

6/21/2022

Just like the bad penny, he's back again. My name is Tony Ansorge, still a tax payer in Leelanau County. I have three points I would like to share.

In regards to the brouhaha with the County Clerk, while I would have wished any complaint/concern would have followed procedure and been referred to the Administrator, what's done is done. While we all wait to see if there will even be any outside investigation (or what the results of any such investigation might be), I would remind everyone that, at this point, there is merely an allegation of possible wrongdoing. In our government, a person is innocent until proven guilty. The County Clerk IS innocent at this point. I would remind everyone about our many years of consistently good audit reports and our very successful annual insurance reviews. Based on the many years of above average results and performance by the County Clerk and her staff, it is entirely appropriate to have the County Clerk continue to provide the functions that need to be done NOW. If the County Board eventually decides to establish and hire a separate financial staff (and with a new Board, that is a decision that can be revisited), you will still need the County Clerk and staff to transition that expertise.

Secondly, with a new face on the Board, I would remind us all that there is more that unites us than what divides us. I don't think that anyone runs for this Board that does not want what is best for Leelanau County. If we try to remember that we all have good intentions, it may be easier to understand an other's point of view. With a little effort to be magnanimous in victory and gracious in defeat, government (at least at this level) does not have to be as ugly as it seems on the national level. It's surprising how easy it is to say that from THIS side of the table.

My third point may surprise some people, but I would like to say something about Will Bunek. Anyone who has followed this Board knows that I did not always agree with Will on every issue. In fact, I always thought Will was more disappointed in me than any other Commissioner, being that we were both Republicans. Be that as it may, I choose to remember the good, because there was good. Will was always fair with me as Chairman, letting me say my piece -- even when he probably often thought "Would you just SHUT UP already!!". Will was fearless in his beliefs, even if he was the lone dissenter on an issue. Some may not believe it, but Will truly cared about people. Let me give you an example: Many people did not know that my wife and I were foster parents while I was on the Board. One day I was driving out for an Executive meeting when I got a call that one of our foster children was having an emergency. I had to head back to deal with this issue, and missed the Executive meeting. When I attempted to apologize to Will at the next meeting for not canceling in advance of the Executive meeting, he cut me off, saying "Don't apologize! You may be the only family that cares about that child! You do what is best for her!". I will never forget Will having nothing but compassion for someone he didn't even know. THAT is the Will Bunek that I choose to remember. I know that I made plenty of mistakes as a commissioner, probably more than most. None of us are perfect. I choose to remember the good, because there was good. I thank you all for being willing to serve the public, and I thank Will Bunek for his service as well. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.