

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Chris Comeaux called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Board members present: Supervisor Chris Comeaux, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Trustee Kelly Claar and Trustee Steve Morgan.

Guests present: Mark Polinko, Dale Gauthier, Shaun Mikowski, Judy Janosik, Charlie Smith, Karen Smith, Lora Boone-Bruckner, Cindy Gale, Andy Gale, Lisa Brett, Rick Brett, Douglas LaForest, Milo LaForest, Pam Novak, Kimberly Ritchi, Scott Collins, Catherine Collins, Dan Lynch and Mary Taylor.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Morgan to approve the agenda with an addition under New Business: C. Northwest Education Services and moving A. Cedar Chamber of Commerce/Property Leases/Polka Fest from New Business to item 8 and moving all agenda items down one number and adding under 10. Unfinished Business: B. Parks 3. Cedar River. Take off the agenda under Unfinished Business 1. Well/B&Z Well Drilling. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the November 14, 2024 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comment

Lisa Brett, Executive Director of the Cedar Polka Fest read the following (see attached).

Cindy Gale is a Cedar business owner and welcomed the new board members. Ms. Gale noted that the committee has worked with the board before and is hoping we can have a great partnership. She realizes that a dollar fee is not enough to lease the property, but is hoping that what the board decides will be fair and equitable for everyone.

6. Correspondence

- Received correspondence from the Lake Leelanau Lake Association asking for a donation.
- Received a Thanksgiving Card from Fleis&Vandenbrink.

7. Treasurer's Report/Authorization for Payment of Vouchers:

Huntington Bank Checking \$77,656.11, ARPA Funds included in checking: \$9,000.66, Available in Checking Account: \$68,655.45, Huntington Bank General Savings \$33,793.57, Huntington Bank General Savings CD (Renewed @ 3.55%) \$106,716.05, Huntington Bank General Savings CD (@ 3.55%) \$52,161.94, Total General Savings \$192,671.56, Total Funds Available: \$261,327.01, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund (2049) \$10,401.03, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund CD (@ 3.55%) \$5,120.12, Total Road Improvement Fund \$15,521.15, Huntington Fire Fund Savings (2023) \$11,247.90, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD (Renewed @ 4.2%) \$64,197.00, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD (Renewed @ 3.55%) \$47,791.43, Total Fire Sinking \$123,236.33, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund (2036) \$11,642.53, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund (Renewed @ 3.55%) \$8,307.84, Total Sidewalk Fund \$19,950.37, Total other Township Funds Available: \$158,707.85. Total Current

Assets: \$420,034.86, Non-Township Funds, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project (7383) \$10,057.83, Huntington Bank Cedar River CD (Renewed @ 3.55%) \$15,153.68, Total Cedar River \$25,211.51, Parks and Recreation \$6,073.95, Huntington Bank CD (Renewed @ 3.55%) \$10,216.19, Total Parks and Recreation Fund \$16,290.14. Voucher #'s 15735-15758 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Morgan and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

8. New Business:

A. Cedar Chamber of Commerce/Property Leases/Polka Fest

Chris Comeaux said this is a very difficult topic to discuss with this being his first meeting as supervisor. Chris has been in contact with MTA and the township attorney discussing the proposed Property Lease Agreement with the Cedar Chamber of Commerce doing business as the Cedar Polka Fest for the use of the tennis courts. The Cedar Polka Fest uses the tennis courts sometimes for up to eleven days or more, and for the past several years has paid \$1.00 for the use. The township attorney drew up a lease agreement in June for the use in 2024 for \$450.00 per day for eleven days and still stands behind that. The township board held a special meeting in June, and at that time, approved to keep the lease amount to \$1.00 under the condition that the township would be increasing the fee. Chris proposed to charge a flat fee of \$1,000.00. Steve Morgan proposed \$225.00 per day for eleven days because the township still needs to update the Park Ordinance and establish a fee structure for the township properties. The stipulation is if the tennis courts are used more than eleven days, they would pay \$225.00 for each additional day, and if it is fewer days, the days would be deducted. The Chamber of Commerce will need to pay the full amount before the event. Chris also noted that the township will be working on the Parks Ordinance and developing a fee structure for the use of the township properties. After a long discussion, the township board was in agreement and there were enough Chamber board members present who were also in agreement. This agreement is only for the use of the tennis courts. There are several other lease agreements that will need to be approved at a later date. Motion by Steve Morgan and seconded by Kelly Claar to approve the Property Lease Agreement with the Cedar Chamber of Commerce doing business as the Cedar Polka Fest for the use of the tennis courts for the Cedar Polka Fest from August 16, 2024 – August 27, 2024 for the amount of \$2,475.00 with the stipulation that the amount will be adjusted pending on when the use begins. Motion carried 5-0.

Chris will have the township attorney draw up a new lease agreement.

9. Committee Reports:

Steve Morgan reported that he cancelled the December Planning Commission meeting because they were short members with Todd Yeoman's resignation and Steve Yoder was no longer on the township board.

Mary Taylor reported the Parks and Recreation Committee did not meet in November because three of the five board members were out of town. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. They will meet at the Solon Township Hall.

- Mary brought up the fact that the uses of the township properties are different and need to be treated as such when charging a fee.
- The approved Policy and Procedures have been put into place which changes the appointment of committee members so now their terms will be staggered.
- Mary asked when there are concerns regarding the parks the Parks Committee be notified.

Steve Morgan asked about the progress of the Parks Ordinance. A copy of the Parks Ordinance that was approved in 2008 has been found. It is a well written ordinance that needs to be updated. The Parks Committee will be working with the Planning Commission to update it.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

1. Well/B&Z Well Drilling

Take off the agenda.

2. Wall Repair

Waiting for LRM to start the project.

3. Township Office

Waiting on Leelanau Construction to start the project.

B. Parks

1. Fence

The fence is on hold until spring.

2. Vlack's Park

a. Forester Management Plan

Kelly Claar shared her concerns with the proposed Forester Management Plan from Deering's Tree Service. The proposed plan is only a timber harvest; not a Forester Management Plan. There is more to consider than just clear cutting, but to manage the area. Kelly is going to speak with the Conservation District Forester. There are two other Foresters Kelly will check with and she will have more information for the board at the next meeting.

Joan Gauthier asked about the logs that were put down to be used for jumps in Vlack's Park. Kelly said she gave Dale Gauthier her camera to place in the park. Dale is waiting to after deer season.

Kelly asked about the plans for the cement pillars that Pat Deering proposed. Shirley Mikowski will check with Pat.

3. Cedar River

Joan Gauthier said the weeping willows by the Cedar River need to be trimmed and Dale Gauthier contacted Josh Deering from Deering's Tree Service. They gave an estimate of \$1,500.00 and they can do the work this winter. Joan also noted the benches need to be replaced. This will be discussed at budget time.

Ray Pleva contacted Chris Comeaux and asked for the board's continued support of the Cedar River Project with the main priority of getting public bathrooms by the river.

Shirley Mikowski will contact Schaub Outdoor to make sure they will be plowing by the river and the township hall.

C. Fire Department

Chris Comeaux gave the following report:

- The union contract is almost done; there is just one more sentence that has to be approved by the union to ratify this contract. The increases in this contract reflect comparing the neighboring fire departments and will red line our budget. This should not cause a millage increase. This is a fair contract and one that is going to still draw firefighters to our department. This is one of the best fire departments in the county.
- Elmwood Township Supervisor has opened up discussion about Elmwood Township joining our fire department. Their budget is identical to our township's budget.
- The department is slightly under budget.
- They have an exploratory committee for the financial aspect and the location for a second station.

1. Interlocal Agreement

Chris Comeaux said the four township supervisors are scheduled to meet on December 17, 2024 to discuss the Interlocal Agreement.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

There was no report.

2. Navigable Cedar River

Joan Gauthier said the Cedar River Committee are still meeting and working on gathering facts of why the Cedar River needs to be navigable and they have reached out to Anthony Kendall from Michigan State University and others for their advice. There is still much more work to do.

E. Cemetery

The cemetery is on hold until spring.

F. Bunting's/Road

Joan Gauthier said it will cost the township \$30,000.00 to repair the road behind Bunting's. Per Brendan Mullane that is not a county road. The county is meeting January 8, 2025 and will need to know by December 27, 2024 if the township will pay the \$30,000.00 to repair that road. Chris Comeaux said he will contact the county.

G. Park Ordinance

See under 9. Committee Reports.

H. Sewer System Proposals

Steve Yoder said he would forward the information to the township board regarding the company he has been working with to get a sewer system proposal. Chris Comeaux will follow up with Steve Yoder.

I. Alley

Joan Gauthier said the alley is still a problem, not on the Kasson Street entry, but on the Nelson Street entry. There can be two to three vehicles blocking the alley at a time. Joan has talked to Mary Patterson, an officer from the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department previously, but now she has not been responsive. Joan did get a response from Brendan Mullane from the Leelanau County Road Commission and found they do not certify the alley so they have no jurisdiction over it. It is platted and should be treated as a "public" access. The authority to place signs and issue fines would be at the township level. The Road Commission is willing to install the signs. The township will have to cover the cost of the signs, the labor and provide the proper language for the signs. Mr. Mullane provided an estimated cost of \$500.00-\$1,500.00 depending on the number of signs and language. Steve Morgan said he would contact Mary Patterson.

J. Polka Fest Committee/Meeting

This was discussed under 8. Cedar Chamber of Commerce/Property Leases/Polka Fest.

K. Short Term Rentals

Christina Deeren/ZA could not be there because of the weather. This will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting.

L. Appointments

Motion by Chris Comeaux and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to appoint Steve Yoder and Edie Glynn to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending 12/31/2027. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Chris Comeaux and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to appoint Mary Taylor, Kim Smith, Melinda Lautner and Kelly Claar to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a one year term ending 12/31/2025. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary Taylor reminded the township board that the approved Parks and Recreation Committee Policy, Guidelines and Descriptions states the parks committee terms will be staggered.

Motion by Chris Comeaux and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to appoint Rich Nachazel as Sexton for one year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Chris Comeaux and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to appoint Steve Morgan as the board representative to the Planning Commission with the term ending 11/20/2028. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Chris Comeaux and seconded by Steve Morgan to approve to appoint James Claar as the Township Hall Custodian for one year. Motion carried 5-0.

Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Review will be addressed at the January meeting.

M. Light Up Cedar Event

Joan Gauthier wanted to know how the event turned out and how it went with the food truck. Joan also wanted to make a correction from last month's meeting where it implied that Cedar Tavern was going to be closed and it was not. There was no one present that could give a report on the event or the food truck.

11. New Business

A. Cedar Chamber of Commerce/Property Leases/Polka Fest

See under 8.

B. Deputy Treasurer

Joan Gauthier would like to appoint Kelly Claar as her Deputy Treasurer. Kelly Claar is a newly elected Trustee to the township board. Joan contacted MTA and their response that it is not a conflict to appoint a Trustee as the deputy however it has to be approved by the township board. Joan sent the information she received from MTA to the township attorney and he did not disagree. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Steve Morgan to approve that Trustee Kelly Claar can be appointed by the Treasurer as the Deputy Treasurer. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Northwest Education Services

Northwest Education Services wants Joan Gauthier to collect all (100%) of the Glen Lake School District taxes in the summer. This is just Glen Lake not Traverse City. The advantage is the school will have their money before school opens in the fall. Moved by Shirley Mikowski and supported by Kelly Claar to approve the Agreement made this 5th day of December, 2024 by and between the Northwest Education Services, with offices located at 1101 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684 (hereinafter called "School District") and Solon Township with offices located at 3083 E. Alpine Rd., Cedar, MI 49621, (hereinafter called "Township"), pursuant to 1976 PA 451, as amended, for the providing for the collection by Township of summer levy on all (100%) of School District property taxes for the year 2025 for the Glen Lake School District only. Upon a roll call vote; Morgan-yea, Claar-yea, Comeaux-yea, Gauthier-yea, Mikowski-yea 5 "yeas", 0 "nays". Agreement was approved.

11. Public Comment

Karen Smith appreciated the lively conversation with the board and believes this was the first time there has been this much interaction in the six years she has been attending meetings.

Mary Taylor has twenty four people enrolled in Tai Chi. The township board congratulated Mary.

Kelly Claar asked about the schedule for board meetings for the upcoming year. The meetings are set up in February to for the following fiscal year.

Chris Comeaux apologized for fumbling through the meeting and thanked everyone for their patience. Kelly Claar, Steve Morgan and Chris will be attending the New Public Official Seminar through MTA this month.

The board told Chris he did a great job.

12. Announcement

There was none.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Kelly Claar and seconded by Joan Gauthier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski, Solon Township Clerk



The Cedar Polka Festival Foundation is dedicated to: Empowering local nonprofits & charitable organizations, through promoting our local community & celebrating Cedar's rich Polish history.

The Cedar Chamber of Commerce proudly invests tens of thousands of dollars annually to benefit Cedar and our surrounding communities. We organize and fund a variety of free community events, including Lightup Cedar, Trunk or Treat, our Easter Egg Hunt, and Free Family Movie Night. Additionally, the Chamber plants and maintains seasonal flowers and hangs and maintains the towns Christmas decorations.

Each year, we offer ten \$1,500 scholarships to qualifying graduating high school students.

Additionally, as part of our commitment to the community, we proudly sponsor the Cedar Youth Little League and maintain the Pee Wee ball diamond for their use.

Please note that the figures provided this evening pertain solely to investments within Solon Township. However, we would like to emphasize our commitment to supporting our neighboring communities. In addition to our contributions in Cedar, we provide annual donations of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to surrounding area nonprofits.

2022

PeeWee T-Ballfield Maint	\$1,500.00
Cedar Youth Little League	\$1,807.00
Scholarships to Cedar Students	\$5,250.00
Streetscape	\$2,000.00
Lightup Cedar	\$3,500.00
Free Movie Night	\$500.00
Golf Cart & Water Tank	\$5,000.00
Cedar River Waterway & Park	\$100.00
CAFR Association	\$350.00
Electrical Upgrades to Tennis Courts	\$15,000.00
	\$35,007.00

* Purchased a golfcart & water bowser to water planters in Cedar.

2023

PeeWee T-Ballfield Maint	\$1,500.00
Cedar Youth Little League	\$2,097.00
Scholarships to Cedar Students	\$10,000.00
Streetscape	\$2,500.00
Lightup Cedar	\$4,000.00
Free Movie Night	\$1,500.00
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00
Trunk or Treat	\$300.00
Glen Lake Athletics	\$500.00
Northern MI Rowing Club	\$600.00
Forklift Rebuild	\$8,216.00
Electrical Upgrades to Tennis Courts	\$10,000.00
	\$41,713.00

* Used for PF setup, moving plant pots, putting up Christmas lights, etc.

2024

PeeWee T-Ballfield Maint	\$1,500.00
Cedar Youth Little League	\$3,441.00
Scholarships to Cedar Students	\$6,500.00
Streetscape	\$2,000.00
Easter Egg Hunt	\$1,000.00
Lightup Cedar	\$4,500.00
Trunk or Treat	\$300.00
Christmas Lights Upgrades	\$1,000.00
Community Member In Need Support	\$2,000.00
Solon Twsp Ballfield Light Repaires	\$3,000.00
Northern MI. Rowing Club	\$600.00
Glen Lake Athletics	\$1,000.00
Ed & Irene Fleis Foundation	\$500.00
	\$27,341.00