

02/08/2024
Commissioner
Rexroat

Start by restating the sub-committee guidelines.

Committees should be given specific well defined tasks by the entire board.. There perview should not extend beyond the specific task given to them, and once a task is completed, they are retired until given another task.

This committees specific current task is to research and present to the full board options and strategies related to moving forward with the implementation of an independent finance department. Any financial matters outside of this specific task are not ours to handle.

We said we would listen, deliberate and advise.

After listening to Mr. Amrhein's presentation, and after discussion with staff members, the administrator, and others having expertise in these matters, I have the following observations and suggestions to make to this committee.

Obviously, are efforts in the past in this area have not been fruitful. This does not however, diminish our determination to implement an independent finance department. That having been said, one definition of insanity is to continue to try the same methods and expect a different outcome. We need to try something different.

I do not believe that the best long term solution is not to have two direct reports to the board of commissioners. Although that is the interim plan implemented for this transition, I do not think it provides for the best governance of Leelanau County in the long term.

I propose that our long term plan consist of an Administrator/CFO, with a finance department that reports to the that position. This position would require both administrative and deep financial experience. The goal would be to provide strategic guidance to the implementation of the finance department, and to the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Rheman report.

In discussions with Chet Janik of MLI, he believes there are those that possess these qualifications available. In addition, the counties in this map marked in red already have such governance structures in place.

I have had conversations with administrator Allen in this matter, and to her credit and as a testimony to her character, she has always stated she would do what is in the best interest of Leelanau county and its residents and taxpayers.

That is my recommendation, and I open this up to further discussion by this committee.