

From: [Tom Gutowski](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment for BOC meeting 5/18
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:13:06 PM

Kindly circulate this to the commissioners and also put it on the website for the meeting on 5/18. Thank you.

From: Tom Gutowski, Elmwood Township
Sent: 05/16/21
To: Commissioners
Subject: Establishment of New Departments

An action taken at the last Board of Commissioners Executive Session — passage of a resolution to establish Finance and Human Resources departments and in so doing take these functions away from County Clerk Michelle Crocker — was ham handed and unprofessional.

Commissioner Rick Robbins, who introduced the resolution, failed to speak with Crocker about it beforehand, and introduced it at the last moment at a meeting she was unable to attend. When pressed Robbins couldn't name a single function that was not well tended to, which isn't surprising, since Crocker does her job well. Nor did Robbins present an estimate of how much it would cost to form and maintain the two new departments.

The right way to pursue this would have been to get the board's approval to study the issue, which would have included discussing the matter with Crocker, identifying concrete advantages of having the two new departments, creating a ballpark idea of the cost, and reporting the findings to the Board for their discussion and consideration. That the Republican commissioners rejected a resolution that called for investigating the issue and instead moved straight to establishing the departments is astonishing and deeply disappointing.

One can't help but wonder if Robbins discussed this with Rushton, Lautner, and Bunek ahead of time. Normally those three are penny pinchers, not the sort of people to spend an unknown amount of money to solve an unspecified and possibly non-existent problem. Yet they all voted to do exactly that, and on virtually no notice. Something smells.

I urge the Board to reverse this decision immediately, and, if there is still interest in establishing two new departments, to go about it properly, in a responsible, professional, and open manner.