

**Observer Corp Report**  
March 2022

**Charlevoix County Commissioners**

**Date:** 3/9/22  
**Notes:** The meeting was run according to the rules. There was nothing to report.  
**Issues to watch:**

**Emmet County Commissioners**

**Date:** 3/7/22  
**Notes:** The meeting was run according to rules. A letter of support for a county transit authority from the Harbor Springs city Manager was read. A blind resident spoke against a transit program and establishment of an authority. Felt it would be a waste of money. Board went into closed session at 6:37 p.m.  
**Issues to watch:** None

**Emmet County Commissioners**

**Date:** 3/7/22  
**Notes:** Administrator Reeves announced his offer of providing office space to Housing North for newly hired director as a way of collaborating with the affordable housing initiative.  
  
Zoning department requested dropping requirement that duplex housing must include one unit that is owner occupied. Proposal passed.  
  
Zoning department also requested approval of “cluster” housing for the purpose of providing work force housing only; not to be used for short term rentals. Proposal approved.  
**Issues to watch:** Nine letters – including two from Bliss and Readmond townships – opposing creation of a transit program and a transit authority.

**Cheboygan County Commissioners**

**Date:** 3/7/22  
**Notes:** Annual report by Probate Judge Aaron Vizina consumed at least 30 minutes and was very well received by the commission. Problems that Vizina noted were lack of beds for juvenile offenders, and fewer local attorneys available for court appointment cases. His report was followed by two more: the coordinator for Drug Free Community Grant Program and the directors of Mental Health Access and Juvenile Justice.  
**Issues to watch:** None

**Bear Creek Township**

**Date:** 3/2/22  
**Notes:** Two members of the public requested liquor licenses. One person reported on sewer station upgrade request. One person announced he is running for congress. One citizen complained that the county survey re: ARPA funds is flawed. One citizen requested sidewalk trails on Mitchell and Division so that area residents don't have to walk on the roadway.  
**Issues to watch:** None

**Harbor Springs City Council**

**Date:** 3/7/22

**Notes:** There was extensive discussion of options for ballot language concerning the Headlee override. Public comment on ideas to help with marketing the proposal since last time many felt that the public did not understand the ballot language as presented. League is interested in a transparent budget process and public input.

Discussion of paid parking proposal again prompted extensive Council discussion and public comment. Council came up with a proposal which will go out for drafting and come back to the council for a vote.

Interesting discussion about the definition of what a resident is for use in appointing boards and commissions. Decided a resident is a registered voter unless other rules in bylaws.

**Issues to watch:**

#### Harbor Springs City Council

**Date:** 3/22/22  
**Notes:** Nothing to report.  
**Issues to watch:** None

#### Petoskey City Council

**Date:** 3/7/22  
**Notes:**

- All six candidates for role of permanent City Manager have responded that they are available and interested in next steps.
- Director of Public Safety, Mathew Breed, presented the departments 2021 annual report. 2021 saw a record number of EMS and Fire Dept calls. He commented that they are struggling to get applicants for public safety positions. Council member Shiels asked about recruitment of women, since the department is all male.
- Adoption of a proposed resolution that would authorize the City Manager to execute the Teamster, State, County and Municipal Workers Local
- 214 2022-2025 collect bargaining agreement.
- Adoption of a proposed resolution that would approve the Michigan Municipal Employees Retirement System (MMERS) Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement for Public Works employees.

**Issues to watch:** None

#### Petoskey City Council

**Date:** 3/21/22  
**Notes:**

- District Library 2021 Annual Report was given by Val Myerson. The number of new card holders went up. Expanded services include a 24/7 lockbox, delivery service to homebound via mail, and delivery to jail on request. Growing Readers Together tutoring program reaching 63 students in k-3.
- Search for new City Manager is down to four candidates.
- Clock tower renovations moved up from 2023.
- Flood plain insurance maps have been updated. Requires both city and county to approve. Provides for less costly flood insurance that goes through FEMA

**Issues to watch:** None



