

League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

Observer Corps Summaries

April 2023

Emmet County Commission

Date: 04/10/2023

Notes: One of the commissioners stated in a radio interview that he would be reintroducing a resolution to make Emmet County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County even though it was not listed on the agenda, Was there discussion with other board members prior to the meeting?

Several public comments critical of the actions of Commissioner Ginop in pushing for his Medical Freedom resolution to limit the ability of the Health Dept to deal with any future Covid protocols.

Matt Koontz gave a strongly worded criticism of Commissioner Ginop and his actions toward the Health Dept. Commissioner Laughbaum read a personal statement filled with conspiracy theories and misinformation.

Issues

To Watch: Continue to monitor the actions of boards of Commissioners and Health Dept for radical anti-government measures.

Date: 04/20/2023

Notes: Commissioner Laughbaum suggested selling Bay Bluffs because of several large expenses. He also voted against a Community Corrections grant for jail and prison diversion that would provide programs with the goal of aiding offender reintegration into the community and reducing recidivism. The motion passed.

Issues

To Watch: None

Petoskey City Council

Date: 04/17/2023

Notes: Jeff Smoke, of great Lakes Capital gave a project overview of Maple Block Flats. They are looking to build 204 units approximately 700 to 1,100 sq ft.

Issues None

Bear Creek Township

Date: 04/05/2023
Notes: Keiser shared that last year, the county commissioners approved up to \$50,000 of ARPA money as a match to each local jurisdiction to help fund projects. Keiser would like to use the money for lift station #2 upgrades.

Issues: Use of ARPA funds
To Watch

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 04/17/2023
Notes: Nothing to report

Issues
To Watch: None

Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 04/12/2023
Notes: Nothing to report.

Issues: None

Date: 04/26/2023
Notes: Nothing to report

Issues: None

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 04/25/2023
Notes: At the March meeting, the board voted to declare Cheboygan County a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County." At this meeting, a member of the public during the public comment period read a statement saying the right to bear arms is in both the US and Michigan Constitutions and Cheboygan County commissioners have no authority to regulate firearms. This Sanctuary declaration ignores citizens increasingly concerned with gun violence. The statement was politely received. In the second comment period, the chair of the CC Republican party presented the view that the Sanctuary County resolution is an important symbol, comparable to a married couple renewing their vows.

Issues: None
To Watch

Board of Health

Date: 04/04/2023

Notes: LaVanway made a motion to table the Covid – 19 resolution and it failed. It is interesting to note that the official minutes do not report public comments. There were several comments in favor of applying for a grant to promote healthy foods in public schools.

Issues: Follow the grant application process.