

**EMMET COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
March 17, 2022 - 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Dave White, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Toni Drier, Neil Ahrens, Charlie MacInnis, Mike Wargel, Dave Bachelor, Dave White, Matt Koontz.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner MacInnis and seconded by Commissioner Wargel to approve the agenda as printed. Motion passed by voice vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Consent Agenda Motion**

Motion by Commissioner Drier and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to approve the consent agenda and all items contained therein, and authorize the County Administrator to sign the attached items on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**DPW - Bay Area Recycling for Charities - Mattress Recycling**

**DPW - Harbor Springs Excavating - Rubble Recycling**

**March 7, 2022 meeting minutes, March 7, 2022 closed session minutes**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**Administrator's Report - Verbal**

**Staffing Report**

Reaves provided a staffing update.

**Emmet County and Housing North Collaboration on Office Space**

Reaves informed the Board that in an effort to collaborate and build a relationship with Housing

North, the County has provided an office space to the new program manager for Housing North for Emmet County in the county building.

#### **Downtown Petoskey Construction Project Update**

The City of Petoskey will ensure that employee parking for county employees will be accessible during the construction project at the intersection of Lake and Division St.

#### **Financial Report**

Pam Gibson gave a brief financial report. See attached memo. (attachment #1).

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Resolution to Approve MDOT - ARFF Training Contract**

Attachment #2

Motion by Commissioner Bachelor and seconded by Commissioner Ahrens to approve the Resolution of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners authorizing the County Administrator to sign Contract No. 2022-0360 on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **CLAIMS**

##### **Claims and Committee and Travel Voucher Approval**

Motion by Commissioner MacInnis and seconded by Commissioner Ahrens to approve the payment of the claims in the amount of \$2,566,487.24 and for payment of the committee and travel vouchers in the amount of \$5,309.32. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **DPW - Renewal of Solid Waste Transfer Contract with GFL**

Motion by Commissioner Ahrens and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to approve the Fourth Amendment to the Solid Waste Transfer and Disposal Agreement with GFL Environmental USA, Inc., to renew the agreement for transfer and disposal of solid waste materials for another 10 years, approve the prices listed in the contract, and authorize the County Administrator to sign the attached document on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

##### **DPW - Little Traverse Disposal Rate Increase**

Motion by Commissioner MacInnis and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to approve the Rate Increase Agreement with Little Traverse Bay Disposal and authorize the County Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**FEMA Flood Plain Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Harbor Springs**

Motion by Commissioner Ahrens and seconded by Commissioner Drier to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for the National Flood Insurance Program with the City of Harbor Springs in order to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure County residents located in the City of Harbor Springs are able to obtain flood insurance through that program. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**FEMA Flood Plain Intergovernmental Agreement with Springvale Township**

Motion by Commissioner Wargel and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for the National Flood Insurance Program with Springvale Township in order to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure County residents located in Springvale Township are able to obtain flood insurance through that program. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Bylaws Revisions**

Motion by Commissioner Koontz and seconded by Commissioner Ahrens to approve the revised bylaws of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and authorize the Authority to implement the bylaws as presented. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**PPTEXT21-04 Accessory Dwelling Unit Zoning Ordinance Amendment**

Drier noted that the next four motions (PPTEXT21-04 through -07) show the county's participation in helping to resolve the housing needs in Emmet County.

Motion by Commissioner Drier and seconded by Commissioner MacInnis to approve PPTEXT21-04, Accessory Dwelling Unit Zoning Ordinance amendment as proposed by the Emmet County Planning Commission on February 10, 2022. The amendment is supported by the Emmet County Master Plan. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**PPTEXT21-05 Residential Cluster Housing**

Motion by Commissioner MacInnis and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to approve PPTEXT21-05, Residential Cluster Housing Zoning Ordinance amendment as proposed by the Emmet County Planning Commission on February 10, 2022. The amendment is supported by the Emmet County Master Plan. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

**PPTEXT21-06 Duplex Amendment**

Motion by Commissioner Bachelor and seconded by Commissioner Wargel to approve

PPTEXT21-06, Duplex Zoning Ordinance amendment as proposed by the Emmet County Planning Commission on February 10, 2022. The amendment is supported by the Emmet County Master Plan. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **PPTEXT21-07 Child Care Facilities**

Motion by Commissioner MacInnis and seconded by Commissioner Wargel to approve PPTEXT21-07 Child Care Facilities as recommended by the Emmet County Planning Commission on 2/10/2022. The amendment is supported by the Emmet County Master Plan. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **PPTEXT21-08 Access Management Overlay**

Motion by Commissioner MacInnis and seconded by Commissioner Drier to approve Emmet County Zoning Ordinance text amendment PPTEXT21-08 by adding Section 22.17 Access Management Overlay as recommended by the Emmet County Planning Commission on 2/10/2022. The text amendment is supported by the Emmet County Master Plan, specifically in Chapter 9 Action Plan item 8-f and is consistent with the Access Management Plan adopted by Emmet County Planning Commission on August 2, 2018. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Parks and Rec Board**

Motion by Commissioner Bachelor and seconded by Commissioner Ahrens to reappoint Jim Rummer, Randy McCune, and Paul Fairbairn to the Parks and Rec Committee. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **Sanitary Board of Appeals**

Motion by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Drier to reappoint Bill Shorter, David Laughbaum, and Thomas Gallagher to the Sanitary Board of Appeals, and to appoint Travis Johnson as a new member of the Sanitary Board of Appeals. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **Construction Board of Appeals**

Peter Schwartzfisher (builder) is seeking reappointment. Rick Neumann gave notice that he will not be seeking reappointment. No application has been received from William Eaton (electrical) at this time.

Ryan Johnston, Michael Karr, and Bryan Lindfors are all applying to fill Rick Neumann's position.

The Construction Resources Committee recommends Ryan Johnston for appointment.

Motion by Commissioner Drier and seconded by Commissioner Wargel to reappoint Peter Schwartzfisher and appoint Ryan Johnston to the Construction Board of Appeals. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, MacInnis, Wargel, White

No -

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Email from Jerry Weedman- Transit Authority**

Attachment #3

### **Email from John Tillotson- Transit Authority**

Attachment #4

### **Email from Don Mapes- Transit Authority**

Attachment #5

### **Email from Herb Friske- Transit Authority**

Attachment #6

### **Email from Carolyn Whittle- Transit Authority**

Attachment #7

### **Email from Bill De Lyon- Transit Authority**

Attachment #8

### **Readmond Township Letter- Transit Authority**

Attachment #9

### **Letter from Jenny Nolan- Transit Authority**

Attachment #10

### **Bliss Township Letter- Transit Authority**

Attachment #11

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bachelor reported on DPW, and Parks and Rec.

Koontz reported on BRA and the Revenue Sharing Board.

Wargel reported on the Crooked River Lake Consortium.

Ahrens reported NLEA.

Drier reported on the Road Commission, Planning and Zoning, TACC, and Construction

Resources.

Maclnnis reported on Bay Bluffs (see attachment #12), the Planning Commission, the Airport, and the Board of Health.

White reported on CCE-911, North Country Community Mental Health, the Area Agency on Aging, and the Community Action Agency.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on April 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioner room, 200 Division St. Petoskey, 49770.**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Closed Session Motion**

Also attending closed session, Dave Boyer, Pam Gibson, Tatem Phelps, Suzanne Kanine, Cathryn Rudolph, attorney Don Kulhanek, and consultant Chuck Madden.

Motion by Commissioner Wargel and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to enter into a closed session to discuss a written attorney/client privileged legal opinion from Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. dated March 14, 2022 as permitted by MCL 15.268(h) and MCL 15.243(1)(g) (exempting from public disclosure information or records subject to attorney-client privilege). Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, Maclnnis, Wargel, White

No -

Motion by Commissioner Maclnnis and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to return to open session at 7:46 p.m. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, Maclnnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **NEW BUSINESS - CONTINUED**

##### **Resolution Approving Transactions - Headlands Fiber**

Attachment #13

Motion by Commissioner Ahrens and seconded by Commissioner Bachelor to approve and publish the Resolution of Emmet County Board of Commissioners to Consent to the Assignment, Dissolve the Educational Consortium Agreement, Sell Certain Fiber Optic Cable, and Enter into an Indefeasible Right of Use Re: Headlands Fiber. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ahrens, Bachelor, Drier, Koontz, Maclnnis, Wargel, White

No -

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Commissioner Maclnnis and seconded by Commissioner Wargel to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.**

Dated: 4/11/2020

Handwritten signature of Suzanne R. Kanine in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'S' and 'K'.

Suzanne R. Kanine  
Emmet County Clerk

Handwritten signature of David M. White in black ink, appearing as a cursive 'D. White'.

David M. White  
Board Chair, Emmet County Board of Commissioners

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Mike Reaves –County Administrator  
Pam Gibson –Finance Director

Re: **Revenue/Expense - Financial Summary – January**

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The graphs show a 3 year comparison for Revenues and Expenditures.

There are a couple of new categories in revenue and expenditures. This is due to the changes in the chart of accounts.

- Community & Economic Development includes the following departments
  - Planning & Zoning
  - Register of Deeds
  - Michigan State Extension
- General Government is now broken out by 4 areas. I have added a Total for General Government while also giving sub-totals by the following areas
  - Legislative
  - Chief Executive
  - Finance & Tax Administration
  - Other General Government
- Public Works includes the following departments
  - Drain Commissioner
  - Conservation District
  - Airport
- Other includes the following departments
  - Appropriations to other funds
  - Contributions to other funds
  - Property Insurance
  - Contingencies
  - Capital

At this time there is not much to report on. Airport Revenues are up by 6% for January. The changes in expenditures from 2022 to 2021 has to do with the timing of the payments of contributions and appropriations, in 2021 they were not sent until March. In 2022 we sent them out in January.

EMMET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT NO. 2022-0360 - AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIREFIGHTING TRAINING

BE IT RESOLVED that the Emmet County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to enter into Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Contract No. 2022-0360 – Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training at the Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County in Pellston, Michigan, and authorizes the County Administrator, Michael W. Reaves, to sign the Contract on its behalf.

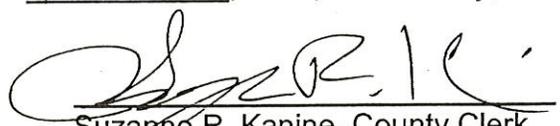
ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Drier, Ahrens, MacInnis, Wozel, Bachelor, White, Koontz  
NAYS: Ø  
ABSENT: Ø

State of Michigan )  
County of Emmet )

I, Suzanne R. Kanine, Clerk of the County of Emmet and the Emmet County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on March 17, 2022.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County of Emmet on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, at Petoskey, Michigan.

  
Suzanne R. Kanine, County Clerk

**From:** [Michael Reaves](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Kanine](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Transit Authority  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 7:03:23 AM

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Please attach as communications from the public for the 3/17 agenda

Michael W Reaves  
Emmet County Administrator  
Emmet County, MI  
200 Division Street -Suite G92  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
e. mreaves@emmetcounty.org  
o. 231-348-1701

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jerry Weedman <jweedman@chartermi.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 5:28 AM  
**To:** David White <dmwhite@emmetcounty.org>  
**Cc:** Neil Ahrens <nahrens@emmetcounty.org>; Dave Bachelor <dbachelor@emmetcounty.org>; Toni Drier <tdrier@emmetcounty.org>; Matt Koontz <mkoontz@emmetcounty.org>; Charles MacInnis <cmacinnis@emmetcounty.org>; Michael Reaves <mreaves@emmetcounty.org>; Mike Wargel <mwargel@emmetcounty.org>  
**Subject:** Transit Authority

David White, Chairman:

I am writing to express my dismay upon learning that you are actually considering the creation of a new taxing authority in Emmet County.

I have read the ETA proposal of June 24, 2021. I believe the arguments contained therein are utterly specious. If you do a little fact checking, you may come to the same conclusion.

Taxing authorities, such as the ETA, can be extremely powerful and dangerous. I suggest you read M.C.L.A. 124.451 - 479 to see just how powerful they can be.

Apparently, the people who want to turn the county into a bus company, having been unsuccessful so far, are now attempting to use the power of the ETA to force their dystopian views on the rest of us.

I urge you to proceed with caution and prudence while examining these issues.

I recommend that you vote NO on any attempt to create the ETA or any other authority.

I further recommend that you vote NO on any attempt to create a county financed bus company.

Your kind attention to these matters is appreciated.

Best Regards,

Jerome M. Weedman

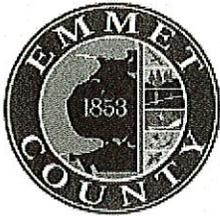
attachment #4

**From:** [Michael Reaves](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Kanine](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Opposed to transportation Authority  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 7:04:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Please attach for the 3/17 agenda

Michael W Reaves  
Emmet County Administrator  
Emmet County, MI.  
200 Division Street -Suite G92  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
e. [mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)  
o. 231-348-1701



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**From:** Toni Drier <[tdrier@emmetcounty.org](mailto:tdrier@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 6, 2022 9:55 PM  
**To:** Michael Reaves <[mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opposed to transportation Authority

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Tillotson <[kb8tkc@yahoo.com](mailto:kb8tkc@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** March 6, 2022 at 9:34:44 PM EST  
**To:** "[dbachelor@emmetcounty.org](mailto:dbachelor@emmetcounty.org)" <[dbachelor@emmetcounty.org](mailto:dbachelor@emmetcounty.org)>, "[tdrier@emmetcounty.org](mailto:tdrier@emmetcounty.org)" <[tdrier@emmetcounty.org](mailto:tdrier@emmetcounty.org)>, "[nahrens@emmetcounty.org](mailto:nahrens@emmetcounty.org)" <[nahrens@emmetcounty.org](mailto:nahrens@emmetcounty.org)>, "[cmacinnis@emmetcounty.org](mailto:cmacinnis@emmetcounty.org)" <[cmacinnis@emmetcounty.org](mailto:cmacinnis@emmetcounty.org)>, "[mwargel@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mwargel@emmetcounty.org)" <[mwargel@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mwargel@emmetcounty.org)>, "[dmwhite@emmetcounty.org](mailto:dmwhite@emmetcounty.org)" <[dmwhite@emmetcounty.org](mailto:dmwhite@emmetcounty.org)>, "[mkoontz@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mkoontz@emmetcounty.org)" <[mkoontz@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mkoontz@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Subject:** **Opposed to transportation Authority**

Dear commissioners,

I am opposed to the creation of a transportation authority in Emmet County. I have read the letter dated Feb 22, 2022 from Victor Sinadinowski encouraging this.

While public transportation has its place in urban areas, it will not aid economical development in northern Michigan, nor will it solve the high cost of housing. I have been watching the EMGO buses, 90% of the time they were empty and when they were not empty there was one passenger. There is not enough population density in Emmet County to make it practical.

To address the high cost of housing, consider reducing the the building codes and zoning restrictions.

In closing I am opposed to the Board of Commissioners delegating power to another authority **for any reason**. The board is responsible for the county and they are elected. I do not want this power passing to un-elected bureaucrats.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Tillotson  
4640 Greenwood Rd  
Petoskey, MI 49770

(231) 347-1584

**From:** [Michael Reaves](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Kanine](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Transportation Authority  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 7:06:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Suzi,

Please add this to the 3/17 agenda as communications from the public.

Mike

Michael W Reaves  
Emmet County Administrator  
Emmet County, MI.  
200 Division Street -Suite G92  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
e. [mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)  
o. 231-348-1701



**From:** Don Mapes <[dmapes307@gmail.com](mailto:dmapes307@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 8:55 AM  
**To:** Michael Reaves <[mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Transportation Authority

Good Morning Mike,

I am a resident of Little Traverse Township, 2790 Powers Rd. I was looking at the minutes of the upcoming meeting, Monday 3/7, and noticed that a Transportation Authority is on the agenda.

At this point I want you to know I do not support an Authority for transportation. It seems so over the top to create an authority, and everything that goes with it, to provide a service for the few that will use one and make everyone else help pay for it. I don't believe that is the roll of the Government.

Truly if there was such a need the private sector would step..So if you would pass this along to the commisoners i would appreciate it.

Thank you,  
Don Mapes



**From:** Herb Friske <hfriske@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 1:15 PM  
**To:** Michael Reaves <mreaves@emmetcounty.org>  
**Subject:** Transit Authority

Dear Mr. Reaves :

I just read that the Board of Commissioners are considering setting up an independent Transit Authority. I strongly urge you to oppose this. The Commissioners need to be accountable to the taxpayers and not remove this accountability by creating another boondoggle bureaucracy that the taxpayers would have virtually no control over.

Besides that, we do not need a public transit system. According to one of the former commissioners, it cost the taxpayers an average of \$41.00 for every passenger that rode on the buses when they were in operation. How do you justify such outrage? Is it your goal to institutionalize such nonsense so taxpayers have to put up with such profligacy in perpetuity?

Furthermore, please consider this: where do you derive the authority to force one citizen to pay for another citizen's transportation? This is immoral and unconstitutional! Taxes are extracted by force and their use should be for the equal benefit of all citizens not for the benefit of a few at the expense of the many. Being charitable with taxpayer's money is not your prerogative.

Sincerely,  
Herb Friske  
231-881-8015  
Sent with [ProtonMail](#) secure email.

attachment #7

**From:** [Michael Reaves](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Kanine](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Drier](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Transit authority  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 7:33:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Suzi,

Please add this to the agenda for 3-17-22 as communications from the public.

Mike

Michael W Reaves  
Emmet County Administrator  
Emmet County, MI.  
200 Division Street -Suite G92  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
e. [mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)  
o. 231-348-1701



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**From:** Toni Drier <[tdrier@emmetcounty.org](mailto:tdrier@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 7:30 AM  
**To:** David White <[dmwhite@emmetcounty.org](mailto:dmwhite@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Cc:** Michael Reaves <[mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Transit authority

FYI- Communication

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** carolyn whittle <[crosewhittle@gmail.com](mailto:crosewhittle@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 12, 2022 at 7:54:07 PM EST  
**To:** Drier Toni M. <[tdrier@emmetcounty.org](mailto:tdrier@emmetcounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Transit authority

Dear Toni,  
I am opposed to establishing a mass transit authority. We don;t need to raise taxes with inflation at an all time high. I am opposed to an unelected authority with the power to raise taxes.

There are buses at the Friendship Center and other places. A person just needs to make an appointment to arrange a ride.

I also think a county system would short change northern Emmet County. It is not possible to have enough buses routes to cover the whole county on a daily basis.

One or two days a week service to the Northern part of the county means they are paying the same taxes, but getting a lot less service.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Whittle  
4280 Pine Hill Dr  
Harbor Springs,

**From:** [Michael Reaves](#)  
**To:** [Bill De Lyon](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioners](#); [Suzanne Kanine](#); [David Boyer](#); [Katie Juneau](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Transit Authority  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 7:26:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Mr. DeLyon,

I have received your email message regarding the forming of a Transit Authority. Just to be clear – this is not on the agenda of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners at this time – however, it may be at a future meeting. Never the less, I have forwarded your email to their attention, and it will be attached to our meeting minutes as communications from the public for our 3-17-2022 meeting.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Suzi –Please add to the agenda for the 3-17-2022 meeting as Communications

Thank you

Michael W Reaves  
Emmet County Administrator  
Emmet County, MI.  
200 Division Street -Suite G92  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
e. [mreaves@emmetcounty.org](mailto:mreaves@emmetcounty.org)  
o. 231-348-1701



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**From:** Bill De Lyon <[billdelyon@hotmail.com](mailto:billdelyon@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 2:52 PM  
**Subject:** Transit Authority

Committee Member,

As a taxpayer and business owner, I can't understand how a Transit Authority would be formed to authorize and fund transportation for members of our county. Our county is large in size and to pay for a trip from Mackinaw to Petoskey, for example, is not reasonable or cost-

effective.

There is a track record to prove that there is a substantial loss to operate such a system. The annual cost to run the system far exceeds any rational decision to have it exist.

While I have compassion on the very few that even use the transit, it makes no logical or financial sense.

The taxpayers should never have to subsidize such a waste of money.

When making economical decisions, you should act as if it was your own personal money, not someone else's money. If as a commissioner, you think this is a good idea, then why don't you individually pay for individuals that need the service.

To be clear, I am 100% against a transit Authority for economical and practical reasons.

Sincerely,  
Bill Delyon



# Readmond Township

Lisa Fineout  
 - Supervisor  
 Janet Hendricks  
 - Treasurer  
 Sarah Krupa  
 -Clerk  
 Gordon Kruskie  
 -Trustee  
 Robert Kruzel  
 -Trustee

March 11, 2022

Emmet County Administrator  
 Mike Reaves  
 200 Division Street  
 Petoskey, MI 49770

Dear Mr. Reaves:

It has come to the attention of our Township Board that during a meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 PHSACF gave the commissioners a presentation as to why they feel Emmet County needs an authority to take on the position of operation of a Transportation Authority.

After much conversation at our last board meeting, we discussed our position on forming an authority to operate a public transportation system in Emmet County. Seeing we did not have an opportunity to attend the meeting, we feel it necessary to inform the commissioners that we strongly oppose the creation of an authority.

Respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Fineout, Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Hendricks, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Krupa, Clerk

Mr. David White  
Chairman  
Emmet County Board of Commissioners  
200 Division Street  
Petoskey, MI 49740

March 15, 2022

Dear Mr. White,

First, I'd like to thank all of the Commissioners for what I am sure is the enormous amount of time, thought, and energy that you put into serving the people of Emmet County. Thank you, Neil, for representing my district.

I understand that the Commissioners are considering creating an Emmet Transit Authority to create, finance and oversee a public transportation system for Emmet County. I see at least two problems with this proposal.

One: I don't believe that the County needs an entire public transportation system. I would like to see all the numbers from previous efforts to provide rides to county residents like EMGO et al: ridership statistics, area coverage, and specifically cost per rider, and see those figures easily accessed and broadly publicized.

I note that the initial ETA presentation (by the Chamber & the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and their PR partner) to the Board began with this:

**“The question to ask is NOT ‘Does Emmet County NEED public transit...’ ”**

Well, no! **“Does Emmet County NEED public transit”** is **EXACTLY** the question to ask!

Secondly, I am very much against creating a body that has the ability to place a millage proposal on the ballot and encourage its passage with no political consequences.

From the 2021 presentation:

**“Transit Authorities insulate public transit services from short term political influences”**

NO!: The people spending the taxpayers' money SHOULD be responsible to the taxpayers!  
We do not need our elected officials “insulated from political influences”. “Political influences” is another term for electoral consequences. The Board should have the courage of your convictions. If you feel that there is a real need for a transport system and that it is financially justifiable, you should take responsibility for your decision, and take the consequences if the voters disagree. Handing off that responsibility to an independent Authority is not what I expect from our elected officials.

I write this letter to express my consternation that the County Commissioners are considering creating an ETA and to ask you to vote it down if it is proposed.

Respectfully,

*Jenny Nolan*

Jenny Nolan  
West Traverse Township

Cc: Michael Reeves, Neil Ahrens, Toni Drier, Charlie MacInnis, Mike Wargel, Dave Bachelor, Matt Koontz

## BLISS TOWNSHIP

41 W. Lakeview  
Levering, MI 49755

To whom it may concern,

The Bliss Township Board is adamantly opposed to the creation of a county Transit Authority as currently proposed. The creation of a Transit Authority when Emmet County does not even have public transit removes the townships' and commissioners' ability to act on behalf of their own citizens. Instead, that power (and responsibility) is transferred into the hands of a few people, who would have the ability to unjustly tax people who will not even have access to the transit being provided. This puts an undue burden upon citizens of northern (often poorer) townships – being forced to pay a tax that provides no benefit to them.

Putting a millage onto the ballot creates the same impact as what is commonly called the 'Wayne County Syndrome' – larger populated areas (Petoskey and Harbor Springs) provide a larger percentage of the votes and can easily guarantee a county-wide millage will pass, even though the lesser populated townships that make up a larger geographic portion of Emmet County will overwhelmingly be opposed to the millage. If the "Emmet County" Transit Authority is providing services to those more densely populated areas, of course they should have a millage providing for such services. But to then tax all the other regions of the County who will receive zero benefit of such services is an improper use of government. Once a Transit Authority is in place, it is very difficult to dissolve. Once a tax is put in place, it is very difficult to remove.

Knowing the Transit Authority would not be providing services to *Emmet County*, but rather to select portions of the county, feels like a ploy to get 'the many' to pay for the wants of 'the few'. Will the Transit Authority transportation provide service to outlying townships like Bliss, Carp Lake, Readmond, Center and Wawatam? If the answer is 'no' then this is a misuse of the power to tax. Please keep in mind that what the proposal for the Transit Authority referred to as "limited but reliable service" to the northern part of the county was really no service at all for areas like Bliss Township. It consisted of a bus that stopped once a day several miles from our residents' homes. At least through our Commissioners, Northern townships have *representation* to advocate for our needs and for our best interests. With a Transit Authority, that representation is removed.

The last time an Authority was discussed, the groups pushing for its creation conveniently forgot to let most representatives in Northern townships know. When they did talk to some, they misrepresented the facts, saying it was about providing county-wide service for a minimal millage. Forcing such a millage onto all townships, particularly and emphatically those that will not receive the services, is a reminder that it is our revenue, not our opinion, that is wanted. Creating a county transit authority that will not provide services to all townships is a continued reminder that the needs of our residents are not valued in the same capacity as those in larger, wealthier, townships.

Respectfully,

The Bliss Township Board

Bay Bluffs DHHS Board meeting 3/17/2022 cem

The Bay Bluffs/DHHS board met this morning at the Harbor Springs Airport. Finance Director Mike Greer reported that the medical care facility's revenues for January exceeded expenses by \$25,333. The board voted to make bond repayments to the County for Q1 and Q2 of \$25,000 each.

The search continues for a new CFO to replace Mike Greer who announced his retirement from Bay Bluffs effective in June after decades of service.

Census remains stable at 72-73 residents per day. Hiring continues to be difficult. Four new employees were scheduled to be in training as resident assistants in preparation to become CNAs but only one showed up.

Bay Bluffs successfully passed an annual life safety inspection conducted by the state. The results of the inspection will be posted online by the state in the near future.

Throughout the two years of the pandemic, only two residents of Bay Bluffs tested positive for Covid 19 and only one of them was symptomatic.

**RESOLUTION OF EMMET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TO CONSENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT, DISSOLVE THE EDUCATIONAL  
CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT, SELL CERTAIN FIBER OPTIC CABLE, AND ENTER  
INTO AN INDEFEASIBLE RIGHT OF USE RE:  
HEADLANDS FIBER**

WHEREAS, on about October 19, 2016, Emmet County entered a contract entitled "Agreement for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable" ("Installation Agreement") with Fiber Link, Inc., for the purpose of providing fiber optic cable to the Headlands Event Center ("Headlands Fiber"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Installation Agreement, the County installed 48 fiber strands and Fiber Link installed 24 strands; and

WHEREAS, on about November 12, 2016, Emmet County entered the "Emmet County Educational Telecommunications System Consortium Agreement" ("Consortium Agreement") with Fiber Link and the Mackinaw City Public Schools ("MCPS") for the purpose of providing fiber optic services for educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Fiber Link transferred its interest in the 24 Headlands Fibers to T-K Fiber, Inc., however, never memorialized the transaction or sought consent to the transfer as required by the Consortium Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Peninsula Fiber Network, Inc., ("PFN") has made an offer to purchase the interest of both T-K and Emmet County in the Headlands Fiber; and

WHEREAS, as part of the agreement, PFN will agree to enter into an Indefeasible Right of Use ("IRU") with Emmet County for the use of 12 fibers, at no expense to the County, for the life of the Headlands Fiber; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate the transaction, the following documents need to be executed, after approval as to form by Counsel:

1. Consent of the assignment Fiber Link to T-K.
2. Approval of the agreement to dissolve the Consortium
3. Approval of Sale of 46 strands of fiber
4. Approval to enter the IRU for 12 strands of fiber

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Emmet County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following actions and the execution of the necessary transactional documents:

1. Consent of the assignment Fiber Link to T-K.
2. Approval of the agreement to dissolve the Consortium
3. Approval of sale of 48 strands of fiber to PFN for \$35,000.00
4. Approval to enter the IRU for 12 strands of fiber, for the life of the fiber at no cost to the County.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the County Administrator is authorized to sign the Consent to the Assignment of fiber from Fiber Link to T-K, Inc., and any other necessary contractual agreements necessary to complete these transactions on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, upon review and approval as to form by the County's attorney.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Drier, Ahrens, MacInnis, Wargyl, Bachlor, White, Kocintz  
NAYS: Ø  
ABSENT: Ø

State of Michigan )  
County of Emmet . )

I, Suzanne R. Kanine, Clerk of the County of Emmet and the Emmet County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on March 17, 2022.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County of Emmet on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, at Petoskey, Michigan.

  
Suzanne R. Kanine  
County Clerk

