

League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

Observer Corps Summaries

August 2022

Emmet County Commission

Date: 08/08/2022

Notes: Citizen asked about why the ARPA funding discussion has been pushed to 08-18-2022 meeting. Board responded that more time is needed to put reports together.

Dan Thorell presented the Health Dept of Northwest Michigan's Annual Report. There will be a new dental program where kindergarteners will get a dental screening as well as hearing and vision tests.

The board voted to accept the Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant that helps offset fees for attorneys appointed by the court to represent children and parents when they cannot afford their own council.

Issues: Follow ARPA allocations.
To Watch

Date: 08/18/2022

Notes: Board proposals for 6.4 million dollars allocated by ARPA funds.
4.5 million to county capital improvements
\$200,000 to cities and townships
\$400,000 to Road Commission
\$400,000 to community action requests such as work force housing, public Transit, childcare needs.
Funding for the Road Commission passed. The Board set a date for public Discussion on transit for September 29, 2022.

To Watch: Follow ARPA allocations

Petoskey City Council

Date: 08/01/2022

Notes: City accepted \$300,000 grant to go to building a pavilion over the ice area Winter Sports Park. The city will make up the difference need to complete the project. (\$302,000) completion due July 2024

The council voted to approve the continued use of Zoom at future council

Meetings.

Issues None

Date: 08/15/2022

Notes: Council went into closed session at 7:07 and returned to open session at 7:38

Approval of a ballot proposal to initiate an ordinance to amend the City of Petoskey code of ordinances to allow and provide for the licensing of Adult-use recreational marihuana retailers.

Issues: None

Bear Creek Township

Date: 08/03/2022

Notes: There was discussion about the Petoskey District Library involvement with a Pride march. Meyerson, the library director reported that the library staff did not march but that the march started outside the library. Meyerson also mentioned several other falsehoods that had been said at the previous meeting. Board member Hoffman replied that the previous month's meeting notes will not be changed and that citizens have First Amendment rights to speak their minds.

Issues: The library situation needs to be addressed. It will be reported to the board.
To Watch

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 08/01/2022

Notes: There was a presentation from the City Manager about misinformation being circulated about the proposal to override the Headlee Amendment. CM went through point by point to demonstrate that the information was erroneous.

There was a question about the return on investments of the solar panels installed on city buildings.

Citizen questions included, sidewalk problems, schedule for property reassessment, appropriate cities for comparing Harbor Springs budget, recommendations for setting up a citizen financial advisory committee, and when does city get property tax money.

There were questions about the location of the new electric substation. Complaints about why it is needed, proposed location, proposals to postpone consideration in order to consider other options, costs related to various options. In the end, issue was tabled and will be reviewed in September.

Issues: Solar Power citizen question

Redevelopment Ready Update:

Issue of citizen information/awareness, it's a two-way street in that the city needs to have information readily available and citizens need to go to the website and use the information available.

Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 08/11/2022

Notes: Northern Michigan Community Action Agency is a partner with the county housing program that helps with funding for emergency needs. They are in the process of applying for a grant to help finance additional projects. They were seeking a letter of support from the board to include in the grant application. Board approved the request.

Issues: None

Date: 08/24/2022

Notes: Members in the audience included citizens who are interested in the bike trail timeline and funding. Prospective members of the Board also attended.

Issues: None

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 08/2022

Cheboygan Youth Coalition President presented an update on the program and the survey given to area seventh, ninth and eleventh graders. The coalition wants to focus on what was happening with youth on the topics of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco. There are currently 22 youths representing all three public schools in the county on the Youth Coalition.

The Veterans Director presented the 2021 Veteran's Service Annual Report.

Issues: None

To Watch

Board of Health

Date: 08/02/2022

Notes: There was a brief bit of iciness between two commissioners and a moment of levity when one commissioner said they were agreeing with another commissioner for the first time. It was met with humor.
There was a proposal to explore the possibility of expanding a building to better serve needs of clients and staff. There was lengthy discussion about concerns for the cost and the need for more details before exploring options.

Issues: None