

From: [Kristi C](#)
To: [Laurel Evans](#)
Subject: Public comments for tonight's County meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:07:49 PM

I was advised that I was to submit comments for the public comment section of the meeting tonight to you, and that they will be read into the record. If this information is not correct, please advise. Below is what I have for public comments:

Unfortunately, in recent weeks, Leelanau county officials have been in the national news. Instead of Leelanau county being recognized for the things it should be known for (it's natural beauty and kind neighbors), it has been represented as ignorant and racist by our elected officials. After (now resigned) Road Commissioner Eckerle repeatedly referred to black people as the n-word and "it", this county board had a crisis put before it, and an opportunity. You all had the opportunity to denounce racism in Leelanau, and to affirm the basic humanity of every resident and visitor. Several of you failed at even this very basic task, to recognize that all of our residents are equally human.

The comments made by commissioners regarding the abortion rate in the African American community, equating protests against the police to "racism", and even advocating for the word "racial" to be removed from the phrase "racial equity" demonstrate that this board is also biased, as well as wasting time that should be devoted to county business. This county's business was to demonstrate that ALL people, including black and brown people, are welcome and respected here. You failed to demonstrate that. Instead, you engaged in repeating racist stereotypes and did so by raising unrelated issues far outside your purview. I suggest you stay in your lane, and attend to county business.

Because you all have failed to make this clear, I felt the need to comment publicly to ALL of our neighbors. The views expressed by the commissioners do not represent me as a registered voter, or many of the good residents of the county. Racism has no place in Leelanau county or with its elected officials. To ALL of my neighbors: I see you. I welcome you. You belong here.

Sincerely,

Kristi Cogswell Boettcher
Elmwood Township