

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**  
**Special Session – November 18, 2024 – November 19, 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=2801#video> and <https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2802#video>*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ty Wessell at 9:02 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:

Commissioner Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and it was followed by a Moment of Silence.

<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)  
Alan Campbell; Will Bunek.

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

Commissioner Comments:

- Chairman Wessell gave brief remarks regarding feedback from future Commissioners regarding the potential and to communicate with MLI Consultant Chet Janik.

MLI Consultant Chet Janik was present and advised that candidate Robert J. Reinshuttle, due to lack of Zoom availability, was not going to fly up from Florida. Fewins was not available today or tomorrow. Janik continued that Fewins is interested in interviewing, but had a commitment outside of the State of Michigan.

Discussion on offering the Zoom option to the two candidates as discussed today. County Clerk Michelle L. Crocker will review questions posed regarding meeting notice and potentially adding the two individuals if they wished to participate via Zoom. Janik will check the availability of the two candidates for tomorrow.

Janik reviewed the process for the interviews and reminded Commissioners that 50 minutes were allotted per candidate. He did suggest a second interview for final candidates. Janik also

commented that the Board of Commissioners can only offer a one-year contract as per state law. Janik also suggested that Commissioners submit their rating sheets to him after all candidates have been interviewed.

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

Chairman Wessell gave opening comments to each candidate and asked all Commissioners to introduce themselves to each candidate. Applicants were all given an opportunity for an opening statement and questions were alternated between Commissioners. All applicants were given an opportunity at the conclusion of the interview to ask questions.

**9:18 a.m. – Matthew Marske:**

Chairman Wessell thanked Matthew Marske and called for a brief break at 10:01 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:17 a.m.

**10:20 a.m. – Eric Ceci:**

Chairman Wessell thanked Eric Ceci and called for a brief break at 11:05 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:27 a.m.

**11:30 a.m. – Mark Brown:**

Chairman Wessell thanked Mark Brown and called for a 10-minute break at 12:19 p.m. and called the meeting back to order as 12:33 p.m.

**12:39 p.m. – James Kiessel:**

Chairman Wessell thanked James Kiessel and called **for a recess at 1:12 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024, following the conclusion of the scheduled interviews for the day.**

**Meeting called back to order at 9:10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.**

Present: Commissioners James O'Rourke, Doug Rexroat, Ty Wessell, Kama Ross, Gwenne Allgaier, and Melinda C. Lautner.

Guests present.

Chairman Wessell gave some opening comments for the meeting and MLI Consultant Janik offered comment. The topic has been added to the Regular Session meeting agenda for this evening and Janik has asked incoming Commissioners for input and to give feedback directly to Janik and he will share. Discussion about comments and compiling information.

The same format occurred with opening comments by Chairman Wessell, Commissioners introducing themselves, and opening statement by the candidates followed by questions from Commissioners. Each candidate was offered a chance to ask questions of the Commissioners.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action:

Continuation of County Administrator Search – Candidate Interviews.

**9:15 a.m. – Kipling Belcher:**

Chairman Wessell thanked Kipling Belcher and called for a brief break at 10:09 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:18 a.m.

**10:15 [10:18] a.m. – Jeffrey Thornton:**

Chairman Wessell thanked Jeffrey Thornton and called for a brief break at 10:56 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:15 a.m.

**11:15 a.m. – James Dyer:**

Chairman Wessell thanked James Dyer and called for a brief break taken at 12:04 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 12:14 p.m.

**12:15 p.m. – Brandon Fewins: (via zoom)**

Chairman Wessell thanked Brandon Fewins and called for a brief break at 12:53 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 1:08 p.m.

Chairman Wessell called on MLI Consultant Janik to give an update on the tallies. Janik said the first number being read was for a "YES" to a second interview and the second number was "MAYBE" a second interview. Janik did not list the number of "NO" that were recorded. Matthew Marske: 1-4; Eric Ceci: 0-2; Mark Brown 3-2; James Kiessel: 1-2; Kipling Belcher: 3-2; Jeffrey Thornton: 0-2; James Dyer: 5-0; Brandon Fewins 2-2.

Janik commented from the Commissioners Elect that participated, gave Matthew Marski: 2-1; Mark Brown: 2-0; James Kiessel: 1-1; Kipling Belcher: 0-1; Jeffrey Thornton: 0-1; James Dyer: 2-1.

All tally sheets with identification of Commissioner rankings were given to the Clerk.

Janik would suggest that no more than three candidates be interviewed and based on the tally, Dyer received five, Brown received three, and Belcher received three.

Chairman Wessell called on Commissioners and Commissioners Elect that were present and wished to speak. All offered their opinions on the candidates and Commissioner O'Rourke would like to offer the position to James Dyer today and not waste any more time or money bringing individuals back. Discussion and comments ensued.

#299-1118&192024 Special Session

**MOTION BY REXROAT THAT THE LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFER A SECOND INTERVIEW TO MARK BROWN, KIPLING BELCHER, AND JAMES DYER. SECONDED BY ALLGAIER.**

Discussion – none.

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

**NO – 2 (Ross, O'Rourke)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner O'Rourke stated that he wanted to hire James Dyer today and that is why he voted no. Commissioner Ross said she wanted Brandon Fewins included in the second round of interviews and that is the reason for her no vote.

Discussion on dates for the second round of interviews. They can all be done in one day. There was consensus to meet on Thursday, December 12, 2024, beginning at 9:45 a.m. with the first interview at 10:00 a.m. and to include Commissioner Elect input. Special Session meeting request to be prepared and signed.

Public Comment: (5 minutes, any topic)

None.

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Rexroat.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Wessell at 1:32 p.m.

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Ty Wessell, Chairman  
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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