

**Observer Corps Summaries  
December 2023**

**Emmet County Commissioners**

**Date:** 12/05/2023  
**Notes:** Long report from Dan Thorell on upcoming legislation regarding septic inspections. As currently written, the legislation would create anywhere from \$3-6 million in costs to the State and require hiring ~1800 inspectors by the HD.

**Issues**

**To watch:** Could be a possible informational forum once the legislation is passed.

**Date:** 12/19/2023

**Notes:** Com. Laughbaum voted against a required Citizen Participation Plan that assists residents with low or moderate income to better access meetings, information, and records, to facilitate their input relating to the use of funds for housing and community development. His reasoning was because the grant required the county to provide an interpreter for non-English speaking residents which might include and benefit "illegal immigrants."

Also, Laughbaum didn't want to approve the MI Emergency Performance Grant - which coordinates emergency services during natural disasters - because it gave the state and federal govt emergency powers such as when they "shut things down" during the "China flu."

Both motions passed 6-1 with Laughbaum being the only dissenting vote

**Issues:  
to watch** None

**Petoskey City Council**

**Date:** 12/04/2023

**Notes:** Approval of solar project at city landfill should interest the environmental committee.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Date:** 12/18/2023

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Bear Creek Township:**

**Date:** 12/06/2023

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Public Schools of Petoskey**

**Date:** 12/04/2023

**Notes:** The meeting was entirely a discussion of two topics - 1.5 hours about developing an in-house alternative high school and .5 hours on the pros and cons of accepting a health clinic proposed for inside the high school.

A closed session was scheduled after that.

**Issues**

**To watch:** Follow the health clinic proposal.

**Petoskey District Library**

**Date:** No meeting in December

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Harbor Springs City Council**

**Date:** 12/04/2023

**Notes:** First presentation of city budget (hearing on Dec 11; vote on Dec 18) and Capital Improvement Plan (2024 Plan vote on Dec 11 - can be updated as needed)  
Housing North Housing Ready Director Position Funding  
Second Street LTBB of Odawa Indians' Indian Town Housing Complex Sign Agreement

**Issues:** Support for Housing Director position  
Support for LTBB Housing project.

**Date:** 12/20/2023

**Notes:** No report filed

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Pellston Public Schools**

**Date:** 12/12/2023

**Notes:** Dr. Mark Sloan Trauma Project – This Trauma Project was originally awarded \$32,000 in grant funding by the Board of Education in November. Mr. Seelye shared with the Board of Education just how powerful and greatly needed this project is for students. With that in mind, Mr. Seelye would like to spend the remaining available grant funding to bring Dr. Mark Sloan to Pellston on more dates. No action is requested currently as Mr. Seelye awaits Dr. Mark Sloan’s new proposal.

There was approval for a \$12, 000 stage using Regional Enhancement Millage funds.

**Issues**

**To Watch:** None

**Board of Health**

**Date:** 12/052023

**Notes:** No report filed. There will not be a Board of Health meeting in January 2024.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None reported

**Charlevoix County Commissioners**

**Date:** 12/13/2023

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To Watch:** None

**Date:** 12/27/2023

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues:** None

**To Watch**

**Charlevoix City Council**

**Date:** 12/04/2023

**Notes:** Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant Funding was approved. Zoning Administrator Jonathan Scheel, Zoning Administrator, stated the grant will allow the City to assist residents in solving some of their blight issues.

**Issues:** None  
**To watch**

**Date:** 12/18/2023  
**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**  
**To watch:** None

#### Boyne City Council

**Date:** 12/12/2023  
**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**  
**To watch:** None

**Date:** 12/19/2023  
**Notes:** In May 2023 the City submitted to the State an application for \$12.8 million in funding for improvements to the sanitary sewer system. The request was submitted under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) as a loan at 2%. There is also a \$7 million scaled back option. After much discussion among board members and with input from the public, it was decided to continue discussion at the regular January 9, 2024 meeting.

**Issues**  
**To watch:** Environmental committee may be interested in the sewer system discussion.

#### Cheboygan County Commissioners

**Date:** 12/10/2023  
**Notes:** No report filed

**Issues**  
**To watch:** None