

From: [Megan Raphael](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's Board of Commissioners Meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:13:49 PM

Below is my public comment for the May 18, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Please forward this to all of the commissioners.

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

I am proud of Leelanau County, but I am NOT proud of our Leelanau County Commissioners' and recent actions.

1. The issue of prayers before the Commission meetings.

We have a very diverse community and your decision to only allow prayers to be given by clergy of faith communities that have a physical presence in the County means that the clergy will be limited to Christian churches only. What happens to the many County residents from different faiths who practice in congregations that don't have a physical presence in the County, i.e., Jews, Muslims, Unitarians, etc.?

If you insist on having prayers at the start of your meetings, which seems very unnecessary, then at least change the policy to include clergy outside of Leelanau County whose members of their congregation live inside Leelanau County. This amended language in the policy would at least show an understanding of and respect for the religious diversity in our area.

2. The proposal to add an HR and Financial management department to our County government.

Your recent discussion to remove the HR and financial management responsibilities from the office of the County Clerk and create two new departments makes no sense, and is amazingly irresponsible in this time of budget limitations. I am appalled that this was a late addition to the agenda and apparently was done without the knowledge of the county administrator. There is so much that is wrong about this proposal: the lack of transparency in why this move is essential, the lack of respect to the County Clerk in raising this issue while she was on vacation, and the basic lack of respect for Leelanau County voters. We elected the County Clerk with the confidence that she would fulfill certain responsibilities in support of the County, and to my knowledge there is no evidence that she has not performed the job she was elected for.

If there is a strong reason to make these changes, then share them openly and in a timely manner with County residents. If there is no reason other than a wish by some Commissioners to install employees who will be at their beck and call and bend to their wishes, then stop this proposal from moving forward.

Sincerely,

Megan Raphael

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