

From: [Michelle Crocker](#)
To: [Board of Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Alison Middleton](#); [Chet Janik](#)
Subject: FW: For the Record on Tonight's Commissioners Meeting and Vote
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:20:25 PM

Commissioners,

Please see Public Comment below for tonight's meeting.

Michelle

From: Tim Overdier <tgoodsoil2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>
Subject: For the Record on Tonight's Commissioners Meeting and Vote

It has been said many years ago that, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

In my seven years here, I have seen too many broken young men and women among the families that have resided here for many years. Ones that fell through the cracks of our community.

One lost his home and cabinet shop to an adjustable rate mortgage during the 2008 crisis.
One hurt his back jumping from an airplane at night as a paratrooper in the Middle East.
Two returned from good paying jobs in the North Dakota oil shale fields when the price of oil dropped in about 2015.
One grew up beaten down by his father and denied a fair share of the family inheritance.
Some have low paying jobs in local businesses now.
Several others have been struggling to find a means of living through construction labor, tending bar, waiting on tables, painting homes, cutting firewood.
Most default to seasonal and low paying jobs.

I don't know how any will find the means to own a home here, or even rent for that matter. Certainly not afford to raise their families the way the economy was decades ago. Many are turning to substances to help alleviate the stress.

The fabric of our society and middle class is unraveling, and we must understand the principles that build community and economy. We can do better.

The early childhood services initiated two years ago are a strategic investment in the future of Leelanau County, our next generations, and the potential unique contributions they have to offer this place. This is a minimal investment in the future of Leelanau County and all of our futures.

This is no time to pull out on the program that has just begun. I ask you to consider these young men and women in their quest for a life that we in the post WWII boom time have had. They need our

support as do the succeeding generations.

Please vote to fully fund the early childhood program.

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Tim Overdier
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