

**Observer Corps Summaries
October 2023**

Emmet County Commissioners

Date: 10/09/2023

Note: Members of Emmet County Road Commission gave their annual report, and so did the Emmet Building Inspection Department. Comments from members of the public focused on the covid vaccine and the pandemic shutdown.

Issues: None

Date: 10/19/2023

Notes: There was an approval of the rental agreement of VFW Post 2051 to serve as the early voting location for Emmet County, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

**Issues:
to watch** None

Petoskey City Council

Date: 10/02/2023

Notes: Nothing to report.

Issues: None

Date: 10/16/2023

Notes: There was discussion of changing voting sites for the 2024 election.

**Issues
To Watch:** None

Bear Creek Township:

Date: 10/04/2023

Notes: During public comment, a community member expressed concerns about the integrity of the list of registered voters in the township. The clerk explained the safeguards in place. The township has purchased property with a house. They plan to offer the house for rent at an affordable (i.e. \$1 to \$1.5 K) monthly rate as a contribution to alleviating the worker housing shortage.

Issues

To watch: It is important that the league continue its ongoing public education re: elections & voting, and actions to counter election fraud suspicion.

Public Schools of Petoskey

Date: 10/19/2023

Notes: The meeting was lengthy (nearly two and a half hours of public meeting with a closed session scheduled after that) although the business was nearly all perfunctory. Each level, department, and individual board member gives verbal reports every month.

Issues: The observer has not received an answer to her query about getting the board packet before the meeting.

Petoskey District Library

Date: 10/27/2023

Notes: Friends of the Library reported that they are updating their directory. They will provide a Candy Cane Village for the December downtown open house.

Val Myerson provided an update on the ongoing construction. One public commentor asked that the library reconsider showing the meetings via Zoom.

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 10/02/2023

Notes: Key topics on the agenda included a cemetery update, Judd Hill Wall replacement selection and a discussion about substation placement.

Issues

To watch: None

Date: 10/16/2023

Notes: Nothing to report

Issues

To watch: None

Pellston Public Schools

Date: 10/04/2023

Notes: There was a discussion about some updates needed by the school. A large need is indoor hardware for the doors, they had already discussed where the money would come from and that they can afford it, so the hardware will begin being

installed. Everyone attending was told and explanations were given. Everyone was invited to ask any questions or make any comments. No one had any of either.

Issues

To Watch: None

Board of Health

Date: 10/03/2023

Notes: Commissioners Hankins and LaVanway were unable to attend. Commissioners Christensen (CVX County), and Van Alstine (Antrim County) substituted for them.

The Program and Evaluation Committee had not met since the last meeting, so there were no grant proposals considered at this meeting.

There were a few public comments made, all on the question of the appropriateness of Christian prayer at the opening of the meeting. Several were in favor and several against.

Commissioner comments at the close of the meeting were returned to the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Mason shared that he had seen a comment by Russell Brand questioning the safety of the COVID vaccine for pregnant women and breastfeeding babies, and whether it has been asserted that "the vaccine itself is meant to localize on the site where the shot is given". Dr. Meyerson explained that there is no risk with most vaccines to pregnant women and nursing infants. Infants may receive antibodies that the mother produces in response to the vaccine, which protect the infant.

Commissioner Ahrens shared that Russell Brand is a comedian and an entertainer who seeks attention, and "is not an authority on anything medical.

Commissioner Rubingh read from the book of Jeremiah about the children of Israel forsaking the Lord.

Issues

To watch: There was discussion/questions about some of the line items in the monthly bills. Commissioner Mason questioned the membership in the Chamber of Commerce. Staff explained that this is a very important means of communication with the community. Commissioner Mason then suggested that they should look closely at conferences and trainings that staff attends to reduce mileage costs, and asked if they were "more indoctrination - to convince us to spend money". Commissioner Ahrens asked that he explain "indoctrination". Mason said "we bring forth programming that lead us in particular directions, we need to look at what's better for the population as a whole", and constituencies.

Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 10/11/2023
Notes: Nothing to report

Issues
To Watch: None

Date: 10/25/2023
Notes: Nothing to report

Issues: None
To Watch

Charlevoix City Council

Date: 10/16/2023
Notes: There was an ordinance to amend the Work in Environmental Impaired Areas Ordinance as requested by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Issues: None
To watch

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 10/24/2023
Notes: Most interesting was the early voting availability now required. Location, funding, etc. All set for the county.

Issues: None