

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Organization Session – Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Approved 04/18/2023

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and can be found at the following link:
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2425#video>

Meeting called to order by County Clerk Michelle L. Crocker at 9:00 a.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Clerk Crocker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:	District #1	Jamie L. Kramer	PRESENT
	#2	James S. O'Rourke	PRESENT
	#3	Douglas G. Rexroat	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5	Kama Ross	PRESENT
	#6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Public Comment:

The following individuals spoke in person: Steve Mikowski and Bill Wiesner.

Written comments and handouts can be found at the following link:
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2425#handouts>

Agenda Additions or Deletions:

None.

Approval of Agenda:

#001-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY ROSS/O'ROURKE.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Action Items:

Election of Chairman, Two-Year Term:

County Clerk Crocker recapped the process as we move forward. Any nomination does require a second. In the event we end up with more than one nomination, then each of the Commissioners will then indicate who their vote is for after nominations are closed.

Crocker declared nominations open.

- Commissioner Allgaier moved to nominate Commissioner Ty Wessell as Chairman for a two-year term. Seconded by Commissioner O'Rourke.

Crocker called for any further nominations. There being none, nominations closed.

Crocker called for the votes on the nominations for Chairman.

#002-01032023 Organizational Session

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Allgaier – YES; Kramer – YES; Lautner – YES; O'Rourke – YES; Rexroat – YES; Ross – YES; Wessell – YES.
AYES – 7 NO – 0**

Chairman/County Clerk Crocker announced that Commissioner Wessell is declared Chairman for the next two years.

County Clerk Crocker called for a brief recess at 9:14 a.m. and turned the meeting over to the new elected Chairman.

Chairman Wessell reconvened the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Vice Chairman:

Chairman Wessell stated that he would use the same procedure as the County Clerk detailed and called for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

- Commissioner O'Rourke nominated Commissioner Lautner for Vice-Chairman.
- Commissioner Allgaier nominated Commissioner Rexroat for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Ross.
- Commissioner O'Rourke asked if his nomination received a second. Chairman Wessell called on Commissioner Lautner and she seconded her nomination.

#003-01032023 Organizational Session

**ROLL CALL VOTE: O'Rourke – LAUTNER; Rexroat – LAUTNER; Ross – REXROAT; Wessell – REXROAT; Allgaier – REXROAT; Kramer – REXROAT; Lautner – LAUTNER.
Lautner received three (3) votes Rexroat received four (4) votes**

Chairman Wessell declared Commissioner Rexroat Vice-Chairman.

2023 Rules of Order and Procedure:

Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2023 Rules of Order and Procedure, page by page, with all Commissioners offering comments.

MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHANGE THE LANGUAGE ON THE AGENDA FROM MOMENT OF PRAYER TO MOMENT OF SILENCE.
SECONDED BY ROSS.

Discussion – Commissioner Lautner commented that by changing it to a moment of silence, what is the purpose other than how it is written – prayer or moment of silence, what is the problem with how it is written. Commissioner Allgaier commented that in most situations it is just listed as a Moment of Silence and people can interpret that however they wish and offered further comments and it doesn't need to be defined and a Moment of Silence is powerful.

Comments continued. Chairman Wessell offered brief comments and won't support the motion. Commissioner Rexroat concurred with Wessell.

Motion and support withdrawn.

Chairman Wessell said he was reading "The Year In Review of 2022" and he wanted to limit the Chairman's ability to edit the agenda alone. He believes that every Commissioner has the right to get something placed on the agenda without being over-ruled by the Chairman. Agenda items should be allowed to be brought forward by any Commissioner and if the group overvotes it – Commissioner O'Rourke would hate to think he doesn't have the right to place items on the agenda.

Discussion ensued on what has occurred, examples given, and discussed.

Chairman Wessell asked if it needs to be in writing or can it be an understanding that: A statement that the Chairman does not have the authority to over-ride the request of a Commissioner to place an item on the agenda.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner O'Rourke stated that this can be an understanding as we are all elected officials and neither the Chairman or Vice-Chairman is going to tell him what he can or cannot put on the agenda.

Commissioner Allgaier feels that it needs to be placed in the rules.

Commissioners were asked and discussed if there was comfort with the understanding that an item will remain on the agenda until voted on at the meeting.

Discussion on public comment regarding the time limit and if there should be topic limitations to agenda items only.

Commissioner O'Rourke commented on page ten and he has spoken with other Commissioners about the members of the public addressing the Commissioners with the five minutes per person. His question would be that it would be rude to say agenda items only until the end of the meeting, but he would like to hear what others think.

Commissioner Allgaier commented that she has heard that discussed also. She has strong belief that Commissioners are elected by the people and these people come to the meeting and are very involved citizens and she commends that. Allgaier continued that she was also out there a long time making those comments from the public and we should be encouraging people to come and it would logistically be difficult to wait until the end of the meeting to comment on other items that are not on the meeting as it is never known when the meeting will be done. It may shorten the Public Comment period by limiting comment to agenda only and she does not believe it is something to do and does not believe the public should be curtailed. The Commissioners work for the public.

Commissioner Lautner commented that Commissioners have the ability to share comments that "we" receive before the meeting for issues that are on the agenda or not on the agenda. She has heard of a lot of organizations that are changing. Lautner continued that by law we only

have to offer one Public Comment and we offer two – unless the law has changed – the first one could be for agenda items only on the Executive as that tends to be the longer meeting. Lautner started to give a scenario, she then said you could have public comment after approval of the agenda relative to agenda only and then at the Regular Session do it whenever you want.

Commissioner Kramer asked where the five minutes came from and the Clerk responded. Kramer said that she has a background in television, radio, and public speaking. Five minutes is a considerable amount of time and there is a past President who said if you give him 15 minutes to speak, it will take him an hour to write the speech. If you give him one minutes or two minutes, it will take a week. It comes down to and she thinks the public could potentially be more concise in their comments if it is limited time that they are speaking.

Commissioner Allgaier commented that that is a good point and the Commissioners could move to three minutes and Commissioner Lautner made some really good points. Allgaier continued with comments.

#004-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MOVE PUBLIC COMMENT TO THREE MINUTES (PER PERSON) FOR ALL MEETINGS. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.

#005-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY ALLGAIER AMENDED TO ALLOW FIVE MINUTES (PER SPEAKER) AT THE END OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. AMENDMENT SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.

Discussion – Commissioner O'Rourke asked if the time can be amended if the Board feels it is important and Chairman Wessell said that yes it can be done and he would ask the Commissioners for support on that question if raised.

Vote on amendment: (last public comment to be up to five minutes per speaker)

#005-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY ALLGAIER AMENDED TO ALLOW FIVE MINUTES (PER SPEAKER) AT THE END OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. AMENDMENT SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.

AYES – 7 (Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell)

NO – 0

AMENDMENT/MOTION CARRIED.

Vote on original motion with amendment now included:

#004-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY ALLGAIER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MOVE PUBLIC COMMENT TO THREE MINUTES (PER PERSON) FOR ALL MEETINGS AND THE SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT ALLOW FOR FIVE MINUTES (PER PERSON). SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O'Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

#006-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O’Rourke)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule:

Clerk asked about a discrepancy on the December dates and they should be reflected as December 12 and 19, instead of December 5 and 12. Discussion ensued about the dates and Christmas and a potential year end meeting, where additional business could take place. Consensus to leave December 2023 as presented.

#007-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Regular Session	Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, May 16, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, June 20, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, July 18, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, August 15, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, September 19, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.
Annual Statutory Meeting	Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. (2 nd Tuesday of Oct.)
Regular Session	Tuesday, November 21, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session	Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. (2 nd Tuesday of Dec.)
Organizational Meeting	Tuesday, January 2, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. (1 st Tuesday of Jan. 2024)
Regular Session	Tuesday, January 16, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board	Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, February 14, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, May 9, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, June 13, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, July 11, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, August 8, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, October 3, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. (1 st Tuesday of Oct.)
Executive Board	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. (1 st Tuesday of Dec.)
Executive Board	Tuesday, January 09, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O’Rourke)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Continuation of Monthly Update from Individual Departments and Agencies:

Chairman Wessell commented that he is going to keep asking, unless there are objections, assuming Commissioners review the presentations in advance, that presentations be kept to five to six minutes, followed by as much discussion as wanted. Wessell commented on the time involvement.

Commissioner Allgaier commented that we have incredible Boards and Commissions that work all year. The County supplies the money and hates the idea that when they appear before the Board that Commissioners are in a hurry. They only come in once a year and she is proud of them and wants to hear what they have to say. To let them know that we have read their information is good, but to say we are giving you five minutes, good luck. She would support at least 10 minutes.

Commissioner Lautner appreciates that sentiment as this is her brain child to have the Departments come before Commissioners. Lautner continued that she believes what the Chairman is trying to avoid is having Commissioners receive a PowerPoint and then have it gone through word by word and it is in the packet. It is also posted for the public. She continued saying that the time can be used to expand on the presentation and ask questions. She continued that if you say five minutes it will be ten or 15 minutes. Letting the presenter know that there is a full agenda and a full day ahead, we have read the presentation what would you like to share and it is a good policy to start with. Brief comments continued and this is an opportunity to put the names and faces together. She would also like full names.

Commissioner Rexroat agrees with Allgaier and doesn't think that limiting their time diminishes the work or appreciation. If there is something that has to be said with further discussion, the Chairman does have the ability to allow the discussion to continue.

Commissioner Ross stated that there are four new Commissioners and the information that is being shared is new to them and would encourage enough time for questions.

Chairman Wessell said it would not have to be a hard and fast rule. He said to encourage presenters to look at the length of the agenda and let the presenters know that all Commissioners have read their provided information in advance so that we can use time wisely.

Administrator Allen will work with Department Heads and presenters to make sure that they have a handout for the Board and will be mindful of the time.

Chairman Wessell added that the presenters need to know that Commissioners really want to hear from them.

Brief comments with Executive Assistant Laurel E. Evans responding from the audience.

Commissioner Appointments to Boards, Commissioners, Committees, and Authorities:

Chairman Wessell said on the possibility he may be the Chairman; he did review the requests and interests of Commissioners over the weekend. This group does need to approve the appointments by the Chairman and Wessell distributed his list. He called for discussion and did try to equalize the assignments and at least one request per person honored and explained what he did. He also said he anticipates that no one will leave here thinking they received

everything that they wanted or did not want. So everyone may leave unhappy. Brief comments continued.

Chairman Wessell noted that last year the Board of Commissioners had a Resolution to change the Dam Authority and although not approved, he would recommend the Leland Township representative, Commissioner Kama Ross, for that position.

Discussion ensued and a few tweaks made. Also, the Finances and Audit is being switched to a Committee of the Whole as managing finances is what the total Commission has a responsibility for.

#008-01032023 Organizational Session

MOTION BY O’ROURKE THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES AND STANDING COMMITTEES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.

9-1-1 Advisory Board	Wessell
BATA (Bay Area Transportation Authority)	Kramer
BLDHD Board of Health	Allgaier & Wessell
BLDHD Board of Health	Wessell
BLDHD Environmental Health Board of Appeals	Rexroat
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	Allgaier
Community Corrections	Rexroat
Networks NW	Rexroat
Land Bank Fast Track Authority	Allgaier
Leelanau Co. Family Coordinating Council	O’Rourke
Northern Lakes Comm. Mental Health Authority	Wessell
NMCAA (Northwest Mi Comm. Action Agency)	Kramer
Northwestern Regional Airport Comm.	O’Rourke
Parks and Recreation Commission	Lautner & Ross
Planning Commission	Lautner
Solid Waste Council	Ross
Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition	O’Rourke & Kramer

Standing Committees:

Boards and Commissions Review	Committee of the Whole
Building & Grounds	Lautner & O’Rourke
Construction Codes Authority/Building Safety	Rexroat
Finance/Audit	Committee of the Whole
Senior Services Advisory	Allgaier & Kramer
Union Negotiations	Wessell & Rexroat (Chair & Vice-Chair)

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (O’Rourke, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Wessell commented that Action Item #6 Commissioner Appointments to Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Authorities and Action Item #7 Commissioner Appointments to Standing Committees were combined.

2023 Goals Discussion:

Administrator Deborah Allen said that before Commissioners she included the 2023 Board goals and the information shared at the Orientation Session. This does not recognize the projects and major goals the Board has voted on to support, such as Mental Health, Broadband, and the room in the lower level. She is aware that Commissioner Lautner did not attend and this is just a start.

Chairman Wessell requested going around the table.

Commissioner Lautner is not a big fan of goals for the Board of Commissioners. Lautner said that “we” all come from different districts and we have all been elected to represent that district as best we can. If a list of goals are adopted, it will be expected to support the goals and she cannot always support goals that are put forward by another Commissioner that represent a different mindset or benefits those that she does not represent, therefore she is not a fan. She thinks it is great to put out there what you want to work on and not vote on it. She referenced Public Comment and if you have one goal – look at providing to constituents the best government at the least cost and concentrate on mandated services and move forward. Lautner said what is most important is fiscal responsibility and there are big things coming up and unless you want to tax our citizens to death in Leelanau County, some of the things are unattainable. Some are obvious as working with the State and to go after as many grant dollars as possible. Lautner continued that services don’t need to be duplicated. The least cost with the best services, and no new millages are her goals.

Commissioner O’Rourke commented to stop the gossip between offices and it should come down to your sixth-grade report card on how you got along with others. Everything Commissioners do, trickles down to others. O’Rourke wants to get up to speed on bringing the Health Department to the Lower Level and talk to them about how much money are they are going to contribute. As a new Board member he is not up to speed and questions why he would want to do this? Why not the Secretary of State? This is a growing County and we will need the space we have. Other than this, this looks good.

Commissioner Rexroat said that some of the items on the list look like common sense, such as trying to get along, act in a unified manner, bathroom breaks and he doesn’t know who could argue with those. Rexroat said as to what is not in the list is priorities and referenced HVAC problem, comments to Broadband, Tower, Health Department, other building problems that he has heard rumors about that affect finances that need to be looked at and referenced costs on the projects. There are some really big problems to take care of before looking at other items and it doesn’t seem responsible to not address other items until holes that need to be filled are done. There needs to be a plan for the mandated items for the citizens and safety issues. They are not bad ideas for discussion, but we have bigger fish to fry.

Commissioner Kramer agrees with Commissioner Rexroat and perhaps amending this list would be something to do. She does disagree with Commissioner Lautner and in the research that Kramer has done about County Government, goals are really important to try and obtain as we

move as one Commission and serve all constituents. Ross thinks the proposed 2023 Board Goals look great if they could be added to or amended.

Commissioner Ross commented in another life she was a facilitator in team building for all sorts of different kinds of groups, whether a church group or a corporation. She spent 11 years of her life making sure that people left the session better equipped to work well together and she encouraged Commissioners to explore possibilities as a new Board with four new members, three veteran members to explore our leadership styles and our understanding of goals and objections. She continued that maybe everyone could educate themselves a little bit more as to how goals serve a body and how agreeing on goals that would then allow our objectives to fall into place and prioritize those. Ross would be totally in favor of exploring that option so that Commissioners start the new year with the understanding that goals are important and they are important to the citizens that are represented.

Commissioner Allgaier commented that this is a good list. The workforce/affordable housing, we need to find a funding source without taxing our citizens and there is a lot of work to be done on this and she offered suggestions for funding. Allgaier said that when she has attended sessions at conference and people from all over the country are dealing with this. This is an issue all over the nation, especially in tourist dominated counties. People have put in a sales tax on sale of the home, some have put in a millage – which she doesn't support. There are corrective ways to do and focused on a funding source that does not come from citizens on a tax bill. There has been talk for a long time about a wage study and she believes that needs to be acted on. Allgaier said that her District still needs Broadband and there needs to be funding to finish the project. Allgaier commented on the Regional initiatives that need to be supported that are not ours alone, such as the regional issue and referenced the Judge [Kromkowski] and others attending meetings, Community Mental Health needs solutions and she doesn't know what the County's role will be and we need to be aware. The Environment Health has been talked about in the lower level for over a year, so it is a good thing to get on board with and find out why. It is beautiful, expensive undeveloped space and it is expensive to be storing canoes and bikes in the area. It would be a good move for the citizens if they have to go to the Conservation District, Construction Codes, and Environmental Health all in one trip.

Commissioner Wessell commented that he agrees that the Juvenile Detention needs that the Court is having problems with. It cannot be done locally, but regionally and we need to find a solution to that as there is no place to put juveniles that need to be detained. We need to agree that we must work with our partners on that. He likes the rest of the goals. Wessell said his goals are spelled out in the *Leelanau Ticker* – Wessell read from the article.

Chairman Wessell referred to Administrator Allen regarding her goals. Allen commented that it was talked about earlier, everything that we need to know we learned in Kindergarten about being honest and forthright. She referenced a poem she subscribes to in listening to people and to be kind. She referenced that her document was more personal as she recognizes it is up to Commissioners.

Commissioner Allgaier talked about a lot of grants out there and to develop a plan, so that we can access some of the money. Allgaier said that Allen is only one person and what would she need. Allen responded that she would like a grant time-line, so that we know the timeline and

objectives. She said that she would work with Planning Director Trudy Galla and the Department Heads on that. Allen offered additional comments.

Commissioner Ross would like to reiterate that people need to look at the definition of what goal setting means and she does not think that Commissioners are even on agreement as to what we are discussing. Ross further explained goals, she believes in goals, it would make everyone better Commissioners and a better Board.

Commissioner Allgaier suggested a special meeting to discuss goals. She supports not doing it today.

Commissioner Lautner commented right up at the beginning we have to create a cohesive Board staff and she is disappointed with what she is hearing. Lautner continued that she does not want people to assume that people don't understand what goals are and the damage that they can do. Lautner said it would behoove all of the new Commissioners to find out what we are already doing on this great wish list. She continued with comments and what is in place. Lautner continued that to make a Board of Commissioners, seven different districts, seven different personalities is unfair. She thinks that it would be unfair to have to vote no on all goals if you disagree on one and it would cause division. She suggested again that the new Commissioners find out what we are doing and when there is an issue, bring it up. She said the best statement on goals, is that our jobs?

Commissioner Kramer said that the new Commissioners need to get up to speed before establishing goals, but establishing goals for all of us is good. There may be all different ways to go about it. It is pivotal for the Commissioners and the County at-large to have goals.

Commissioner Rexroat said that the idea of trying to work together and have mutual respect, sometimes puts people in different spots. Rexroat said that our statutory requirement is to listen to our constituents and do the best for them. Some of this involves cost benefit analysis. Rexroat continued with comments. He sides with let's work together and get along and work on the reason for wanting things. Does it serve the citizens and if there is citizen support it should work out.

Commissioner Allgaier commented, how about if we give our newer Commissioners, this month to familiarize themselves with the issues and set a February meeting for goals and not put it off too long.

Comments continued to be offered.

Chairman Wessell commented that we could have Goals added to the Executive Committee meeting and see if a Special Session is needed – if we could agree that that would be needed.

Commissioner O'Rourke commented that the work is already out there and we have a lot on our plate. He has been to (Board of Commissioners') meetings and you people have meetings that are unbelievable. He hates Special meetings. We have items on the agenda and the goal is to do the best you can. O'Rourke said one thing he has learned in government over 20 years is things take time and he doesn't need a special meeting to tell him what goals are out there.

Commissioner Ross commented that we need to state goals out loud and agree on them. Ross said it again and what we need is Commissioner Lautner's 25 years of experience to help us shape those goals and we need Commissioner Kramer's fresh exposure to County Government to adequately represent everyone in our County. There are four new people on this Board, let's come to an agreement that we believe in these things together and then we can work on the details. Ross said that she hates to be divided on goals from the very beginning, but will support doing whatever it takes to get this going forward.

Commissioner Kramer said being in a business world, you start with a business plan. It doesn't mean it will always go to the T where you thought it would. There will be side steps and pivots. It is about Commissioners working together as a team and cohesively trying to accomplish those things. There will be pivots and changes and everyone brings something to the table -- we outline it, talk about it, and get outside of our own individual heads and come together to discuss would be a great accomplishment.

Commissioner Lautner commented about working cohesively, yet we have people pushing for us to have goals, so she suggests why doesn't everyone come forward for their two years and if you choose to share it, we will all know what your goals are. Lautner continued that we could all bring our goals that all seven of us agree on would be the goals and if there is even one objection by anyone, it would not make the list. Otherwise you will have division. Lautner continued that we don't need to be patronizing on how Townships work. Lautner said you don't need to set a date a month out – it may take a couple of months. Lautner continued that she would only agree to goals if all seven agree on each goal. She commented on ruining the last available space in the Government Center that needs to be maintained for future growth.

Brief comments continued on topic with Chairman Wessell.

Commissioner Wessell said that if you can move forward with the goals he stated in the ticker. Anytime a Commissioner requests that goals be placed on the agenda, it will. He continued that Commissioners are probably running out of new things to say this morning.

Commissioner Allgaier would like to see this on the agenda and she would like to see this resolved earlier in the year, than later, knowing that everyone is working for the constituents. As far as unanimous --- she glad we had the initial discussion.

Chairman Wessell said there will need to be a Special Session next week after the Executive Session to handle the Solon Township Recycling. Commissioner O'Rourke said that Special Sessions should be handled for major items that need to be handled immediately.

Public Comment:

The following individual(s) offered public comment in person: Steve Mikowski.

Written comments and handouts can be found at the following link:

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2425#handouts>

Administrator Deborah Allen commented that she has heard all Commissioners and does have a list of key priorities that have happened over the years and that they will continue to work on. With the new Committee structure, there is a process in place for the feedback for goals and

how that will come to the Board. She asked please do not be distraught that there isn't a process for goals and to move things forward. Comments continued and Allen reviewed her personal goals.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Allgaier wanted to address the concerns of Mr. Mikowski regarding using taxpayer dollars for broadband. The LIFT (Leelanau Internet Futures Team) Committee is working hard on getting funding from elsewhere to fund the Broadband and they are not talking about taxing people. There is money available at the State level that will be coming.
- Commissioner Lautner commented that it is obvious that all of the money is taxpayer money, unless it is given privately. They have used the largest amount of ARPA; however it is all taxpayer dollars and will eventually come out of our pockets.
- Commissioner Kramer said she wanted to ask a pretty naive question and asked Commissioner Lautner or one of the other Commissioners who would like to answer -- if we don't utilize those allocated funds, where would they go?

Commissioner Allgaier responded that they would go to other entities, who will utilize them. We have already paid that money and we would be saying oh no, we won't use it and we will let others use them.

- Commissioner Rexroat stated that he agrees with Commissioner Allgaier that someone else will use them; however, we haven't paid yet and it will be our children and grandchildren that will pay the money.
- Chairman Wessell thanked Commissioners for the privilege and honor of serving as the Chairman. Wessell continued that he is always open to questions, concerns, criticism, or advice and he wished all a Happy New Year.

Adjourn:

#009-01032023 Organizational Session

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURN. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m. by Chairman Wessell.

Ty Wessell, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk
Clerk-Leelanau County Board of Commissioner