

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session – Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

Approved 02/16/2016 – meeting recorded.

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Carolyn Rentenbach at 7:02 p.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Commissioner Watkoski, at the request of Chairman Rentenbach, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:	District #1 – Jean I. Watkoski	PRESENT
	#2 – Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT
	#3 – William J. Bunek	PRESENT
	#4 – Ty Wessell	PRESENT
	#5 – Patricia Soutas-Little	PRESENT
	#6 – Carolyn Rentenbach	PRESENT
	#7 – Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Communications, Proclamations, Presentations and Awards:

Administrator Janik commented that two weeks ago a friend was working on a house in Hammond and found a 1900 atlas that contains all of Leelanau County. Register of Deeds believes that it was the first atlas in color for the County. Janik displayed the atlas for anyone that wishes to review it.

Approval of Minutes —

Regular Session, September 22, 2015:

#340-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WATKOSKI TO APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2015. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Statutory Annual Meeting, October 13, 2015:

#341-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO APPROVE THE STATUTORY ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2015. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Regular Session, November 17, 2015:
Not available.

Executive Board of Commissioners, December 8, 2015:

County Clerk Michelle L. Crocker requested three changes to the minutes and outlined the corrections to the Commissioners.

#342-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO POSTPONE THE APPROVAL THE DECEMBER 8, 2015, EXECUTIVE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

Chairman Rentenbach indicated that she received a request from Commissioner Wessell to look at a change in the 2% allocation policy.

Chairman Rentenbach asked and Commissioner Rushton responded in the affirmative that she would like to vote on each agenda request separately.

Chairman Rentenbach commented that the three individual requests are in front of Commissioners and briefly reviewed each one.

Commissioner Wessell commented that he would suggest a review of the County Attorney's opinion and then discuss a revised policy that allows non-profits and organizations to submit Grand Traverse Band 2% allocation applications to the County Board of Commissioners for review and forwarding on; but instead of going through Department Heads, come directly to the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners would still review and make sure the grant request was for those services that County residents would benefit from and are permissible by County Government.

#343-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA A REVIEW OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OPINION AND THEN DISCUSS A REVISED POLICY THAT ALLOWS NON-PROFITS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO SUBMIT GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% APPLICATIONS TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR REVIEW AND FORWARD ON, BUT INSTEAD OF GOING THROUGH DEPARTMENT HEADS, COME DIRECTLY TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. COMMISSIONERS WOULD STILL REVIEW AND MAKE SURE THE GRANT REQUEST WAS FOR SERVICES THAT COUNTY RESIDENTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM AND ARE PERMISSIBLE BY COUNTY GOVERNMENT. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 3 (Wessell, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little)
NO – 4 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton, Watkoski)**

MOTION FAILS.

#344-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO ADD THE LEELANAU PENINSULA HISTORY NETWORK TO THE AGENDA FOR THE 2% ALLOCATION FUNDING FROM THE TRIBAL COUNCIL AS LEELANAU TOWNSHIP FELT IT SHOULD GO THROUGH THE COUNTY. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 3 (Wessell, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little)

NO – 4 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton, Watkoski)

MOTION FAILS.

#345-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – THINKING TOWARDS THE ORGANIZATION MEETING – RECOMMENDING AMENDING LEELANAU COUNTY POLICY #3 REGARDING REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF APPOINTMENTS BY THE FULL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 3 (Wessell, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little)

NO – 4 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton, Watkoski)

MOTION FAILS.

#346-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Chairman Rentenbach reminded the public that comments are limited to five minutes.

- Ginny Lind of Suttons Bay. Lind commented that “they” cannot hear what is being said and wishes that the volume could be turned up.

- Anne Leabo of Bingham Township. Leabo began by indicating that she can hear everything just fine. She continued that she is a County employee, County resident and taxpayer. She has no party affiliation; she is a Veteran and was born and raised in Leelanau County. Leabo indicated that she has two reasons for appearing tonight; first to offer condolences to all of the County residents for the loss we are going to experience with the retirement of County Commissioner Jean I. Watkoski. She continued that Watkoski has always put the citizens of Leelanau County first whenever she casts a vote and for that she thanked her. She continued that she believes, without a doubt in her mind, that Watkoski was always doing her best to make Leelanau County the best place to live for everybody. Leabo wished Watkoski well and hopes her retirement is better than what she expects.

Leabo indicated that the second reason she was present was regarding the PRE auditor / Deputy Treasurer situation. The facts are the County Treasurer created a job description and advertised for a position that is non-existent. He also interviewed applicants for a non-existent position. He says that it is going to save the County money – why not then have just a part-time (deputy) Treasurer? Why throw the PRE auditor into this? She continued that it just doesn't make sense. Why not save the County money by not filling the vacant Deputy Treasurer? Why are all of these "smoke and mirror tactics" going on, she doesn't know why. As she sees it, it is morally right to do what is right for the citizens and not to cover the "Treasurer's back side". If you allow the Treasurer to carry out this charade, you are not doing right by a majority of the taxpayers.

- Steve Mikowski of Lake Leelanau. Mikowski commented that there is something not functioning properly with the system and there is a buzzing noise. Mikowski read from the *Wall Street Journal*, December 7, 2015, "Adam Smith, 'The Theory of Moral Sentiments' (1759): The prudent man always studies seriously and earnestly to understand whatever he professes to understand, and not merely to persuade other people that he understands it; and though his talents may not always be very brilliant, they are always perfectly genuine. He neither endeavours to impose upon you by the cunning devices of an artful impostor, nor by the arrogant airs of an assuming pedant, nor by the confident assertions of a superficial and impudent pretender. He is not ostentatious even of the abilities which he really possesses. His conversation is simple and modest, and he is averse to all the quackish arts by which other people so frequently thrust themselves into public notice and reputation. For reputation in his profession he is naturally disposed to rely a good deal upon the solidity of his knowledge and abilities; and he does not always think of cultivating the favour of those little clubs and cabals, who, in the superior arts and sciences, so often erect themselves into the supreme judges of merit; and who make it their business to celebrate the talents and virtues of one another, and to decry whatever can come into competition with them. If he ever connects himself with any society of this kind, it is merely in self-defense, not with a view to impose upon the public, but to hinder the public from being imposed upon, to his disadvantage, by the clamours, the whispers, or the intrigues, either of that particular society, or of some others of the same kind." [sic]

Mikowski concluded that the atlas is a gem and Administrator Janik added that it was found inside of a wall.

- Karan Josephus, Chairman of the Leelanau County Republican Party. Josephus read from a prepared statement (on file in the Clerk's office). "As chair of the Leelanau County Republican Party (LCRP), I feel I must address Board of Commissioner Jean Watkoski's allegation that members of the Leelanau County Republican Party 'were harassing her with nasty phone calls about how she should vote'." She continued, "I am really curious as to what constitutes 'harassment'. That's a pretty strong word. Why wouldn't she (Watkoski) have called me (Josephus) to share her feelings? She certainly has had the opportunity to do so. The job of the LCRP is to elect officials with conservative values. Philosophically we stand for small limited government that is fiscally and socially conservative. In

Leelanau County, we want to make sure to keep our Board of Commissioners from becoming another arm of Health and Human Services Department. Jean Watkoski has been a treasured member of the LCRP for many years. We have loved her, worked hard for her, raised funds for her and supported her candidacy. If you have been paying attention at BOC meetings, you may have noticed that it would appear that the Democrat Commissioners have made it a point to sit 'moderate / sympathetic /easy-to-sway Jean' in between them so as to influence her decision making. That's why she has often been called the swing vote siding with Democrats on many issues."

Josephus continued; "Jean herself says, she is there to represent all of her constituents, not just the most conservative ones. She has described herself as a 'moderate' Republican. No Partisan. Sorry Jean. You've always ran as a Republican...not hardly 'non-partisan'. And that's what got you elected. The reason our County is so fiscally responsible is because of the strong conservative voice we have had up until now. The conflict lies in the fact that Jean was elected to represent those who elected her as a conservative voice. Elected officials are accountable to her constituents, whether they like it or not. Therefore, many members of our Party have, rightfully so, called Jean to let her know of our discontent with how she had been voting. It is our right to voice our opinion to our elected officials when we don't agree with how they have voted. Is that harassment? I think not."

Josephus concluded: "But, if you can't stand the heat, Jean, you've done the right thing by getting out of the kitchen. Perhaps you should admit that the Democrats have put just as much pressure on you as you say the Republicans have. Sincerely, Karan Josephus, Chair, Leelanau County Republican Party."

- Jeannie Aldrich of Suttons Bay, Michigan. Aldrich wished all a Merry Christmas and thanked Commissioner Watkoski for her 17 years of service. It is a hard job. Aldrich continued, "We of Leelanau County demand the resignation of Commissioner 'Pat' Soutas-Little in light of the fact that not only have you broken the Open Meetings Law, but more importantly violated the oath of office that you swore to uphold. This is a serious and unforgiveable offense. Commissioner 'Little', you have imperiled the trust of not only your constituency by violating your oath of office, but also the distrust of the County citizens as well. You were voted in, Ms. Little, and expected to be honest, have integrity, have knowledge of the laws of which you are bound. By your actions you have proven they are insignificant and somewhat of a nuisance to you, covert phone calls with good ole' boy and girls networks, peddling and lobbying influence to your fellow Commissioners to not vote for a certain individual on a Committee, provide scripts to your minions to be read at these Commissioners' meetings. Ms. Little, this is not Washington, D.C. and these are Hillary Clinton back room tactics / strategies. This is called stacking the deck and more succinctly, illegal. You have soiled the waters and endangered the reputation of your fellow Board of Commissioners; therefore she encourages the remaining Commissioners to demand your resignation as well. This will only get rid of the bad apple but it will ensure you are serious about your elected duties and oaths and will not abide law breakers on

this Commission. Ms. Little, shame on you. To maintain the integrity of the remaining Commissioners you must resign immediately and let them conduct business as law abiding officials for which they were elected. Your suggestion tonight to change the voting ways of which people are assigned to committees is too little too late. There is already blood in the water. 'We' look forward to your immediate resignation."

- Larry Ray of Lake Leelanau. Ray stated that he seconds Ms. Aldrich.
- Bruce Price, Lake Leelanau Michigan. Price offered comments regarding previous speakers and the radical right. Price gave credit to Commissioner Watkoski and then spoke to common sense, wasting money, and the radical right rising again. Price also commented that now the Commissioners don't want to listen to their lawyer. He hopes for a 4-3 Democratic Board that shows good common sense.

Chairman Rentenbach gavelled exchange between Mr. Larry Ray and Mr. Bruce Price.

- Karen Paulus, Maple City. Paulus responded to the prior speaker that if he was sitting in the "cat-bird seat", you wouldn't be making the comments. But since you are in the minority you comment. There is no talking about what is going on in the world today. Paulus said she is a conservative Republican, and an Independent – a Constitutionalist Libertarian and that is something that should be paid attention to. If you have someone that has broken to the law, they should resign.
- Eric Lind of Suttons Bay. Lind offered comment regarding the sound system and that "they" left early last week because they couldn't hear. Only two Commissioners spoke into the microphones and the others were sitting back in their chairs, mumbling into their microphones. He did call about the sound system and he is very disappointed that it has not been fixed. The sound is like mud and believes that there is too much bass. As far as Bruce Price's comments, he finds that offensive. Lind reminded Price that it was the Republicans that voted to end slavery and the Democrats didn't want to. As to Soutas-Little's conduct last week, he (Lind) also believes it was illegal and also asked for her resignation.
- Gwenne Allgaier. Allgaier commented that she can hear everyone fine where she is sitting. She would like to applaud the Board on the 2% allocation through the Prosecuting Attorney Joseph Hubbell and for recognizing, being realistic and having enough compassion to provide a vehicle so that all of the people in this County are provided for and that those monies are available for the valuable food pantry and "blessings in a backpack". She would like to applaud that. As far as all of the comments, it is no wonder, and she understands why, Commissioner Watkoski retired. Allgaier concluded that "we" really appreciate all of your (Watkoski's) service for many, many years.

- John O'Neill, Cedar. O'Neil indicated that he had not intended to speak. He began by thanking Commissioner Watkoski for her service and her position harkens back to the days when it didn't matter what your party affiliation was as a member of the Board of Commissioners, people worked together to get the business of the County done. O'Neil continued that he is, quite frankly, shocked by the tenor of the comments this evening. There are unfounded allegations that Commissioner Soutas-Little has broken the law, he doesn't know of any evidence to that and there certainly hasn't been a finding of any court to that. To rush to judgment is simply irresponsible. O'Neil commented that he knows Soutas-Little and has a hard time believing that someone as ethical and honest as she is would carelessly break the law – it is just not in keeping with her character. He continued that for the rest of the people, it really doesn't matter what party we are in, he believes that we need to respect each other more and work together for the common good of the people. The overheated partisanship that we see paralyzing Washington has no place whatsoever in this room and is in fact a detriment to the County. O'Neil addressed Commissioner Watkoski and indicated that he wishes the tenor of the individuals here were cooperative so that she would have felt comfortable staying as she has been a very good public servant by looking at the issues and the merit of each issue and not from an ideological standpoint.

- Jeannie Aldrich of Suttons Bay. Aldrich commented "that once again the Socialist Democratic Party has proven that they are the party of feelings and compassion. That is like saying why can't we all just get along with ISIS. Why can't we all just have a cup of coffee and pat each other on the back and just get along with terrorists. The Board of Commissioners has made this County a war zone because of unethical tactics and they are not allegations, they have been proven by a member of the Board of Commissioners – unless you are calling her a liar. She dares you to. You had illegal, unethical activities that are going to be investigated. She continued that there is blood in the water and she (Soutas-Little) must resign. You have gotten away with illegal, unethical behavior and tactics too long. Aldrich went on to comment on a friend of hers who was a friend of Ted Bundy who murdered 45 people. He was a nice guy and handsome – it doesn't matter for your personal character. Your personal character and your political character are two different things. She continued on "backroom shenanigans", her past political activity and her experience being asked to resign from a Board she sat on, comments continued.

Review of Financials:

No questions received.

Action Items —

Parks and Recreation Commission – Contract for Woodland Management Services:

Administrator Janik gave a brief update that late today he received the contract from legal counsel with some minor changes – including the completion date, mediation was removed. The document was revised and reformatted.

#347-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY BUNEK TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR WOODLAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES WITH SCHILLINGER FORESTRY, LLC. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – Commissioner Rushton commented that the completion date is February 29, 2016. Janik responded that the original contract did not include a date.

AYES – 7 (Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell)
NO – 0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Leelanau Conservation District – 2016 Work Orders:

#348-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE 2016 LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT WORK ORDERS AS PRESENTED:

Conservation Education and Technical Assistance	\$39,343.00
Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control	Per adopted fee schedule
Water Quality Monitoring	\$5,000.00

SECONDED BY LAUTNER & WATKOSKI.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski,)
NO – 0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Solid Waste Council – Solon Township Recycling Site:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT TO SOLON TOWNSHIP FOR THE INVOICE FROM PRINCE ENGINEERING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,811.25; FUNDS TO COME FROM SOLID WASTE. SECONDED BY WATKOSKI.

Discussion – Commissioner Bunek commented that this was all done in a backwards manner and Solon Township stepped out of line and is now starting to dictate to the Solid Waste Council as to how things should run. They are not working with the County. Solon Township went out on their own and is now demanding reimbursement from the County – they did not follow proper channels. Commissioner Rushton also questioned upon review of this, did they (Solon Township) go out for bids? Is the policy of the Solid Waste – for a project like this – does not believe that it went out for bids. Janik indicated that the Solid Waste has to follow County policy. It does appear in the language that they have given the Solid Waste Council an ultimatum that if they don't meet the four points, then they are not interested in a contract. Rushton understands Commissioner Bunek's concern and it appears that Solon Township is dictating. Rushton asked Solid Waste Council member Eric Lind to comment and he indicated that they (Solon Township) did not go out for bids. They did not ask, they are now demanding reimbursement. Discussion on the contract and a prior extension. They did use a local engineer and Lind explained what was told to them. Discussion as to whether the fee that is paid to Solon Township is to cover items such as this. Lind said that they (Solon Township) want the County to snowplow in lieu of the payment of the \$1200.00 – which the cost of the snowplowing varies from year to year.

Lind continued that the Chairman of the Solid Waste Council, Bill Perkins, went to the Road Commission, as the Road Commission is no longer plowing that route, probably because Glen Noonan has passed away. Lind indicated that he is not familiar with the site, but did agree with Commissioner Bunek that this has been handled backwards.

Commissioner Wessell questioned if the reimbursement is not approved, what will happen? Lind responded that they will likely pull the bins and it is the number two collection site in the County. It is one of the most popular spots and services a large area. One of the problems was due to the glass bin, which has been taken care of, as all glass bins have been pulled and will be recycled with everything else. Wessell said that this is a little different story than last week. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Wessell said he doesn't think they want to lose the number two site.

Commissioner Lautner said she would like to comment as she knows quite a bit about it as she was invited to a meeting at Solon Township along with Planning Director, Trudy Galla, Administrator Janik and members of the Solid Waste Council. They have a very sensitive recycling site that sits right on the edge of Victoria Creek. They have had a lot of problems with stuff blowing out of the bin and into the swamp. One of the township officials goes down there and cleans up without pay. American Waste does come in and clean up the site, but it is not enough. Lautner continued that Solon Township uses Prince Engineering for all of their work. It is a sensitive site and it also under water at times. Solon Township felt that they had to know what they were dealing with in order to know what changes would be needed so they could address the Solid Waste Council. They probably did not realizing that they should have asked the Solid Waste Council, prior to doing the study. She commented on the whole campus is like a boat livery with picnic tables – it is a sensitive site – Solon Township has been very frustrated with the site and they are a very poor Township, they were concerned that they shouldn't have to pay more out of their own pockets to upgrade that site and get it going. One of the Solid Waste members sat there one Saturday and asked where people were from and 15% that visited the site on that one day were from Solon Township. People were coming from four different townships as well as some from Grand Traverse County. Are they putting pressure on the Solid Waste Council? Lautner commented that staff did not bring paperwork to Solid Waste Council that was submitted, which has since been worked out. Solon is not going to spend money out of its own pocket to have that site there – that is her understanding.

Commissioner Rushton said she doesn't think anyone wants to see Solon Township lose the site, but with the four demands it only gives the County one month left in a contract agreement. She is not comfortable supporting an \$1,800.00 payment for four weeks. A second point is when the host sites entered into the agreements, it is written out in the agreement that the host site will provide a certain amount of skin in the game. She would really like to see and would be more comfortable if the contract was through 2017 or 2018. Rushton would suggest that the Solid Waste Council have a conversation with Solon

Township so that the County gets some value. She cannot support this today and would like to see a resolution to the issue.

Commissioner Lautner commented that the short contract was to be a good faith contract as the bins should have been pulled in September. Solon Township is saying pay for the engineering and move on to the four demands and then we (Solon Township) will work on the contract and keep the bins.

Commissioner Rushton questioned if it was a mistake by indicating 2016? Chairman Rentenbach and Administrator Janik both indicated that January, 2016, was not a mistake.

Chairman Rentenbach commented that the Solid Waste Council does support the payment of the bill and Lind affirmed. Rentenbach commented that the Commissioners would like to do the best that can be done for the people in the community that want to recycle. She feels that the best way to serve the citizens is to pay the bill so that people can continue to recycle there.

Commissioner Rushton countered that paying the bill only guarantees four weeks of service and she wants to ensure for the citizens of the County that it be there for at least another year. What leverage will the County have – if Solon Township walks away in January? The County is left looking for another site. Someone needs to work with Solon Township and realize that they worked outside the process and believes that it would be irresponsible to pay the invoice for four weeks.

Commissioner Bunek commented that this reminds him of Elmwood Township. The County worked it through and solved it. There is no reason it can't be worked through with Solon Township, but we need to work together and not have them do stuff and tell us what to do.

#349-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY BUNEK TO POSTPONE THE INVOICE FROM PRINCE ENGINEERING REGARDING THE SOLON TOWNSHIP RECYCLING SITE UNTIL THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DECEMBER 31, 2015. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

AYES – 6 (Bunek, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell)

NO – 1 (Lautner)

MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Lautner commented that she is really disturbed by this and thinks that Commissioners are looking at this all wrong and playing hardball. Solon Township has given a contract into January, 2016. Commissioners not reimbursing Solon Township, it is just like Solon Township saying that they (Solon Township) are going to pull the bins. Lautner added that Solon Township has already paid this invoice and does not know how this will be taken. She personally thought that the bins would have been pulled by now due to the Township Board's frustration. She doesn't know who can attend on December 31, as all of Solon Township Board members works full-time and this creates a hardship for them.

Chairman Rentenbach reminded Commissioner Lautner that the item has been postponed and voted on.

Boards and Commissioners Review Committee Recommendations:

Area Agency on Aging of NW Michigan:

#350-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPOINT MARY TONNEBERGER TO THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2017. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority:

#351-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO WAIVE BOARD POLICY AND REAPPOINT KATHY EGAN TO THE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018; APPOINT FRANK GOODROE TO A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018; AND APPOINT F. BUD WELCH TO A PARTIAL TERM ENDING 12/31/2017. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Construction Codes Board of Appeals:

#352-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO REAPPOINT RICHARD PEPLINSKI, REPRESENTING THE BUILDINGS TRADE, TO THE CONSTRUCTION CODES BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2020. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Landbank Fast Track Authority:

#353-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPOINT F. BUD WELCH TO THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 6 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)

NO – 1 (Soutas-Little)

MOTION CARRIED.

Parks and Recreation Commission:

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPOINT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION: ROBERT JOHNSON FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018; DAVID BARRONS FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018; AND PATRICIA HABER FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

Commissioner Rushton called for division of the question.

#354-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO REAPPOINT ROBERT JOHNSON TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

#355-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO REAPPOINT DAVE BARRONS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

#356-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPOINT PATRICIA HABER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 6 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 1 (Rushton) MOTION CARRIED.**

Planning Commission

#357-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO REAPPOINT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FRED CEPELA (Recreation) AND JERRY RAYMOR (Legal/Real Estate) AND APPOINT STEVE YODER (Finance) EACH FOR THREE YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018; AND APPOINT DAN HUBBELL (Agriculture) FOR A ONE YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Storm water Runoff Control Ordinance Board of Appeals:
#358-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPOINT ERIC LIND AND REAPPOINT VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT TO THE SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND STORM WATER RUNOFF CONTROL ORDINANCE BOARD OF APPEALS EACH FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Solid Waste Council:

#359-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO WAIVE BOARD POLICY AND REAPPOINT TO THE SOLID WASTE COUNCIL FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS, ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017, MARK BEVELHYMER (SW Industry); BILL PERKINS (Environmental); JAMES PALMER (SW Industry); TOM MacDONALD (Local Government); AND TO REAPPOINT ERIC LIND (Public) FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Grand Traverse Band (GTB) 2% Allocation Award Requests:

Sheriff – Animal Control Vehicle:

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND (GTB) 2% ALLOCATION AWARD REQUESTS AS RECOMMENDED AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

- Sheriff's Office/Animal Control Vehicle \$33,708.00
- Equalization/Paper to Digital Project \$6,700.00
- Prosecutor/Attendance to International Courthouse Dogs Conference \$2,935.00
- Prosecutor/Leelanau Christian Neighbors, Blessings in a Backpack \$22,000.00
- Solid Waste/Drop off Sites Surveillance Cameras \$7,500.00
- Emergency Operations/Damage Assessment "Go To" kits \$6,940.00
- Planning & Community Development and REACH/Fund a Zoning Review \$25,000.00

SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – Commissioner Rushton called for division of the question.

#360-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR AN ANIMAL CONTROL VEHICLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,708.00. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Equalization – Paper to Digital Project:

#361-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM THE EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT TO FUND THE WEB-BASED MAPPING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,700.00. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Prosecutor – Attendance to International Courthouse Dogs Conference:

#362-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR FUNDING TO ATTEND THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL COURTHOUSE DOGS CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,935.00. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – Bunek commented that the idea that the Courthouse dog is not costing money is a false statement when presented. He cannot support this. Commissioner Wessell expressed concern when this can be supported when there are other things more important that cannot be supported. Bunek does not believe that this is a proper way to support it.

**AYES – 6 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski)
NO – 1 (Bunek) MOTION CARRIED.**

Prosecutor/Leelanau Christian Neighbors – Food Pantry, Baby Pantry, and Blessings in a Backpack:

#363-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ON BEHALF OF LEELANAU CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS – FOOD PANTRY, BABY PANTRY AND BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAMS – IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,000.00. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – Commissioner Bunek commented that Leelanau Christian Neighbors (LCN) is a wonderful non-profit organization and his goal is to keep it that way. If you look at what is presented, the payment is to local units of government and questioned if Leelanau Christian Neighbors is a local unit of government. He questioned if this has the appearance of a donation. Is the County allowed to make donations? It was mentioned earlier why has Suttons Bay School, Suttons Bay Township, Leelanau Township and others not forwarded this. What do their attorneys know that ours do not? He understands that the cross has been removed from the pantry and that they cannot proselytize? Even Senior Services has dropped it from their office. Are we trying to make Leelanau Christian Neighbors, Leelanau Neighbors? Bunek said he doesn't want Christ taken out of this and urged Commissioners to vote no.

Commissioner Rushton has written a statement and read from it: "It has been established that Leelanau Christian Neighbors ministers to the needs of the public in their community. Every Commissioner on this board applauds the work they do. We have also established that they serve all those who, have been referred by the school, a social worker, other such agencies to bring a ray of hope into the lives of those who are financially unable to make ends meet. Thank you for helping the truly needy, as is your mission upon organizing. We also know as well that service is provided to those who self qualify and take advantage. The beauty of a non-profit is that donors who decide to willingly donate to LCN consider the risk of donating to those who self-qualify and justify their decision and donate for the support of the organization or they simply move on and donate to any organization that better suits their intent for the donation they give. It should concern every taxpaying citizen, that this Board considers 2% funds much like the lottery jackpot – free money. It is not free money for pet organizations or pet purposes to gain political capital. The Board put in place a policy for the 2% allocation / application process. It allowed for Department Heads and Elected Officials to seek funds for projects, equipment, or existing services currently being funded by the mandated tax burden we have placed on our citizens." Rushton continued, "The existing policy helps lift the burden placed on every taxpayer in the County. I ask my fellow Commissioners to just stop and think about the tax burden we impose on every working family. How do we help these families who may be too proud to seek a handout and struggle under the mandated burden. It is our job to help every citizen by reducing the mandates government imposes on struggling Leelanau County families. Adhering to the existing policy affords the Board the opportunity to provide tax relief. Tax relief allows our citizens the opportunity to help themselves as well as support the non-profit of choice. Government tends to think they can better spend your dollar more efficiently; however that has failed the test, more than once. Providing tax relief allows individuals the latitude to help all non-profits, including our local church ministries, our save the wildlife ministries, other baby pantries and many more, not just a chosen one or two." Rushton concluded: "One last point, Government cannot donate money. Oh, I know we dress it up under contract for service, but we all know some are comfortable in stretching the rules for political capital."

Commissioner Wessell commented that he thought Prosecutor Hubbell made a very good presentation and there is a Family Support staff member and he has found a way to have a County non-profit help him with the functions of his office.

Commissioner Lautner said she did not understand that this would be distributed from this office, only that the Prosecutor supports the concept of Leelanau Christian Neighbors. Lautner stated that she gives regularly to LCN and it is a great organization. She had a wonderful time packing backpacks. She wishes that LCN could do more as a Christian group to stop the cycle of the need. We all know that there is fraud and we also know that there is need. She referenced Commissioner Bunek's comment that there is a reason everyone has stopped sending these through. There is a fear that something is being done against the tribal compact. She is glad about the large donation through the

Dancing with the Stars. She doesn't think that the 2% is the necessary spot for this when there are requests coming through the safety divisions of the County.

Commissioner Soutas-Little commented that Prosecutor Attorney Joe Hubbell did bring this forward and he stated that he felt it fit within the mission of his office.

Chairman Rentenbach commented that she has been to the awards ceremony and has seen all of the surrounding Counties being awarded funds that will go to non-profits. She added that she has respect for Prosecuting Attorney Hubbell and the County's Legal Counsel.

Commissioner Rushton noted that she also wanted to point out that when Prosecutor Hubbell was present, she pointed out to him when the policy was put in place by this Board it has been allowed for these to be processed without adherence to the policy. The dollars were to be disbursed through the department and she specifically asked if he would be overseeing the funds and he responded that it would be a pass-through which would be a direct violation of the County's policy and no accountability.

Discussion on the submission of the reports as outlined in the contract.

Commissioner Wessell asked if Mary Stanton would come forward regarding the submission of the reports as outlined in the contract. She indicated that it is a yearly report and it is done in September.

Commissioner Rushton asked how the report is prepared. Stanton is said that they have a data base which contains the information.

AYES -4 (Wessell, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little, Watkoski)

NO – 3 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton)

MOTION CARRIED.

Solid Waste Council – Video cameras for recycling drop-off sites:

#364-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM THE SOLID WASTE COUNCIL TO FUND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR RECYCLING DROP-OFF SITES IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$7,500.00. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski,)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Emergency Operations/Damage Assessment – “Go To” Kits:

#365-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM EMERGENCY OPERATIONS TO FUND DAMAGE ASSESSMENT “GO TO” KITS IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$6,940.00. SECONDED BY RUSHTON & SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Planning and Community Development/Reach – Consultant:

#366-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND 2% ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM THE PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REACH TO FUND A ZONING REVIEW CONSULTANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00, AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion.

**AYES – 5 (Wessell, Bunek, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little, Watkoski,)
NO – 2 (Lautner, Rushton) MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer – Updated Job Description for the Deputy Treasurer/PRE Auditor:

#367-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY BUNEK TO APPROVE THE UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE DEPUTY TREASURER/PRE AUDITOR POSITION, AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion - Commissioner Soutas-Little asked Treasurer John Gallagher if he had any success in updated information. Gallagher responded regarding the process through Lexis-Nexis relative to background checks and online verification. The handout is the result of the online export of all of the County taxes. All of the parcels are exported and run across a national data base. There is potential that up to 15% of the parcels may be submitted for audit – whether it be through a deceased owner or additional residence. Gallagher continued and explained about a potential one year recapture with \$800,000.00 back to the schools. Questioned raised by Commissioners if this can this be achieved without breaking the PRE fund. The fund currently operates on less than that contract price. Lexis-Nexis is willing to take monthly payments and will work with him. Discussion on updating the database and that this is a new tool. Gallagher believes that it time to work smarter, not harder. Brief comments/discussion ensued. Soutas-Little thanked Gallagher for taking the time to follow-up on this

Commissioner Soutas-Little questioned Gallagher as to how the leads will be obtained and he responded that they will send him the information and referenced the documents that Commissioners were looking. Lexis-Nexis takes about 80% of the guess work out of the process and then they (the Treasurer's office) can meet with the taxpayer and this should

speed up the process. Instead of doing 50 to 60 denials in a year, they should have the potential of doing 2,000 per year which is a significant increase.

Commissioner Wessell said he does plan on supporting this and hopes that he (Gallagher) is serious on increasing this for existing staff and Gallagher responded in the affirmative.

AYES – 6 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell)
NO – 1 (Rentenbach) MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer – Staffing Level Adjustment:

#368-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY BUNEK TO ELIMINATE THE PRE STAFFING LEVEL FROM FUND #258 AND CONSOLIDATE THE POSITION INTO THE TREASURER’S OFFICE IN THE GENERAL FUND AS OUTLINED IN THE APPROVED JOB DESCRIPTION. THE GENERAL FUND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED QUARTERLY WITH AN OPERATING TRANSFER IN FROM FUND #258 THAT WILL COVER 46% OF THE DEPUTY TREASURER/PRE POSITION. EFFECTIVE DATE TO BE DATE OF HIRE. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 6 (Bunek, Lautner, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell)
NO – 1 (Rentenbach) MOTION CARRIED.

Planning and Community Development-Planning Commission – Special Meeting Fee:

#369-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WATKOSKI TO APPROVE A FEE OF \$350.00 FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD BY THE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 5 (Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Rentenbach, Soutas-Little)
NO – 2 (Lautner, Rushton) MOTION CARRIED.

Planning and Community Development-Submittal form for Capital Improvement Projects:

#370-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) SUBMITTAL FORM, WITH EACH DEPARTMENT RECEIVING A SUBMITTAL FORM IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR, FOR COMPLETION BY JANUARY 31, 2016. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – Bunek commented that it is important that each department receives the form in January as outlined in the proposed language.

AYES – 7 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski,)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.

Senior Services – Contract Renewal with Comfort Keepers:

#371-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH COMFORT KEEPERS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL CARE, RESPITE CARE, HOMEMAKING AND MEDICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Senior Services – Contract Renewal with Munson Home Health:

#372-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH MUNSON HOME HEALTH TO PROVIDE PERSONAL CARE, RESPITE CARE, HOMEMAKING, AND MEDICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. SECONDED BY WESSELL & BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Senior Services – Contract renewal with Flowers Help Services, LLC:

#373-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO AMEND AND RENEW THE AGREEMENT FOR MEDICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES WITH FLOWERS HELP SERVICES, LLC, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. SECONDED BY LAUTNER.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski,)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Senior Services – Contract with Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc.:

#374-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH ELMER'S CRANE AND DOZER, INC. TO PROVIDE SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL VOUCHER PROGRAM BEGINNING DECEMBER 15, 2015, AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – This contract replacing the previous contract with Suttons Bay Snow Removal as the business was sold to Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Prosecutor – Proposed salary for Assistant Prosecutor:

#375-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO APPROVE THE STARTING SALARY OF \$49,500.00 PLUS BENEFITS FOR A FULL-TIME, ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY AS REQUESTED BY THE PROSECUTOR, AS A NONUNION, AT-WILL EMPLOYEE. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE & BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk – Budget Adjustments and Year-End Transfers:

#376-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO ALLOW THE COUNTY CLERK TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY YEAR-END ADJUSTMENTS AND TRANSFERS DEEMED NECESSARY TO AVOID YEAR-END DEFICITS IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENT’S BUDGETS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND; NO TRANSFERS TO GO BEYOND FUNDS IN CONTINGENCY. ALL ADJUSTMENTS REQUIRE THE SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTY CLERK FOR AUTHORIZATION. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Administrator – Copy Machine Maintenance Renewal:

Administrator Janik noted that this contract is a renewal and is the same as in prior years.

#377-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE 2016 SERVICE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL AGREEMENT, AS PRESENTED, WITH NETLINK BUSINESS SOLUTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,410.60; FUNDS TO COME FROM THE DUPLICATING FUND #645. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Administrator – Out-of-State Travel Request:

#378-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY WESSELL TO APPROVE THE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FEBRUARY 20 – 24, 2016. FUNDS TO COME FROM BOARD TRAVEL. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – Commissioner Rushton commented that she wanted to point out that it has been more than four to five years since anyone on this Board has attended NACO and she supports the request so the Administrator can get caught up on the politics across other counties.

**AYES – 7 (Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski.)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Administrator – Ratification of Labor Contracts:

#379-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS REACHED BY THE EMPLOYER AND THE UNION BARGAINING TEAMS FOR THE FOLLOWING: TEAMSTERS GENERAL UNIT AND TEAMSTERS LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMAND UNIT. THE BOARD CHAIRMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN SAID LABOR CONTRACTS AFTER FINAL REVIEW BY CIVIL COUNSEL. SECONDED BY SOUTAS-LITTLE.

Discussion – Commissioner Rushton questioned if only the blue markings were the changes and Administrator Janik affirmed.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

#380-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE TWO-YEAR AGREEMENTS REACHED BY THE EMPLOYER AND THE UNION BARGAINING TEAMS FOR THE FOLLOWING: POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (POAM) LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (POAM) CORRECTION OFFICERS. THE BOARD CHAIRMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN SAID LABOR CONTRACTS AFTER FINAL REVIEW BY CIVIL COUNSEL. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

#381-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN LEELANAU COUNTY AND THE COMMAND OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (COAM) CORRECTION SERGEANTS. THE BOARD CHAIRMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN SAID LABOR CONTRACT AFTER FINAL REVIEW BY CIVIL COUNSEL. SECONDED BY WESSELL & BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Administrator Janik commented that there have been no grievances and believes that there is trust by all of the parties.

Administrator – Proposed Non-Union 2016 Wage Increases:

#382-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY BUNEK TO INCREASE ALL NON-UNION EMPLOYEE WAGES 2% FOR 2016. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell)
NO – 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Probate/Family Court – Grant to provide in-home services to Juvenile Justice Youth:
#383-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$126,992.00 TO PROVIDE IN-HOME SERVICES FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton)
NO – 0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Vacancy Appointment Process and Schedule:

Administrator Janik indicated that he just gave a proposed schedule to Commissioners in his weekly update. Janik complimented Commissioner Watkoski and that it has been enjoyable working with her. If Commissioners are comfortable with the schedule provided, they can start it now. Janik outlined a proposed process.

Chairman Rentenbach questioned what would the applicant fill out? Janik responded that with the Road Commission, Commissioners asked for a cover letter with a resume.

Commissioner Wessell said he likes the proposed schedule and would add a second meeting into the schedule, which can always be cancelled.

Commissioner Rushton noted that she was also concerned with interviewing prior to a Board meeting and would like to see them start earlier in the week, perhaps on Monday. Janik suggested that Commissioners review the information over the weekend and discuss it at the Executive meeting on January 12, 2016, and decided how many meetings you may need based on the number of applicants.

Commissioner Lautner commented that she has never been involved in the process of appointing a Commissioner and that perhaps since there has been a lot of presumed party votes, maybe the Board should just not appoint and work with a six person board for a year. The Commissioners would only get down and dirty business would get done and perhaps, it would be a very clear way of doing business. They could have a six person Board legally.

County Clerk Crocker explained the process and that the Board is a seven member Board. She further explained the law and quoted the applicable statutes.

Commissioner Wessell understands Commissioner Lautner's position and he is optimistic that the Board can select someone and wants to proceed. Janik asked is everyone okay with the process.

Administrator Janik in response to a question that he believes that people are well aware of the vacancy.

Amendments and Transfers:

#384-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2015 FUND TRANSFER #15-009. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

#385-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2015 AMENDMENT #15-020; #15-021; #15-022; #15-023; #15-024. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Claims and Accounts:

#386-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,858.96. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Post Audit Claims and Accounts:

#387-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY LAUTNER TO APPROVE POST AUDIT CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,718,631.01. SECONDED BY RUSHTON.

Discussion – none.

**AYES – 7 (Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek)
NO – 0
MOTION CARRIED.**

Special reports by staff, commissioners, elected officials, and affiliated agencies:

- Commissioner Wessell reminded Commissioners to complete the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health survey.

Commissioner Comments – Reports on committee/commission appointments:

- Commissioner Rushton wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

- Commissioner Bunek questioned the Administrator if there have been any updates on the Leland property. Administrator Janik indicated that Planning Director Trudy Galla gave an update at last week's meeting and Janik would be happy to call Bunek and give him the update that was presented.

- Commissioner Rentenbach in addressing Commissioner Watkoski commented that "You are an angel, a star and a blessing" and presented a Certificate of Recognition – On behalf

of the citizens of Leelanau County, the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners is honored to present this certificate to Jean I. Watkoski for nineteen years (1997-2015) of public service as Leelanau County Commissioner, District #1." Commissioner Watkoski offered thanks.

- Commissioner Soutas-Little commented that her recommendation that the Commissioners change the policy regarding review of candidates for Boards and Commissions, is not a little too late, it is the right thing to do. In her opinion it would not have been necessary for her to contact Commissioners Bunek and Watkoski, to confirm whether what she had been told about one of the Parks and Recreation candidate was factual because all three of the Commissioners that have or were serving on the Parks and Recreation would have received the applicant information. These Commissioners could have elected to share information or simply vote aye or nay based on their own opinions. She continued that "we" lose nothing by transferring this function back to the full Board where it was up until 2009. In terms of transparency, she believes that the Commissioners would gain a huge amount and it would be a benefit to those that apply. There have been a lot of statements made tonight asking for her resignation. The *Leelanau Enterprise* of December 9, 2015, published a series of articles that contained accusations by both Commissioner Lautner and Gery Zemaitis; although Gery Zemaitis' accusations were presented as fact that she, Patricia Soutas-Little, had violated the Open Meetings Act by trying to influence other Leelanau County Commissioners votes. Soutas-Little continued that she feels compelled to present the facts of the events so that people here and readers of *the Enterprise* will know exactly what occurred during the County Commissioner's meeting of December 8. She will be presenting something formally. She went on to say that she questions how much of what she was trying to say was heard, as tempers were hot and Commissioner Lautner was interrupting and overriding almost everything she (Soutas-Little) was trying to say. Soutas-Little continued that she thinks that there are bullying tactics that get used to discredit a fellow Commissioner and can also be used to push another Commissioner into retirement; when that happens, we all lose. Is it any wonder that people are reluctant to run for County Commission offices when some seated Commissioners seem to be able to make unfounded accusations with impunity? Soutas-Little has to ask, do the citizens of Leelanau County want decisions to be made on factual information or not? She believes that they do and she was doing her job and she will continue to do her job – above board and adhering to the rules. She concluded that apparently not everyone believes as she does that decisions should be based on fact.

Commissioner Lautner began by indicating that she did not bring a prepared statement as she didn't expect to discuss this, this evening. Lautner indicated that she felt she would have to answer the allegations one more time. Lautner said that she did interrupt Soutas-Little last week, and she must apologize; but she (Lautner) stated that she has a hard time sitting at the table with someone that does not tell the truth. Lautner continued that the very fact that Soutas-Little had talked to two other Commissioners, actually three-you said, then her (Lautner), so that is five – although Soutas-Little will say four – and then a

fifth Commissioner about changing the appointment to this Board is wrong. Lautner continued to address Soutas-Little, that she (Soutas-Little) wants to change policy for transparency, but everything “you” told me on the phone was not transparent. Lautner continued that Soutas-Little said she wanted to discuss this over the phone so we didn’t have to discuss it publicly. Lautner continued that changing the County policy is not going to make this any more transparent. What you did is take the transparency away. Asking us to change our person from a gentlemen to someone else is wrong. Lautner knows that Rentenbach denied it and opened up the discussion on changing this appointment, as all of a sudden Rentenbach had all of the same concerns regarding the person that the Board wanted appointed. Lautner continued that she has been on this Board long enough and has been to enough Open Meeting Act (OMA) Violation training sessions to recognize an OMA violation. It was beyond a fine line and way beyond the threshold. All you have to do is admit that you didn’t know, you made a mistake. But the process of talking to a majority of Commissioners to change a nomination is absolutely wrong.

Commissioner Soutas-Little responded that clearly Commissioner Lautner’s recollection and interpretation of the events is very different than hers (Soutas-Little). Everyone knows that the Boards and Commission Review Committee consists of Commissioners Lautner, Rushton and Soutas-Little.

At the meeting of the board and reviews – Commissioner Lautner seconded Commissioner Rushton’s appointment of the individual, a Kasson Township resident, to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Soutas-Little continued that she did not know this individual, she has never met him, does know some of his references and she voted with the other two Commissioners and recommended his appointment. The following week she (Soutas-Little) had been informed that the appointee had been extremely difficult and problematic with his interactions with the Parks and Recreation Commission members and that the Commission had asked that he not be appointed. The Parks and Recreation Board had recommended two other individuals to be appointed. Rather than take this information on face value, she decided to do a little fact finding on her own. She called Commissioner Bunek as he had been on the Parks and Recreation previously and she called Commissioner Watkoski as she currently sat on the Board and both confirmed the negative interactions by the individual with the Parks and Recreation members and provided her with details. Commissioner Watkoski also confirmed that the Parks and Recreation had asked that the individual not be considered for the appointment. Soutas-Little continued that on the evening of December 17, she reached Commissioner Lautner and relayed what she had heard concerning the appointee and the facts that were presented to her (Soutas-Little) and that the Parks and Recreation desired that he not be appointed. She asked Commissioner Lautner, who chairs the Committee, in a conversation that was under four minutes – what she thought we should do. Lautner stated that she wanted to check into this, which seemed like a good idea to Soutas-Little. That was the extent of the conversation.

On December 18 as Commissioner Rushton was removing her coat, having arrived just prior to the start of the meeting, Soutas-Little commented to her that we may have a problem with one of the appointments as we were recommending someone that Parks and Recreation did not want due to past history with the individual.

Commissioner Soutas-Little continued that had these appointments come to the full Board of Commissioners, her fact-finding would have not been required or necessary as the information would have presented itself. She did not tell either Commissioner that they should vote against him. Commissioner Rushton was walking away from her and whether she heard her say perhaps the appointment should be postponed, she doesn't even know. How that is interpreted as influencing someones vote she does not know. There were other people on the candidate list that could have been appointed. To her it was a matter of finding out the truth. She was not trying to influence anyone's vote – intentionally or unintentionally.

- Commissioner Wessell commented that he gave some thought as he read the papers and is hoping at the Organizational meeting some time can be given to discussion on how the Commissioners work together. He believes that the people who have elected us would like us to work together in a professional way.
- Commissioner Rushton said she appreciates any Commissioner doing their fact-finding, and that you bring the facts to the Board meeting, we discuss it at the Board meeting and we share that same information at the same time and if we need to make a decision on voting then. Rushton continued that she believes that the conversations or whatever that went on is a violation. She continued that maybe this is a lesson learned and that those facts should be presented to the Board as a whole.
- Commissioner Lautner commented Soutas-Little can put a spin on this however you want. Lautner commented that she realized it was a OMA violation as soon as the conversation occurred. "You indicated that two Commissioners were not going to support the appointment. It boils down to how you do business and what cannot be lost is that it is an open process and needs to be done at this table." Lautner said she believes that this has been going on since the beginning of the year and this was the first time she was included in the conversation and was able to put a stop to it. Lautner concluded that you may not like everything here in the open, but that is how it has to be.
- Chairman Rentenbach stated she would like the conversation to end.

Public Comment:

► Karan Josephus, Chairman of the Republican Party and resident of Bingham Township. Josephus commented that she would like to remind everyone that this is a political process, whether we like it or not. The checks and balances are what make the system work because we make each other accountable. She continued that anything that has been said does not take away from the wonderful work that Commissioner Watkoski has done

and felt because an accusation was made, it had to be responded to. Josephus also questioned who decides where Commissioners sit? If there is influencing going on, it is interesting where everyone is sitting. Who is in charge of the P.A. system and who is his boss? Where she previously worked, it would have been taken care of immediately.

► Jerry Raymor of Elmwood Township. Raymor commented that he serves on the Planning Commission and would like to say that they will be at a loss for Commissioner Watkoski leaving and filling that slot. He plans to submit his name. Although he cannot replace Watkoski, he is interested in filling the position.

► Steve Mikowski of Lake Leelanau. Mikowski questioned if the Commissioners are authorizing a position that will read obituaries to look to generate revenue and should request a quarterly report system to see how this goes. County Planning and County Planners have no authority to even suggest to townships what to do and there is no obligation to listen. We have a County Planning Commission that is an “appendage”. Mikowski commented on the system to appoint a Commissioner and also referenced changing the Road Commission Board from three members to five members. Brief comments continued. Mikowski wished all a happy holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

► Tony Ansonge, E. Carter Road. Ansonge commented that he is speaking for himself only and read from a prepared statement. “When I read about Commissioner Watkoski’s resignation from the Board, it got me thinking about why you people run for this position. It certainly can’t be for “big bucks”, as the pay is meager. It can’t be for stardom and adulation, as I haven’t seen any adoring fans or groupies following you around. It can’t even be for minor fame, as criticism is more common than praise (and our Fourth Estate seems to be vigilantly observing). It can’t be for the power of command, as there is little evidence of meddling with County employees, who apparently avoid these meetings like it’s a TB ward. It can’t be for raw power, as at this local level the Board really doesn’t have that much of a say over people’s lives. It can’t be just to hurt people for enjoyment, as I don’t see any evidence that any Board member is outright evil. It can’t even be that the duties of the job are that enjoyable, what with running for election and being under a microscope for every single thing said. So why do you do it?”

Ansonge continued: “It is my belief that every single Board member puts themselves through the hurdles of serving for the exact same reason: that they want to make this community a better place. Now I am not for a moment saying there is always unanimity of how to make this happen, as every person probably has differing viewpoints and ideology. But I think it is important to remember that every Board member ultimately wants the same thing – a better Leelanau County. So while we may occasionally (or even frequently) differ in how we should accomplish this goal, we should remember we are all really working for the same goal. So while you probably don’t hear it often enough, I want to thank each and every Board member for their service on this Board. And I especially want to thank Jean Watkoski, who has been my Commissioner in District 1. While I haven’t always agreed with every single vote she made, I don’t have to always

agree to recognize her effort to make things better. To quote a better source, I say: 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.' Thank you for the opportunity to comment."
(Statement on file in the County Clerk's office.)

► Jeannie Aldrich – Suttons Bay. Aldrich commented that the prior speaker gave an elegant speech. She wanted to get the information correct. She continued that Commissioner Watkoski receiving pressure from the party is a lie. All you have to do is read the paper. She was never forced off of this Board. "A tiger never changes its stripes." Aldrich continued with comments on many topics regarding running a house, running a business, being touchy feely, LCN, Commissioners' volunteer work, conflict of interest and oaths of office.

Adjourn:

#388-12152015 Regular Session

MOTION BY RUSHTON TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY WESSELL.

AYES – 7 (Rushton, Soutas-Little, Watkoski, Wessell, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach)
NO – 0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Rentenbach called the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Carolyn Rentenbach, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

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