

**Observer Corp Report**  
January 2022

**Emmet County Commissioners**

**Date:** 1/10/22

**Notes:** The commission rejoined the Northern Lakes Area Economic Alliance (NLEA), this now gives the commission 5 seats on the board. The NLEA mission is to provide resources to create and retain jobs in its four-county service area. Per NLEA, one seat will be filled by a commissioner and one will be filled by administrator Reeves. The remaining seats will be posted and filled by appointment from the public from key sectors of the business community and regional economy.

**Issues to watch:**

**Emmet County Commissioners**

**Date:** 1/20/22

**Notes:** Good news as far as affordable housing issue: Commissioner Ahrens reported that the NLEA meeting went very well. He noted that there is a lot of activity in the area of home creation. Fifty units will be in Victories Square Plaza and there will be 42 new Habitat for Humanities homes in the Alanson area.

**Issues to watch:**

**Bear Creek Township**

**Date:** 1/5/22

**Notes:** Three representatives from the Victories Square project were there to report on the development. They are building a five-story apartment complex with rent-controlled units. The fire department installed a "bed shaker" fire alarm for a hearing-impaired resident.

**Issues to watch:**

**Harbor Springs City Council**

**Date:** 1/17/22

**Notes:** There was a lot of public objection to paid public parking in Harbor Springs. The thought was that paid parking would hurt the charm of Harbor springs. Most citizens wanted more public hearings. The council thought they were going over the same problem.

**Issues to watch:**

**Petoskey City Council**

**Date:** 1/3/22

**Notes:** Meeting was quite routine. There were oaths taken for new members. An appointment was made for a mayor protem and a seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The council approved a bid from Elmer's for this year's construction on E Lake St.

**Issues to watch:**

**Petoskey City Council**

**Date:** 1/17/22

**Notes:**

Introduction of a proposed ordinance to amend Sections 601, 603, 701, and 1600 of Appendix A of Zoning Ordinance. Extensive comments by Derek Shiels, Tina DeMoore, with disagreements. Shiels had “numbers” he compiled. DeMoore was wary without further weighing of data issues. Mayor Murphy stated that a citizen could send Planning Commission members numbers, but a council member should not. Council members, Murphy stated, should not be feeding Planning Commission specifics. Murphy is not against looking at changes, but he does not want to dictate changes to Planning Commission. Council member, Walker, expressed strong sentiments about housing shortages, and thinks council members should review numbers/ideas brought forth by council members such as those brought forth by member Shiels. Murphy is concerned with process issues. Lack of a city planner further complicates. Member DeMoore thinks more needs to be done, adjacent to the process issue, to address affordability of housing issue. Concern that zoning changes could favor luxury housing over affordable housing.

**Issues to watch:**

**Resort Township**

**Date:**

**Notes:**

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