

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Jim Lautner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Supervisor Jim Lautner, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Trustee Steve Yoder and Trustee Pat Deering.

Guests present: Karen Smith, Charlie Smith, Mary Taylor, Eric J. Miller, Dale Gauthier, Christina Deeren, Rick Brett, Chris Comeaux and Lisa Rossi-Brett.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business: C. Joint Airport Zoning Board Appointment. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular June 13, 2024

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to approve the June 13, 2024 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Special June 28, 2024

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the June 28, 2024 special meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Rosinski Road

Eric Miller met with Brendan Mullane from Leelanau County Road Commission since the last township board meeting. Mr. Miller was told that the maintenance of Rosinski Road is the Leelanau County Commission's responsibility and the request needs to come from the township board. If the road is to be improved, than the Road Commission is liable for 50% of the cost. Maintenance includes properly cleaning all debris off all roads twice a year, properly repairing any holes and imperfections and when funds are available, another layer of chip seal will be applied to the aging county roads at no cost to the township. A speed study can be done at no cost to the township, but has to be formally requested by the township board. Mr. Miller contacted Wimsatt who had damaged the road last August and they had Elmer's repair where it was damaged. Mr. Miller also contacted Cherryland, the sheriff's department and the Road Commission about the damage that was done by a Contractor from Cherryland, and it finally got repaired when he pushed to get it done. Mr. Miller was told last month that a speed study is very expensive, but found that it can be done at no cost to the township, but must be formally requested by the township. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Steve Yoder to approve to request to have a speed study done by the Leelanau County Road Commission for Rosinski Road located in Solon Township and Centerville Township. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Public Comment

Corey Flaska has a short term rental in Long Lake and recommended following their ordinance for establishing short term rentals in this township. Mr. Flaska is very disappointed to hear that the township board is not planning to take action on the Master Plan and Future Land Use maps until after the elections. The Planning Commission has been working on this for four years and the township board needs to approve them so it can be sent out for review.

Christina Deeren will get a list of the correct procedure to move forward with the adoption of the Master Plan to the township board.

7. Correspondence

There was none.

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

Huntington Bank Checking \$15,270.57, ARPA Funds included in checking: \$12,085.33, Available in Checking Account: \$3,185.24, Huntington Bank General Savings \$233,650.56, Huntington Bank General Savings CD (Renewed @ 4.3%) \$104,469.95, Huntington Bank General Savings CD (@4.3%) \$100,000.00, Total General Savings \$438,120.51, Total Funds Available: \$441,305.75, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund (20249) \$10,390.55, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund CD (@ 4.3%) \$5,000.00, Total Road Improvement Fund \$15,339.55, Huntington Fire Fund Savings (2023) \$11,236.57, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD (Renewed @ 4.2%) \$64,197.00, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD (Renewed @ 4.3%) \$46,787.29, Total Fire Sinking \$122,220.86, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund (2036) \$11,630.80, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund (Renewed @ 4.3%) \$8,132.98, Total Sidewalk Fund \$19,763.78, Total other Township Funds Available: \$157,375.19. Total Current Assets: \$598,680.94, Non-Township Funds, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project (7383) \$10,047.70, Huntington Bank Cedar River CD (Renewed @ 4.3) \$14,834.73, Total Cedar River \$24,882.43, Parks and Recreation \$4,557.95, Huntington Bank CD @ 4.3% \$10,000.00, Total Parks and Recreation Fund \$14,557.95. Voucher #'s 15503-15541 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Pat Deering to approve to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Committee Reports:

Steve Yoder reported on the Planning Commission meeting held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. Four members were present and Todd Yeomans was absent.

- The amended text for the Zoning Ordinance was sent to Leelanau County and they just got that back.
- Density was taken out of the Future Land Use Maps and placed in the Master Plan. The Master Plan has to be reviewed by the township board, and when approved, be sent to the neighboring townships.
- Food trucks and Short Term Rentals are not allowed in this township. Christina Deeren/ZA said if it is not established in the Ordinance, it is not allowed.
- They discussed working on a Parks Ordinance. The township did approve a Parks Ordinance October 9, 2008, but still needs to be located.
- Working on language for ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Unit)
- Working on downsizing the Landscape Ordinance to be more adaptable to this township.

Joan Gauthier wants short term rentals in this township; they pay our school operating taxes. Joan is going to look into neighboring townships short term rentals policy.

Shirley Mikowski noted at the last meeting the township board only wanted a fee for a new sign, not a fee for a replacement sign.

Steve Yoder said SludgeHammer from Petoskey is a company that has a greener way of dealing with sewer. The cost is \$1,250.00 for them to write up several proposals. The \$1,250.00 would be reimbursed if the township decided to go through with the project. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to have SludgeHammer give several sewer system proposals for the cost of \$1,250.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary Taylor reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Monday, June 25, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

Mary Taylor asked if Kelly Claar officially resigned from the Parks Committee, and she has not.

- The income from Tai Chi is down a little.
- Ron Novak has been mowing the old dump for the past several years and the township has paid for the gas. He would like to mow it again this year and be reimbursed up to \$50.00 for gas. The board agreed to have him do it.
- Kim Smith and Mary met with Matt Biolette from Fleis&Vandenbrink to discuss the plan for the Community Park. Mr. Biolette worked with the old survey and the three planning sessions and will write it up in phases on how the plan can be done in chunks. This may be ready for the August meeting; if not, the September board meeting.

- The Rotary Grant has to be closed out by November 15, 2024.
- Mary could apply for a \$50,000.00 grant that could go to the township hall renovations.
- Bingham Township Parks Committee developed a webpage. They would like our township to advertise their events on our Facebook page and in turn will advertise our events on their webpage.
- David Bradshaw was going to be the project manager that was going to work on closing Vlack's Park to motor traffic. He is no longer able to take on this project because of health issues. They are looking for someone else to lead the project.
- The twelve black willow seedlings they received are being well taken care of. Mary is going to send information about the trees to the board. They will wait for permission to plant and direction where to plant them.
- They would like to put a sign up by the AED thanking the Cedar Community Foundation for donating. Mary is going to draft a thank you and forward it to Joan Gauthier.
- Suggestions were made to where to install the cabinet that is approximately 6' tall 1' wide and 7" deep used to educate and interpret Solon Township history and display photos. Mary is going to see if it is still available.
- They are working on designing signs to place at the Community Park.
- The July meeting has been cancelled. Their next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Solon Township Hall.

Shirley Mikowski called Williams and Pumping to have the porta jons pumped twice a week.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

1. Well/B&Z Well Drilling

B&Z Well Drilling installed the new pressure tank and screen at the township hall. Since the installation, Shirley Mikowski had to call Mike Bunek to fix the toilets in the men's and women's restrooms. Mr. Bunek noted that there was still sand coming in and recommended to have the well looked at. Shirley will call B&Z to have them look at the well.

2. Wall Repair Quotes

Joan Gauthier called Northern Restoration but they don't do that kind of work. LRM Concrete and Excavation gave an estimated cost of \$9,162.97 to remove and replace the retaining wall by the township hall. Motion by Pat Deering and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to hire LRM Concrete and Excavation Services to remove and replace the retaining wall by the township hall for the estimated cost of \$9,162.97. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Office Quotes

Steve Yoder did contact a construction company Shirley Mikowski recommended, but was not interested because he is retiring. Leelanau Construction gave an estimated cost of \$87,500.00 to renovate the upstairs of the township hall. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve to hire Leelanau Construction to renovate the upstairs of the township hall for the estimated cost of \$87,500.00. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Parks

1. Fence

Dale Gauthier said he is waiting for the area to dry up before moving forward to have Apple Fence Company install any more fence at the Solon Beach Park.

2. Bleachers

The back diamond bleachers still need to be installed and the boards need to be put in storage. This item can be taken off the agenda.

3. Vlack's Park

Joan Gauthier said there was a car and tent at Vlack's Park about a week ago. It looked like someone was camping there. There was also a complaint of a lot of trash there, but Joan's neighbor picked it up.

Joan Gauthier said it is time to harvest the red pines at Vlack's Park. They were last harvested in 2011. Pat Deering forwarded information about his company's forester to Kelly Claar and Pat will follow up on this. Michael Ulrich also contacted the committee about a forest management plan.

Joan Gauthier gave pictures of trash receptacles that are at Empire and will check with Empire of where to purchase and who empties them.

C. Fire Department

1. Interlocal Agreement

Jim Lautner said a meeting has not been rescheduled with the four township supervisors to discuss the Interlocal Agreement.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

There was no report.

2. Navigable Cedar River

Joan Gauthier wants to look into adopting an ordinance for Cedar River to be navigable. Joan will look on the EGLE (Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) website for information.

E. Cemetery

Brian Weber from Weber Excavating gave an estimated cost \$3,700.00 to deliver and spread approximately 50 yards of screened black dirt on the closed roads of the cemetery, to smooth out the old access driveways, to final grade, and to seed graded areas. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to hire Weber Excavating to deliver and spread approximately 50 yards of screened black dirt on the closed roads of the cemetery, to smooth out the old access driveways, to final grade, and to seed graded areas for the estimated cost of \$3,700.00. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Bunting's/Road

Joan Gauthier received an email from Brendan Mullane, Manager of the Leelanau County Road Commission about Bunting's Road. Joan sent Mr. Mullane contact information for Bill Bailey, who manages Bunting's.

G. Perrins Landing

Shirley Mikowski did contact David Bieganowski, the township attorney. According to Mr. Bieganowski only the township can have the dock there. The township would need to acquire a permit from EGLE. It has to be non-commercial and cannot be signed over to anyone. Mr. Bieganowski suggested setting up a fund for maintenance and possibly getting public and/or private donations. If there is not enough money to maintain it, the township will not install it every year. The township is responsible and liable for the dock for allowing it there. The township either has to claim it or take the dock out. Steve Yoder recommended taking the dock out. Mary Taylor recommended putting a warning sign up of the danger using the dock. The board discussed having the dock removed. Joan Gauthier will check with Grand Traverse Maintenance to see if they can take the dock out. Steve Yoder asked about the boat ramp. Jim Lautner said the township does not own the property, so the township is not responsible for the boat ramp. Joan is also going to contact the Leelanau County Road Commission to see who can take it out and if they would take it out.

H. Park Ordinance

Joan Gauthier said she would try to find the Parks Ordinance that was approved in 2008.

11. New Business

A. Street Closure/Fr. Ken's Garden Walk

Fr. Ken is requesting to close Nelson Street on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. for a Garden Walk. Shirley Mikowski will need to submit a Road Closing Permit to the Leelanau County Road Commission. Fr. Ken will need to provide a \$1,000,000.00 liability policy and \$40.00 for the permit fee. Motion by Joan Gauthier and

seconded by Steve Yoder to approve closing Nelson Street on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. for Fr. Ken’s Garden Walk with the approval of the Cedar Area Fire and Rescue Fire Chief. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Cedar Chamber of Commerce

The Cedar Chamber of Commerce at their last meeting approved to spend up to \$5,000.00 to repair the ballfield lights and the scoreboard. Rick Brett said he has been working on the repairs and got stuck in the mud with a machine on tracks that is costing \$1,000.00 a day to rent. Mr. Brett said the repairs will have to wait until the ground is drier.

10. Unfinished Business cont’d

C. Fire Department

Chris Comeaux gave the following report:

- A financial evaluation of the fire department revealed that the four townships would be able to financially support two stations.
- There are four holding tanks. The tanks need to be drained and a camera dropped so the tanks are completely inspected. They will check with Roto rooter and/or Williams and Bay to do the pumping and inspection.
- Jason Newfer is one of our full time employees and was recently accepted into a Paramedic Class in Grand Rapids. Mr. Newfer lives south of Cadillac, and because it is too expensive to live here, he chose Grand Rapids.
- Kasson Township received three bids to design a new fire station and accepted a bid from Environmental Architects. The projected cost is \$3-6 million for building a new fire station.
- Union negotiations are still underway. The union said they should be presenting a contract by August.

C. Joint Airport Zoning Board Appointment

Leelanau County Interim Administrator Richard Lewis forwarded a letter and map from the Northwest Regional Authority regarding approval by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and the next steps in creating and appointing members to the Joint Airport Zoning Board (see attached). The Leelanau County Board of Commissioners is requesting that one individual from each of the Townships, Solon being one of them, within the ten mile nautical mile radius for consideration for the required three seats on the Joint Airport Zoning Board. After much discussion Christina Deeren said she would be willing to be this townships representative. Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve to nominate Christina Deeren as the representative for Solon Township on the Joint Airport Zoning Board. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Public Comment

Christina Deeren thanked Shirley Mikowski for taking the time to purchase the computer and printer she needed.

Corey Flaska apologized to Jim Lautner and the board for his unprofessional behavior and said he will not apologize for his passion and desire to help Solon Township and Leelanau County. He is still very frustrated with the long process.

Dale Gauthier said there was a big bear at Solon Beach Park a couple of weeks ago.

Lisa Rossi spoke with Jim Lautner after the special meeting and noted there has been a disconnect between the Cedar Chamber of Commerce and the township board and how there needs to be better communication.

13. Announcement

There was none.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski, Solon Township Clerk