

League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

**Observer Corps Summaries
September 2022**

Emmet County Commission

Date: 09/12/2022

Notes: DPW annual report: operating in the black. Has a successful food waste program. Emmet county has a recycle rate of 42% and the state rate is about 15%

There was an update on the Habitat for Humanity 30 home development in Alanson. The homes are manufactured in Bay City and will be placed on foundations all through private funding. It was noted that the county is not in the business of building houses. Other improvements are paved roads and natural gas.

Money appropriated for Community Corrections Grant, Airport Improvement Grant and Lighthouse Restoration.

Issues: None

To Watch

Date: 09/22/2022

Notes: Nothing to report

To Watch: Nothing

Date: 09/29/2022

Notes: There was a lot of public comment for and against public transportation. The board reviewed four options: 1. Continue with current options, 2. Expand the SSR routes, 3. Stand up a transit authority with a public millage, 4. Stand up a county transportation department with a public millage.

The board passed a motion to direct the county administrator to develop a plan to expand public transit services in Emmet county using existing outside transit providers and allocating ARPA funds for the next 5 years not to exceed \$450,000 for that purpose. Further a working group of transit stakeholders, to include the LTBB of Odawa Indians, the Friendship Center, and NCMC, will be created to help develop the expanded services. The working group will be appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Issues

To Watch: Follow the transit issue.

Petoskey City Council

Date: 09/12/2022

Notes: Special Meeting to discuss status of 2021 action plan and to identify future city goals.

Issues None

Date: 09/19/2022

Notes: Heard Harbor Hall presentation on current services and phase two development of 32 beds/short term living apartments for transitional living. Board approved continuing to participate in clean energy programs with Franklin Energy for 2023-2025 at existing customer rates.

Issues: None

Bear Creek Township

Date: 09/07/2022

Notes: There was more discussion about citizen concerns about the library. Minutes of the last meeting mentioned concern about content of books available to youth , specifically regarding sexual identity issues and support of the library of the LGBTQ community. Two members spoke, requesting withdrawing of township financial support for the district library because they are concerned that the library is attempting to indoctrinate children. It was noted that the township cannot change funding until the millage comes up for renewal in 2024.

Issues: The library situation needs to be addressed. It will be reported to the board.
To Watch

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 09/19/2022

Notes: Many of the public seemed unaware of former actions and planning of the council. The presiding officer had a hard time controlling the energy of the citizens. Most of the comments were negative. The substation placement, school tower safety, playground equipment placement remarks were very heated. Positive remarks from most on the church bells. Many of the speakers seemed unaware of discussions on these topics during past meetings.

Issues

To Watch: None

Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 09/17/2022

Notes: Nothing to report.

Issues: None

Date: 09/28/2022

Notes: Nothing to report

Issues: None

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 09/27/2022

Notes: There was some concern that county info is only posted on the internet. During public comment, three well prepared citizens attacked Proposal 3, saying it is evil. Another person wanted all the electronic voting devices taken out. Concern for foreign hack in jump drive?

Issues: Still no movement on reinstating Zoom option for meetings. Can citizens educate others during public comment?

Board of Health

Date: 09/06/2022

Notes: It was decided to offer the Health Director job to acting director Dan Thorell, pending successful completion of application, performance review, and enhanced background checks. They won't do a wider search

Issues: None

