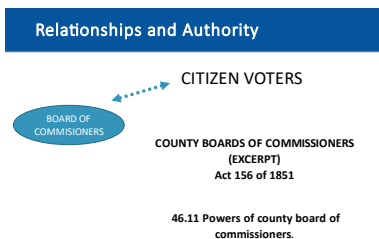
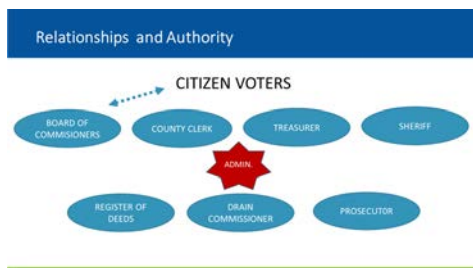


Public Comments, 210914, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
 Victor Goldschmidt
 14181 N. Cathead Bay Dr. Northport
 231 386 9058
 PART II

The essence of my comments on part I is exhibited by one chart and a couple of observations:

- The elected officers have considerable autonomy.
- Their accountability is to the electorate
- The Administrator serves as CEO
- The tasks are clearly described in Public Acts
- The county commissioners do not serve as a Board of Directors, but a Board of Commissioners



To commission suggests to grant a task. So the question is then "what are the responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners?" In other words, "What are tasks assigned to the Board of Commissioners?" And that takes us right to ask what the related Public Acts say. That take us to Act 156 of 1851 46.11

Before we jump in, let me tell you a secret which can guide you; it is a Fact in zoning ordinances and a general good guide with legislations:

- IF MANDATED ("Shall") --- DO IT!
- IF ALLOWABLE ("Should") --- CONSIDER IT!
- IF NOT LEGISLATED (" ") --- DON'T DO IT!

There are 22 items to the enabling in section 46.11; obviously I will only highlight some words so you see the flow, and encourage you to go deeper to MCL 156

Commented [VG1]:

46.11 Powers of county board of commissioners.

A county board of commissioners, at a lawfully held meeting, may do 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Purchase or lease for a term not ...
- (b) Determine the site of, remove, or designate a new site for a county building.
- (c) Authorize the sale or lease of real estate belonging to the county,
- (d) Erect the necessary buildings for jails, clerks' offices, and other
- (e) Borrow or raise by tax upon the county those funds authorized by law.... the voting requirement under section 3.
- (f) Provide for the repayment of a loan made by the board, by tax upon the county....
- (g) Prescribe and fix the salaries and compensation of employees of the county if not fixed by law ...
- (h) Direct and provide for the raising of money necessary to defray the current expenses and charges ...
- (i) Authorize the making of a new tax roll.
- (j) By majority vote pass ordinances that relate to county affairs and do not contravene the general laws of this state or interfere with the local affairs of a township, city, or village within ...
- (k) Require a county officer whose salary or compensation is paid by the county to make a report under oath to the county board of commissioners on any subject connected with the duties of that office ...
- (l) Represent the county and have the care and management of the property and business of the county....
- (m) Establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns
- (n) Subject to subdivision (o), remove an officer or agent appointed by the board if,, or by counsel.

(o) If the county has an appointed county manager or other appointed chief administrative officer or a county controller, the county board of commissioners may enter into an employment contract

(p) Establish rules consistent with the open meetings act,....

(q) Acquire by exchange land needed for county purposes....

(r) Grant or loan money to a nonprofit corporation organized for the purpose of providing loans for

(s) By majority vote of the members pass a resolution that transfers the powers, duties, and functions that are otherwise provided by law for the appointed board of county road commissioners of that county to the

(t) By majority vote of the memberspass a resolution.....the question of transferring the powers, duties, and functions of the elected board of county road commissioners of that county to the county board of commissioners....

(u) If, after a board of county road commissioners is dissolved as provided in subdivision (s) or (t),

(v) Loan money to a township ... for the purpose of funding a road construction project or providing

Now that should be enough to keep anyone on guard. There is considerable legislation related to Michigan Counties' Boards of Commissioners; I have read most of it, but that was a few years back. I do believe that all Commissioners should attempt to read all related legislation related to their Board.

Let's turn to something more exciting and relevant. The two essential keys to effective dynamics in groups like the Board of Commissioners are: vision and core values. Let me describe them.

- A vision statement ideally is
 - Brief (5 words or less – no verbs)
 - An idealized destination-unreachable and energizing
 - Unifying and memorable

Consider two examples:

- from a vendor – “A bottle at every arm’s reach” (maybe led to vending machines..)
- from an academic institution – “All our students with expectations exceeded”(led to strategies to improve services and programs)

For a vision statement to be effective, it should be embraced by all and recalled at every meeting, at least as a heading in the agenda..

- Core values are
 - Nominally five in number
 - Behavioral boundaries
 - Refreshed in everybody’s mind

Consider an example

- for a professional society with a purpose statement of “advancing the arts and sciences.....”
“Advancement, Leadership, Integrity, Service, Excellence”

For core values to be effective, they should be fully displayed, recalled and remembered by all. The recall for the example was easy because the letter before each of the words spells ALISE and was referred to as “Alice with an S”

I guarantee you one thing; if you, as a County Board of Commissioners, collectively take the time to seriously define a vision and core values, dynamics would notably improve. I have led many groups through the process, and if the Board wants to commit to a serious, fun, and intentional working session of around 90 minutes, I am confident we will get close to a completed task.