**12-9-20 Commissioner’s Report to the Centerville Township Board**

1. ***Sugarloaf Property***

The Sugarloaf property, previously owned by Jeff Katofsky, was sold and the warrantee deed filed with the County Register of Deeds Office on Monday, December 7th. Ross Satterwhite, Iron Bridge Capital, helped the buyer evaluate the property, conduct due diligence and close the purchase.  Mr. Satterwhite is not the buyer and is not affiliated with the buyer financially or in any other manner.

Mr. Satterwhite will function as the point person going forward assisting the buyer in its planning and coordination of demolition activities and related property matters.  Other than the immediate goal of demolishing the hotel and generally cleaning up the site, he is unaware of what plans the buyer may have for the property long term. As soon as appropriate plans, bids, and permits are in place, demolition of the hotel and a general clean-up of the site can begin. Unfortunately this property has been left abandoned and has been a blight in the community for far too long, and it will be good for the nearby residents and community in general to have the property back under active ownership.

2. ***Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa (GTB) Indians Request***

Council Chairman David Arroyo and John Petoskey, GTB General Counsel, gave an historical presentation to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, December 8th.  The presentation tracked events leading to their current legal action. The GTB is seeking their day in court to bring claims against the United States for the loss of reservation lands that were solemnly guaranteed by an 1855 treaty, but later taken by the United States without anycompensation. The presenters stressed the GTB is not seeking to reclaim the land only asking for reparations for the private property that was taken from them.

The Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution supporting the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians’ request to Congress. The request is for the passage of a Congressional Reference Resolution permitting the Band to file a Fifth Amendment Claim Against the United States in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims alleging that the Band’s private property under the 1855 Treaty was taken from Band members in violation of their private property interest protected by the U.S. Constitution. The full paper, attachments, slide presentation, draft resolution and conveyance letter to Representative Bergman can be found on the link below please see pages 2 through 32:

<https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/12082020_executive_board_pkt_opt.pdf>

3. ***County Boards, Commissions and Committees Recommendations***

A special meeting of the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) was held to review applicants seeking appointments to open seats on the County’s various Boards, Commissions and Committees, created to aid the BOC in the policy development and decision-making process. This year’s appointments will be finalized at the BOC’s meeting on Tuesday, December 15th. Information for individuals interested in learning more about and potentially serving on these Boards, Commissions and Committees can be found on the County website by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/boards_commissions_application_10312018.pdf>.

4. ***Potential Septic Ordinance***

Tony Ansorge, County Commissioner, District #1, submitted a white paper for consideration to the BOC discussing septic systems, possible regulations and proposed action on a pilot basis. Commissioner Ansorge believes the prevention of potential problems is a valid public health concern. His key suggestions include:

* Limiting inspections to only those properties most a risk of causing a public health problem;
* Requiring mandatory reporting of all septic maintenance by licensed providers (repairs, pumping and inspections) to the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department to provide valuable data for public health consideration, including any potential problems noted by the maintenance provider, at a very small cost to the Health Dept. and maintenance providers;
* Requiring mandatory inspection of properties on a schedule of every 5-7 years, paid for by homeowners, but only for those properties where the home is located within a specified distance of a lake or stream (100 feet); and
* Revising the current Leelanau County Environmental Health Regulations to have the mound system requirements be no more strict than the state requirements.

The full report can be found on the County website at the link below, pages 82 through 94: <https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/12082020_executive_board_pkt_opt.pdf>.

5. ***Capital City Airport Public Hearing***

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 pm to allow public input on the proposed Airport Regional Authority governance options. At issue is should the Airport continue under the current Commission structure or become an Authority. The most recent Articles of Incorporation address the issues raised regarding eminent domain, transparency, and public input. The Airport is jointly owned by Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. The Grand Traverse Board of Commissioners have voted to create the Northwest Regional Airport Authority. The Leelanau Board of Commissioners will vote on whether to remain an airport commission or an authority at the Regular meeting following the Public Hearing. The latest draft Articles of Incorporation can be found on pages 101 through 108 with revisions highlighted in yellow: <https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/12082020_executive_board_pkt_opt.pdf>.

6. ***Early childhood Programs and Services Update***

Through the years Leelanau County has been a leader in innovative early childhood programs and services. Based on recommendations from the 42 member County Early Childhood Committee (CECC), in November of 2019 a five-year Early Childhood Millage was passed by Leelanau County voters. In March of 2020, the Health Department launched their early childhood program building upon the Parenting Communities concept providing playgroups, parent and caregiver education, home visits, and access to resources. Expanded goals for the next four years encompass strategies and programs to improve parent and pediatric health, sustain and strengthen families, promote early learning experiences and create systems of support for their early childhood initiatives.

Recommendations made by the CECC for enhanced childcare programs and support to childcare providers could not be addressed by the Public Health Department due to County enabling legislation. A number of early childhood organizations and new committees in Leelanau have picked up these initiatives and are working collaboratively to create a pilot licensed home-based provider model program for expanding availability and accessibility to quality infant and toddler care up to age 3 for families in Leelanau County. The last of Leelanau’s licensed childcare programs for infants closed in 2019.