

League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

Observer Corps Summaries October 2022

Emmet County Commission

Date: 10/10/2022

Notes: MSU Extension Director for District 14, Adam Kolvisto, talked about a forum on the 2022 ballot proposals that will be offered on Oct 12 and 19. They are a nonpartisan organization and maybe the league could partner with them in the area of voter registration.

About 50 people were in attendance. Many spoke out against cuts to the Friendship Center budget. Habitat for Humanity responded to those concerns and offered to accept a reduction in funds gained from budget cuts.

Letters to the Board:

2 in favor of transit

1 opposed to transit

3 protesting cuts to the Friendship budget

Issues

To Watch: None

Date: 10/20/2022

Notes: Five public comments were made in favor of a public transit system and four advocated having a Transit Authority in Emmet County.

Issues

To Watch: None

Petoskey City Council

Date: 10/03/2022

Notes: There was discussion about allocating the \$604,890 ARPA funds the city has received. \$302,000 was allocated to the 2022-2023 annual budget to help balance the budget. There were those who were not in support of using the funding this way. The council set a work session to discuss allocation of the funds for Monday, October 17. The City Manager supports use of one-time use of funds for a one-time expense.

Issues Follow the ARPA funding

Date: 10/17/2022

Notes: As a result of the special meeting to discuss the allocation of ARPA money, it was decided the money would not be used to balance the budget. The city will hold off on using the ARPA funds at this time.

Issues: None

Bear Creek Township

Date: 10/05/2022

Notes: No concerns at this time

Issues: None

To Watch

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 10/03/2022

Notes: The City Manager announced that he was preparing a proposal for regulating the number of short-term rentals available in the residential areas of the city. Most citizen comments were about the proposed Downtown Development TIF plan. There were critiques of the cost, audits, and length. Council members commented on the importance of the DDA and the fact that the Plan was just that and could be changed as needed. The Council voted unanimously to prepare resolutions to implement the Plan in the future.

Issues: Will short-term rental regulations help increase affordable housing?

Date: 10/17/2022

Notes: Information has been available but some of the citizens seemed unaware. The City Manager presented quite a long list of answers to citizens' questions and complaints heard over the past few weeks.

Issues

To Watch: None

Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 10/12/2022

Notes: Candidates for office attended.

Issues: None

Date: 10/26/2022

Notes: A citizen from Boyne City read a statement that warned the BOC that since AnnMarie Conway is a teacher in Charlevoix public schools, she would not be eligible to serve on the BOC if she wins the election on 11/8. Unless she resigns her position with the school. BOC members offered no comments or questions.

Issues: None

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 10/25/2022

Issues: None
To Watch

Board of Health

Date: 10/04/2022

Notes: A citizen commented twice to urge the Board to look into local levels of heart disease that she thinks is related to COVID vaccines.

Issues: None