

Observer Corps Summaries June 2023

Emmet County Commissioners

Date: 06/05/2023

Note: Several speakers showing support for and against the proposed resolution to guide our representatives on the NWHB Board of Health. Some heated discussion ensued article #4 was amended to delete the words "heed legal advice" of HD and replace with "take into consideration" of the HD attorney and article #7 was removed.

Resolution passed by a 4-3 vote. Yes: Koontz, Gutkowski, White, Ahrens No: Ginop, Mapes, Laughbaum

Date: 06/15/2023

Notes: The County is creating opportunities for housing for employees, the first being at Camp Petosega for the affordable rent of \$500 per month. ARPA funds to be dispersed to Pleasantview and Little Traverse Twps in the amount of \$50,000 for road repairs.

There was a presentation made by a representative of the Michigan Association of Counties. They provide advocacy and other services to counties and educational opportunities to commissioners and members of the public. Their board is made up of a commissioner from the six regions, but each subcommittee also seats experts that relate to each focus area. They don't vote but advise and recommend based on their expertise. Possible model for other boards?

**Issues:
to watch** None

Petoskey City Council

Date: 06/05/2023

Notes: Nothing to report.

Bear Creek Township:

Date: 06/07/2023

Notes: The agenda items, for example "roads", are broad categories rather than specific items. This month the roads report was that dust abatement was completed.

Issues: The District Library Annual Report was received without comment. The board member who has been critical of the library in the past was not in attendance.

Public Schools of Petoskey

Date: 06/15/2023

Notes: There were two opportunities for public input, but no one asked to speak. Because the Observer is new and unfamiliar with both administrative and school staff, it was difficult to know who was reporting. It would have been helpful if administrators providing information to the board had been introduced by full name and title.

Issues: None.

To watch

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 06/05/2023

Notes: The Council entered a closed session at 7:27 p.m. to discuss a pending litigation.

Action items prior to the closed session included extending the Blackbird Museum Operation Agreement with the Historical Society and responding to an appeal of a curb cut decision.

Issues: None

to watch

Date: 06/19/2023

Notes: Nothing to report.

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Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 06/14/2023

Notes: Nothing to report

Date: 06/28/2023

Notes: Nothing to report

Health Department of Northwest Michigan

Date: 06/06/2023

Notes: There was a closed session scheduled for board members to meet with the HD attorney regarding a change in the way grant proposals are processed. Meeting recessed at 10:51am for closed session. The question was whether the decision at the subcommittee level would make the final determination for grant apps or if the full BOH would have the final say. When the meeting resumed, Comm'r Hankins made a motion that going forward, “future or potential grants” would be reviewed by the P and E subcommittee and a recommendation will be made to the full Board. The full Board will then vote to approve or reject the grant application. Current or long-standing grants would not need to be reviewed - but it wasn't clear that they *couldn't* be. **The motion passed 6-1** with Comm'r Chamberlain being the only dissenting vote.

The Board per Board bylaws also decided to cancel the July 4 BOH meeting because it falls on a national holiday.

Issues: Keep an eye on what grants are approved and not approved.

To watch

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 06/27/2023

Notes: There was discussion of whether Cheboygan County should be a Second Amendment Refuge County. This was brought up by 3 citizens who were adamant. The board listened but took no action. It was decided to check with legal counsel on whether they were required to vote on it.

Issues: Follow the Second Amendment issue. Concern remains as to the accessibility of the public to meetings because they are held during daytime working hours.