



GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes of August 4, 2026

420 N. Front Street

Suttons Bay, MI 49682

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Bahle, Perkins & Lutke

Staff present: Larrea, Petroskey, Miller

DPW Report: No report.

Public Comments: None

Committee Business

Presentation by Rich Bahle and Council Member Perkins on Leo Creek Culverts:

Rich Bahle stated he attempted to get the Village and Township to enter into an agreement for a hydrological study back in 2020 and was unsuccessful. He stated at that time he was approached by Don Gregory to see what the Township could do about the condition of Elm Street. Rich stated he then reached out to Mike Long, a council member at that time. He went on the record to state that he has heard that some people are saying that there is a direct benefit to the Bahle Family and that is not the case.

President Lutke stated that he wanted to be transparent and stated he is a property owner within the Leo Creek watershed. He added that other members of council are as well and if the intent of this is to enhance the value of the underlying property, then members should be transparent.

Rich Bahle stated his concern is the Elm Street culvert and trying to look for funding sources to improve the creek and watershed. He provided photos of the 8 culverts, 2 on Elm Street, 2 in the Township, and the rest in the Village. He added there are a number of agencies that he has personally spoke with that would be willing to help fund a project. He also indicated that he spoke with the Leelanau County Road Commission Manager Brendon Mullane and the County would be willing to work with the Village on a project.

Rob Larrea noted that we have been working with our engineers and have been provided with the latest numbers on repairing the Elm Street culverts as well as the road bed. Rough estimates are at 1.6 million dollars.

Bahle stated that he has spoke with the Conservation Resource Alliance and they would be willing to work on a project that included all the culverts to benefit the stream. In addition, Trout Unlimited and Networks Northwest have been contacted. He stated most of the culverts are around 70 years old. He would like to talk with the Township and has also talked to the County Road Commission and Inland Seas who are eager to help.

Bill Perkins stated that the property owners on Elm Street contacted him and asked him to help with Elm Street. Bahle stated that the first step is to get a hydrological study done all the culverts. He feels they are inadequate with the drainage issues throughout the watershed. He stated with all the changes throughout the years there is standing water noting that before the school went in, it was a strawberry farm and there were no water pooling issues. Now there is standing water and cattails.

Perkins stated that the committee should look at what was done with Alpine and White Road. Rich Bahle noted that the Glen Arbor Sun article lays out the template of how the projects work.

Larrea stated that with federal funding we will need to meet federal standards and stay within the scope of the project. Larrea stated that the Village's project is improving Elm Street and those culvert repairs. There is no guarantee that sidewalks will be covered with this project

Karl stated that we will need to do a hydrology study first, get an intergovernmental agreement with the Township/County Road Commission. Rob stated that Elm Street was the focus. Bahle stated he felt to get more entities on board we should look at the whole stream as a benefit for all.

Consensus of the committee is to send a request for a hydrology study of the Leo Creek culverts to the full council for further discussion.

Public Comment: Bill Crackel appreciates the work done and feels that the hydrology study will tell which culverts to attack next.

Matthew Farquhar, 937 Elm Street submitted a written statement outlining his concerns regarding pedestrian safety, excessive speeding and risk of flooding on Elm Street.

He also submitted a written statement from Michael Jarvis and Lynne Brach stating their concerns regarding the road width of Elm Street, excessive speed and pedestrian vulnerability, requests for sidewalks and traffic calming measures.

Judy Walter 917 Elm Street stated she decorates the bridge over the creek. Deputy Newmann stated that he monitors the speed daily and the decorations cause people to slow down.

Tracy Nedderman, Elm Street is concerned about possible flooding, infrastructure and stewardship and would like to see the Village act before a crisis.

Rich Bahle stated that people talk like its "Rich's project." He stated Bill reached out to him. He added that when he approached the Village in 2020 with the proposal for a study, he did not feel it was received well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Meeting notes submitted by Dorothy Petroskey, Clerk.