To: Board of Commissioners  
From: Chet Janik  
Date: March 1, 2018  
Re: Points of Pride

LEELANAU COUNTY “TOP TEN” POINTS OF PRIDE FOR 2017-18

- Financial stability and a positive bond credit rating. The County received a “clean” audit and was recently recognized as being rated 9th (out of 83) counties in Michigan in overall fiscal health.

- The County has been aggressive in dealing with long-term liability issues (retirement costs) and was recently recognized as being one of only 20 counties that has positively managed its retirement costs.

- A partnership has been formed with the Leelanau County Historical Preservation Society to save and renovate the historic “Poor Barn” located at the Myles Kimmerly Park at no cost to the taxpayers.

- The County’s millage rate of 3.53 mills is the lowest county rate in Michigan.

- A Substance Abuse Coalition was formed to take a proactive approach to the major challenge of opiate/drug and alcohol abuse that is impacting all segments of society. The County entered into a federal lawsuit against the manufacturers of some of the opiates.

- The number of construction permits has been on the increase the past five years and a quality assessment of the department is being performed in an effort to streamline and enhance the process for contractors and homeowners.

- The Law Enforcement Centers’ heating, cooling, and ventilation system had a major upgrade and the project was completed on time and on budget.
- The Senior Services Department serves approximately 2,500 people on an annual basis, ranging from in-home health care assistance, unmet financial needs and social activities. A millage renewal election will take place in August.

- The former Courthouse property and the townhouses in Leland were sold to local residents and the properties are back on the tax rolls.

- All six labor contracts were mutually and peacefully settled in December 2017 for two years and for the sixth year in a row, the County has no pending lawsuits and no employment labor issues.

2018 Goals

FINANCIAL

- Continue to service the debt with MERS until the County reaches its full capacity funding. At year-end, potentially allocate more dollars above the budgeted amount upon review of budget.

- Continue to monitor the County Law Enforcement Center’s bond obligation and potentially implement a long-term financial plan to eliminate that obligation in 2021, when the bond terms allow for an early pay-off.

- Review the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for all County capitalized assets, and begin to set aside asset replacement funds for those assets during the budget process.

- Develop options related to the Government Center heating/cooling system.

HOUSING

- Continue the work of the Housing Action Committee, and work towards the action goals as outlined in the report presented to the County Commission on December 12, 2017.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Address the drug and alcohol abuse issues that impact the County by collaborating with representatives from local law enforcement, the Prosecutor’s Office, K-12 school districts, the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department, the medical community, and other stakeholders. Formally establish the Leelanau County Substance Abuse Coalition,
charged with the responsibility to develop a Leelanau County Plan, and host an inaugural “Substance Abuse Summit” for education, prevention, and intervention. Subgroups would include:

- Law Enforcement
- Prevention and Awareness
- Medical community
- Treatment and Recovery
- Education/Affected Families

DEPARTMENTS

- Review the Senior Services’ budget, programs, and services and then finalize a Senior Services millage proposal for the 2018 August primary election that meets the needs of the older residents and the tax-paying public.

- Complete the independent external analysis of the Construction Codes Office to determine if the fees, enforcement policies and personnel structure is comparable to other counties in Northern Michigan.

- Evaluate County tower sites to ensure optimal radio reception and transmission for Emergency Services Communications. Perform routine assessments to confirm adequate tower communication operations. Research enhancements, if necessary.

BROADBAND

- In collaboration with the Leelanau Peninsula Economic Foundation (LPEF), the townships, Connect Michigan and internet providers, the County Commission and the Information Technology Department will continue to support and assist the LIFT (Leelanau Internet Futures Team) Committee in the implementation of the Broadband action plan for service expansion to Leelanau residents developed in 2017.