

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Session – Tuesday, January 18, 2022**  
*Tentative Minutes*

*Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and are not the official record of the meeting; the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.*

Meeting called to order by Chairman William J. Bunek at 7:00 p.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Prayer:

Fr. Leonard Paul of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church of Suttons Bay was present to lead opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:	District #1	Rick Robbins	PRESENT
	#2	Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT
	#3	William J. Bunek	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5	Patricia Soutas-Little	PRESENT
	#6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Approval of Board Minutes –

Board of Commissioners, Committee of the Whole (ARPA) – Monday, December 13, 2021:  
*#014-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (ARPA). SECONDED BY LAUTNER.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Agenda / Late Additions or Deletions:

Chairman Bunek indicated that Consent Agenda Item #2 LCSAPC (Leelanau County Substance Abuse and Prevention Coalition) – Acceptance of SABG (Substance Abuse prevention & treatment Block Grant) Grant Award will be removed due to lack of information and it will be placed on the February agenda.

**MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE AGENDA WITHOUT ACTION ITEM #9.**

Motion failed for lack of a second.

#015-01182022 Regular Session

**MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 6 (Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Soutas-Little)**

**NO – 1 (Rushton)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek called for Public Comment. Although the Agenda says three minutes, we are going with five minutes.

The following individuals addressed the Commissioners in person:

Keith Ashley; Ann Schlueter.

The following individuals sent in email correspondence:

Laura Bramer; Keith Ashley.

The emails can be found at the following link:

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2242#handouts>

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Communications, Proclamations, Presentations:

Leelanau County Drain Commissioner Steve Christensen was present and reviewed the four drain districts. Christensen was present with GEI Consultant Brian Cenci and Attorney Doug Kelly of Clarke Hill. Christensen gave an update on the four drainage districts. Attorney Kelly presented information to Commissioners and all three responded to questions from Commissioners.

Consent Agenda:

Chairman Bunek stated that the purpose of the Consent Agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one motion without discussion. Any Commissioner may ask that any item on the Consent Agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such request will be automatically respected and will not need a second.

**MOTION BY RUSHTON THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA AS PROPOSED:**

FY 2022 Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) Contract Renewal:

#016-01182022 Regular Session

**Approved waiving the county's policy on bid requirements and approve the 2022 renewal for property and casualty insurance between Leelanau County and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), in the amount of \$224,771.00.**

Conservation District, Approval of FY 2022 Work Orders – Conservation Education and Technical Assistance:

*#017-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved the 2022 Conservation District Work Order #1, Conservation Education and Technical Assistance, in an amount not to exceed \$43,000.00; funds to come from #101.630.280.801.000.**

Conservation District, Approval of FY 2022 Work Orders – Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control #2:

*#018-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved the 2022 Work Order #2, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control; funds to come from the collection of County-approved permit erosion fees.**

Conservation District, Approval of FY 2022 Work Orders – Water Quality Monitoring #3:

*#019-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved the 2022 Work Order #3, Water Quality Monitoring, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00; funds to come from #101.630.280.801.000.**

Sheriff's Office – Request to Hold Fundraising Event to Benefit the County K-9 Program:

*#020-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved allowing the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office to hold a charity gold golf outing to benefit and maintain the K-9 program.**

Senior Services – Proposed Agreement with MMAP, Inc.:

*#021-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved Leelanau County Senior Services to enter into an Agreement with MMAP, (Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) Inc., to provide MIPPA (Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act) Beneficiary Outreach and Assistance Services for seniors. The contract agreement will begin on September 1, 2021, and continue through August 31, 2022.**

Information Technology – Proposed Renewal of Barracuda Essentials Maintenance from Rehmann:

*#022-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved the renewal of the annual maintenance contract for Barracuda Essentials Software in the amount of \$6,750.00 from Rehmann, with funds to come from Data Processing Fund #636.**

Information Technology – Proposed Update/Renewal of Duo Authentication Subscription:

*#023-01182022 Regular Session*

**Approved the renewal of the annual maintenance contract for the DUO Dual Authentication Software, with funds to come from Data Processing Fund #636.**

**SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion – none.

**ROLL CALL: Rushton – YES; Soutas-Little – YES; Wessell – YES; Allgaier – YES; Bunek – YES; Lautner – YES; Robbins – YES.**

**AYES – 7      NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

ACTION ITEMS —

Solid Waste Council – Recycling Site Agreement with the Leelanau County Road Commission:  
#024-01182022 Regular Session

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE INTERLOCAL LAND LEASE/GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEELANAU COUNTY AND THE LEELANAU COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOR A RECYCLING SITE, PENDING FINAL REVIEW BY CORPORATE COUNSEL. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.**

Discussion – Administrator Janik responded to Chairman Bunek that it has been reviewed by all attorneys involved.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)  
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Proposed Resolution Supporting the Community Mental Health Authority and Opposing Current State Legislation to Change the CMHA:

*#025-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY WESSELL THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE LEELANAU COUNTY RESOLUTION #2022-001 – A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY AND OPPOSING CURRENT STATE LEGISLATION TO CHANGE THE CMHA (COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY). SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.**

Discussion ensued.

**ROLL CALL: Wessell – YES; Allgaier – YES; Bunek – YES; Lautner – YES;  
Robbins – YES; Rushton – YES; Soutas-Little – YES.  
AYES – 7 NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

**Leelanau County Resolution No. 2022-001  
A Resolution Supporting the Community Mental Health Authority  
and Opposing Current State Legislation to Change the CMHA**

**WHEREAS**, Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority has served for more than 50 years as the public mental health service provider for this community, serving approximately 172 residents yearly in Leelanau County; and

**WHEREAS**, Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority was created by the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners as duly authorized under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, every year, thousands of individuals and their families in this community depend on the public behavioral health system for daily and life-long supports and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Leelanau County opposes any behavioral health redesign that harms the state and county partnership for community mental health and related Medicaid safety net services, or seeks to privatize Medicaid behavioral health services; and

**WHEREAS**, recent proposals in the Michigan House and Senate fundamentally change the public behavioral health system and will harm those served by the system. The Leelanau County Board opposes these proposals because:

- Local public oversight, local governance, local operations, and local accountability would be ended;
- Beneficiaries would stand to lose access to services, supports, and input into the design and operation of their services and support system. Many of our residents would be left out of the redesign proposals completely;
- The Senate proposal specifically incentivizes and prioritizes profits to private companies at the expense of the public and the people served by our public behavioral health system; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of damaging our public behavioral health system through pursuit of these proposals, recent innovations by the Public Health system should be supported. The Leelanau County Board supports, and asks our Legislative and Executive Branch leaders to support:

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Behavioral Health Homes
- Opioid Health Homes, and

**WHEREAS**, the public behavioral health system is the safety net system for our state's most vulnerable and needy people. We believe strongly that the public safety net behavioral health system must remain public in governance, public in accountability, funding, and operation. We believe strongly that Leelanau County must have direct in-person access to their board member representatives in the community and to the whole board of directors through participation in local public board meetings under the Open Meetings Act. Recent state legislation by the Senate and House eliminates these key features of the behavioral health system. We stand united in opposing these proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, the House and Senate proposals as they currently stand shifts the responsibility for managing public services from local involvement and oversight to either a privatized plan or to a state-run plan. The premise of these proposals seems to be that privatization (Senate) and state-centralization are better than local access, local control, local accountability, collaborative and regional/local management, and local oversight. These are just a few of the beneficial features of the current public behavioral health system that the House and Senate proposals ignore, and for these reasons we stand united in opposition to them; and

**WHEREAS**, having come through a recent pandemic, and currently dealing with further results of the pandemic, this is no time for a major upheaval of the public behavioral health system that so many thousands of persons, their families, and our entire community relies on for support. The public behavioral health safety net has ensured continued services and supports for all these people in our community throughout the pandemic period.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commissioners of the County of Leelanau, that we request that our policy making representatives support, improve, and strengthen the public behavioral health safety net system, and that you support improvements in the delivery of publicly governed, publicly accountable, publicly operated regional, and community-based systems, invest in and expand initiatives that are proven to improve citizen access, beneficiary engagement, individual and population health, behavioral wellbeing, quality of life, and community betterment, such as those mentioned above. These are among the

accomplishments of the public system that would be destroyed by pursuing these new legislative proposals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor Gretchen Whitmer, State Senator Curt VanderWall, State Representative Jack O'Malley, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), and the other 82 Michigan counties.

Late Addition Request – Prayer Policy Review, Commissioner Robbins:

*#026-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY ROBBINS THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RECONSIDER THE PRAYER POLICY. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion – none.

**ROLL CALL: Robbins – YES; Rushton – NO; Soutas-Little – YES; Wessell – YES;**

**Allgaier – YES; Bunek – NO; Lautner – YES.**

**AYES – 5      NO – 2**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Robbins commented that this is a hard one for him and it started in May (2021). He said he still believes in prayer and he knows what Chairman Bunek wanted to accomplish was a good thing; however, as we have gone along – Robbins backed up his comments to when Bunek and Commissioner Allgaier got together and tried to come up with a policy, there wasn't even an agreement on policy and we still moved forward. The first couple of prayers worked out and then we started seeing the letters and the public. Every meeting it started to be spending 20-30 minutes fighting over prayer, which should be really simple. It should be three minutes and move on and it has caused a lot of disruption up here and Robbins continued that he has talked to a lot of people in the last week. People that are not just clergy or pastors, people on both sides – not just "our" side, but both sides. They are all saying, we have had enough – it is time to put it aside. Robbins continued that he has come up with a compromise and in a few minutes he will make the motion and we go back to our standard platform — and go with a moment of silence, and after a moment of silence and then have a slash and have a personal prayer. Usually there are about 20 seconds for silence and each person can do an individual prayer. It is not what he wants to do, but we need to focus on major issues coming up this year and we don't have time to be going back and forth over this prayer thing.

*#027-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY ROBBINS THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHANGE THE POLICY AND DROP THE PRAYER AND ADD THE MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion – Commissioner Lautner thanked Commissioner Robbins and she agrees with his comments. Lautner continued that she believes "we" brought a good thing to this County and she believes that it had so much more potential than it was allowed to have and she is sorry about the disruption. She continued that she has said it before that it saddens her that it has come to this in our County and for the reasons that it has. Lautner continued that she knows what a few people want to do and she knows the lengths that they will go to, to try to "destroy" prayer under the disguise of inclusion or some of the other phrases that "we" have heard. She continued that if Commissioners take it off, it removes the opportunity for sabotage of prayer and it denies those who want to turn prayer into the circus that it has been turned into. Lautner continued that "we are not conceding because we won't". She continued she knows what a few want to do and she knows the lengths that they will go to destroy it and as she said

before she is saddened by all of the opposition because she really enjoyed the prayers that have been shared. Lautner will only support this motion if goes forward with the Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Personal Prayer.

**ROLL CALL: Robbins – YES; Rushton – NO; Soutas-Little – YES; Wessell – YES; Allgaier – YES; Bunek – NO; Lautner – YES.**

**AYES – 5      NO – 2**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Allgaier commented that she would like more than 20 seconds and she would like a longer moment of silence. Brief comments.

Administration FY 2022 Board Goals:

*#028-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT THE GOALS AS LISTED IN THE (EXECUTIVE BOARD) MINUTES (OF JANUARY 11, 2022):**

**Goals #1 – Personnel**

- **Successfully conduct the search for a new Administrator**
- **Potential reorganization of the Leland Dam Authority and Board of Public Works**
- **Explore the possibility of creating a Facilities Management Director position**

**Goals #2**

- **Consider options for the use of jail facility space currently not utilized**
- **Explore options for office space for the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department**

**SECONDED SOUTAS-LITTLE.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Administration FY 2022 Rules of Order and Procedure:

Chairman Bunek commented on the changes, amendments and recapped on each item.

*#029-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek, Lautner, Robbins, Rushton)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Potential Federal Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate Policy Update:

Administrator Janik commented that the Supreme Court ruled last Thursday that the mandates are not legal so there are no Federal mandates for employees to provide proof of vaccination or to be tested. Today the Federal website went active, so if you want COVID tests and each household is eligible to receive four. Janik said that he sent an email out to all employees and Board members to let them know about the website if you wish to sign up.

Commissioner Wessell added that the website was very easy.

Commissioner Rushton added that the schools now have tests available for the children to take home; they may not have enough yet, but more is coming.

Administrator Janik commented as a veteran of the testing, that it is quite easy to do the testing.

Review of Financials:

Finance Director Jennifer Zywicki present and responded to questions on invoices, the proposed budget amendment and fund transfer. Janik added comments.

Committee Reports, Recommendations, and Resolutions:

None.

Special Reports by Staff, Commissioners, and Affiliated Agencies:

None.

Public Comment:

Keith Ashley; Joan Sue Kelly; and Anne Schlueter.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Soutas-Little thanked Commissioner Robbins for a thoughtful compromise that he proposed and is sure it wasn't easy. She also acknowledged that she did hear Anne Schlueter and thanked her for comments, her passion, and perhaps they could sit down sometime together.
- Commissioner Allgaier thanked Commissioner Robbins. Allgaier continued that she has always asked for a longer moment of silence and she honors each individuals' own personal form of contemplation, prayer – we all define that a little differently and what we are moving to honors everyone's tradition and orientation. She felt so sad about the exclusionary nature of what Commissioners were doing, as there were so many people excluded and now we are including everyone and she feels good about that. She continued with brief comments.

Approval of Financials —

Amendments & Transfers:

*#030-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FY 2022 AMENDMENT #22-001. SECONDED BY WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*#031-01182022 Regular Session*

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FY 2022 FUND TRANSFER #22-001. SECONDED BY WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**



Claims and Accounts:

#032-01182022 Regular Session

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$217,869.36. SECONDED BY WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Post Audit Claims and Accounts:

#033-01182022 Regular Session

**MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE POST AUDIT CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,869,346.10. SECONDED BY WESSELL.**

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Robbins, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell, Allgaier, Bunek)**

**NO – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

Chairman Bunek adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

---

William J. Bunek, Chairman  
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

---

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk  
Clerk, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners