

LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 10, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Leland Township Library, Munnecke Room

203 E. Cedar Street, Leland, MI 49654

MINUTES

Quorum Present

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

GUESTS: 18

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mitchell moved to approve the agenda as presented; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 13, 2024 (Regular Meeting): Mitchell requested 2 corrections in wording in Item #6.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2024 as presented and amended; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

May 21, 2024 (Special Meeting): Brookfield moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024 as presented; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Albert – He commented on the removal of the dock at the DNR launch in Leland. The dock has been a memory maker for those who come to Leland by boat. He misses being able to visit Leland by boat. He owns the Boathouse at the Narrows and many of the boaters that come there by boat are on their way to Leland. 10-12 years ago, the dock in the Narrows was renovated and it is beautiful. He would like that for the dock in Leland.

Char Lombardo – Her comment was about the Reynolds Street public beach access and the related agreement of neighbors and the Township concerning public access. She feels the Township gave control of the area to private residents. She has joined a group. Money has been raised by the group.

More barriers have been put up on the north side. She is requesting that the violations of the agreement (barriers) be removed. The lack of action of the Board shows that the Board has decided not to enforce the agreement. She feels the Board needs to remove the obstructions and they should do this for all the taxpayers and visitors.

Fran Eckerson – She is commenting as an advocate for the early childhood millage. The last millage was in 2019. This is a renewal that does not ask for additional funds. There are currently 400 kids benefiting from early childhood development. She read aloud the proposal from the ballot and gave comment.

Heidi Weckwert – She commented that the Reynolds beach agreement is crystal clear. The new property owner has put up a snow fence, a sign, and a spotlight on the public access pole. She

believes the Board is bound by the agreement. She stated the Board should act immediately. She presented a written comment for the record.

Maude Babbington – She commented on the Reynolds Street lake access. Currently, a resident adjacent to the access put up fencing 8 feet into the public access. It has shrunk the lake access from 60 feet to 52 feet. She believes it is time for the Board to act. She mentioned an email from Bob Schlueter. She wants the Board to remove the fences, the light fixture, and the sign.

Steve Mikowski - Mr. Mikowski presented his request to hold a referendum vote on the Leland Township Zoning Ordinance 96-1. This is the 333rd month this request has been made since July 1996. 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.

Shep Burr – He concurs with previous comments on the Reynolds Street lake access. He wants the Board to make sure the borders don't trespass on the property owner or the public assess. He also mentioned problems his mother has had with her property by Van's Beach. His mother has been threatened, and trash has been left on her beach property.

Mariann Kirch – She had a written response to a public comment made at the May 13, 2024 meeting. Copies of her response were left at the meeting for the public. A copy is also on file at the Leland office.

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

Fire & Rescue, Chief Dan Besson

It has been a busy month. There were 39 calls for service. He reported that 92% of the time there are 3 or more employees on duty. That does not include himself or the Deputy Chief. He cited some maintenance and repair to equipment (see report). A position for a life guard was posted. He has been working with the people on the Lake Leelanau Station easement. Water, ice and snow fall off the roof of the Leland station onto the sidewalk. They have taken care of the problem. Congratulations to Tim Eggert, who is retiring from the Fire Department. A college internship has started. He reviewed changes in the roster and firefighter training (see report).

In response to a question, new smoke alarm batteries are good for 10 years.

Planning/Zoning, Tim Cypher

Mitchell reported that zoning about helicopter landing sites was discussed. They approved a landscaping waiver for the Bluebird property.

Harbor, Jeremy Anderson

They are all cleaned up for the busy tourist season. The outdoor cooking area has been renovated. All the Harbor employees are back. Fuel sales have been steady. July and August have been booked.

Sewer, Steve Patmore

Things are going well. Inflows are a little higher with the new meter. The lagoon level is at 9.8 feet, which is good. There has been a new emphasis on regular cleaning of the biofilters and clarifier which has been working well. The new vent pipe at the Harbor was installed. There is a list of anticipated projects in the report.

Parks & Rec

Och reported that the docks are in and Ken Hagstrom is working hard to mow and clean up debris in the parks. They are looking for a couple of lifeguards. They will be ticketing boats that are left docked overnight.

County Commission, Kama Ross

Absent – no report

TREASURER’S REPORT

Garthe reported on income and expenses for the last month. She explained some income and it was business as usual in the general funds.

ACTION: Mitchell moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT – Report to be provided.

Och reviewed her email conversations with Jordan Byelich. The DNR is not interested in a land swap but a lease would be considered.

The Fire Department is being reassessed as they have had some improvements.

The Board is waiting on bids for Phase 2 of the sidewalk project.

The results of the Parks & Rec survey are being put in final form and will be distributed to the Board. Brookfield asked for a copy of the raw data.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Leelanau Community Cultural Center Artists Market and Cedar Street closure July 13 & 14, 2024.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the Leelanau Community Cultural Center Artists Market and Cedar Street closure for July 13 & 14, 2024; supported by Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

2. Approval of MTA membership dues totaling \$7,538.

ACTION: Garthe moved to approve MTA membership dues totaling \$7,538.00; supported by Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

3. Approval of the Cherry Capital Cycling Club request to use Suelzer Park on September 21, 2024.

ACTION: Garthe moved to approve the Cherry Capital Cycling Club request to use Suelzer Park on September 21, 2024; supported by Kirch. Motion carried. (5,0)

4. Approval of letter to property owners abutting Reynolds Street road-end.

Mitchell has drafted a letter to the property owners on the north side of the Reynolds Street public access. It was suggested that a copy of the agreement be sent with the letter. Some edits to the letter were noted. Also, the letter doesn't mention the spotlight on the pole. Mitchell stated that letter addresses the agreement and the spotlight is a matter with the homeowner. After the suggested edits are done, the letter should be reviewed by the attorney. Tim Cypher has recused himself from this matter.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the draft letter with edits and having the attorney review it prior to sending it out to the property owners abutting the Reynolds Street road end; supported by Kirch. Motion carried. (5,0)

5. Authorize legal review of the contract with NPS Department of Interior for Leland Township Harbor dock space.

This was discussed at a special meeting. The Harbor would like more compensation for the dock space used by NPS Department of Interior. Also, the NPS is using parking space that is not specified in the agreement. The Board and the Harbor would like legal review of the contract.

ACTION: Mitchell moved to authorize legal review of the contract with NPS Department of Interior for Leland Township Harbor dock space with legal expenses divided evenly between the Harbor and the Township; supported by Kirch. Motion carried. (5,0)

6. Report on needed repairs to the exterior of the public restroom, authorize Supervisor to draft revised RFP.

A report on the needed repairs was prepared by Justin Acker. He found that a sleeve cap was not originally installed and caused the water damage. He prescribed removing the railing and installing the proper sleeve cap and then repair the damage. A revised RFP will be done for Board approval in July.

ACTION: Mitchell moved to authorize the Supervisor to draft a revised RFP on the needed repairs to the exterior of the public restroom at the Harbor; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

7. Request from Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) to add a trail cam to the boat washing station at Suelzer Park.

There is a boat washing station at Suelzer Park. The LLLA wants to install a trail cam to see how much the station is being used and then determine how it should be staffed for

various activities. Concern was expressed about the angle of the camera lens and how much other activity would be recorded. Violation of people's privacy is a concern. The representative from the LLLA replied that the extent of camera coverage could be a condition of the permission. Board members were not in favor of putting cameras in public places. There are cameras in other parts of the state and at the Harbor, but those are public entities filming public activity. This would be a private entity (LLLA) filming public activity. The Board questioned if there was an alternative way for counting the station use that is less invasive.

No action was taken on this issue.

8. Approval of 211 Main Street attorneys' recommendation to agree to a stay on the civil matter while the ZBA appeal case proceeds.

ACTION: Mitchell moved to approve the 211 Main Street attorneys' recommendation to agree to a stay on the civil matter while the ZBA appeal case proceeds; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

9. BCBS renewal for 2024-25 medical insurance coverage,

A chart of the current rates was distributed to the Board members.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to approve the BCBS renewal of medical insurance coverage for 2024-25 for Township employees and officials, supported by Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

10. Reappoint Jon Stimson to Board of Review for term ending January 2026.

ACTION: Brookfield moved to reappoint Jon Stimson to Board of Review for term ending January 2026; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

11. Reappoint Mark Smith to Board of Review for term ending January 2026.

ACTION: Garthe moved to reappoint Mark Smith to Board of Review for term ending January 2026; supported by Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

12. Reappoint Sandy Reardon to Board of Review for term ending January 2026.

ACTION: Garthe moved to reappoint Sandy Reardon to Board of Review for term ending January 2026; supported by Mitchell. Motion carried. (5,0)

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS - None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The bills and accounts lists were distributed to Board members. There was nothing unusual for the month. It was business as usual in the general fund. There were expenses in dredging, sewer operation and sewer improvement.

ACTION: Brookfield moved for payment of bills from May 14, 2024 to June 10, 2024 supported by Garthe. Motion carried. (5,0)

CORRESPONDENCE

- There was a LLLA confirmation that the LLLA would hold the Township harmless in the activities at the boat wash station at Suelzer Park.

BOARD COMMENT

- Och thanked the Board for approving the MTA dues.
- Brookfield noted that there is a website about the DNR dock removal that cites names and phone numbers of Township officials as points of contact. The website is not Board approved and needs to be shut down.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public comment by letter was received by the Township Office from Maude Babbington, Char Lambardo, Bob Schlueter, and Heidi Weckwert concerning the Reynolds Street public access.
- Doug Julien – He questioned why the fences parallel to the lakeshore would be removed and not the rest of them. This agreement did not last 3 years without being violated. This is a civil matter and does not need law enforcement to remove the fences. Any Leland employee can do it.
- Kathy Dawkins – She stated that there is a citizen group who are meeting about the dock removal. They did talk about creating a website. She will check into it. The website was not to be put up until Dawkins had reviewed it. Brookfield will talk to Dawkins about the proper way to do this

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.; supported by Brookfield. Motion carried. (5,0)

The next meeting is July 15, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk