

**Observer Corps Summary  
March 2024**

**Emmet County Commissioners**

**Date:** 03/04/2024

**Notes:** There will be a millage on the August 2024 ballot for EMS

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Date:** 03/14/2024

**Notes:** Lisa Ashley, Bay Bluffs Administrator, gave a presentation about Bay Bluffs. There are 120 beds in Bay Bluffs, but 45-50 beds are not in use because of staff shortages. Currently, strategic planning goals are focused on workforce development and recruitment. Bay Bluffs has a strong partnership with the NCMC College of Nursing program and has received a grant from the PHSCF, both of which are contributing to these efforts. Staffing levels are expected to rebound in 2027.

The commission moved to accept the CDBG Chill Grant in the amount of \$300,000.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Petoskey City Council**

**Date:** 03/04/2024

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Date:** 03/14/2024

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Bear Creek Township:**

**Date:** 03/06/2024

**Notes:** Val Meyerson gave the District Library's Annual report and asked the board to place the library millage on a ballot for BCT residents to vote on. The board members tabled the decision and scheduled a meeting with Val to further discuss the "issue" this is a four-year renewal of a millage that has not changed in 8 years. Several members of the public asked the board to place the millage on the ballot. One man stated that the library should be promoting literature and not left-wing social issues.

A second developer backed out of a land purchase for a project to build affordable housing. The reason given was increased building materials cost was prohibited and low incoming housing would not give a return on investment.

**Issues**

**To watch:** The league should send an alert to Bear Creek Township resident members to attend the April board meeting to support putting the library millage on a ballot.

**Public Schools of Petoskey**

**Date:** 03/19/2024

**Notes:** No report filed

**Issue**

**To watch:** None

**Petoskey District Library**

**Date:** 03/19/2024

**Notes:** No report filed

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Harbor Springs City Council**

**Date:** 03/04/2024

**Notes:** Agenda Topics relevant to League positions: Citizen participation (vote on citizen advisory committee for the Bluff stability), affordable housing (update on Zoning Code updates and Redevelopment Ready Community process).

**Issues:** Citizen raised a question about City's Conflict of Interest provisions. Number of concerned citizen comments about changes in zoning. No one

wants anything to change. Very few take the time to understand exactly what the issues are but instead react to rumor or misinformation.

**Date:** 03/18/2024

**Notes:** It was a very contentious meeting about zoning changes. 100 on zoom, 75 in person. One or two were asked to leave because they were being rude. There were several very personal attacks on council members and the city planner. Harbor Springs has updated the Master Plan, which is mandated by the State of Michigan. The plan suggested that updates should be made to the zoning districts in HS. There were 14 in the one square mile of the city and were to be changed to 8 or 9. Most of the people who are against the changes mentioned the Redevelopment Ready Community designation that many seem to think is giving the State of Michigan the right to take over the city, according to these same people. The RRC (best practices) was developed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and was never mentioned in the MP or the Planning Commission presentation. Many public commentors said they had no knowledge of any changes, after months of Planning Commission meetings and public hearings. They don't want any changes to the city...affordable housing included.

**Issues**

**To watch:** How do we promote civility?

**Pellston Public Schools**

**Date:** 03/13/2024

**Notes:** No report filed

**Issues**

**To Watch:** None

**Board of Health**

**Date:** 03/05/2024

**Notes:** There were 3 votes taken. There was discussion about having the Board meet in the different counties at different times. Staff presented options for meetings and costs of meeting offsite, including a one-time purchase of necessary AV equipment, space rental, and staff time/travel. After much discussion there was a 6-2 vote to keep the meetings in Charlevoix. The second vote was on the creation of a Breastfeeding Lead position, promoting a staff member who is an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant and provides high level breastfeeding support to both health department and hospital patients. She can bill insurance to cover most of the costs of the position. There was much discussion about the tendency of government programs to grow and expand, and questions

about "the government" coming into people's homes. The vote was 5-3 to approve the creation of the position.

The 3rd vote was a 6-2 vote to not send a resolution to Antrim County urging them to reconsider the change in Commissioner assignments to the BOH.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**NCMC Board of Trustees**

**Date:** 03/26/2024

**Notes:** No report filed

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Charlevoix County Commissioners**

**Date:** 03/13/2024

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To Watch:** None

**Date:** 03/27/2024

**Notes:** Meeting cancelled

**Issues:** None

**To Watch**

**Charlevoix City Council**

**Date:** 03/04/2024

**Notes:** Council passed an amendment to the short-term rental ordinance which has set a cap at 80 units in zones R-1 and R- 2. The Chill housing grant received final approval.

**Issues:** None

**To watch**

**Date:** 03/18/2024

**Notes:** Emergency siren discussion: Council concurred that more research is needed on how to educate the public in the event of an emergency, how to encourage the public to sign up for emergency text alerts, and how much it will cost to upgrade the current emergency siren.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Boyne City Commission**

**Date:** 03/12/2024

**Notes:** Observer attempted to view the Zoom recording of this meeting, but again, audio quality too poor to be useful. This report was generated by reviewing the meeting minutes.

**Issues:** None

**To watch:**

**Date:** 03/26/2024

**Notes:** The City Commission has held a Special Meeting to discuss three city owned potential housing sites. Staff has contacted the MEDC to determine of funding is available.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Boyne Valley Township**

**Date:** 03/11/2025

**Notes:** There will be a proposal for road repairs and improvements on the August ballot.

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

**Cheboygan County Commissioners**

**Date:** 03/26/2024

**Notes:** Nothing to report

**Issues**

**To watch:** None

