

Costly restructuring plan

To the editor:

Due to the county GOP's open warfare and continuing harassment of Clerk Michelle Crocker, they have now managed to make a mess of the smooth operation of county government.

At a meeting in May, 2021, while Crocker was out of town, the four GOP County Commissioners effectively stripped her of her responsibilities over finance and human resources. In minutes, the four GOP commissioners forced through a major departmental

change. In their rush to call the vote, they provided no cost analysis, no pros and cons and

no rationale. Adding at least \$225,000 to the annual budget, they made no claims of inefficiencies within the existing system, leaving taxpayers baffled.

Fallout from their restructuring plan, with its changing job descriptions, reassignments, and unfilled positions have raised tensions and uncertainties among staff about who is handling what duties. Animosity reigns and much of it, illogically, is aimed at Crocker.

Next there is Treasurer John Gallagher III, who ignored protocol and instead scurried to the county prosecutor to make a fraud claim against Crocker. The state has since ruled the

charge unfounded. Should Gallagher's recklessness simply be ignored?

Crocker, an outstanding public servant, who supervises flawless elections, speaks truth to power and refuses to cower to this unexplained harassment, deserves only kudos rather than this egregious mistreatment. Commissioners Robbins, Rushton and Lautner, who supported the slap dash, costly restructuring plan and Treasurer Gallagher, with his effort to charge Crocker with a crime, have some explaining to do to voters.

Celeste Crouch

Glen Arbor

The below read in its entirety at the above dated meeting. Also read in its entirety, the Letter to Editor appearing in the Leelanau Enterprise July, 7, 2022 "Costly restructuring plan" written by Celeste Crouch, Glen Arbor, Michigan. --spm

ISSUE: Leelanau County Commission's/Commissioners' deliberate* self-initiated loss of credibility as to serving the best interests of the electors/inhabitants re reckless removal of HR and Financial functions/duties from County Clerk. Such action can best be charitably described as sloppy. Tragically, other elected County officials participated in this taxpayer harming exercise.

How can any professional apply to work for an organization with such an apparent lack of competence? How, in good conscience could any commissioners proceed on such a major undertaking (\$300,000/year) without any evidence/facts? Unfortunately Charles Ryant was not around to stop this--sue the County Commissioners.

*****Observation:* Thirty-five years of attending most* local government meetings: Appears that many actions by local government are done under color of law & perhaps fraud.**

Letter to Enterprise Editor 7/7/22...it very succinctly describes the Commission's/other elected officials' recklessness.

The only way for this commission and other elected officials to attempt to rebuild its/their credibility is to apologize and start from the beginning as if the 'late edition' agenda item of May, 2021 LCC meeting was never ever presented...

Stephen P. Mikowski

*** Added for clarification**

Consensus as defined by Margaret Thatcher

offweb 4/11/18 by spm 20180411consensus

The process of abandoning all beliefs, principles, values, and policies in search of something in which no one believes, but to which no one objects; the process of avoiding the very issues that have to be solved, merely because you cannot get agreement on the way ahead. What great cause would have been fought and won under the banner:

‘I stand for consensus?’