

LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 9, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
Leland Township Library, Munnecke Room
203 E. Cedar Street, Leland, MI 49654

MINUTES

PRESENT: Supervisor Clint Mitchell, Clerk Lisa Brookfield, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Trustee Steve Scales, Trustee Mariann Kirch.

GUESTS: 15

CALL TO ORDER: Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Edits to the agenda: In Action Item #5: 5a, 5b, and 5d; change the year to 2025. Add item #10, Fund balance minimum equity transfer.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 11, 2024 (Regular Meeting): Garthe moved to approve the minutes of November 11, 2024 as presented; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. 5,0

November 11, 2024 (Public Hearing): Edit: 3 instances of the misspelling of Jozwiak. Garthe moved to approve the minutes of November 11, 2024 as presented and amended; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. 5,0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Schubert - Her comment was in regard to the Sunset Shores project. Some residents submitted a letter about the awarding of bids on the project. There is still not a final cost of the project as it relates to the property values. Schubert cited their concerns. She encouraged the Board to reassess the situation as it will be challenged.

Keith Ashley - He noted that he had requested at the last meeting that there would be discussion at this meeting about payment made to Mariann Kirch for the Township building sign. He gave reasons why the payment for the sign should be rescinded and he gave a document to the Board members outlining those reasons.

Steve Mikowski - Mr. Mikowski presented his request to hold a referendum vote on the Leland Township Zoning Ordinance 96-1. This is the 339th month this request has been made. He also asked the Board to correct a longstanding error denying a 17 ½ inch side yard setback variance. This request has been made since 1983 at Planning and Township meetings.

Tom Deye – He expressed his opinion that the speed limit on M22 from 204 to Leland should be 35mph. He also asked the Board to work on getting a street lamp installed at M22 and 204 as soon as possible.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – Reports are online and on file at the Leland Township Office.

Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

Chief Besson reported on calls for the month. He commented on employee training during the month. He reported on the inspection of the vehicles and activities for community involvement.

Planning/Zoning, Tim Cypher

The Zoning summary report is in the Board book. There was no meeting this month.

Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

There was a 11% growth this last season. The Harbor received a prestigious award. The de-icing equipment is ready.

Sewer, Steve Patmore

It was noted that the system is taking in more affluent than usual according to the records. Patmore and Gawrysiak are investigating the cause. It may be a pump or infiltration. It is not coming from the river crossing or the Harbor. The work has been hampered by the weather and clean outs. The lagoon level and the phosphorous levels are good. There have been some power outages but our generators have been working. The inspection from MI EGLE went well. The Thompson Street pump will be replaced. The influent manhole replacement project is ongoing. The Asset Management software has been ordered.

Parks & Rec

No meeting this month.

County Commission,

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Garthe reported on income and expenses for the last month. Taxes are coming in. Everyone should have received their tax bill by December 1.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; supported by M. Kirch. Motion carried. 5,0

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Mitchell reported that he has met with staff and heads of committees and commissions. He also reported that he and Brookfield met with the firefighters. He has received applications for the Planning Commission and the ZBA, and a resignation from the Board of Review. With trustee's Scales election, we currently have an opening on the Sewer Commission and can also add members to the Parks and Rec committee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution R-24-13 Sunset Shores amendment to R-17-18 Establishing SAD.

The cost of production has been established. Bond insurance costs will be included.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve Resolution R-24-13, an amendment to R-17-18, establishing the SAD; supported by Scales.

VOICE ROLL CALL: (not necessarily called in this order)

Supervisor Clint Mitchell: Yes

Clerk Lisa Brookfield: Yes

Treasurer Shirley Garthe: Yes

Trustee Steve Scales: Yes

Trustee Mariann Kirch: Yes Motion carried. 5 in favor, 0 opposed

2. Award bids for Sunset Shores Project

A document of bids received for 3 parts of the project was distributed to Board members.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to award the bid for the force main portion of the project to AJ's Excavating for \$268,950.50; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0

ACTION: Brookfield moved to award the bid for the drain field portion of the project to Team Elmer's for \$318,795.50; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0

ACTION: Brookfield moved to award the bid for Secondary treatment portion of the project to Pump Service for \$158,114.00; supported by Scales. Motion carried. 5,0

3. Set date for Public Hearing on the Sunset Shores Roll, January 13, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to set the date for the public hearing on the Sunset Shores Roll on January 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0

The meeting will begin one hour prior to the regular Board meeting.

4. Request street light for the intersection of M-22 and M-204.

We need to decide what type of lighting we want. A handout of types was distributed to the Board. It will be installed on the west side of M22. We would want the least amount of light and still provide safety. It was suggested that it may be able to be installed on the existing light pole. We should ask what has been done in similar situations. Brookfield will take the lead on this.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to table the item until the next meeting in order to get more information; supported by Kirch. Motion carried. 5,0

5. Appointments

- a. **ACTION:** Garthe moved to appoint Mariann Kirch as Board representative to the Parks and Rec committee, term ending December, 2025; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. 5,0
- b. **ACTION:** Garthe moved to appoint Steve Scales as Board Representative to the Planning Commission for a 1-year term ending December, 2025; supported by Kirch. Motion carried. 5,0
- c. **ACTION:** Garthe moved to appoint Lisa Brookfield as Board Representative to the Harbor Commission for 1 year, term ending December, 2025; supported by Scales. Motion carried. 5,0
- d. **ACTION:** Mitchell moved to appoint Shirley Garthe as Board Representative to the Sewer Commission, term ending December, 2025; supported by Scales. Motion carried. 5,0
- e. **ACTION:** Brookfield moved to appoint John Stimson, Sandra Reardon, and James Blair as Board of Review commissioners for terms ending December, 2027; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0
- f. **ACTION:** Garthe moved to appoint Sam Simpson to the Planning Commission for a 1-year term ending December, 2025; supported by Scales. Motion carried. 5,0
- g. **ACTION:** Brookfield moved to appoint Jim Carpenter to the ZBA for a 3-year term, ending December, 2027; supported by Kirch. Motion carried. 5,0

6. Request to use Hancock Field for the ice rink – Jeff Keen

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve Jeff Keen’s request for use of Hancock Field for an ice rink; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0

7. Authorize Supervisor Mitchell and Clerk Brookfield to negotiate on behalf of the Township on a collective bargaining agreement with firefighters.

ACTION: Kirch moved to authorize Supervisor Mitchell and Clerk Brookfield to negotiate on behalf of the Township on a collective bargaining agreement with the firefighters; supported by Scales. Motion carried. 5,0

8. Contract with Karan Kienbaum for CBA legal review.

Karan Kienbaum’s engagement letter was distributed to the Board members. This law firm was used in the last negotiation.

ACTION: Scales moved to contract with Karan Kienbaum Law for CBA legal review; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. 5,0

9. Authorize Supervisor to negotiate terms for long-term lease with MDNR for the Carp River Park.

Mitchell has conferred with Stephanie Rosinski of the DNR and explored the options.

ACTION: Scales moved to authorize the Supervisor to negotiate terms for a long-term lease with the MDNR for the Carp River Park; supported by Kirch.

DISCUSSION: Mitchell will get the general terms and bring them back to the Board for review.

Motion carried. 5.0

10. Fund Balance Minimum Equity Policy

It has been the policy to keep \$50,000 in reserve for emergency situations.

ACTION: Garthe moved to move \$50,000 from the 101 general fund to the capital improvement fund; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. 5,0

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS – None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The bills and accounts lists were distributed to Board members. Brookfield reviewed the payment of bills. There was nothing unusual for the month.

ACTION: Brookfield moved for payment of bills from November 12, 2024 to December 9, 2024; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. 5,0

CORRESPONDENCE

- Brookfield shared the letter from Thomas Pezzetti Law Firm. It is in the Board books.
- Also, a notification was received from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity about sick pay for part-time employees. Brookfield will be reviewing the employee handbook and noting needed changes. She will bring those changes to the Board for review.

BOARD COMMENT - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Ashley – He congratulated Mitchell and Scales for their election to the Board. He reiterated his request to rescind payment for the sign. He further expressed his opinion that the Township would benefit from a Facilities committee which could handle such things as the sign in the Township.

Cal Little – He commented on the dock situation in the river. Previously the dock did not meet the land on an even basis. He requested that the dock be built to come in as close as possible.

Steve Mikowski – He has been taping Board meetings for 35 years. He stated that the Supervisor has very little authority to make executive decisions. He spoke about how local government should operate.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Garthe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. 5,0

The next meeting is January 13, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Clint Mitchell, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk