HWY.	NEW DWELLING ATT.GARAGE PORCHES	2,706 S.F.		
9/23/2020	LUP 20-15	DOWD	LAND USE	2020015	1099 \$ 50.00
010-019-005-85	11270 S. HILL ROAD	FRONT PORCH & ROOF AREA	560 S.F.		
9/29/2020	LUP 20-16	SMITH	LAND USE	202016	4862 \$50.00
010-022-001-70	11465 S. RAMBLEWOOD	REAR ENCLOSED PORCH	260 S.F.		
9/30/2020	LUP 20-17	PASSARELLI	LAND USE	202017	13939 \$50.00
010-003-022-00	8433 S. SANDBAR LANE	REPLACE EXISTING SEASONAL SUNROOM	270 S.F.		
9/30/2020	LUP 20-18	SNIADOWSKI	LAND USE	202018	6777 \$20.00
010-010-003-20	5925 E. WATERSIDE DR.	TEMP STORAGE SHED	144 S.F.		

TOTAL \$ 335.00

SIGNED:

Timothy A. Cypher

DATE: 10/10/2020

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

SOLON TOWNSHIP FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 2020-2021 AMENDED 10-15-2020

	Amended Line Item
PROPOSED RECEIPTS 2020-2021	
State Shared Revenues	130,000.00
Hall Rental	2,500.00
Township Tax	62,000.00
Taxes: Interest Earned	600.00
Swamp Tax	2,400.00
Local Comm Stab Share Tax/PPT	600.00
Cemetery	500.00
Permits and Fees	4,000.00
Fire and Ambulance Operation Millage 2.50 mills	265,000.00
Interest	100.00
Charges for Services	1,200.00
Metro Act Fund	4,000.00
State Education Tax	3,200.00
1% Administration Fee	24,000.00
Recycling	<u>1,250.00</u>
<i>Cedar River Marina Project (Non-Budget Item)</i>	
<i>Parks and Recreation (Non-Budget Item)</i>	
ESTIMATED RECEIPTS 2020-2021	501,350.00
 PLUS ACTUAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	 216,691.33
 OTHER FUNDS	
Road Improvement (Gov't Oper)	5,342.54
Fire Sinking (NWS)	6,830.64
Sidewalk Fund (5th/3rd)	<u>10,191.01</u>
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	22,364.19
 TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME	 740,405.52
 <i>Cedar River Marina Project (Non-Township Fund)</i>	 21,540.71
 ESTIMATED EXPENSES 2020-2021	
Supervisor Salary	10,000.00
Supervisor Operating	0.00
Assessor Salary	16,600.00
Assessor Operating	1,500.00
Clerk Salary	16,000.00
Clerk Operating	4,000.00
Deputy Clerk	2,000.00
Treasurer Salary	16,000.00
Treasurer Operating	4,000.00
Deputy Treasurer	2,000.00
Trustee Board Salaries	4,000.00

ESTIMATED EXPENSES 2020-2021
TOWNSHIP BOARD EXPENSES

Public Utilities	10,000.00	
Advertising	2,500.00	
Professional/Legal/Audit Fees	7,500.00	
Miscellaneous	750.00	
Sidewalks/Roads	11,500.00	
Service Charge	3,500.00	
Board of Review	2,000.00	
Planning Commission Budget	14,000.00	9,000.00
Board of Appeals	2,000.00	
Zoning Administrator (New)	24,000.00	

Cemetery Operating 3,000.00

SOLON TWP. HALL EXPENSES:

Custodian Salary	3,300.00	
Hall Lights	1,500.00	
Hall Gas	2,000.00	
Hall Operating	10,000.00	
Pension	5,000.00	
Elections	5,500.00	10,500.00
Insurance	8,500.00	
Parks and Maintenance	30,000.00	

Twp. Annual Support of Fire and Amb. 2.50 mills 221,000.00

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES 2020-2021 443,650.00

Road Improvement 25,000.00
Fire Sinking 0.00

CONTINGENCY: 5,000.00

FUND BALANCE: 244,391.33

OTHER FUNDS 22,364.19

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: 740,405.52