

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Special Session – Friday, March 22, 2024
Tentative minutes

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video). The video of the meeting can be found at the following link: <https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2716#video>

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ty Wessell at 1:02 p.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence/Private Prayer:

Commissioner Allgaier was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, followed by a moment of silence/private prayer.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	District #7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT
	District #2	James S. O'Rourke	PRESENT
	District #6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	District #5	Kama Ross	PRESENT
	District #3	Douglas Rexroat	PRESENT
	District #1	Jamie Kramer	ABSENT (prior notice)
	District #4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT

Public Comment: *(3 minutes agenda specific)*

None.

The written public comments or handouts can be found at the following link:

<https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2716#handouts>

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Allgaier welcomed Richard I. Lewis to the meeting.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action:

Interim-Administrator Agreement Terms

Chairman Wessell indicated that we have one item and two motions for today.

MLI Consultant Chet Janik was invited to the table to give a brief review of the contract and answer any Commissioners questions.

#099-03222024 Special Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LEELANAU AND RICHARD I. LEWIS, AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN, FOLLOWING REVIEW AND APPROVAL AS TO FORM BY THE COUNTY'S LEGAL COUNSEL. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.

Discussion – brief questions. Chairman Wessell said he has heard from many that applauded our choice. Comments were made by Lewis on the length of the contract and he said that the

length is if the train stays on the track – it is always good to have a date, he is not going to leave unless you don't want him here.

ROLL CALL: Lautner – YES; O'Rourke – YES; Rexroat – YES; Ross – YES; Wessell – YES; Allgaier – YES; Kramer – ABSENT.

AYES – 6 NO – 0 ABSENT – 1 MOTION CARRIED.

#100-03222024 Special Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RELEASE THE ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED LEGAL OPINION OF MARCH 18, 2024, SENT VIA EMAIL REGARDING THE INCOMPATIBILITY ISSUE. SECONDED BY O'ROURKE.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 6 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Lautner, O'Rourke)

NO – 0 ABSENT – 1 (Kramer) MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment: (5 minutes)

Jill Wellman; Stephen Mikowski; Bill Wiesner; and David Kiessel.

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Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Rexroat thanked public speaker Wellman for the kind words, but everything here is done as a team and we sink or swim as a team. Everyone is putting in a lot of hard work.
- Commissioner Lautner thanked everyone for the public comments. Lautner wanted to especially thank David Kiessel for bringing up what she has been trying to bring up. Suttons Bay Township did not want this campus here and Commissioners overrode zoning to plant the facilities here, when we would not override zoning in Leland. Lautner continued that there were promises made about keeping this open and beautiful. Lautner thanked him for remembering the promises and bringing it up.
- Chairman Wessell thanked Janik for getting us here today and thanked Administrator Deb Allen for her help as we move forward.
- Commissioner Allgaier thanked Janik for getting us here and also thanked Richard I. Lewis for coming to keep us steered in the right direction. Allgaier also commented that change is hard and all throughout history change has been hard. She continued that new ideas, new concepts, new ways of doing things – it is totally normal for people to be uncomfortable with it – while some people see the hope and the hope for our children and grandchildren as we struggle with a climate that could do a whole lot more than change this campus. Allgaier said there is another vision and she is sure that people talked about the same kind of things when gasoline cars came out, when the railroads came out, and when those roads went through the rest and the ranchers were probably appalled about the asphalt going through those fields and interrupting of the antelopes. She continued when gas stations went up, electric polls up – so change is hard and she thinks that we all need to keep that in mind because things never stay the same. While this change seems extra hard right now, because it is happening right now – know that

the world needs to struggle with immense change to save this planet for our children and their children. So bear with us please.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Rexroat.

Chairman Wessell adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Ty Wessell, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk
Clerk, Leelanau County Board of Comm.