

Our Public Comments at end of meeting had been extemporised from prepared notes & notes made during the meeting (to the best of our recollection and ability). *These are not in the order as presented at meeting.*

\* Today's meeting discussed stipends. Some commissioners vow to never again use stipends for whatever purpose. Today a Commissioner honestly stated the **tragic/negative results** of the BOC's' (**Clerk-Loathing**) **motion/decision of May 11, 2021 'to immediately remove all Finance and Human resources duties from the Clerk'**. That commissioner's statement supports stipends to fix this **crises/fiasco** (as defined by administrator Janik) is as follows:

***"Our Finance Department has been in disarray since it was ripped apart 2-1/2 years ago (Commissioners' Clerk-Loathing Decision/Motion on May 11, 2020 –by spm) and I absolutely support stipends because it is still not rebuilt and I sure don't want to be the person to stand in the way of rebuilding this of what needs to be. And if we are told at some point we need to hire 2 people--we were going to give Mr. Cowan 2 people--then we need to consider that as well. The last thing we should do right now is cripple something that has never been reconstituted after being ripped apart 2-12/years ago. So, lets not stand in the way of what needs to be created to be to become a single entity. What we don't need is more stalling(?)."***

NOTE: Emphases of **bold**, underline, background color –by spm.)

\* At 11/21/23 BOC meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment (end of meeting) a person stated (to the best of our recollection and ability) the following:

***'The reason for May 11,2021 (Clerk-Loathing) decision/action (which had not been not discussed with the Clerk beforehand and without a plan) was to immediately establish two new departments, Human Resources and Finance, because not doing so was a disaster/risk should the Clerk resign or not run for reelection.'***

Our experiences with the Clerk's services over many years have been rewarding. We're sure many others, including commissioners have enjoyed the same. Her performance is known to be as follows: ***The Clerk for 20+ years has properly trained her staff to perform all these and required duties/functions during her vacations/time off, etc. So the County has financially ran quite smoothly. It appears obvious all this information was disregarded/ unconsidered by the BOC's Clerk-Loathing action/decision/motion. It begs the question, there appears to be some unusual weak-minded, mentally-crippled, easily-corrupted thinking in making such a bad decision and continued bad decisions because commissioners had begun and continued to vote with emotion rather than by thinking dispassionately. On this Clerk-Loathing decision the prior commission and this commission has failed us. Commissioners seem NOT want to save the Finance Dept for tax-payers/inhabitants but are doing feel good things to emotionally please themselves. Seems to be a personal issue with some commissioners to protect themselves. The problem is that until this commission addresses this issue and provides taxpayers the report requested below, this situation may probably get worse before it gets better. Clerk Crocker has had staff, policies, procedures, etc. in place to provide a continuum of best possible services including after leaving office...***

***\*All evidenced by Many Years of Successful Annual Financial Audits.\****

\* We again make our request: ***We respectfully request that Leelanau County Commission (BOC) immediately prepare a comprehensive report to taxpayers identifying all the wasteful/unnecessary costs to taxpayers and harm done to certain people in the County Courthouse building due to the BOC's CLERK-LOATHING decision/action/motion of May 11, 2021 and continuing to the present.***

\*\*\*We have made this request at many BOC meetings since 5/11/21.