

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Special Session – Tuesday, November 12, 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=2797#video>

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ty Wessell at 1:32 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:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited at the prior meeting so it was skipped at this meeting.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	District #1	Vacant	
	#2	James O'Rourke	PRESENT
	#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:
None provided.

Commissioner Comments:

Chairman Wessell thanked Road Commission Manager Brendan Mullane, Road Commissioner Garth Greenan, and Vice Chairman of the Road Commission Jim Calhoun for being present.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action:

Road Commission Candidate Interviews and Possible Appointment to Fill the Unexpired Term of John Popa.

Interim Administrator Richard I. Lewis gave an update on the process.

- Interview began at 1:36 p.m. with Mr. Mel Black giving opening statements on his background and his interest in the appointment.

Commissioners asked questions of Mr. Black on a wide range of topics to which he responded. The Chairman asked the candidate if he had any questions for Commissioners to which they responded.

Chairman Wessell called for a brief recess at 2:03 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 2:09 p.m.

Commissioner O'Rourke had to leave the meeting during the break due to another commitment.

Chairman Wessell asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

- Interview began at 2:09 p.m. with Mr. Tim Lodge giving opening statements on his background and his interest in the appointment.

Commissioners asked questions of Mr. Lodge on a wide range of topics to which he responded. The Chairman asked the candidate if he had any questions for Commissioners to which they responded. Lodge thanked Commissioners for their time today.

Discussion and comments by the Commissioners relative to both candidates.

#295-11122024 Special Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINT MEL BLACK TO THE LEELANAU COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOR THE BALANCE OF THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 4 (Rexroat, Wessell, Allgaier, Lautner)

NO – 1 (Ross) ABSENT – 1 (O'Rourke)

MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Wessell called for a five-minute break at 2:41 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 2:50 p.m.

Review Applications for County Administrator and Potentially Invite Candidates to Interview.

MLI Consultant Chet Janik was present and updated Commissioners that the Administrator job position was posted October 2, 2024, and by the November 7, 2024, deadline 37 applications were received. All resumes and cover letters were sent to the Commissioners.

Several candidates have asked to remain confidential. Janik suggested going into Closed Session at this time as Michigan Law allows Commissioners to go into closed session regarding the candidates that have requested confidentiality.

#296-11122024 Special Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(F) TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE CONTENTS OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT OR APPOINTMENT TO A PUBLIC OFFICE FOR THE CANDIDATES THAT HAVE REQUESTED CONFIDENTIALITY AND FURTHER THAT MLI CONSULTANT CHET JANIK AND INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR RICHARD I. LEWIS BE INCLUDED IN THE CLOSED SESSION. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – none.

ROLL CALL: Rexroat – YES; Ross – YES; Wessell – YES; Allgaier – YES;

Lautner – YES.

AYES – 5 NO – 0 ABSENT – 1 (O'Rourke)

MOTION CARRIED.

Closed Session began at 2:52 p.m.

#297-11122024 Special Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESUME OPEN SESSION. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 5 (Lautner, Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier)

NO – 0 ABSENT – 1 (O'Rourke)

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting resumed in open session at 3:26 p.m.

MLI Consultant Janik was present and gave a summary as requested by Chairman Wessell as to the candidates the Commissioners wished to interview. Janik said that the board wished to interview nine candidates and based on the feedback, he listed the following candidates: Kipling C. Belcher, Mark J. Brown, Eric Ceci, James L. Dyer, Brandon Fewins, James C. Kiessel, Matthew A. Marske, Robert J. Reinshuttle, and Jeff Thornton.

#298-11122024 Special Session

MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS INTERVIEW THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES AS LISTED BY MLI CONSULTANT JANIK: KIPLING C. BELCHER, MARK J. BROWN, ERIC CECI, JAMES L DYER, BRANDON FEWINS, JAMES C. KIESEL, MATTHEW A. MARSKE, ROBERT J. REINSHUTTLE, AND JEFF THORNTON. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 5 (Rexroat, Ross, Wessell, Allgaier, Lautner)

NO – 0 ABSENT – 1 (O'Rourke)

MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Lautner thanked the other candidates that applied.

Discussion on the interviews being scheduled for November 18-19, 2024 starting at 9:30 a.m. Janik will handle the schedule and one hour will be allotted for each interview. The Commissioners should be able to wrap it up on the 19th and he would suggest that Commissioners select the candidates they may wish to see for a second round at that meeting.

Discussion on input from the next Board of Commissioners, once the election is certified and encourage them if they have any comments to contact their current Commissioners and the same would apply to any public that has input. Discussion also on a meet and greet for staff, the Commissioners Elect, and also inviting the Commissioners Elect to the meeting on November 18, 2024.

The County Clerk will post the applications from the selected candidates to be interviewed on the County's website.

Consultant Janik said that Commissioners should look for an email from him tomorrow on the schedule.

Public Comment: (5 minutes, any topic)
Steve Mikowski; and Bill Wiesner.

The written public comments or handouts can be found at the following link:
None provided.

Commissioner Comments:
None.

Adjournment:
Motion by Rexroat to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Wessell at 3:49 p.m.

Ty Wessell, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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