

From: [Jacquelyn Kendall](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Increasing departments; Pre-meeting prayer
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:09:54 PM

Please forward this email to all County Commissioners

I am a resident of Kasson township and have attended many BOC meetings and publicly commented on multiple issues. I like to believe public input is important for good county government. It

There are two issues which concern me and which I would like addressed at tonight's meeting. The first regards an opening prayer before each meeting. The current resolution requires that only churches with a physical presence in Leelanau County may provide someone to offer said prayer. This limitation may exclude residents of Leelanau County who are not members of these churches and whose belief systems do not align with them. The resolution is clearly at odds with the United States Constitution and should be revised to be inclusive.

The second issue is expanding government departments. Apart from the fact that our current county clerk has done an exemplary job for nearly 25 years and has been elected by county voters repeatedly to continue her good work, a needs assessment and estimate of funding costs appear to be missing. In fact, although the Commissioner who made the proposal stated, "...most county governments do not include human resources and financial management functions under the clerk's office", there is no information on Which counties? Are they comparable to Leelanau County? How did they make the decision to do this? Other counties are not a rationale for adding additional departments.

Passing a resolution of this size without needs assessment OR an idea of how much this will cost the county, initially and long term, is irresponsible. As a taxpayer, I find it alarming.

As a county we have voted on widely popular expenditures such as Senior Services and early childhood initiatives, but voter input is not required for a change which may be unnecessary and will certainly be costlier than our current situation?

I sincerely believe more information and thorough discussion is required. A ballot initiative? Maybe.

Thank you,
Jacquelyn C. Kendall
Kasson township

Sent from my iPad