

Lake Mitchell Property Owners Incorporated

Board meeting Minutes

August 23, 2022

Zoom Meeting Attendance: Dave Stinger, Jackie Erway, Dave Kuyers, Hugh Hufnagel, Gary Huyge

1. **Election of Board Officers:** Following discussion, the following board officers were unanimously elected.

- President: David Kuyers
- Treasurer: Gary Huyge (Duties include membership dues collection, bank deposits, paying bills, keeping the books balanced, membership roster maintenance, checking account management, financial reports preparation.)

The following board officers will remain in their current positions.

- Vice President: Jackie Erway
- Secretary: Hugh Hufnagel

Dave Stinger was thanked for his leadership and work over the past five years as President. He will remain on the board as a trustee.

2. **LMSA meeting agenda items:** It was noted that there are three primary ways of communicating with the LMSA board: (1) Asking to get on the meeting agenda. (2) Submitting questions to the board in advance of the meeting. (3) Commenting during the public comment time included on each agenda. Getting on the agenda has been the most effective method in the past and making public comments has been very ineffective. Being on the agenda includes discussion where making public comments does not. And not being on the agenda means that any and all information that LMSA customers or the LMPOI want to see must be formally requested and paid for through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Therefore, the LMPOI board decided to request to be on the agenda in future meetings. If the request to be on the agenda (option 1) is denied, then the questions will be submitted to the LMSA board (option 2).

LMPOI board members came up with the following list of questions for the next LMSA board meeting.

- LMSA has stated that they have requested funds from the State of Michigan for the sewer upgrade. What request specifically has been submitted? Status of the request? How can LMPOI help in securing the funds requested?
- Status of the Wade Trim contract? Who has LMSA established as the expert to represent the LMSA on this project?
- What is the status with EGLE relative to the ACO?
- Expiration of the Operations Services Contract. What is the intent for handling Operations moving forward? Is it time for LMSA to hire their own employees?

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- When will the project be bid? What is the plan if the bids exceed the loan amount? Has the engineering work been done and is there an engineering report that we can see? What is the bidding process and who supervises it? Who opens the bids and who witnesses the opening? Who analyzes the bids?

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- How can the LMPOI help with communication with the property owners?

The board decided that a list of questions including the items noted above should be developed and sent to the LMSA board by 9-8-22 in advance of the LMSA board meeting on 9-20-22. Dave Kuyers will take the lead on doing this.

It was also decided that all LMPOI board members should attend LMSA board meetings if possible. Because Hugh and Gary do not reside in the Cadillac area, they will try to alternate attendance to fit their schedules.

3. **Letters of support for infrastructure funding money:** The LMPOI board decided to send a letter to all appropriate area state and federal elected officials for the purpose of expressing our support for obtaining federal and state infrastructure money to help cover the planned LMSA sewer upgrades. The letter will include a list of all LMPOI board members and their contact information. The letter will also be distributed to all LMPOI members and others, along with a request to also send it (or a revised version of it) to their elected representatives. The more people contacting elected officials to express support, the stronger the chances of getting government money for fixing our sewer system.
4. **Bridge Magazine coverage:** Dave Kuyers and Hugh Hufnagel have been talking about trying to get Bridge Magazine to cover our sewer situation. Bridge Magazine has a statewide focus and has done a story in the recent past about problems that some northern Michigan lakes (eg Higgins Lake) are having as a result of failing lake front residential septic systems and not having a sewer system to keep waste out of the lakes. Both Dave and Hugh are subscribers to and readers of Bridge Magazine.

Hugh outlined a plan to request coverage of our situation regarding the LMSA. First, a brief written prospectus of sorts will be developed to outline the story and its relevance to Bridge Magazine readers. Second, Hugh will call a Bridge Magazine editor and request a phone/zoom meeting to discuss the story idea. (Hugh and Dave K will participate in this meeting.) Third, the story prospectus will be sent to follow-up the phone meeting.

5. **Other items:**

- Board member communications: Emails should be routinely responded to by hitting "Reply All." Texts will be used for more urgent or time-sensitive issues or when emails have not been responded to.
- Past due membership: LMPOI members who have not paid their 2022 calendar year dues should be contacted, thanked for their past membership, and reminded that their 2022 dues should be paid. Gary will work on this with assistance from Jackie.

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