

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Special Session –Thursday, May 30, 2024 – Friday, May 31, 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=2743#video>

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ty Wessell at 9:30 a.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:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited and followed by a Moment of Silence.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	District #1	Jamie Kramer	PRESENT
	#2	James O'Rourke	ABSENT (present when resumed at 11:00 a.m.)
	#3	Doug Rexroat	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5	Kama Ross	PRESENT
	#6	Gwenne Allgaier	PRESENT
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Guests 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=2743#handouts>

Commissioner comments:

MLI Consultant Chet Janik was present and advised that the first candidate did withdraw from consideration and it was determined to leave the schedule as set. Potential questions were previously emailed to Commissioners and distributed today in hard copy format. Also a rating sheet was distributed of which completion is optional, although the last question would be helpful as to know if Commissioners want to move the candidates forward. Commissioners divided question topics.

Brief recess taken to make sure the live stream was working and the meeting was called back to order.

Discussion ensued.

Brief recess taken at approximately 10:30 and called back to order at 11:00 a.m. with all Commissioners present.

Chairman Wessell gave opening comments and began the questions followed by questions alternating between Commissioners. Applicants were all given an opportunity for an opening statement and questions for Commissioners at the conclusion of the interviews.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action:
County Administrator Search – Candidate Interviews.

10:00 a.m. – Ahmed Abou-Ismael – candidate withdrew.

11:00 a.m. – Anna Nelson present via Zoom.

Chairman Wessell called for a recess at 11:50 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 1:01 p.m. All Commissioners present.

1:00 p.m. – Mark Justin in person.

Chairman Wessell called for a recess at 1:57 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 2:03 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – James Kiessel in person.

Consultant Janik reminded Commissioners there must not be any deliberation between Commissioners between leaving today and arriving Friday.

Meeting recessed at 2:36 p.m. on May 30, 2024, following the day's scheduled interviews.

Meeting called back to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024.

Present: Commissioners James O'Rourke, Doug Rexroat, Ty Wessell, Kama Ross, Gwenne Allgaier, and Melinda C. Lautner. County Clerk Michelle Crocker stated that Commissioner Kramer would be a few minutes late.

The same format occurred with opening comments by Chairman and opening statements by the applicants followed by questions from Commissioners.

Candidate interviews were resumed.

9:00 a.m. – Kip Belcher

Commissioner Jamie Kramer arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Chairman Wessell thanked Belcher and called for a break at 9:52 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:15 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – Michael Belsky

Chairman Wessell called for a brief recess at 10:59 a.m. and called back to order at 11:07 a.m.

11:00 a.m. – Tracy Byard.

Chairman called for a recess at 11:38 a.m. back in session at 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. – Robert Reinshuttle (remote via Zoom)

Chairman Wessell stated that this finishes up the interviews and a decision will be made later regarding second interviews.

Chairman Wessell called for a break at 12:54 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 1:21 p.m.

During the break Janik and Crocker compiled a spreadsheet of the straw vote from questionnaires, noting which candidates received “advance” and which ones received “advance with reservations”. Discussion ensued on candidates and who to advance. It was recommended to have 1.5 hours for each interview and to include in this staff time for dialogue with the candidates.

#160-05302024 Special Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADVISE OUR CONSULTANT (MLI CONSULTANT CHET JANIK) TO NOTIFY AND SCHEDULE MARK JUSTIN, KIP BELCHER, MICHAEL BELSKY, AND TRACY BYARD FOR A SECOND INTERVIEW. SECONDED BY O’ROURKE.

Discussion.

AYES – 7 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Kramer, Lautner, O’Rourke)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion ensued on time limit, starting the meeting on June 10, at 10:30 a.m., with the first interview at 11:00 a.m. with 45 minutes for staff prior. Discussion on references and background checks.

Public Comment: (5 minutes, any topic)

None.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner O’Rourke commented that it was brought to his attention that while he was interviewing a candidate yesterday, a note was passed to the Clerk and he would like it added to the minutes of what it was. Clerk responded that she has the note and read it to Commissioners. Clerk reminded Commissioners that are receiving and sending texts during the meeting that they are subjecting their phones to FOIA and to be careful regarding the OMA.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Wessell at 1:41 p.m.

Ty Wessell, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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