

From: [Michelle Crocker](#)
To: [Alison Middleton](#); [Laurel Evans](#); [Chet Janik](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment for 1/19/21 Regular Board Meeting
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:54:36 PM

Alison - please see Public Comment for Tuesday night. Please print out a copy and also upload it to the County's website and we will put a link in the minutes.

Thank-you.

Michelle

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From: Tony Anson <tansor01@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:40:12 PM

To: Will Bunek <wbunek@leelanau.gov>; Gwenne Allgaier <gallgaier@leelanau.gov>; Melinda Lautner <mlautner@leelanau.gov>; Patricia Soutas-Little <psoutaslittle@leelanau.gov>; Rick Robbins <rrobbs@leelanau.gov>; Ty Wessell <twessell@leelanau.gov>; Debra Rushton <drushton@leelanau.gov>

Cc: Chet Janik <cjanik@leelanau.gov>; Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>

Subject: Public Comment for 1/19/21 Regular Board Meeting

The following is my public comment for Tuesday's Regular Board Meeting. I wanted all Board members to have a copy in advance, as I'm not trying to surprise anyone, and I hope you will have time to consider these comments. In addition, by sending a copy to Michelle, she will have an actual copy of my comments to use in the minutes. Thank you!

My name is Tony Anson, a taxpayer in Elmwood and Solon Townships. I would like to comment on two issues that should be before the Board.

The first is setting goals. I believe that setting goals is simply logical. All of the Commissioners are or were successful small business owners or administrators, and all of the Commissioners had to set goals for their businesses or organizations or they would not have been successful (be it farming, professional, retail, or education). If setting goals is good for business, it should be good for the business of government. While I don't know if Ben Franklin actually said it, the following quote has been repeated since his time: "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail." Please continue to be good planners, and at least set SOME goals. This doesn't have to be done tonight, but should be done sometime in the first quarter.

The second issue concerns Commissioners wearing masks while attending meetings at the Governmental Center. There are two good reasons for doing so, whether you believe that masks are a benefit during the pandemic or not (after all of the deaths, I assume there is no

doubt by any Commissioner that the pandemic is real). The first reason is simple perception. All employees and visitors to the Governmental Center are required to wear masks. All other elected officials wear masks in the Governmental Center, if for no other reason than as a leadership example to the employees under them. For a County Commissioner to say that they don't have to wear a mask as an elected official smacks of entitlement, and is not how a leader should act or be perceived.

The second reason concerns decency. If I put myself in the shoes of someone who has weighed the evidence and sources, and then decides that wearing masks provides absolutely no benefit at all during the pandemic, I might decide that not wearing a mask is the right thing to do as a matter of political principle. This, however, only makes sense if we ignore the personal impact on those who may believe the opposite -- that after weighing the evidence and other sources decide that there is at least some benefit to wearing a mask. For those individuals, there is real stress and fear from others not wearing masks, and particular anguish for those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Someone may look at a Commissioner not wearing a mask as make making a political statement at the expense of the pain of others, and make a conclusion on that Commissioner's lack of compassion. This is not my experience of Leelanau County Commissioners over the last five years. I have seen every one of the Commissioners I served with show, at different times and circumstances, that they truly care about others. They have repeatedly shown compassion and sympathy toward others -- including those on the opposite end of the political spectrum. I truly believe that every Commissioner (including the newly elected ones) would not subject themselves to the job if they didn't care about others. As simple act of decency, everyone should be willing to bear the minor inconvenience of wearing a mask during this pandemic, if for no other reason than out of compassion for those suffering pain and fear.

I suggest that ALL Commissioners wear masks (other than when speaking or drinking) while in the Governmental Center. It is the right thing to do, whether you believe or not that they provide any benefit at all. A Commissioner could certainly clarify that their wearing a mask does not signify their personal agreement with the epidemic benefit of wearing a mask, but that they are doing so out of respect and compassion for those suffering from the effects of the pandemic. Please show yourselves to be the leaders and caring people I know you to be. Please wear a mask while attending meetings at the Governmental Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.