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To: [Rick Robbins](#); [Debra Rushton](#); [Ty Wessell](#); [Patricia Soutas-Little](#); [Gwenne Allgaier](#); [Melinda Lautner](#); [Will Bunek](#); [Chet Janik](#)
Cc: [Laurel Evans](#); [Michelle Crocker](#); [Alison Middleton](#); [Amy Hubbell](#); [eric Carlson](#)
Subject: Special meeting - public comments
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:34:24 AM

This is intended to be delivered to all county commissioners and entered into public comment for the 9/9/21 Special Session of the BOC.

Commissioners:

When I first saw that a special meeting was planned and the "Purpose of the Meeting will be Discussion/Potential Action on: 1. Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department Mask Order." I was concerned.

But then I remembered that the County Board of Commissioners have pledged support of the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department's local efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic. An official 2021 goal affirmed that board support.

Commissioner Lautner, who I understand requested the special meeting, having received word from the county counsel that they cannot legally override a health department order, must be planning to reaffirm the board's support of the health department and their actions.

As the global pandemic continues to impact the unvaccinated, and yes to a lesser extent the vaccinated, it is the health department's obligation to provide as much protection as possible to residents, including our children. It is the board of commissioners obligation to support those efforts.

There is far too much division within our country, and Leelanau County. For the board of commissioners to do anything not in support our local health department would be a deliberate act of divisiveness. It is not within the board's purview to reject or object to the BLDHD's health orders. That has been verified by county counsel.

It will be an important, and unifying, action when the county board of commissioners reaffirm their public support of the BLDHD.

Anything less would be a politically based, divisive, grandstanding action to push personal beliefs into county business. That is wrong.

It is time to lead. Leaders put aside personal views when necessary for the good of the community they serve. Leaders do not intentionally divide their community.

We are watching county commissioners.

Will you lead or divide?

We trust you will do the right thing and continue to support the BLDHD.

Respectfully,

John T. Elchert, Publisher

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