

From: [Thomas Petersen](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 3:24:34 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:

As an independent voter, I was surprised and bemused by the irony of the recent actions of the Republicans on the Leelanau Board of Commissioners to increase the size of County government. Republicans have been known for years by their desire for smaller government and lower taxes, but now with the increase in the size of our government - without a plan to pay for it, or an apparent need for it – will our taxes be increased as well? Or, what programs will you decide to cut to pay for this expansion, County Health Department, Early Childhood program?

The entire incident appeared to me to be opportunistic and possibly coordinated so as to take advantage of the County Clerk's absence. The timing and method used to propose this change to our government was at the very least unprofessional and the comments made concerning the Clerk's health were uncalled for and seemed to me to a "cheap shot." I see no advantage to the citizens of this county in this change as there has not been an issue or concern about financial management or HR functions in the county so why are you doing this? My immediate reaction was, who are you trying to get rid of? But then I have a suspicious mind.

Thomas Petersen
Empire Township
May 16, 2021