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Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 12:12 PM

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Subject: Public Comment for Board of Commissioners Executive Session 4/1321

My name is Jay Johnson, I have been a full-time resident of Empire Township since 2005.

I remain appalled that Commissioners Bunek, Lautner and Rushton refuse to wear masks at County Commission meetings. In economic terms, you three are “free riders” as you receive a public benefit – better protection from Covid-19 because everyone else is wearing a mask -- but you refuse to follow the health department’s guidance -- putting everyone else at greater risk. Put another way, you three are extremely selfish individuals, unworthy of the leadership positions you have been elected to.

If you need any further evidence of the threat posed by Covid-19, you should be reading the statistics published by Bridge Michigan every afternoon. After month after month of only one or two new cases a day, this last week the number of new cases in Leelanau County exploded: 10 new cases on Monday, 2 new cases on Tuesday, 17 new cases on Wednesday, 13 new cases on Thursday, 9 new cases on Friday, and 9 new cases on Saturday. To put this none too bluntly, you Commissioners who adamantly refuse to wear masks in the Government Center expose yourselves to potential lawsuits and monetary judgments if any county employee’s future Covid-19 infection is traced back to your refusal to wear a mask.

Moving on to another subject, I am opposed to reciting a prayer before each meeting of the Board of Commissioners unless you request that the prayer be delivered in the Anishinaabe language by an elder of the Grand Traverse Band, whose ancestors inhabited Leelanau County long before European settlement.