

## League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

### Observer Corps Summaries

February 2023

#### Emmet County Commission

**Date:** 02/06/2023

**Notes:** There was approval for the Sheriff's department to purchase a video system including body worn cameras, in-car video systems and two interview room recording systems.

Bob Wiley made a statement in Public Comments that are attached to the minutes regarding vaccine conspiracies and anti-trans sentiments.

**Issues:** Continue to monitor antigovernment issues.  
**To watch**

**Date:** 02/16/2023

**Notes:** Dr Bob Wiley, again, giving public comment on the US financing the Covid virus in China. He mentioned he had been asked to comment by one of the commissioners. In the second opportunity for public comment, he spoke on what he considers to be the greatest existential threat to the US – transhumanism.

Commissioner Laughbaum voted no on extending the contract for tech security and services because it wasn't put out for bids, even though the company involved has served the county well for three years. The bid was competitive with other offers offering this service when first contracted and our county administrator recommended renewing the contract this year. Laughbaum wants at least two bids next year.

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

#### Petoskey City Council

**Date:** 02/06/2023

**Notes:** The City Councilmembers interviewed the five candidates for Public Safety Director. The candidates were Russell Girbach, Brandon Weber, Tim Rodwell, Adrian Karr and Todd Troxel. Councilmembers asked a series of questions including addressing community policing, budgetary issues, experience in three disciplines of public safety and interest in serving the Petoskey community. The City Manager makes the final hiring decision.

**Issues** None

**Date:** 02/20/2023

**Notes** There was discussion of a possible city ordinance to cap short term rentals to 40 licenses. There are currently 32 licenses in place. The discussion was tabled.

**Issues:** Short term rental ordinance.

**To watch**

#### Bear Creek Township

**Date:** 02/01/2023

**Notes:** The township acknowledged receipt of an email from a group of citizens in support of the District Library of Petoskey. The draft minutes misrepresented in the intent of the letter, but public comment by the librarian clarified it.

**Issues:** Continue to monitor events.

**To Watch**

#### Harbor Springs City Council

**Date:** 02/06/2023

**Notes:** John Cupps, a member of City Council, was the staff recommended bidder on the Boardwalk Project. In keeping with City policies on conflict of interest, Cupps recused himself from the discussion and the vote by joining the audience when discussion began. Staff rated the bids 109 vs 107 for the top two bids. The bid was awarded to Cupps Masonry.

There were positive comments about the Handbook for Board and Committee members which was adopted by the board. New TextMyGov services allow citizens another way to get information to/from the City.

**Issues:** None

**To watch**

**Date:** 02/20/2023

**Notes:** Most of the public comment focused on short term rentals and the possible relocation of M – 119.

**Issues**

**To Watch:** None

#### Charlevoix County Commissioners

**Date:** 02/08/2023  
**Notes:** Nothing to report.

**Issues:** None

#### Cheboygan County Commissioners

**Date:** 02/28/2023  
**Notes:** Nothing to report

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

#### NW Michigan Board of Health

**Date:** 02/07/2023  
**Notes:** It was a very long 4-hour meeting. The first part was an orientation for the new board members by the Health Dept. Public comments were mostly from Otsego County and were against masking, vaccines, and in support of the motion against mindfulness in school grants. There was one person from Charlevoix County who expressed her concerns over the actions at the previous meeting.

A Citizen Advisory Council is being created by the HD to get citizen input on activities. There was concern expressed by some on the board that the selection process might exclude those who disagree with the board activities.

A board member asked why the Health Officer's report still recommend Covid 19 vaccines when there is now "a question of retinal detachment in vaccine recipients"

Rubingh made a motion that all grants be approved by the Program and Evaluation Committee before the application process begins. Ginop seconded it. After a good deal of discussion with input from the Director and the Finance Director, the motion was tabled to next month, with Ginop and Rubingh voting not to table it.

There followed many questions about details in the financial report. Apparently, they were given a much more detailed report in the past. Finally, a couple of the commissioners said they would discuss this with the Financial Officer outside of the meeting.

**Issues:** Continue to encourage members to attend these meetings.

