

**From:** [Chet Janik](#)  
**To:** "[eric@leelanaunews.com](mailto:eric@leelanaunews.com)"  
**Cc:** [Laurel Evans](#); [Michelle Crocker](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I am concerned. My public Comment for June 14.  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 10:40:46 AM

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Let's try again.... Here's Karen's statement

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**From:** Karan Josephus <[gopkaran@gmail.com](mailto:gopkaran@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** Michelle Crocker <[mcrocker@leelanau.gov](mailto:mcrocker@leelanau.gov)>; Chet Janik <[cjanik@leelanau.gov](mailto:cjanik@leelanau.gov)>; John Gallagher <[jgallagheriii@hotmail.com](mailto:jgallagheriii@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: I am concerned. My public Comment for June 14.

## **Karan Josephus**

Chair

Leelanau County Republican Party

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karan Josephus** <[gopkaran@gmail.com](mailto:gopkaran@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Jun 14, 2022 at 7:50 AM  
Subject: I am concerned. My public Comment for June 14.  
To: Lautner, Melinda <[mlautner@cecelec.com](mailto:mlautner@cecelec.com)>, Rushton, Debra <[dlrushton@yahoo.com](mailto:dlrushton@yahoo.com)>, <[rrobbs@leelanau.gov](mailto:rrobbs@leelanau.gov)>, <[lbahle@leelanau.gov](mailto:lbahle@leelanau.gov)>, Ty Wessell <[twessell@leelanau.gov](mailto:twessell@leelanau.gov)>, <[psoutislittle@leelanau.gov](mailto:psoutislittle@leelanau.gov)>, <[gallgaier@leelanau.gov](mailto:gallgaier@leelanau.gov)>

### **I am concerned.**

I am concerned about the message our Board of Commissioners is sending to the community.

I began to become concerned the night that the vote occurred to shift the HR Department and the HR Department under the County Administrator, which I believe was October 5, 2021. When the motion was first put on the table in May, 2021, it was discussed that this move was not personal; it was purely a smart business move. Most counties have those departments so structured. The structure of our County Government is a decision of the County Board and it's the duty of the Administrator to fulfill those

decisions.

My question is: Why was this decision led to become personal?

My concern is the tone of this commission which blossomed after the motion passed to SHIFT the Finance Department and the HR Department to the Administrators. Commissioners Allgaier and Wessell commented that the Clerk was being persecuted. Commissioner Soutis-Little agreed, and stated, "I hope she has a good attorney." I about came out of my seat and thought, "Whose side is she on? Why is she suggesting the Clerk sue the County?" Her words even seemed to advocate the Clerk get a good attorney! That is certainly not in the best interest of the County.

You see, YOU, the Board of Commissioners WORK FOR US. The Taxpayers. At the May meeting, I did not sense any overall concern from you as the Board, that our Clerk is being investigated by the Michigan State Police and that our assets are secure. I did not get that impression. The concern of the Dems that the Clerk was being unfairly treated, and if the rest of the board did not go along with this, they would seem to be ungrateful or unappreciative. Stop and think about it. In doing this you are pitting the Board Of Commissioners against the staff of the County and causing a divide.

This is evidence that your allegiance lies less with US...your constituents... and more with the staff or elected officials. Again, this is not in the best interest of the County. This is not your job. I only bring up the investigation as an example as to demonstrate the approach and attitude you're taking to County business...we ALL hope this investigation leads to nothing. Investigations come, Investigations go.

We voted for Michelle Crocker to be our County Clerk. Not for Finance Director. Not for HR Director. Yes, our Clerk does a great job. We have supported her...in fact, her campaign sign has been in my yard many times. We EXPECT our Clerk to do a good job...we expect ALL our employees to do a good job, don't we? And if our elected officials don't do a good job, we

can vote them out. And if our employees don't do a good job, we can let them go. The Country Treasurer was doing his job when he found a discrepancy and brought it to light. Why isn't he being recognized? Is one of our elected officials, or staff members more important than the other?

The constant chatter that "The Clerk works hard; she has so much on her plate, she is so busy" is tiring. This type of behavior is emotional. You have allowed this situation to become personal; in fact, you have poured gasoline on the issue to blow it out of proportion! When emotions come into the "business" atmosphere, it becomes chaotic. Which makes our Commission seem chaotic. You wonder why we can't attract good help? Who would want to work in an unstable, chaotic and very public acrimonious atmosphere? Especially at this time in history when every employer is having a hard time finding qualified people. I have a really hard time believing that good people would not give their right arm to live in Leelanau County with a good, stable secure job. Because 25 years ago, I may have been in that position. To move from the Detroit area to a land of gorgeousness with a good, government job?!?! Yes, please!

The bottom line is that Michelle has put herself in a position that she is overworked with so much responsibility. And this is because the Clerk's Office is one of the busiest in the County, which only underscores the wise decision to shift HR and Finance where it belongs; under the Administrator. This relieves the workload and puts it where it needs to be AND creates a separation of accountability, which should be of high importance to you. I'd think that the Clerk would welcome this relief! Her job as Clerk is certainly secure...she just has less work.

I repeat: THE VOTE TO SHIFT THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND THE HR DEPARTMENT has been made. But ever since then, the Democrats on our Commission have taken every opportunity to second guess it and challenge it despite them saying repeatedly during almost every commission meeting since that the decision was made to MOVE ON. The County Administrator has even had to ask you to do it. And still you continue to beat a dead

horse. And when you do...you are being counterproductive.

**So...in conclusion...you, as the board has said you need to move on. Your County Administrator has asked you to move on. And as a taxpayer in this County, I am asking every one of you to move on, including our Republican Commissioners. I am asking you to remain steadfast with a reminder to the Board that the decision was made any time a reversal is brought up. Our staff can proceed accordingly **and** confidently when they have firm direction and a positive attitude. Let's deal with the challenges we have and move on.**

**Karan Josephus**

Chair

Leelanau County Republican Party