

League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

Observer Corps Summaries

July 2022

Emmet County Commission

**Date:** 07/11/2022

**Notes:** Angi Angel, former director of the Community Recovery Alliance, noted the opioid settlement dollars recently announced by Governor Whitmer. Emmet county was awarded approximately \$541,000 and approximately \$24,000 per township. She asked how the board plans to administer and distribute those dollars. She is interested in having a voice in that process.

Dale Hull, a founding member of Community Recovery Alliance spoke to the board regarding the treatment of citizens with substance abuse and mental health disorders. Hull encourages the board to implement a Drug Court. In counties that have a drug court, there is a 60% success rate of people sentenced to the program.

**Issues:** Follow how money is spent for social issues. Does it go where it is intended?  
**To Watch**

**Date:** 07/21/2022

**Notes:** Area Agency on Aging Annual report – Baby Boomers are moving into the senior population with all of them being in their sixties and above. The current population of boomers is 30% in Emmet county. There was discussion about the work forces' ability to care for our aging population. Care facilities are short staffed. Jobs in this area are considered low status and are paid less than fast food workers.

Motion passed to approve an agreement between the Michigan Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy and the County of Emmet for Phase 4 Groundwater Investigation at the Pellston Regional Airport to test for concentration of PFAS.

Approval of Sue Vandeventer to serve on the County Board of Canvassers.

**Issues:** None  
**To Watch**

Petoskey City Council

**Date:** 07/18/2022  
**Notes:** No issues to report.

**Issues To Watch:** None

**Bear Creek Township**

**Date:** 07/06/2022  
**Notes:** There were two calls of complaint and one letter regarding the Library's support of the Gay Alliance parade. One commenter asked where the Friends of the Library money is spent. Another commenter said that a transgender person has been reading to the little kids for years. It was asked who the library answers to. It was suggested that those people who have concerns should go to the Library board meetings.

**Issues To Watch:** Continue monitor the library situation.

**Harbor Springs City Council**

**Date:** 07/18/2022  
**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues To Watch:** None

**Charlevoix County Commissioners**

**Date:** 07/27/2022  
**Notes:** Nothing to report.

**Issues:** None

**Cheboygan County Commissioners**

**Date:** 07/26/2022  
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:** 07/05/2022  
**Notes:** Observer had to ask for a meeting packet as none were out. She was able to request being sent the packet in advance for future meetings.

**Issues:** Staff reports included statistical information from the Family Health Division. This focused mostly on 0-4-year olds, and pregnancies. Total births have decreased in all 4 counties. Medicare pays for 40-50% of births. Smoking during pregnancy is a significant problem. 50% Of 0-4 population receive WIC services. Lack of childcare is a problem in all 4 counties.