

**From:** [Jim Carpenter](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to BOC for 10/5 9AM meeting / For the record  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 7:30:52 AM

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To Leelanau County Board of Commissioners: for the record:

Why would the County BOC spend a minimum of \$180,000 of taxpayer dollars to create two new department heads with all the additional expense of staff, support staff, space, and other expenses? Why would the BOC spend such a significant amount of money for departments that aren't even needed? In May the motion to do so was made and passed 4/3 without discussion or viable reasons set forth. What was the big rush? Why would the four usually fiscally conservative Republican commissioners hustle through a vote for this unnecessary expense? It's not only out of character, but somewhat suspicious in light of their usual drumbeat re: saving taxpayer monies. Why weren't the County Administrator and the County Clerk consulted about this sudden urge for reorganization? Why did this vote occur when the Clerk was on vacation?

Our County Clerk's office handles finances efficiently, effectively and accurately. County audits have all been A+. The only HR problems have been in the Sheriff's office, however all union contracts have been settled without problems. Moreover employees already have transparency and access to their records. So why try to do an end run around our elected County Clerk's authorities? Isn't it far better to have an office under an elected official with accountability to the voters, as opposed to a department under a hired administrator?

Bulldozing this reorganization through smacks of back door politics not open meeting policy. Who is pulling the strings on this — and why? It's time for the four commissioners to address these and other questions.

Thank you for your time.

Jim Carpenter  
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Leland, Michigan