

Supervisors Report, March 2024

I will be submitting the grant request for Congressional Discretionary Spending on the Leland river seawall. In the course of preparing this application, I circled back with Jim Tiffany to get updated numbers and the cost of the project. For the purposes of this application, he is recommending a project total of \$808,000, which includes a \$95,000 contingency and \$79,000 in legal, administrative, engineering, and permitting. This is based on using the sheet piling option and incorporates 2024 construction costs.

I received an email last week about some dumping at Provemont Pond, just over the bank of Popp Road. There are about 40 tires and what looks like a couple of old big tube TVs. The tires are of an older variety and appear to have been stored indoors, probably in someone's barn. I filed a police report and am looking to find someone, possibly YouthWork, who can pull those tires back up the steep bank. I will also have to find a place to dispose of 40 tires, and have been in contact with the county Solid Waste Board about this.

You have all received the notice of the Complaint and Appeal filed with the Circuit Court on the William and Main matter. Plaintiff has appealed the ZBA decision, asking the Circuit Court to overturn it. Plaintiff has also filed a claim for money damages. Because they are asking for monetary damages, we will be covered by our insurance policy. I have forwarded the complaint to Paul Olson of Michigan Par Plan. Tokio Marine, the underwriter, who will assign us an attorney.

I have included in correspondence a letter from Keith Ashley about the use of the Munnecke Room by the St Peters Episcopal Chapel congregation for Sunday morning and Saturday afternoon services in the summer. Mark Morton, who is in charge of scheduling the Munnecke Room, felt that the congregation should be treated like any other community group, so they have been allowed to reserve times ahead. I have had discussions with attorney Catherine Mullhaupt of Michigan Township Association about the situation. Catherine warned about using tax dollars for religious purposes and suggested that the congregation's storage of things like the altar and the organ on Township property would constitute a "gift" to the congregation.. Since my talk with Catherine, the congregation has stopped storing items in the room. It is up to the town board to decide what to do with Keith's complaint after this. Keith has suggested that we adopt a policy for this situation. I suggest that we get some good legal advice about this.

On the topic of policy, I continue to be troubled by the plan to circumvent our procurement policy by splitting up our maintenance needs in order to avoid putting services out to bid. In my casino career, it has often been noted that "all procedures exist because someone figured out a way to cheat without them". By sneaking around our own procedures, we leave ourselves open to accusations of things like steering business towards our friends or soliciting kickbacks. We are also not taking advantage of the free market in asking companies to bid against each other. It is a lot easier to demonstrate openness and transparency as we go than it is to defend oneself

once accused. A major change in our operations should be supported by a comprehensive year round analysis so that we can show our constituents and taxpayers that this is the best use of tax dollars.

There's been an uptick in correspondence about bathrooms in Leland Village since the Bluebird and Early Bird have closed.. We cannot keep the harbor bathrooms open year-round, as they were not designed to operate in freezing weather. There was a proposal to put a Porta John on the north side of the Merc, but that area is all road right away and the plan was nixed by the Road Commision. Paula Alflen at Lelanau Books has asked to be reimbursed for the extra bathroom supplies that she is going through while hosting the only bathroom left in town. Township can only spend money on things that have been authorized by a state law, and I have not found any authorization for using tax dollars to reimburse a business owner for bathroom supplies.

Board of Review opens tomorrow, Monday the 11th. There have only been a few petitions submitted ahead of time. We have the maps and sales study data at the Township office, should anyone be curious as to how our assessed values were determined. Although assessed values have jumped with the real estate market, taxable values can only go up by 5%, or the rate of inflation, as long as the property does not change hands. When property does change hands and the taxable value "pops up", our tax rates get rolled back so that the taxing entities do not enjoy a windfall.

We will need to approve the hazard mitigation plan at Monday's meeting. we are county will file this plan with FEMA, thus enabling us to get disaster relief in the event of a disaster. The report is long, but it makes for some interesting reading. There is also some good demographic data that the plan and commission, parks and rec, and other groups will find useful.

Our new office is directly downwind from the gas station and has pine trees with branches all the way to the ground close to the building on that west side. "Ladder fuel" or pine branches that reach to the ground are a hazard in areas prone to wildfire, since a grass, Fire can easily ignite low hanging branches, and the resulting fire will quickly spread from tree tree into buildings. I will be asking Ken to trim those lower branches on the pine trees, and I would like the board to consider removing the tree that is closest to the building. You can find more information about landscaping for fire prevention at www.firewise.org.