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Subject: Comments for employees
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I attended the Board meeting yesterday and made public comment. One of the commissioners requested that I send this to you so you could forward it to the employees. Thank you for all your efforts.

Jill Wellman

As I sat in the audience last week listening to the report from Dr. Scholten on the working environment in our County Government, my first emotion was sadness. Sad that people who ultimately work for me have to come to work each day wondering who they can trust, being disrespected and undervalued. The stress must be overwhelming, and we all know that it can effect your physical health as well as your family. No wonder people are seeking employment elsewhere. But the second emotion was anger. Anger that the people who work tirelessly to make my life good in the county are subject to such an environment. And the word accountability came to mind. Because I didn't really know how to direct that anger, and I realized it should be at myself. Because, we as Leelanau citizens through our tax dollars are the employers of the county workers. I (we) have taken for granted the fine work that these employees have done, because they have done their jobs so well that they are invisible. When something is running smoothly you don't notice it, but even a well-run machine needs a little oil from time to time, and we had taken for granted the fine work you do each day to keep our county machine functioning. So I would like to say to the employees, that you are appreciated. I have always been impressed by the quality of work and service you offer to all of us. I appreciate the well-maintained roads in both winter and summer, I appreciate the integrity of our elections, the efforts towards providing broadband services, the aid you provide the senior population of our county and young families. I appreciate those who help with building inspections and licenses, planning, and those in the court system, and the sheriff's department, and in emergency management keeping us safe. And thanks to the employees who pay our bills and manage the money. I know I'm missing some, but you do your job unnoticed by the public, but still are an integral part of what keeps this county functioning. So I speak for one family in Leelanau County, and I suspect many more, that you are valued and appreciated.

And I owe you something in return for all you do for us. That is to not let this survey gather dust on a shelf somewhere, as apparently ones have done in the past. I vow that I will come to the BOC meetings and hold our commissioners accountable for solving this problem. To that end, I propose that the Commission add an item to their agenda each month. That they make a short report to us on what steps they have made in the previous month to solve this problem. You may be accountable to the Commission, but they are accountable to us, the citizens. And it is my pledge to you that we will not let this die. It is the least we can do, for all you do for us.